



For Immediate Release

New St. Isidore Church to Open Before Christmas

Building Committee Executive

After years of decision making and eighteen months of construction, parishioners of St. Isidore Catholic Church are delighted that their new worship space at 1135 March Road, Kanata, will be ready for Christmas.

Parishioners will no longer be separated by temporary facilities. Although grateful for the generous support of All Saints High School where Sunday masses have been held for several years, in the gym amid the basketball hoops; parishioners from Kanata Lakes and Beaverbrook areas welcome a more church-like setting. Oak pews will also be appreciated by the balance of parishioners from South March and Rural Kanata who have attended mass in the converted parish hall, through the construction phase.

The landmark 124 year old church was taken down in July 2010 after it was clear that the declining structure could not adequately accommodate the quickly expanding community. Years of emotional and intense planning and parishioner sacrifice have culminated in a stunning new worship space that now completes the St. Isidore campus in Kanata North - next to an elementary school and cemetery by the same name.

The original stained-glass windows, dedicated by ancestors of several families, have been beautifully restored by Northern Art Glass Inc., an Ottawa-based company that also custom-made a spectacular new round window - recently donated by a parish family. The steeple design was replicated from the old church. The stone and noble coloured stucco visually unite the older rectory and parish hall. A large canopy serves as a striking focal point and a protected drop-off entrance. A mixture of new and well-established trees enhances the striking property.

A lighted spire houses the restored 700-pound brass bell that will soon be beckoning the faithful every Sunday morning. Indoors, stone columns and warm, colours stretch to the sky with beautifully lit beams made of BC fir. In the foyer, a statue of St. Isidore (patron of farmers and rural communities) stands on a pedestal built from stone salvaged from the old and once distinctively rural church.

Despite higher than expected excavation costs and rapidly increasing steel prices, the \$5.5 million structure is on budget - thanks to strong leadership by Building Committee Chair, Deacon Des Adam and his team.

It's an outstanding accomplishment by St. Isidore parishioners and area donors who are really the ones to whom credit is owed. The generosity of over 900 contributors (both Catholic and non-Catholic) allowed the church to be built in record time. And funds continue to come in - people see the new building and just want to be part of it. 'All monies collected go directly into building the church, said Deacon Des, 'there are no free lunches - not even a free coffee.'

This is no average church. It will seat 570 people, has in-floor heating and meets all new provincial seismic building code standards and is also a beautiful addition to March Road. Designed by Ralph Vandenberg of Vandenberg & Wildeboer Architects Inc., Kanata, the building has timeless style and contemporary elegance to carry it into the next century and well beyond.

After years of provisional set-up, chairs will be stacked for the final time following mass at All Saints High School on Kanata Ave., Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10am.

The new church will open its doors for 5 pm mass on Dec. 17th and again on Dec. 18th at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 am.

Christmas masses are scheduled for Dec. 24th - 4:30 pm (with children's pageant) 7:30 and 11:30 pm and Dec. 25th - 9 and 11 am. All are welcome.

Throughout 2012, regular services will be held on Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 and 11 am. An official dedication is planned for Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 at 5 pm, with Archbishop Terrence Prendergast presiding. More details are available from the parish office at 613-592-1961 or at <http://stisidorekanata.com/> Registration forms for new parishioners are available on line or at the church.

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For more information:

Please contact - Pastor Virgil Amirthakumar, or Deacon Des Adam, 613-592-1961 - St. Isidore Church, 1135 March Rd., Kanata, ON

