

St. Agnes Enhancements Project—Fact Sheet

Dear Parishioners!

Over the last several weeks, some questions have arisen about our St. Agnes Church enhancement project. **Here are some clarifications to help us rejoice in what we *are* doing and have peace about what we are *not* doing.**

What is being done?

- Enhancements to our worship space (Church and sanctuary), spread out over time.

How many “phases” are there?

- At this point, there are **three** proposed phases. Phase 1 includes lights, statues, painting, and stained glass. Phase two proposes possible enhancements around the tabernacle and a possible new sanctuary floor. Phase three proposes a new floor for the whole church, of a material yet to be determined.

Why are we doing these changes?

- Two years ago, our lights started “going out” and needing replacing. Realizing that intense “up lights” might not be the best way to light the space, we started looking at lighting options, and how we can integrate new lights into a vision of what St. Agnes can look like in the future (enhancements).
- Upon removal of the lights, our walls will need patching and painting. We have now the opportunity to add some color and stenciling décor to white walls.
- The stained glass will help alleviate the western sun that blinds worshippers in the face.
- The statues will help connect us with the saints who worship with us at the altar.

What is being done AT THIS POINT at St. Agnes?

- After receiving feedback in May, it was clear that there exists a lot of support and excitement for the proposed phase 1 elements, so work has been moving forward on phase 1. **Only elements of Phase 1 are being done.**

Phase 1 includes:

- Major enhancements:
 - New **lights**, new **statues** of Mary and Joseph to the sides of the sanctuary, **stained glass** in the west-facing windows, **painting** the walls (especially necessary after the lights are removed), and adding **stenciling** around the top of the walls.
- Minor changes:
 - Since St. Joseph will be on the right side of the sanctuary area where the current ambry is located, Lambert’s cabinets will make us a **new “ambry”** or cabinet for holy oils that will be located on the wall by the baptismal font, and the old one will be removed. The space it occupied will be professionally patched to match the brick wall.
 - Our back “**grotto area**” with candles and statues will be moved to the back right side by the “sound room.” This will allow for better traffic flow during summer months and a better use of the space by the sound room.
 - Our beautiful **crucifix will be centered** on the horizontal axis with the windows to unify the symbol of the cross. This will be done in such a way that should it be ineffective after *trying it for a year*, the crucifix can be easily moved back to its current location.
 - **New mesh folding chairs** have been purchased and have arrived. They are very durable and classy. The Angels ladies helped make this possible with a very generous donation from their bake sales.
 - **Lights** will also be added under our canopy entry and out to the parking lot for safety.

- Adoration Chapel:
 - With the permission of those who helped establish our beautiful adoration chapel, **arches and some decorative painting** will be added to the front wall to enhance the space for the dignity of the Eucharist that we worship in that space.

When will these changes happen?

- Lights will be installed hopefully this week, and we pray that all will go well. Thanks in advance for patience if there are “hiccups!”
- After the old lights are removed, repairs to the walls will be done. Painting begins November 5th.
- Statues should be arriving any day. Pedestals will be constructed after arrival, hopefully completed by Thanksgiving!
- Stained glass will also be installed by Thanksgiving.

What is being done with “phase 2” proposals?

Phase two proposals are “on the back burner,” and are only ideas. Phase 2 ideas include an altar for the tabernacle, proposed wood paneling of some sort around the tabernacle (still to be discussed), and a possible new sanctuary floor. Some of the drawings have displayed a “sanctuary rail,” but again, only ideas.

THE KEY IS THIS: ***When it seems prudent to start moving on phase 2, we will have more meetings and opportunities to discuss proposals and ideas and come to a meaningful plan.***

What is the timeline for phase 3?

With wear-and-tear on our floor and the stains that seem to grow and multiply, “phase 3” of replacing the floor in the body of the Church may be accelerated. Here, too, there will be decisions made together regarding the floor covering used in replacement.

How will these enhancements be paid for?

- Lights and installation have been fundraised through the 2018 auction and several significant donations.
- Stained glass and painting have been fundraised through the 2019 Trinity Raffle and the 2019 Matching Grant.
- Statues have been donated 100% by benefactors.
- Miscellaneous other expenses (contractor work, designing work, and other) have been financed by donations for the project.
- *Note that 2019 auction funds have not been apportioned to this project, as it looks as though they may not be needed for these enhancements. The designation of these funds will be done by the St. Agnes Finance Council.*

If you have any questions, please reach out and ask!

Finally: As a parish, we’ve received about \$143,000 in the last two years for this project. People are excited and supportive about these phase 1 enhancements! May we experience joy and delight in the continued beauty of our Church space!