

St. Michael Reconstruction Project Update *April 2017*



THE CHURCH OF
ST. MICHAEL
the Archangel

A NEW CHURCH BEGINS TO EMERGE!

The month of April has not only seen lots of showers, it has also seen the rising of the structure of a new church!

In the weeks prior to the raising of the heavy timber trusses, parishioners from St. Mary, St. Michael and St. Thomas More, along with friends in the local community, **literally wrote themselves into this church's history by signing their names in silver permanent marker on the dark wood.** One truss included a memorial with the names of Fr. Michael O'Reilly and Fr. Patrick Sherry, the first two pastors who were responsible for the building of the original church in 1861 and a large addition in 1867, which more than doubled its size.



Father Perkins with Connor Beverly and Bishop Cote welcomes everyone to the Blessing Ceremony (left); Vermont Timber Works raises the first truss (above).

Along with the signatures and memorials, a passage from Psalm 84 was written in Latin on the truss which is situated over the entrance of the Sanctuary (the complete text is on the parish website).

On the day of the Blessing and Raising of the Trusses Ceremony, parishioners, friends, local officials, and students from St. Michael School gathered as Bishop Cote **blesed the trusses and called for God's abundant blessings** on this reconstruction effort and on all who will worship God in this church. The crowd erupted into cheers as the first truss landed gently atop the steel columns.

We are grateful to Vermont Timber Works for their beautiful craftsmanship. Once the final piece of the structure was in place, Vermont Timber Works then nailed

a small tree on the top beam near the steeple. Topping out is an ancient builders' tradition held when the last beam is placed atop a structure during its construction. It signifies a safe completion of the framing of the structure, an expression of hope for the secure completion of the building, along with a hope that the building will be everlasting!

The next step, framing of the walls of the church, is getting underway. Thank you to all who have donated generously and supported the fundraising efforts. As the reconstruction effort continues, we still need your help! Call the Rectory at 860-599-5580 to join the Campaign!

Be sure to keep up with the latest news in the bulletin, on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and on the Cornerstone page of the website at www.stmichaelpawcatuck.com!

Upcoming Parish Events

High Tea at the Ocean House

April 30, 2017

9th Annual Rita Ahearn Memorial Golf Tournament
to benefit St. Michael School

May 22, 2017

St. Michael Church Gala

TBD 2017



*THANK YOU,
VERMONT TIMBER
WORKS!*

Many thanks to Vermont Timber Works for all of their hard work and fine craftsmanship, which will enhance the beauty and longevity of St. Michael Church for generations to come.

