

July 2, 2022

Dear Friends,

I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you about several developments in the life of our parish.

On July 1st our parishes of St. Edward the Confessor and Holy Trinity merged into a single new parish. As such, our family has grown, and we now extend over two campuses with two worship sites. Our lives as Catholics in Sherman and New Fairfield have always been linked to each other and now we begin the next chapter of our relationship together. Fr. Nick, Fr. Tim, and I, as your new administrator, have had the privilege of ministering to you since November of 2021, and we look forward to continuing journeying with you in faith.

Now, let me tell you a little about what is going on here on our parish property in Sherman. As you are already well aware, we have been living in an unfortunate state of quasi-displacement as we try to sort out the many and varied issues facing our physical church and hall. During these months there have been many conversations, surveys, and tests being done to ascertain the complete situation that we have found ourselves and to determine the most appropriate course of action both in terms of fiscal responsibility and in terms of our community's wellbeing and future. Last week I, the leadership of the parish, and the bishop had the opportunity to review all the present information and discuss a path forward. This was a very fruitful conversation. And so, the bishop and I, together with our leadership wanted to share the plan we will be pursuing.

After extensive testing, surveying, and weighing possibilities it has become obvious that our current church building is in such poor condition that the expense to not only remediate the mold, but also to repair, reinforce, and reconfigure its existing structures, foundations, and ventilation issues would be sadly of such an astronomical nature that it would not be in the best interest of our parish and its future to pursue. This was a difficult decision to come to, but one that has been directed by the facts and information at our disposal. So then, what does the future look like? Thankfully, beautiful.

In 1964, the land on which our property resides was given with the stipulation of a church being built upon it. This was realized in 1981 with the construction of Holy Trinity Chapel and we are looking to realize it again in the life of our parish. Our way forward is to build a new home together. The generosity of our parishioners over our 40-year existence as a parish has given us the adequate fiscal footing in the form of a generous endowment to pursue this project for the sacramental and communal future of Holy Trinity. This decision is the fruit of extensive consultation between the parish, the diocese, Hatcher Construction & Development and our own town's various departments. Our presence as Holy Trinity will not only remain but stand tall.

With the building of the new church will also come a complete renovation of our existing hall, which thankfully has been preserved after its thorough cleaning from any progression of the existing mold issue. This will allow us to maintain our social gathering space, as well as open it up to possible rented use for the local community and the catholic community of Fairfield County at large. The property itself would undergo necessary reconfigurations to realize this vision, which you probably already have seen early signs of in the recent removal of many of the trees and brush surrounding the parking lot and the hall.

There are many steps to take in this path forward, but I am thankful that we have already taken several of them to reach this point. In the coming months we will be continuing the work of gathering the final data, permits, licenses, etc. necessary to begin this venture. I approach this project with a sense of excitement and confidence: excitement for what this means for the life of our community and its revitalization, and confidence in what our new home will provide for our people and our families.

I look forward to sharing more with you in the future as the information becomes available and the data transitions from conceptual to actual. Until then, let us continue in the spirit of prayer that has sustained us all these years and together forge a new path in the history of our community and its people.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert L. Wolfe

Administrator