

Our Parish-Our Future Building Project Updates

Over the next six to eight weeks, the St. Mary's Building Committee will send out email updates covering various building project topics. Parishioners registered on Evangelus will receive the updates, but they can also be accessed on the church website. The emails will start with broad topics and move to more detailed information throughout the following weeks.

Progress, Permits & Plans

A great deal of progress has been made over the last six months. A brief list of hiring, permits, and approvals for the project include:

- Hiring of HMA of St. Cloud as architects for the project, and Breitbach Construction of Elrosa as General Contractor.
- Approval of Building Project scope and overall design by Diocesan Building Committee. (Early December the project is presented to the Diocesan Finance Council).
- Approval from the City of Long Prairie for conditional use permit (religious building in a residential zoned district), and approval to combine multiple parcels into one parcel.

In June, bi-monthly meetings began with the architect, general contractor, and the Building Committee to work on developing the building design, refine and redesign plans as needed, and finalize and prepare for construction. All details, large and small, are addressed at these ongoing meetings. Various parishioners and parish leaders have attended to give additional input as needed.

Spaces included in the new building (details of these will be covered in future emails):

- Fellowship Hall with partitioned walls for Religious Education classes, serving kitchen, and storage
- Gathering space with widened east entrance to church, casket-size elevator, and ground-floor bathrooms
- Adoration Chapel
- Covered drop-off canopy at south church entrance and increased handicapped parking
- Small parish meeting room
- Youth Room
- Two Montessori-inspired classrooms
- Enclosed hallway entrances from north, east, and south

Groundbreaking will take place June 2, 2026, with an anticipated date of completion in March 2027. In May, 2027, the old convent will be torn down, and the parking lot will be completed in July, 2027.



These images from the southeast corner of the building show two different options for the exterior finish. While our first preference has been for full brick, budget constraints will likely allow only for a brick wainscot with LP siding above.