RESTORE *and* RENEW

HONORING OUR HISTORY, SECURING OUR FUTURE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL WE BE ABLE TO STILL USE THE PORTICO?

The portico ***will*** remain in use. We understand it allows many people to participate in Mass regardless of weather and accessibility needs.

WILL WE STILL OFFER ACCESSIBLE SEATING IN THE CHURCH?

Accessible seating will still be offered in the church. We will also ensure a confessional is accessible.

WHAT PROPOSED CHANGES WILL HAPPEN TO THE VESTIBULE (ENTRANCE FROM ATLANTIC BOULEVARD)?

Overall, our goal is to make the vestibule welcoming, organized, and reverent. Based on the feedback we received in the planning study, we will restore the space to have two cry rooms to accommodate our families. The Religious Articles Store will be relocated to the Akra room. We appreciate those who shared this important need for the community with us.

WILL WE STILL BE ABLE TO KNEEL AT THE ALTAR RAIL?

The altar rail is a beautiful representation of the history of our church. Parishioners will be able to kneel at the altar rail and there will be padding there to do so. The altar will have a wider space between the rail to best serve Mass and sacraments. The other pieces of the altar rail will be featured in the Bell Tower Chapel to bring harmony between the spaces.

DOES THE PARISH HAVE ANY OUTSTANDING DEBT? WHAT ABOUT THE *HERITAGE AND HORIZONS* CAMPAIGN?

The parish has $162,550 (as of March 20) left on the current rectory as a mortgage payment. There is no other outstanding debt to the parish. You can review our annual financial statement for 2022-2023 on our website at ***assumptioncatholicchurch.org/annual-report/***.

Some parishioners asked about the past school and Early Childhood Learning Center campaign, *Heritage and Horizons*. The school and Early Childhood Learning Center operating budgets cover the outstanding loan for those projects. No monies from offertory, unless otherwise designated, support that loan. As you can see in the annual financial statement for the year, the parish supports school maintenance needs.

WHY DO WE NEED TO DO ALL THE RENOVATIONS NOW AND NOT JUST THE MOST PRESSING?

The planning study confirmed widespread support for addressing the most pressing needs of the church now, e.g., the ceiling, electrical wiring, and the sound system. The reality is that to address the most pressing needs, other items need to be addressed as well. For example, to ensure our ceiling is properly repaired (which includes adding insulation as well as fire-rated and mold-resistant sheetrock), contractors will need to remove pews and bring in scaffolding, both of which will damage the current tile flooring. This presents us with an opportunity not only to update the flooring but to install materials more fitting for the house of God and more harmonious with the overall aesthetic.

New speakers alone will not provide a state-of-the-art sound system. A holistic approach will require sound absorption panels under the floors to allow the word of God to be clearly heard anywhere in the church. Our sound system will move from analog to digital, which will also help us with live streaming, recording events, Masses and sacraments. To support the sound system, we'll need to update our electrical wiring.

As we've shared, electrical wiring is a top priority for the entire community. The wiring is 70 years old, and we currently turn the lights on and off via the breakers every day. Rewiring the church and ensuring it is up to code will require contractors to go through the walls, and floors in certain areas. For example, outlets and lights will be added to the sanctuary so we no longer need to rely on cumbersome and trip-hazard extension cords.

To address the most pressing issues without addressing the other related issues would be a missed opportunity, requiring even greater costs in the future. Prudent stewardship says to act now. Securing these repairs today prevents a larger burden tomorrow.