



# The Anchor

A Newsletter of St. Michael Parish

September 2018

Volume 7, Issue 1

## Did you know?

Did you know that two of St. Michael Church's oldest organizations are looking forward to celebrating their centennial anniversary?

The Maria Assunta Society and St. Michael Boy Scout Troop 9 were both started in 1920.

Look for celebrations to come!

## Save the date!

Save the date for the Holy Cross Community Picnic! The churches of St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Patrick, and St. Thomas More will gather on Sunday, September 9th, from 1-4pm at St. Thomas More Church, 87 Mystic Road in North Stonington. Bring your favorite dessert to share!

## A Journey of Faith

This spring marked the sixth anniversary of the closing of St. Michael Church. These past six years have been a journey filled with faith, generosity and miracles—and just look where we are today! We have a beautiful new building and are well underway in the second phase of the reconstruction.

We embarked on this journey with very few resources on hand, yet through God's grace and a steadfast faith on the part of parishioners and a great number of friends, we have been blessed with so many miracles at every turn.

In April, work began on Phase II of the reconstruction with money we had already raised. We have been working on the rough-in for the electrical and



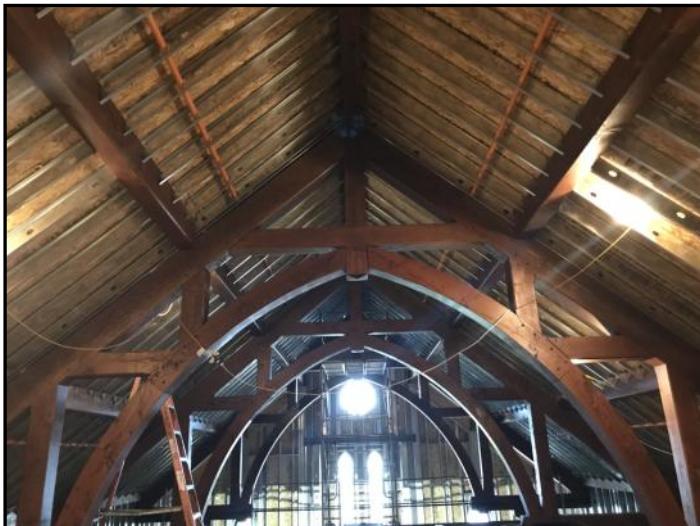
*The construction site in July through a transept window of the church.*

plumbing systems, in addition to the installation of the HVAC, fire alarm, and sprinkler systems. The walls of the church have been insulated and are currently being covered in sheetrock. Outside, the drainage system has been installed, and all utilities have been brought to the building underground.

## Christmas Challenge a Great Success

The incredible spirit and commitment of this community once again showed in the most recent Christmas Challenge. As of the end of February, we had raised \$382,000 toward our challenge goal of \$300,000! With the matching of that goal, that meant we had raised an amazing \$682,000 in the challenge, a wonderful jump start on the fundraising for Phase II of the reconstruction!

## Gallery of Recent Progress on the Site



**Work has been continuing on both the interior of the church and the site over the recent months!**

Clockwise from above: 1. Steel framing in the ceiling and sprinkler pipes (pipes are orange) were installed in the church. The steel and pipes will be hidden by sheetrock, leaving the beautiful wood trusses and purlins crafted by Vermont Timber Works exposed. 2. Workers put in a network of dry wells on the site, which will collect and disperse rain water coming off the roof. Drainage pipes will carry rain water from the roof to the dry wells. 3. Workers brought power from across the street and ran it underground. They also connected the church to the water line. 4. The framing of the arch over the sanctuary is complete. 5. Sheetrock is being installed on the walls throughout the church. 6. Workers have built walls in the basement of the church, creating spaces for the hall, kitchen, mechanical equipment and storage rooms, and restrooms. Preparations were also done for the installation of ductwork for the HVAC system.



## Your Support Has Never Been so Important!

While great progress has been made to get the church reconstructed to where it is today, there is still much to be done. From the outside, one would think we are close to completion, but in reality a great deal must be done before the church can reopen—which will require continued fundraising. Still to be done:

- Painting
- Hardwood flooring, wood trim and wainscot throughout the church
- Sacristy cabinets and counters
- Confessionals and other liturgical items
- Sound system
- Refinishing and resizing pews and kneelers to accommodate the removal of columns and wider side aisles
- New light fixtures throughout the building, including the refurbishing of old hanging light fixtures
- Elevator
- Reconditioning and reassembling the pipe organ
- Kitchen equipment, as well as flooring and acoustical ceiling for hall
- Paving, sidewalks, grading, landscaping, and exterior lighting

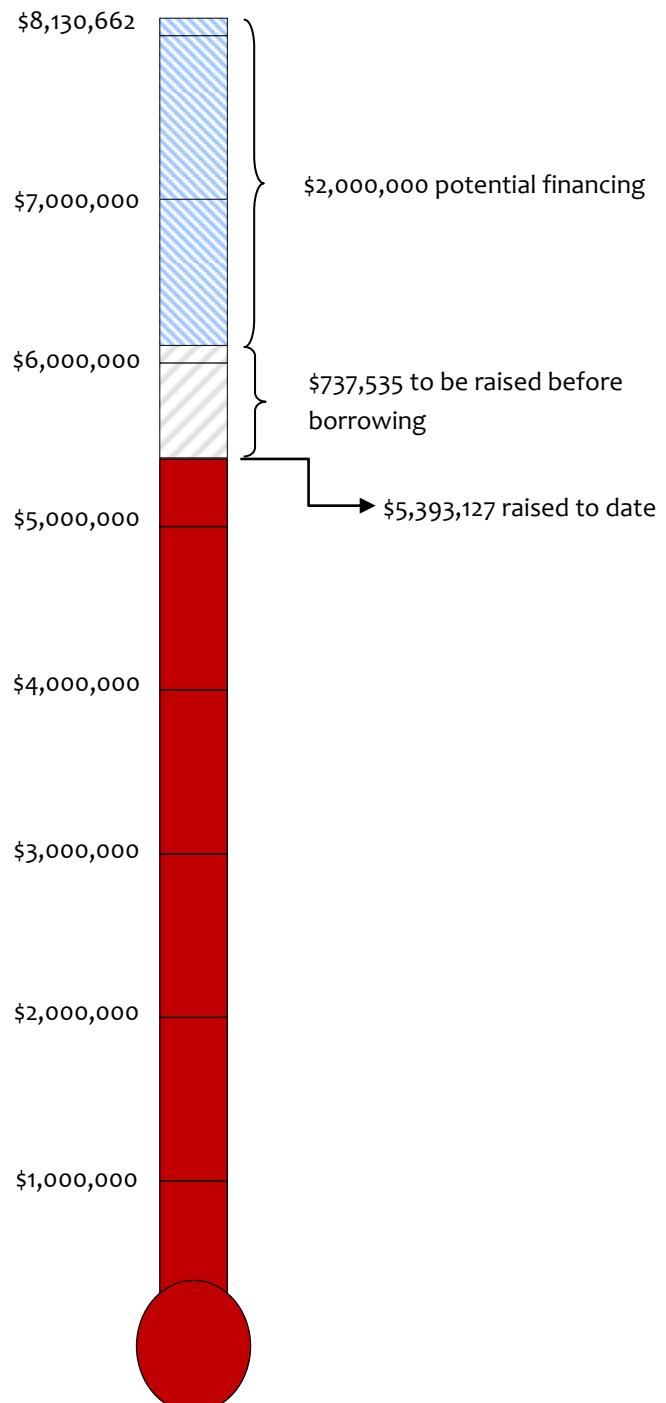
The Project Management Committee has been working tirelessly with the construction manager to cut costs through the utilization of more competitive subcontractors, value engineering, and the re-use of elements from the old church wherever possible. But it is not enough.

**We need everyone's help to bring this project to completion. Our goal is to reopen the church on Sunday, May 26, 2019, which is the 158th anniversary of the dedication of the original St Michael's.**

It is by the generosity of the countless parishioners and friends of St. Michael's that we have arrived at where we are today. For those of you who have contributed to this effort, we are grateful and ask for your continued support. For those of you who have not yet supported this effort, we seriously need your help.

To everyone who has walked with us on this path—thank you! Everyone's continued support makes each step a little easier... and will no doubt bring us to the steps of a new and rededicated St. Michael Church.

## Capital Campaign as of June 2018



**"Open your heart, open your mind , and open your soul to the miracles God wants to work in and through you."**

Matthew Kelly, Rediscover Catholicism

## Reconstruction Revenue Expenditure

	<b>Per 6/2017 Newsletter at 5/23/17</b>	<b>New Activity to 6/30/2018</b>	<b>at June 30, 2018</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>					
Capital campaign donations & fundraising	3,403,039	1,228,675	4,631,714		
Estate of Owen Sherry	1,132,339	-	1,132,339		
Interest	4,765	486	5,251		
<b>Total Capital Campaign Revenue</b>	<b>4,540,143</b>		<b>5,769,304</b>		
<b>Expenditures</b>					
<i>Pre-Construction</i>					
Property acquisition and house demolition	399,806		399,806		
Building evaluation and planning activities <sup>1</sup>	252,226		252,226		
Removal of stained glass and pipe organ	35,650		35,650		
<b>Subtotal Pre-construction</b>	<b>687,682</b>		<b>687,682</b>		
<i>Project Construction</i>					
Church Construction & project management	2,059,599	2,129,623	4,189,222		
Architectural, engineering, and misc	266,750	47,526	314,276		
<b>Subtotal Project Construction</b>	<b>2,326,349</b>		<b>4,503,498</b>		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>3,014,031</u></b>		<b><u>5,191,180</u></b>		
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>May 23, 2017</b>	<b><u>1,526,112</u></b>	<b>June 30, 2018</b>	<b><u>578,124</u></b>	
<b>Total Project Cost and Funds Needed to Complete the Project</b>					
Total Project Cost budget					
Phase One	4,409,006				
Phase Two	3,721,656				
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>8,130,662</b>	100%	<b>8,130,662</b>	100%	
Less:					
Phase One Expenditures	2,326,349	29%	Paid to date	4,503,498	55%
Cash on hand - May 23, 2017	1,526,092	19%	Cash balance 6/30/18	578,124	7%
Outstanding Pledges	483,000	6%	Outstanding Pledges	311,505	4%
	<b>4,335,441</b>	<b>53%</b>		<b>5,393,127</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Funds needed to complete the project</b>	<b><u>3,795,221</u></b>	47%		<b><u>2,737,535</u></b>	<b>34%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes engineering analysis of the church structure, architectural fees for the first two designs for a new church, and capital campaign expenses.

## St. Michael School Marks a Successful First Year with New Catholic Classical Curriculum

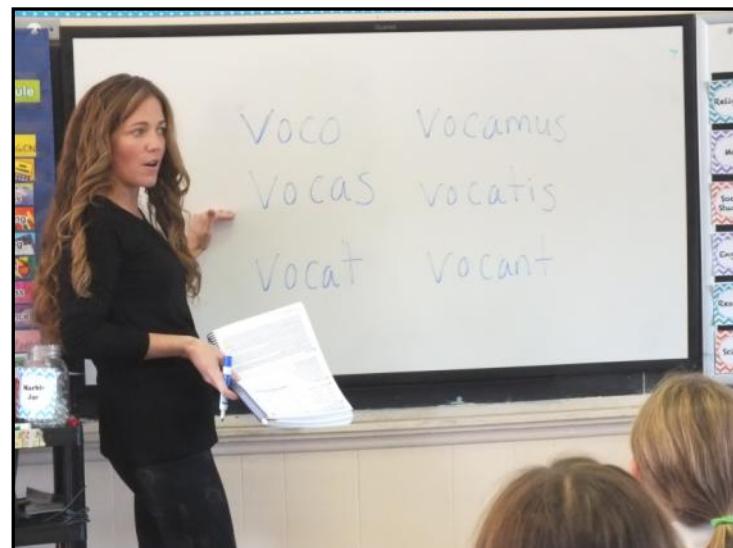
During the 2017–2018 school year, St. Michael School began instituting new enhancements to the rigorous curriculum of the school. These enhancements involved moving to a more classical style of education. This model of education was used in Catholic education until the first half of the twentieth century, preparing students not just for high school, college or a career, but to become lifelong learners who are informed, engaged and faith-filled members of society.

Teachers have been given online opportunities for classes and instruction in classical education. In addition, several of the faculty traveled to Catholic University this summer for a national conference on Catholic Classical Education and brought back new ideas and methods for the start of the new school year.

Latin instruction was expanded to begin in Kindergarten. Students as young as five were able to learn and memorize simple Latin words and phrases, as well as prayers in Latin. The use of memorization and recitation in Latin has led all of the students to better understand the language and begin to apply what they are learning to English grammar as well.

Classical literature is being used throughout the school with great success. Students enjoyed reading books such as *The Secret Garden*, *Stuart Little*, and *Little House on the Prairie*. Younger students learned with *Aesop's Fables* while older students spent time reading Mark Twain and William Shakespeare. Students also learned to memorize and recite poetry and speeches. A highlight of the year was the school's first annual Recitation Night with every class, Pre-Kindergarten through grade eight, participating. Cultivation of memory is an important component in the development of strong minds.

Virtue education was introduced this year and will continue to be an important part of the program. Discipline is important to learning in school, but having good and appropriate behaviors taught and reinforced makes them a part of each student; not because they are afraid of being punished, but because they know it is the right



Grade five works on conjugating a Latin verb in the present tense.

way to behave.

Looking ahead to the coming year, faculty have ordered new textbooks in history to focus on the history of Western Civilization and how it has evolved and grown. New Religion books emphasize scripture and Christian formation in what Pope Benedict XVI called "the best Catechetical series," ensuring students have a good foundation in the faith.

Science, math and technology continue to be important in the school's program, but even in these classes, classical strategies are utilized and allow students to master their subjects in developmentally appropriate ways.

It is a very exciting time for St. Michael School. The upcoming school year will provide opportunities to expand the school with new students and to expand the curriculum to further prepare students to become the best version of themselves they can be.

For more information on St. Michael School or to tour the school to learn more about its successful Catholic Classical Curriculum, call 860-599-1084, email [info@stmichaelschoolct.com](mailto:info@stmichaelschoolct.com), or visit the school's website at [www.stmichaelschoolct.com](http://www.stmichaelschoolct.com).



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## Local Parish Traditions

The Blessing of the Fleet in Stonington Borough has been a tradition since 1954. This summer, a Fisherman's Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's on July 29, followed by a parade through the Borough (below left). Father Perkins then blessed the fishing boats to keep the fishermen safe for another year, as wreaths were laid at the Fisherman's Memorial (below center).

The Maria Assunta Society (MAS) of St. Michael Parish celebrated their 99th annual Feast of the Assumption on the weekend of August 10–12. On Friday evening, there was a Rosary procession led by the MAS (right). On Sunday, there was a Celebration of Mass at 10:30am at St. Mary's, followed by a Procession of the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the streets of Pawcatuck (below right).

We are blessed to have two such traditions in our community.

