



For Immediate Release

Dedication of New St. Isidore Church ~ a Community Event

By Mary Carver - Building Committee Executive

Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Archbishop of Ottawa will preside over the Rite of Dedication of the new St. Isidore Church located at 1135 March Road, Kanata, in an elaborate ceremony at 5 PM on Saturday, January 14, 2012. It is expected to be a 'once-in-a-life-time event' for most parishioners. And all are invited to attend!

Former parish priests at St. Isidore, priests from within the archdiocese and priests who work in administration have been invited to attend along with community-based clergy of other faiths.

The new church opened in mid-December and record attendance was recorded at five Christmas masses. 'Certainly, people are excited to see the new building but there is a clear sense that parishioners are embracing their new worship space, said Deacon Des Adam, Chair of the Building Committee. ' Many people are involved in planning the Dedication weekend, which is a great indicator of the enthusiasm within our parish family.'

Acquainting parishioners with the Rite of Dedication and helping them prepare both psychologically and spiritually as been made easier by the preservation of several special features of their former church.

The 124 year old landmark was taken down in July 2010 after it was determined to be inadequate to meet the needs of the rapidly growing community. Tributes continue to be paid to the place that nurtured the faith of the rural community for several generations. Those tributes include the successful restoration of original stained glass windows and replication of the iconic steeple. If the brass bell has a familiar ring, it's because it is the refurbished 700 pound signal that called the faithful since 1891. A statue of St. Isidore (patron of farmers and rural communities) welcomes visitors from a pedestal of original stone salvaged from the once exclusively-rural church. A memory book of photos, many taken by the late Jean Lambert of Kanata, serves as a fundraiser and community keepsake. There is also genuine respect for the history of St. Isidore parish - a distinct tribute to its past.

The Rite of Dedication promises to be fascinating and memorable. A procession will begin outside the nave. The new church will be handed over to the Archbishop by Pastor, Father Virgil Amirthakumar who will officially open the doors of the new building. On behalf of all parishioners, a member of the Building Committee will present the keys of the church to Archbishop Prendergast. The people and the walls will be blessed by the sprinkling of holy water.

Relics of Saint André Bessette of Montreal (Canada's newest Saint who was formally canonized on October 17, 2010) will be presented to the church to be permanently placed beneath the altar.

In a dramatic ceremony, the altar and walls will be anointed with Holy Chrism (consecrated olive oil) and the altar will be incensed. Wall-mounted candles will be lit in the 4 corners of the nave and are to be re-lit annually on the anniversary of the Dedication.

Music will be an important element in the special ceremony with a 20 member choir led by classical pianist and parishioner, Chantal Balthazar. And the acoustics are excellent.

An entire weekend of celebration is planned! Following the official Rite of Dedication, a celebration dinner will be held in the Parish Hall. Tickets for the catered event can be purchased from the church office.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, an Open House with guided tours of the new facility will be available from 12:30 - 3 pm. Members of the community are most welcome and light refreshments will be served.

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 office.

Regular mass times are Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 and 11 am. All are welcome.

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For more information:

Please contact

St. Isidore Roman Catholic Church

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