



Christ the King Parish

St. Agnes Church
186 Woburn Street
Reading MA

St. Athanasius Church
300 Haverhill Street
Reading MA

Parish Office, 184 Woburn Street, Reading MA
781.944.0490

July 20, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

I think as you know, I usually like to write on Catholic spirituality, theology, or a highlight about the vitality of our parish. This weekend's letter requires attention to some business

As most of you are aware, in the Fall of 2024, testing was conducted at St. Athanasius Church to identify potential sources of asbestos. The tests revealed that a small percentage of the basement ceiling and sacristy floor tiles contained asbestos within their materials. Of particular concern was the basement's "popcorn-textured" ceiling, which contains asbestos and shows visible disrepair in many areas, including sections where the ceiling is broken.

Upon receiving these results, it was decided that parishioners would no longer have access to the basement level until indoor air testing could be completed, since asbestos exposure primarily occurs through inhalation. Thankfully, the results of the air testing came back well below the State's Public Health Standard for indoor air. However, a potential risk still existed if any ceiling tiles were accidentally disturbed or broken, which could release fibers into the air. In response to this condition, it was determined, in consultation with the Archdiocese, that the most prudent policy was to keep the basement closed to the public until the situation could be fully resolved.

Over the past several months, we have worked closely with our local council and the Archdiocese to determine the most appropriate and beneficial way to address this issue. I am now happy to announce that we will move forward with a licensed contractor to remove the basement ceiling and the sacristy floor tiles. It is estimated that this work, along with the subsequent sacristy floor installation and necessary reinstallation of utility infrastructure in the basement, will take approximately 4–6 weeks to complete.

Please note that this work is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 28th. Saint Athanasius Church will remain closed for the duration of the project. In light of this, all daily and weekend Masses, Saturday Adoration and Confession, Thursday rosary, and any other normally scheduled programs at Saint Athanasius, will be moved to Saint Agnes until the work is completed. We will communicate all necessary information and updates via the bulletin, Mass announcements, social media and parish email.

If anyone would like more information on this matter, please feel free to contact me or Larry Immerman at the Parish Office.

Have a wonderful week!

In Christ,

Fr. Bobby

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