



The Anchor

A Newsletter of St. Michael Parish

November 2015

Volume 4, Issue 2

Did you know?

St. Michael's social media accounts are great ways to keep current with parish events.

Our Facebook page has photos and info on the renovation project and parish happenings. Our website is a great resource for "all things St. Michael." And our new Instagram account—*stmichaelpawcatuck*—is a quick visual way to keep up to date.

Be sure to check in often!

Upcoming Events

Vespers to Celebrate Advent & Christmas
Sundays
4:30 pm

St. Michael Crafters, Westerly Hospital Craft Fair
Dec. 3
9:00 am-4:00 pm

SMS Lessons and Carols
Dec. 23
11 am

Solemn Vespers for Epiphany
Jan. 3
4:30 pm

Update on the Renovation Project

This summer saw a great deal of progress on the renovation and restoration project.

Update on the Capital Campaign

The capital campaign is going strong!

As of October 31, we have raised over \$1,000,000 in new pledges with roughly a third of that already paid in down payments. This brings the total cash on hand to \$2.5 million. The entire project is estimated to cost \$5 million.

The generous response to the capital campaign will enable us to proceed with Phase I of the project. If you have already made your pledge, thank you for your generosity! If you would like to receive campaign materials in the mail, please contact the rectory office at 860-599-5580.

All gifts, from the smallest to the largest, are needed and gratefully **appreciated!** Everyone's financial obligations are different, and your decision is a personal one.

New Architect

Geddis Architects (www.geddisarchitects.com) of Southport, CT, will be the architect for the renovation project.



Mad River Construction removes the church-owned property at 64 Liberty Street.

Geddis is an award-winning studio which has done extensive work throughout southern New England. They are very experienced in timber frame design and have partnered on many projects with Vermont Timber Works, the company which will supply the truss system for the renovation.

Geddis understands the overall goal for the renovation of St. Michael Church: structural repair so our church will be a meeting place of faith for many years to come, with an eye to restoration of details that have made our church a beautiful gathering place to worship for many generations.

Geddis is currently assisting St. Michael's in selecting a construction management firm to facilitate the project. The construction manager will plan, coordinate, budget, supervise and manage the construction from start to completion, and will be

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Moving Forward *cont.*

responsible for bringing the project to a successful completion.

Changes on Liberty Street

The church-owned properties on Liberty and Morgan Streets have been removed. The houses first had to undergo asbestos abatement before they were able to be razed. The slope has been re-graded and planted with grass and several shade trees that will create a lovely gathering area for the parish in the future. The removal of the houses will provide the opportunity to slightly widen the upper parking lot, enough to allow easier access in and out of the lot.

Prior to the demolition of the houses at 55 Morgan Street and 64, 68, and 70 Liberty Street, these houses served as a useful training ground for local fire departments. Drills included cutting holes in roofs, venting smoke, breaking windows, and climbing ladders. Over 80 firefighters representing Pawcatuck, Wequetequock, Stonington Borough, North Stonington, and Westerly Fire Departments participated in the training exercises.

Phase One

Over the next several months, Phase One of the renovation/restoration will be started. Soon you will notice some pre-construction work happening at the church. Selected areas of the interior will be opened, revealing connections and other structural information that will aid in the design process. This work will help reduce surprises during the



Local fire departments practiced drills at 55 Morgan Street prior to demolition.
PHOTO CREDIT: CONNOR BEVERLY

construction process and save money over the long run.

Phase One will also include finalizing the overall design, removal of the roof, installation of new trusses and a new roof, reinforcement of the existing walls, and installation of heating and fire protection systems.

The second phase will include the interior of the church renovation. A generous response to the capital campaign along with additional fundraising will allow us to proceed with this phase.



An Eye to Restoration

Along with structural integrity and efficiency being key factors in the renovation, one of the goals of the St. Michael project is restoration with an eye to the beautiful designs and finishes that graced the church in the past.

John Canning of John Canning & Company visited St. Michael's to begin investigation into the interior colors and decorations of the church. He believes that what he uncovered on the walls (shown left) is the original decoration for the church, and he will be able to help the parish incorporate these designs into the church renovation. These photos were taken of a section of a wall between one of the windows and a confessional booth. The inset shows a gold cross which still shines brightly after a hundred plus years!

John said he would be coming back to do some exposures on the exterior of the church to discover the original colors.

John Canning & Company (www.johncanningco.com) is a family-owned business based in Cheshire, CT, and expert in architectural and historically-faithful decorative finishes for building restoration and period interiors.

School Happenings



ST. MICHAEL
1873
SCHOOL

St. Michael School Has Been Granted Continued Accreditation and Other Accomplishments

St. Michael School has been granted continued accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. A school participates in the process of re-accreditation every 10 years. St. Michael's spent approximately two years evaluating itself and writing a self-study report. A committee then came to the school to evaluate and validate the information that the school compiled in its self-study, to ensure its accuracy. The school hosted the



St. Michael students walked in the 62nd Blessing of the Fleet in the Stonington Borough on July 26. Bishop Cote led the procession to the Town Dock to bless the fishing fleet with holy water.

There's Still Time to Join the Campaign!

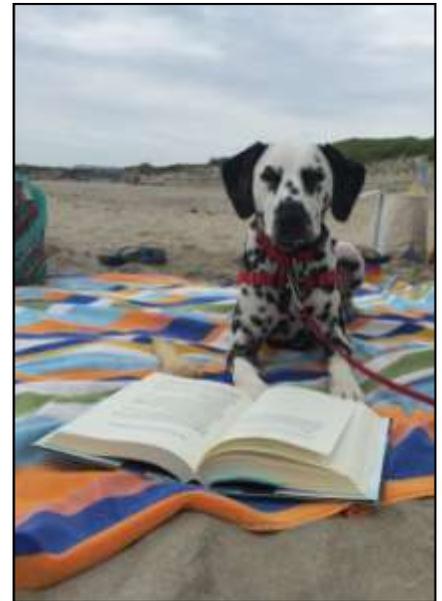
Haven't had a chance to return your capital campaign form yet? You are still welcome to join the parish in supporting the renovation project!

Most gift plans are between three and five years, and

visiting committee in April, and received official notification over the summer of continued accreditation.

This past May, St. Michael School participated in the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, and once again did very well. The middle school test results show that all of our middle school students are performing at least two grades above their grade level. This means that the sixth grade performed as well as an eighth grader would have performed taking the same test. The eighth grade results were even more impressive, with the eighth graders performing on all of the tests as well as a college freshman would have. Overall the scores were good throughout the school. **These scores are utilized to evaluate the school's curriculum and assess if there are any areas in need of improvement.**

Also this past spring, the eighth grade again participated in the National Latin Exam— Introductory Latin Level. The class average was again above the national average. Congratulations to Fr. Perkins for his efforts in preparing the students!



Milo is proud of our students, too, and encouraged them to keep up with their summer reading through the school Facebook page.

although people usually consider a ten percent down payment, it is not necessary.

Please remember that every gift matters, and every gift is appreciated and welcome! If you need a pledge form, please contact the rectory at 860-599-5880.



60 Liberty Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379
860.599.5580

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Westerly RI 02891
Permit No. 46

Current resident or



Photo Credit: Daniel Kelley

St. Michael Parish Events

The Maria Assunta Society's 95th Annual Festa in August was once again a wonderful success, and a welcome continuation of a parish tradition. After a Mass celebrated by Bishop Loverde at St. Mary Church, parishioners gathered **back at St. Michael's for the traditional** procession of the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the streets of Pawcatuck and a wonderful dinner under a large tent set up on the school lawn.

The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4 was a beautiful, sunny day for "St. Michael's Blessing of the Animals!"



Photo Credit: Beth Lawrence

Fr. Perkins (and Milo!) greeted and blessed each furry friend with a prayer and holy water.

Are you keeping up to date on parish happenings?

Visit the website at www.stmichaelpawcatuck.com, follow us on Facebook, and check out our new Instagram account—[stmichaelpawcatuck!](https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelpawcatuck/)