

## **September, 2011**

Welcome back St. Demetrios parishioners! Although we saw one another from time to time over the summer, seeing the huge turnout in our new temporary worship space on the first day of Sunday School was so heartwarming.

Even though the Building Committee was reasonably certain the parish would feel comfortable in the space that will accommodate us for the next year and a half, we were not ready for the number of outright compliments on a "job well done."

Although a number of changes to this which will be our future all-purpose space are obviously temporary, most of the expense incurred in creating this space will serve us for years to come. Examples of such upgrades are the brand new silent heat and air conditioning and the fire control sprinkler systems installation.

You will also notice the new function room that occupies the area formerly used for storage and miscellaneous offices. The parish's ability to gather for coffee, functions and other activities is essential to our community's way of life. This space is also pre-plumbed for fire control sprinklers, brightly lit with dimmers, has new heat and air conditioning and ample new storage space. New church administrative offices have been built on the second floor and a full access ramp has been built to provide access to all from the parking lot.

In order to accomplish all these tasks, public hearings have been scheduled and votes successfully obtained, building permits have been negotiated and are in hand, and the construction financing has been closed.

Because of the number of volunteers and pro-bono donation of professional services, the costs of closing the loan are merely the recording fees and lenders counsel who also issued the church a generous discount. Although the terms of the loan are very beneficial, we have not yet chosen to use the credit facility now available to us.

Speaking of volunteers, we want to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the building committee to all those that came to help us in the actual move to the new worship space. In the spirit of St. Demetrios' founding over fifty years ago, so many parishioners came forward. From grandparents, parents, singles and children, men and women came to do the dirty work of both discarding items, storing many more, and most importantly physically moving and installing items like the pews, icons, and much more. The savings were significant, but the renewal of spirit was even more important. Each volunteer understood the importance of TIMING!

Because in only one week we had to move our sacred place of worship, we had to make certain that the seasonal activities of the church were completed and in summer schedule, while at the

same time ensuring we would have adequate volunteers to lend a hand before vacations commenced. This meant that the move would have to be in a very short calendar window. In an orderly and non-stop manner, the job was executed like clockwork. Again, THANK YOU volunteers.

With the old sanctuary then vacant, and with planning on the new building continuing, subcontractor bids for the demolition and preliminary site work showed some prices as below our budget. To take advantage of this advantageous pricing, and to spare the expense of making the old sanctuary secure, we proceeded with this phase of work.

In the interim, our architect, engineers and committee members had prepared a detailed report to Nstar on the electrical demands of the new facility. This was submitted and after many weeks, Nstar has notified us that they are prepared to build and subsequently install our new transformer. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, our deposit was issued to Nstar for this work. When delivered in late October or early November, the new unit will be installed and the old one, which sits in the middle of our construction site, can then be decommissioned and removed. Our construction can then commence.

Currently the subcontractor bids we have received are good, but some are over budget for some particular categories of work. The Building Committee has many alternative methods to bring those bids in line with the budget, but the focus now is in producing new subcontractor bids from new participants. The response will be available to us in the weeks to come. Stand by!