

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE #8**

***Lord Jesus, help us build a beautiful church!***

As I reported at Masses a few weeks ago, our plans and preparations for a new church have emerged from winter in very good shape! We had remarkably kind weather from groundbreaking on November 5 until February, enabling significant site work to be completed. Work was held up for only about four weeks by snow. Concrete footings are now 90% in place, on schedule; foundation walls, columns and piers are being installed.

Bids for the "steel package" were received from four companies and the contract has been awarded. This one item comes in at over \$750,000.

In case you were wondering, we are not buying a cheap lightweight "steel building" advertised on radio. Those things get dented by a bicycle. We are building a church to last for hundreds of years. Our steel parts are big solid pieces which will support the roof and exterior stone walls. We expect to receive the steel in June and see it erected during that month.

Work on the curbs and sub-base for the south parking lot (the new one) will be finished by May. Then with the conclusion of religious education classes, we will switch our parking to that new lot and rearrange and expand our present parking space. That work will be done by July; then we will switch back, and the new lot will become the staging area for building supplies as they arrive on site.

One change of plans has been decreed by the NYS Department of Transportation. For added safety, our two exit roads will each be allowed to be only one car wide, so that every driver at the exit to Route 82 will have a very clear view of oncoming traffic.