

August 12, 2018



Dear Parishioners,

It is with great joy and excitement that I announce we will soon break ground for the first stage of our building project. Through our generous gifts, we will begin work on the ponds, new parking lot, and the reconstruction and resurfacing of the current church parking lot. As you can imagine, this will cause considerable disruption in our normal way of entering and exiting the parking lot over the next three months, but our hope is that it will be complete by Thanksgiving of this year.

Under the current church parking lot, there exist several pipes and conduits for our current drainage and utility usage. All of this will need to be reconfigured before the parking lot can be resurfaced. The area for the new parking lot between the gym and school will need to be prepared and graded. We hope that during this time, we can use at least part of the church's current parking lot on the weekends. After the new parking lot is graded, we can use that as well. This might mean that we are parking on rough gravel lots, parking further away on the street, or parking on the other side of the school during this time. Our hope is that we can still have some spots close to the doors for those who utilize the handicap spaces or need to be closer to the door.

Any groups who utilize our spaces during the day will need to be patient as work gets underway. During the week, we should be able to access the smaller parking lot on the west side of the parish office and the parking lot between the parish office and school. Please use caution on these lots as our school children will cross them to play on the playground and grassy areas.

As we move forward, we will do our best to keep you informed about the parking lots and areas that can be utilized over the weekend. The best sources for this up-to-date information will be located on our Facebook page, our weekly E-bulletin, and our website. I strongly encourage you to check these this fall as the first phase is completed.

Those involved in the school will be receiving special instructions for drop off and pick up procedures on school days. Directions and maps are available on the school website at [www.school-stmichaelsgrfld.org](http://www.school-stmichaelsgrfld.org).

At this time, our best estimate for the start of the church and connector building is the spring of 2020. We will most likely have enough funds in hand to begin in the fall of 2019; however, since this project will be more involved and will take longer, beginning over the winter would not be wise.

It's amazing to think that we are not even a year into our campaign and because of our generosity, we have been able to put \$300,000 in donations into our endowment fund and have enough money to do the first part of our project without seeking a loan. By the end of this year, we should be enjoying the fruits of our gifts with the expanded parking, plus more funds for our endowment.

I know that during the next few months, parking and getting to the church will be a challenge, but it will be well worth the temporary pain for what we will have in the end.

Sincerely,

Rev. Aaron Jenkins