

Been thinking about the new church

and just wondering...

What the final plans and renderings are like?

When will we begin the site work?

When we will break ground for the building?

When will we be praying in the church?

Then you want to come to the presentation on

Sunday, March 26th

3:30 PM

in church

for plans, views, dates, and details!

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

THINGS LENTEN

While these things are not new to the church this Lent some people have asked about them.

THE BOOK OF THE ELECT On the First Sunday of Lent, the bishop gathers with the catechumens – those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil – and recognizes that they have been called by God to eternal life as his sons and daughters by water and the Holy Spirit. They are now called the *elect*, since the Church recognizes that they have been chosen by God. With the Rite of Election, they enter into the time of final preparation for baptism, as they pray with the Church that they may be ready spiritually to live in the grace of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Part of the Rite is that they sign their names in the Book of Elect, as a sign of their commitment to be baptized. The book reminds us that we are to pray for them, as well as for ourselves who seek to return to baptismal innocence.

THE BANNERS Above the choir is the image of Christ the Merciful King who reigns with compassion and mercy. In the circles on either side are depictions of the works of mercy through which Christ's compassionate love is made real through the members of his Mystical Body, the Church. Above the baptismal font is the image of Christ carrying His Cross. In this rendering, done in the style of a woodcut and it is also reminiscent of 10th century stained glass, such as in the Augsburg cathedral. The combination of these banners in two very different styles reminds us that Lent is a time to reflect on the sufferings of Christ and to be so moved as to surrender ourselves to him by repentance and care for those in need.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

This Tuesday, churches in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially for those who may have been away from the practice of the faith or confession for a long time. St. John's will celebrate this sacrament from **6-8 PM** that night. Saints and sinners, all are welcome. If you are concerned that you do not remember who to go to confession, don't worry, the priest will walk you through it. If you are embarrassed by your sins, don't worry, priest sin too, so it is one sinner speaking to another. (Imagine, Christ chooses to act through a sinner to heal a sinner. Is He a great God, or what!)

Lenten blessings! – Fr. Jeff