

CHANGES COMING TO ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Much of the expense for the following projects will be funded through a most generous gift given to St. Patrick's Church from the estate of George Gudehus. The church received \$450,000, payable upon death after George passed away. Thanks to George's generosity, St. Pat's can pay some outstanding bills and begin to use the remainder to do some much needed attention to the neglected St. Patrick's Church. With the guidance of the Finance Council and knowledgeable parishioners, the following are some projects completed and planned for St. Patrick's Church. This insert is intended to inform St. Patrick's parishioners about the future plans.

ATTIC FAN/MOISTURE - \$30,000 spent

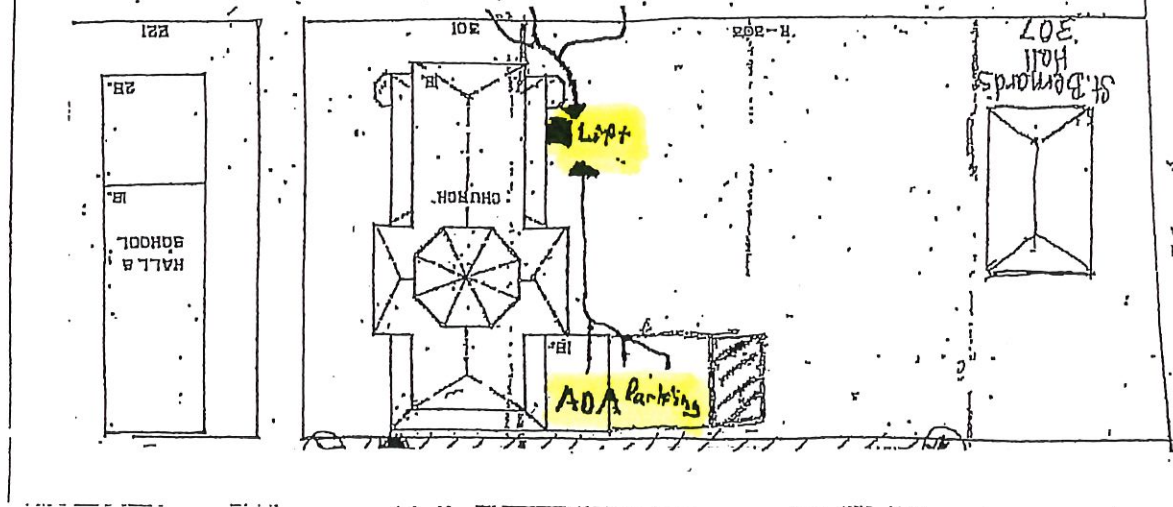
A heat sensitive attic fan has been installed in the lower dome of church. The fan, which was located in the server's sacristy (west window), has been disabled and replaced by a louvered window. The new system is intended to use nature to help with the temperature and humidity in the church. The hot air will be drawn up through the medallion in the center of the lower dome in church (rather than pulling air from East to West). Since heat rises, the attic fan will help draw out this hot air. If you have noticed, the top of the arches in church (where there is paint peeling and plaster falling) is much like condensation similar on a glass of ice tea on a hot summer's day. This condensation gathered at the highest point. Since humidity was an issue, a door with a frame was placed between the crawl space under the church and the sacristy basement. This will help prevent the damp crawl space air from entering church.

DOMES WORK – AT LEAST \$100,000

Since the attic fan is venting through the dome, several issues need to be addressed with the dome. First, opening all of the eight vents - some have rusted closed. Second, placing bird screens in these vents. Next, the top of the dome roof (underneath the copper cupola) needs to be replaced. Estimates are close to \$100,000 to do the dome work. Of this work, \$40,000 will be for the renting of a crane.

LIFT - AT LEAST \$100,000

The estimate for this project is \$100,000. The plans are to place a lift, which would take people from ground level up to the church. The placement of a door on the south side under the choir loft (where small rectangular window is located now). Since the elevation is less on the south side, this will allow people to enter from the east (Locust St.) and the west (alley). New ADA parking will be added along Congress St. (alley) where the old garages were located. John's garage is being moved. With a bank of ADA parking spaces close to where Father usually parks, and new sidewalks along to south of church, people will be able to come from east and west into the lift. After construction is completed, the old ramp will be removed (no more bobsled track!). The intent is to allow accessibility with church without defacing the beautiful architectural integrity of St. Patrick's.



ADA ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM - ?

Plans are to have a unisex restroom added to the church. The seldom-used back confessional will be used, plus about two feet of the vestibule. The restroom entrance will be via the vestibule and drywall behind the confessional opening. Again, this is to minimize intrusion into the structural beauty of the church. The current restroom will be closed to the public and used when needed for large church events, such as Confirmation, Funerals, and Weddings.

100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026 - ?

The long-range plan is to address issues in the interior of St. Patrick's building so eventually replastering and painting can take place. This is an issue of grand financial planning, which must be addressed at a later date. But for now, to make improvements so that future work may be done in proper sequencing is the aim.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS/EVENTS

MICROPHONE/SOUND SYSTEM

A new microphone for Father has been acquired. Thanks to the generosity of Tom Morrell, a new cordless earpiece, microphone, and choir loft connection with mobile mic have been installed. It is a work in progress to adjust the volume.

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Mark your calendars! Chrisy and Gina at the church office have agreed to conduct a new pictorial directory. October 9-13 and 22-24 will be the times to have your families' group pictures. More information about this at a later date.

NEW KNEELER PADS

Thanks to George Heintz for his recent visit to Holy Cross in Champaign. A drive to raise money for the repadding of the St. Pat's kneelers is here. Please donate if you are interested in this idea for being able to kneel on clouds of heaven rather than kneelers from Hell (Haha). We have envelopes in the pews for the kneeler fund – **PLEASE USE THEM**. The estimated cost for the kneelers is \$11,217.