



St. Andrew the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church

Love God, Serve Neighbor, Nurture Disciples

Dear Friends,

Within the next couple of months, there will be some major work done in the interior of the church – installation of a new floor, pew refurbishment and kneeler work. Many of you have reported to us about various places in the church with problems; we've been discussing and budgeting for this for over a year. The Finance Council determined that we should go ahead with the project. This is the rationale:

1. If you note the cornerstone as you walk into the church, you'll note the date is 1987. Our 33 year old church is showing its wear. We already have repaired dry rot, painted it and put a new roof on it; we are constantly replacing AC units. It's all standard maintenance. The buildings have been well cared for, the quality of materials were good and have served us well. But there comes a time when they need replaced/repaired.
2. We blocked out the church for no weddings for June, July & August of this year (this had to be done A YEAR AGO as weddings are generally scheduled a year in advance). We did not want disappointed brides/families to be dealing with a major renovation when they got married. The work will be done *by section* so we will still be having mass in the church while the work goes on (whenever we are once again permitted to have mass indoors). To have delayed this project would have meant we would have had to do this same process NEXT summer.
3. As I mentioned, we had budgeted for this expense (we have a capital expense savings account precisely for these kinds of issues), and we have the money. The Finance Council feels that our fiscal posture is good, and therefore recommended 'getting this over with' as it *will be* disruptive. We believe that by doing the project now there will be less disruption – for even when we do reopen, we will be doing so with a reduced capacity of people allowed in the church. We have been working on wiring to be able to broadcast the mass simultaneously in the social hall for increased capacity. This will help us even if we were not doing the floor project as no matter what may be going on in the church, only a certain percentage of people will be able to enter.
4. Going ahead with a project like this helps to keep people employed. There didn't seem to be a compelling reason to delay it.

During this renovation time, the Blessed Sacrament chapel will remain open for prayer; the church will be a work zone – noise, dust, etc. I would suggest that you might like to walk around the campus to pray. As you have heard me say repeatedly, I think St. Andrew's has the most beautiful church campus I have ever seen. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our many, many volunteers who water, weed, plant,



Love God, Serve Neighbor, Nurture Disciples

and care for the grounds. I like doing a rosary walk every day and admiring what is in bloom at the moment. (Right now it's the honeysuckle – heavenly! – and those lovely huge pots! They are always so clever and different!) St. Augustine said that “Nature is God’s first Bible.” God wrote the cosmos before He ever wrote the Bible. Nature is always a great cathedral for prayer.

We hope that you will be pleased with the results. Please be patient – any of you who have done renovation work know that it rarely works out exactly as planned! We are hoping (naively?) to be an exception! And THANK YOU – your ongoing generosity – even in these challenging times – has made this all possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John O'Neil".

Fr. John