



Our Lady of Lourdes Church
PO Box 719
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Seaford, DE 19973

Pastor's Perspective

February 2, 2019

Welcome to Deacon Nicholas Donofrio

We welcome Deacon Nicholas Donofrio who is appointed to exercise diaconal ministry in our parish. Deacon Nick and Marie moved into Heritage Shores in September and they have been working with the diocese for this appointment. The appointment arrived while they are in Florida enjoying warm weather and a well earned vacation. They will be back to the parish in April when we will have a chance to meet them in person.

Taking Our Past into the Future: Continuing the Journey

I want to thank you in a very special way for participating in the Capital Campaign and to date we have received pledges in the amount of \$ **412,363.00**. I would like to remind those who have not yet participated to pick up a campaign booklet, pray about it and allow the Holy Spirit to move you to make the decision that will be beneficial not only for us but also for those who will be part of our Church in the future.

We have begun moving the parish offices into the backroom of the parish hall and started vacating the building in view of the demolition. The front desk, Office manager, Religious Education and the Saint Vincent De Paul (SVDP) response desk will be accommodated in the back room. A very special thank you to Father Paul who opted to have his table and chair in the kitchen to make room for the SVDP desk. All the ministries including the ministry of SVDP and Knights of Columbus will be affected for the next few months. Please do not bring groceries and clothes etc. for distribution by the SVDP till alternative arrangements are made. The priests will be available to meet people only by appointment as we will have no office space available and may have to find room in the sacristy, Church or the hall as time permits. Since the chapel will be closed, the pastoral care team members are encouraged to attend week day Masses and receive hosts at the Mass to take to the sick and home bound. All rental and fundraising activities in the hall will be suspended as the hall will be used for Religious Education, Adult catechesis, Bible study, retreats, and prayer meetings. However small funeral receptions with outside catering could be accommodated.

Please find below updates from the Campaign Committee and the Master Planning Committee on the progress we have made so far.

Your Pastor

Fr. Clement Vadakkedath, C.Ss.R.

Capital Campaign Update: Having completed our initial appeal, the Capital Campaign Committee will soon be sending acknowledgment letters to all parishioners, non-parishioners and ministries who have pledged or made a donation toward the new office building. We thank you for your generosity. The Committee is also reaching out to the parishioners who have not yet responded – either in person or by a phone call or a letter. This process helps to insure that our parish family is informed and knows that their participation is desired – no amount is too small. We are also reaching out to the business community and several grant opportunities, all in an effort to keep our mortgage to a minimum. Please remember our efforts in your prayers and consider asking your family members, especially those who grew up in our parish, to make a contribution as well. What a wonderful way to honor their family's memory.

Jean Edwards

Capital Campaign Committee Chair

Church Office (302) 629-3591 Religious Ed Office (302) 629-7999 Fax # (302) 629-6758

Master Planning Committee Update: The Architect's 90% complete drawing package has been sent to the Bishop's office for final review. It has been received and distributed to the appropriate committees for consideration and comment. This same package will be put out for bids (4 Contractors minimum) within the next few weeks so we can finalize the ultimate costs and get final approval to proceed from the Bishops staff. Once we select the Contractor, a series of Value Engineering sessions will occur to further reduce costs. In January we had a hazardous material inspection done on the old rectory site. Traces of asbestos and lead paint were found that will have to be dealt with prior to demolition. Quotes have been obtained and remediation work will be performed prior to site demolition. GMB, our architect, will shortly be preparing the final paper work for all the necessary city, county and state approvals so we can get all the necessary execution permits. Plans are well underway to vacate the old rectory in February, moving the offices to their temporary home in the hall. Currently the only hold up is the completion of the phone and WIFI work by Comcast. Once the move takes place we will start a salvage effort for reusable materials for the new complex.

Thank you for your prayers and support and a personal plea to each of you to make a Capital Campaign Pledge if you have not already done so. We need everyone's help.

Gregory Morano
Master Planning Committee Chair