Renovation at St Joseph's

Background: Since 1987, with the exception of new carpeting in the pew area, there has not been a renewal within the sanctuary. Things like the overhead speakers should have been removed when the sound system was upgraded. So, things like speaker removal and new flooring in the altar area are parts of this project which could/should have been done some time ago.

Picture of the proposed change:



Description of the picture:
The artistic rendering from Conrad Schmitt Studios both utilizes historic pieces from the rich history of St. Joseph Parish, as well as adding a fresh look that both better expresses our Catholic Faith as well as honors our parish patron, Saint Joseph.

At the very top of the backdrop or reredos is an image of the triumphal lamb, (partially hid by the light fixture in the sketch). This is the symbol of Jesus, the Lamb of God, sacrificed on the wood of the cross and raised in glory, who truly becomes present on the altar during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Latin phrase just below the image of the triumphal lamb means, “The Lord Is King, He Is Robed In Majesty.” This defines our first purpose in coming to Holy Mass, to give honor and glory to God.

The image to the left of the crucifix is a carpenter’s square, an image depicting the life’s work of Saint Joseph as a carpenter. The phrase above means, “Go to Joseph,” reminding us of the powerful intercession of Saint Joseph as our parish patron saint, and also reminding us of his being the patron saint of the Universal Church.

The image to the right of the crucifix is a ships anchor and a vine intertwined. The anchor is a traditional image of hope, in that we are “anchored” to Christ who is our life. A mystery perpetually renewed within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The phrase above the anchor means, “Guardian of the Redeemer.” Another tribute to St. Joseph, as guardian and foster father of the Son of God.

The crucifix at the center of the backdrop is the same image that we currently have. The statue of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, to the left, and the statue to the right is that of Saint John the Evangelist. All three of these pieces of art once graced the original parish church of Saint Joseph, and date back to 1910. The statues were found in the basement of the church and parish office. These pieces remind us of our rich history as a parish in Oneida, as well as the great sacrifices of our ancestors in making us who we are today.

The impressive image of the Holy Spirit with the stars over the body or nave of the church reminds us that at Holy Mass heaven and earth meet, in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are literally joined to heaven during Holy Mass, in giving honor and glory to God.

The Latin phrases used throughout the sketch, is a reminder that we are part of the Latin Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, whose rich history goes back two-thousand years, to Jesus Christ and the first Apostles.

The artistic rendering fulfills an ancient maxim of the Church, "Beauty Prays What Words Cannot."

Timeline of the project: Start in January with a proposed end by Easter.

Projected Cost: $250,000 – $300,000

Breakdown of payments: By January 5th, we will need to have the majority of the money. The remainder of the payments won't be determined until the contract is signed.

Contributions to the renovation:
Here are a few things to help answer some questions you may have.

- **Question:** Can I contribute in multiple payments? **Answer:** YES. Just be aware that it would be best to have the last payment before Easter.
- **Question:** Can I contribute directly from my investments (as in QCD – Qualified Charitable Distribution)? **Answer:** YES, but be aware that the account it will go to at St Joseph's is an account specifically for the renovation. This also will ensure that the contribution you make goes specifically for the renovation. If you are unfamiliar with this and would like more information, please ask.
- **Question:** What needs to be done now to indicate you wish to contribute and how much? **Answer:** Put the information about the amount you would like to contribute and when you would be making the contribution on a piece of paper. Put the paper in the envelopes provided in the narthex. Then put the envelope into the collection basket. If it is more convenient for you, you can put the information into an envelope and mail it to the church office.
- **Question:** I plan to only make a single contribution, using a check, but not before December 1st. What should I do? **Answer:** Put the information about the amount you would like to contribute and when you would be making the contribution on a piece of paper. Put the paper in the envelopes provided in the narthex. Then put the envelope into the collection basket. If it is more convenient for you, you can put the information into an envelope and mail it to the church office.
- **Question:** Is this contribution tax deductible? **Answer:** Yes.
- **Question:** When do I need to respond to this opportunity? **Answer:** You need to get your input (pledge or contribution) in the envelop and put into the collection basket or mailed to the parish office by December 1st. We appreciate your prompt prayerful consideration of this.
- **Question:** Who should I contact if I have questions or would like more information? **Answer:** Mark LeMere You can contact Mark via email- mark.lemere45@gmail.com or cell 920 676 0121.