



UPDATE ON THE CHURCH RESTORATION PLANS – 12.18.2025
By: The Parish Construction Committee

Dear Friends,

Fourteen months have passed since the October 18th fire that destroyed our beautiful church building that had served as a place of worship for more than 65 years. To all of us it was special as it was the building where we were married, our children were baptized, and our parents' funerals were held. The arsonists may have destroyed the building, but the past fourteen months prove that they did not destroy our church. We, the people, are the church and we have been diligent in our faith, persistent in our purpose as a community of believers.

Shortly after the fire, a committee formed to manage our response and plans for rebuilding. Fr. Ariel, Deacon Steve, Jesse Gladman, facilities manager and Matt Bagnall and Richard Horton of the finance committee and corporate board and Maureen Berger Pastoral Sta and Martha Meraz, business manager and our architect Sean Hogan, would meet every week on Tuesdays to plan the design and scope of the new building and on Thursdays the team met with the insurance carriers' representatives to negotiate the settlement. It was a lengthy process, but a very successful one.

Design elevations and perspectives have been posted around the church and the community center for your information. We appreciate those who have taken the time to review and ask questions. The new building is approximately 26,000 sq feet, which is 11,000 sq feet larger. As the only Catholic church in Casa Grande, it is our responsibility to provide a place of worship, fellowship and instruction and the contemporary design aligns with the modern liturgy and provides the needed space to meet these needs.

Last week the parish accepted the insurance policy "like for like" with code upgrades construction reimbursement of **\$10.4M**. The total payout will be larger as the replacement costs for contents (organ, piano, music sheets, books, lights, statuary, etc.) and for loss of revenue are calculated. The Diocese building committee approved our plans and gave permission to continue to plan for construction and start a capital campaign to raise the additional **\$8M** needed for the larger space. Even as we continue to work with the contractor to identify alternatives to reduce the overall construction cost, we are grateful to the early donations and gifts that total almost one million dollars.

What is next? We expect submittal to the city of Casa Grande for site plan approval after the holidays. The city agreed to remove and relocate the sewer line from under the church since the 1950's. This provides the ground space needed for the foundation and underground support structures.

We are in discussions about alternative sites for parking as the new church design will take up a larger space. We estimate groundbreaking in June of 2026 and completion 18 to 24 months later.

Thank you for reading this update. We welcome any questions you may have. The capital campaign will be introduced may be in February of 2026. However, if you are looking for a tax deduction for the 2025 year, please

feel free to make a check payable to the St. Anthony of Padua Restoration Fund. You can mail it to the parish or drop it into a collection basket or call the Office at (520) 836-0601, if you want your donation picked up.

Please Note: You may also donate SHARES OF STOCKS or BITCOIN CURRENCY.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to All!