
Pastor's Journal...
Fr. William P. Felix



19 July 2026 + Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Much has been going on this past week in the 700 block of East Patten St.! As we come into this weekend the infrastructure of the street was completed replacing all of the water, storm, and sanitary pipes. Loads of material were brought in to prepare the final surface repair of the street.

The five cedar trees on the northwest section of the rectory property were removed in just a few days. The contractor did a superb job of cleanup, and even reseeded the lawn in areas where the stumps were removed. You would hardly believe those giant trees were once there. This opens up space for the maple trees and the one younger cedar tree still on the property. I can't believe how much more light comes into the rectory. This will be especially appreciated in the winter months.

The old steps in the church were completely removed and all of the debris hauled away. The hole is being prepared for the foundation of the new addition and the elevator shaft. We had our first construction meeting report this past week and were told that pouring of the foundation and elevator shaft may begin as soon as next week.

Some good news and some bad. The good news first. Removing the interior covering on the basement wall revealed an opening going into the area underneath the steps. I think I told you that already. Having removed the exterior steps shows an opening large enough to serve as the actual entrance to the basement as we planned. This means that the contractors will not have to cut into the foundation wall of the church and put any risk to our 100-year-old building! It will only have to be enlarged a bit. The miracle....it is exactly in the place the architects planned on putting the doorway in the first place.

The bad news is that we discovered a water problem on the east wall of the interior part of the church between the confessional and the lower window. This is right where the two roofs come together. Looking at the problem there seems to be an issue with both the gutters and missing concrete between the bricks. I had our company who did the interior renovations here to look at the issue, and once the problem gets fixed, they will need to come in and redo the corner section between the window and the confessional. That was not in the plan, but it needs to be redone before we reopen at Christmas. I will let you know what this will cost and may need to make an appeal for this work. There is always something, isn't there. Despite it all, things are progressing very well. Always include the safety of the workers in your prayers.

Continued blessings on your summer,