



ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

ST. THOMAS CHAPEL • SPRINGFIELD

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31 March 2019

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dearest Friends:

If you have been anywhere around the St. Margaret campus recently, you surely feel the tangible excitement of our parishioners and friends over the scope of work happening to our beloved St. Margaret Church and the surrounding campus grounds. Ever since moving into our temporary Church in the Parish Hall on 23 September 2018, work has continued to progress, and you can visibly see our attempts to preserve our past while moving forward into the future. I thank you and all our parish leadership for the hard work that has gotten us here so far!

The project was originally slated to cost some \$1.8 million dollars; so far, with unexpected change orders and simply high construction costs, this phase will likely cost some **\$2.5 million dollars**. Yet, it is your generosity that enables us to continue this good work.

Much of our efforts heretofore have been focused on the structure and the site including the addition of more than 100 paved parking spots around the rectory, church, Hall of Saints and Parish Hall complex; we are addressing the long worrisome water pooling problems under St. Margaret Church. Tower lighting is already coming up in much of the new, concrete parking lot to make our campus more secure, and St. Margaret Church is receiving her makeover which will improve lighting, heating and cooling while preserving her historical integrity. The plan will increase seating capacity; it will also make the worship space more functional (e.g. a covered drop off area coupled with a new Church entrance, a new confessional, and a bathroom).

Now, we turn our attention to the furnishings in the Church. Catholics are sacramental and incarnational. It matters how our Church “looks” and “feels.” We are purchasing new pews, altar furniture, windows, and Stations of the Cross to further beautify our already historic structure. Several parishioners have asked for the opportunity to “sponsor” these fixtures in honor or memory of their loved ones. Would you consider such a memorialization? Your name and the names of your loved ones will be included in a book of acknowledgements to be displayed in the renovated Church.

Again, I am grateful for your sacrificial giving! Thank you for your commitment to your regular offertory, our capital improvement fund, and in this sponsorship opportunity! As I mentioned at Mass, I have good and bad news for you. The good news is that we have all the money that we need to make this project a reality; the bad news is that it's still in your wallets! Please prayerfully consider how you, as a family, plan on making a small sacrifice to secure a prominent future for our community of faith; return the enclosed sponsorship form with your contribution in the coming weeks! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Yours in the Lord,

Rev. Janin Scott David, JCL
Pastor