

Renovations FAQ

- How many families/parishioners are registered at Holy Redeemer?
 - Current registration is at 748 families or 3,223 parishioners
- How is attendance at Masses, would additional seating be required?
 - Currently, we only require additional seating for larger attended Masses like during Easter and Christmas and for First Communion or other special Masses. Our average attendance for the weekends is around 800-950, that is up from 700-750 only 5-10 years ago. We are looking into options to extend some of the pews to allow for additional seating.
- Who will make the final decision on any of the projects if the survey results are an even mix?
 - Ultimately, Father Dorn, as spiritual father of the spiritual family, is head of the household and thus makes the final decisions. However, he wisely takes into consideration many factors, especially the input of the Renovation Committee and other experts.
- Is there a priority list of projects?
 - We have a partial priority list, however, are waiting on survey results to determine other priorities. When this is all decided, we will have the overall list on the Renovation page of the website.
- Will the Birthday Fund (BFC) be used for renovations?
 - If the BFC envelopes are used during this campaign, it will be used for renovations unless otherwise noted on the envelopes to be used for something specific
- When would renovations/construction begin?
 - This is all based on when we have enough in contributions to do any of the renovations. Also, many of the projects will be best all at once, for example, when doing the ceiling and lighting, we will need to get lifts and equipment in church, so when doing this, it would work best if we can also remove the pews for easier movement. Our goal would be to complete some of the smaller projects as we are able without interfering with daily and weekend Mass schedules. The larger project of the ceiling would be best during summer months while Mass counts are down so we can celebrate Mass in the parish hall.
- Where will Mass take place during renovations to the pews and/or ceiling?
 - Mass will be held in the parish hall. The goal is to work on the larger projects during summer months when our Mass counts are down. Depending on space, we may also need to add a weekend Mass to accommodate everyone.
- How long would the overall project take?
 - The estimates we received were around 10-12 weeks, but we plan to do several projects in phases – such as the parking lot and ceiling/pews.
- How will payments work for the campaign?
 - The goal of the campaign is to receive 5-year pledges, with that in mind, we plan to allow many payment options: from GoFundMe to monthly, quarterly, bi-annually, annually payments via checks, cash, credit cards, or ACH transactions.

- Would the Archdiocese of Cincinnati give us a loan?
 - The Archdiocese would give us a loan if we had enough in pledges to cover it. It is not our goal to require a loan, but the option is available. We are also working with First National Bank as well. It is all based on the money contributions and how much in pledges we receive.
- I heard some of this money will go to the Archdiocese, how much of this campaign will go to the Archdiocese?
 - Yes, it is true that the Archdiocese charges an assessment on all money contributed to Holy Redeemer. The normal fee is 9% and capital campaigns are typically 5.7%. Since we were way over our goal for One Faith, One Hope, One Love, we are negotiating with the Archdiocese to get that fee as low as possible.
- Will you ask us for more money in 2-5 years?
 - We cannot predict the future; however the renovation team is looking into current issues and future issues along with the current campaign. Many of the immediate maintenance requirements are included in this campaign. We have addressed many several future plans that are not included in this campaign (phase 1). These include finishing the connector with needed classrooms, updates to the parish hall and kitchen, and covered walkways for the front and handicap entrances. These will be addressed at a later time if we exceed the goal for the current campaign. If we do not exceed the current campaign goals, we will look into these projects sometime in the future. Please see the presentation for more details.
- What if we want our money to go to specific projects?
 - Any money given to the church and/or this campaign can be ear-marked for a specific project or need. We will honor these wishes. However, if a parishioner marks that the money can only go to the parish hall updates, and we don't make enough money to complete that project, we may approach the parishioner to see if we could include it for something else, or it will be put into savings to be used at a later time.
- If we remove the ceiling tiles and expose the wood, won't there be an echo?
 - There may be some issues with the sound in church after the ceiling tiles are removed. However, we are aware of the issue and will get audio experts involved to come up with the best solution. The best solution is to get more people in church, so make sure you invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers to join us for Mass.
- Have you looked into what it will take to upgrade the electrical?
 - There are no functional issues with the current wiring and electrical system. We will need to change or move some of the wiring to hide them with the exposed wood and we are looking into some upgrades such as a better panel for sectional lighting (daily vs weekend Mass) and dimming.
- Would exposing the wood ceiling cause issues with heating/cooling efficiency?
 - We are addressing part of the issue with upgrades to our HVAC controls. By taking down the ceiling tile, it would make more space to heat/cool, but since it is not insulated above the ceiling, it shouldn't make a big difference in efficiency.
- How much work will be needed to finish the exposed wood on the ceiling?
 - Although we don't know the exact work needed until we take down the drop-ceiling, we do know that there will be some work required to sand and seal the wood, as well as work on the electrical wires and lighting, and since the brick work was not extended to the ceiling around the perimeter there will be additional work required to fix those issues.

- If we replace the current ceiling tiles, what is the life expectancy?
 - Normally around 25-30 years if there are no leaks or other issues.
- Can you explain the HVAC Controls piece for the Connector? Is this full AC or just the control devices to control humidity levels? The lack of AC in the current classrooms is also a concern.
 - Currently the AC does not have humidity control, if it is humid and cooler, and the building isn't calling for AC to be on, humidity will continue to rise in the building. This is true for the main church, connector, and parish hall. The humidity control and upgrades to our HVAC controls will be added to our existing AC. If we get into phase 2 projects and add classrooms, at that time we will also add AC to the existing classrooms if economically feasible.
- What if we exceed our phase 1 goal?
 - If we exceed our phase 1 goal, we will start looking into doing some of our phase 2 goals. As indicated on the surveys that were filled out, we would first look into finishing the connector with added classrooms, offices space, and storage. Please see the presentation slides or watch the video for more information on our phase 2 projects. Or you can contact a member of the renovation team or the parish office for more details.
- What is the projected cost of phase 2?
 - We have not looked into quotes for any of our phase 2 projects at this point. A very rough estimate for ALL projects (connector, parish hall, kitchen, classrooms, covered walkways, sacristy) is around \$1.2 million.
- If we get into phase 2, and add classrooms, would the furniture we purchase in phase 1 for existing classrooms still be used?
 - The phase 2 connector completion would be for additional classrooms, and although not decided, possibly some new religious ed/music/storage spaces. If we make enough to add classrooms, there will be new furnishings and any new furnishings we buy for the existing classrooms will remain.
- If we replace the pews, what will they look like?
 - We have not looked into exact design yet. If replacement of pews is the overall choice of the survey results, we will begin looking into design. Through the whole process we will always decide the best based on the current architecture and look of the church. Once it is narrowed down to a few options, we will decide how to make the final decision. We will always make sure to keep everyone updated on our Renovation webpage.
- Does the Archdiocese have any say on the updates/renovations we make?
 - Yes, the Archdiocese can approve or reject any renovations we are planning. Once the final project is defined, we will send details to the Archdiocese Chancellor. They will usually not reject anything that improves the church.
- How much longer do we make One Faith, One Hope, One Love payments?
 - Depends on what kind of payments you are making, but there should be a little over a year remaining.
- Why are we making these changes, are we changing too much, too fast?
 - Actually, since its been 15 years since we have done anything to our church, it's been too long. The goal of the renovation committee is to give our best to God while keeping the architecture of the church. We never want to add something that is over the top or too fancy for what we have.

- Will we be adding any pews/seating?
 - That will depend on if we refinish what we have or add new pews. If we add new pews that will give us the opportunity to extend either the south side pews or the divine mercy chapel pews. It will also give us the opportunity to look into spacing of the pews and correct angle to the altar.
- If we replace the pews, what will be done with the old pews?
 - We have discussed this briefly, but not in too many details since we do not know if we will be replacing or fixing the existing pews. Thoughts such as using them in some other way or donating them to another church (such as Grenada/Haiti churches) or to the Missions of the Precious Blood. When the time comes we will look into options and solicit any ideas from the mission team and/or parishioners
- Should we stop our One Faith, One Hope, One Love payments?
 - We suggest that you honor the pledge you made to this campaign. We are actually getting 60% of your payments back to us at this point. You can also decide to wait to give to this local campaign until after your commitment to the Archdiocese is complete.
- I would like to see the location of the kneelers in relationship to the pew in front to be increased.
 - We are looking into many options for the pews. New kneelers that are further from the pew in front would be one. We are also looking into the spacing of the pews that would help.
- Our aging parishioners often do not kneel, Father does not kneel during church services – remove the kneelers and save cost and add more pews.
 - The reason why Father does not kneel is that, in the Liturgy, especially at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, he is *alter Christus* acting *in persona Christi Capitis*. Also, for the faithful, kneeling is a posture of respect and adoration. Another time when we kneel is during the preparation for and before/after reception of the Eucharist (the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion). We kneel, again, because we believe Jesus is fully and truly present in Communion. If you believed you were literally in the presence of Christ himself, falling to your knees would be a natural thing to do- probably even falling flat on your face.
- Could you use the stained-glass windows for smaller artwork to help pay for improvements?
 - That is an option. When we get to that point we can see if anyone would like to take on that project. Keep in mind that these are painted glass, not stained glass.
- The youth are the future of the church.
 - Actually, all of us are the future of the church. It is up to us to teach our children so that they continue to attend. That is why we are looking into options for updating the current classrooms and adding on to the connector for additional classrooms.
- Do you have forms available for those wishing to give via ACH?
 - We do not have specific forms currently available; we are working on this. We will be in contact with everyone that wishes to use ACH as a form of payment in the near future. If you are currently using ACH for monthly giving, you can request a change to this amount and request it to be changed back after your pledge is complete or financial reason causes you to need a change in amount.
- You asked in the survey if the sanctuary carpet should be replaced, wasn't that just replaced with wood?
 - Yes, you are correct, it was mis-stated as sanctuary carpet, what it should have been is the main church carpeting. The carpeting that is remaining around the main body church pews.

- I feel that the money should be put towards building a quiet room for children and their families.
 - Actually, studies show that children that are made a part of the overall church family will be more engaged later in life. Instead of hiding them, we hope that you can bring them to the front. Children do not like to look at the backs of other people. You may also want to quietly explain to them what is going on. All children are welcome in Mass, it is a sign that church is growing. Many churches do not have the luxury of younger families attending, so thank you for being there and showing your children how important it is. We also encourage all parishioners to welcome younger families – most of them can remember what it was like to have a child in Mass, we should give them a smile and offer to help not make them feel unwelcomed. If however, you wish to bring them out of Mass, we have added speakers to the entrance of the church (between the glass doors), so feel free to bring them to the back, but make sure you return as soon as they settle down.
- It would be valuable to understand what the desired spiritual impact would be for each of the planned renovations. How will implementing each one impact the building of the Kingdom of God?
 - We strive to give our best to God. All that we have and all that we are is owed to God, so we need to give him our best. Our goal with the renovations is enhance our praise and worship space in order that everyone that attends Mass or comes to pray will feel the presence all around us.
- Well done, great job on presentations and information.
 - Thank you. We will always try our best to keep you informed and the parish office is always open to questions and/or concerns. And everything we present or mention will be on our website, renovations page.