

# SETTING THE ANCHOR

745 DUKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO | STCLEMENTSPARISH.CA

## A MESSAGE FROM FR MARKUS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are blessed with an incredible moment here at St. Clement's; not only to embrace the gift of faith and life as it's been lived for over 100 years here in Preston, but also to set the anchor for what will lead us into the next 100 years and beyond.

Within this new publication, *Setting the Anchor*, you will find details of what will be happening over the coming weeks, months and years. Our *Gathering Space* project, initiated by fundraising in the *One Heart One Soul Campaign* is now ready to take its next steps! We have also shared details of new Mass times, set out to help draw new members and create new opportunities for our community. Finally, a space for discernment and rooting ourselves in Christ through a program I call, *One Flock, One Shepherd, One Hour*.



As Pope Francis is fond of saying 'we are living not in an epoch of change but a change of epoch'. Indeed, the face of the Church is changing and will continue to rapidly change over the coming years. With that in mind, we cling to the certainty that God continues to work and calls us as a community to bring His Good News to those whose hearts burn within them; those who long for Christ to be proclaimed and lived in ever new and vibrant ways.

With every prayer and with trust in the working of the Holy Spirit in our midst, I am pleased to present to you our first, *Setting the Anchor!*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEW WEEKDAY  
AND WEEKEND  
MASS TIMES

GATHERING  
SPACE PROJECT  
AND FACILITIES

1 FLOCK  
SHEPHERD  
HOUR

# BEING ANCHORED IN CHRIST NEW MASS TIMES



## SCHEDULE BEGINS DECEMBER 2

Mass, the *Source and the Summit* of our life of faith, the Eucharist.

We have set out to offer Mass times which look a little different than the parishes around us throughout Cambridge and the Waterloo Region. The Diocese has encouraged pastors and parishes to consider this perspective. We have also attempted to discern what will provide new opportunities for our parish to serve all those who pass through our doors; the old(er), the young, our families, new Canadians, our young adults, all! It's a hard thing to set out to serve everyone.

	CURRENT SCHEDULE	NEW SCHEDULE	
SATURDAY	5:00 PM	4:30 PM	
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	ADDITIONAL SUNDAY MASS AT 4:30PM
	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	
		4:30 PM	
TUESDAY	12:15 PM	12:15 PM	
WEDNESDAY	5:30 PM	12:15 PM	CONFESSION TUESDAY – FRIDAY @ 12PM
THURSDAY	8:00 AM	12:15 PM	
FRIDAY	8:00 AM	12:15 PM	

*“Let us fix our eyes on the Blood of Christ and reflect how precious that Blood is in God’s eyes, inasmuch, as its outpouring for our salvation, has opened the grace of repentance to all mankind.”*

POPE ST CLEMENT I

## SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL

Beginning Saturday, December 2nd, the start of Advent and the new liturgical year, our Saturday Vigil Mass will move to 4:30pm. This Mass will continue to be our simple Mass for the weekend, serving those who appreciate more opportunity for silence in prayer. It will also now be at a time that allows our older members, many who attend this Mass to get to and from Church before the dark early evening of the winter months.



## SUNDAY MASSES

Our morning Masses on Sunday will move a half hour forward, to 9:30am and 11:30am.

Our young families will certainly appreciate a little extra time in the morning to wake up, get bundled up and into that perfect pew, with the perfect at-Mass support from our Family and Children's Ministry programs.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 4:30PM

You will also notice an additional Mass time on SUNDAY AFTERNOON at 4:30pm! This new Mass time is geared towards the young adult population, many of whom are with us because of studies at Conestoga College. It also offers a time that no other church offers; a great way to welcome new members to our faith community.



## WEEKDAY MASS

Our weekday Mass times will now be Tuesday to Friday at 12:15pm. This Mass time as it's been utilized over the past months (on Tuesdays) seems to offer the best balance of attendance; our older members, our families with young children, our young adults and even working professionals. We want Mass to be accessible to all, or at least to do what we can to make this possible. We also see the most 'drop-in' confessions this time of day, so confession will now be available everyday through the week at 12noon!



# BEING ANCHORED IN OUR CHURCH THE GATHERING SPACE PROJECT

## WHAT'S INVOLVED AND TIMELINES

Our parish is embarking on an exciting journey of renewal as we undertake a comprehensive renovation of our parish hall, the Gathering Space project, funded through the One Heart, One Soul Capital Campaign. The planning and designing of this space has already been moved forward through the work of Lintack Architects and yet still much work remains to bring it to fruition. Below is an overview of the milestones we need to reach in the process, as well as what we are doing to ensure it does indeed move forward, sooner rather than later!

With the building project processes below, you will note that 5 of the 8 steps outlined are behind the scenes work. I have been working closely with Lintack to evaluate this great initiative as it was developed in 2020 and to allow it to take further shape. This has involved AutoCAD design work, building envelope evaluation, materials review (within the current building), not to mention digging in the archives for all manner of old drawings that show the original building and subsequent additions/alterations. We have also brought the prospective design to the costing phase (rough) and made preliminary presentations to the Bishop, Finance Officer of the Diocese, and have had discussions at the Finance Council here at the parish. The good news is that things are moving forward!

### BUILDING PROJECT PROCESS MAP

Perspective Designs

Costing of the Designs

Selection of the Designs

Presentation and Approval by Diocesan Building Committee

Detail/ Structural Designs

Tendering – Bid to Construction Companies

Selection of Contract

Construction

# THE WORK THAT LIES AHEAD

Through the process of speaking with the Diocese, the Finance Council and even with a fresh set of eyes, it has become apparent that the scope of work on the parish hall needs to be expanded. The reality is, our parish building is over 100 years old and though great work has been done to maintain and utilize our facility, if we are going to do work in the hall, now is the time to also consider connected systems and issues which need to be addressed.

First among these is the steam boiler system that feeds our church and hall. This system is quite old, and extremely inefficient. On an annual basis, it is costing us tens of thousands in just basic repairs/upkeep. Our AC in the church is also 30 years old and some units have already needed replacing/have failed. We also recognized that accessibility was one of the driving forces for the Gathering Space project, but that we should really address accessibility across the board in our physical plant, hall, church, office and meeting rooms. Other considerations have also come forward including plumbing, electrical, structural, dangerous materials, etc. This is not just in the church, but also in the rectory office. So much to evaluate!



**PROPOSED GATHERING SPACE HALL**

Suffice it to say, the design work has become more complex and indeed has opened doors to the broader picture of what the next 25-50 years here at St. Clement's might look like. We want to make sure we set ourselves up for success by creating a space that is accessible, welcoming, workable and sustainable as we continue to grow and thrive as a community of faith.

With the encouragement of the Diocese, Finance Committee and others, we have delved into a more comprehensive plan for our entire physical plant involving the hall, office and meeting room space, as well as the rectory.



**PROPOSED GATHERING SPACE LIBRARY**

Three design options with costing have been requested to move the work forward. The first option is already complete. The second and third should be complete before the end of January. We will be hosting a special 'Come and See' time after the Sunday Masses in January or February once these are complete and will share all the details with you then.

The most important thing we can say is that things are moving forward, but this is a long process. It is hoped that by the end of the pastoral year (June), we will know what option we are moving forward with and will be able to initiate detailed design (engineering) and the tender and contract portion of the project. Thank you again for your excitement over all the community has worked toward the past years and know that it is on its way to fruition.

# THE NEW RECTORY

As part of the process and conversation for our larger physical plant, both at the Diocesan level and at our Parish Finance Council, we realized that if work is going to move forward, there are some constraints we might deal with ahead of time. The 3 options being developed will all involve significant work being done to integrate, make accessible and best utilize the space we have in our hall, offices and rectory (priest living space).

We want to be able to get shovels in the ground as soon as possible so we have asked the Diocese to purchase a house in the local neighborhood, which can serve as a priest residence for the time being. Quite generously, the Bishop agreed, wanting as much as we do to see the work move forward. A house, not far from the church has been purchased by the Diocese (NOT the parish), for our priest residence.

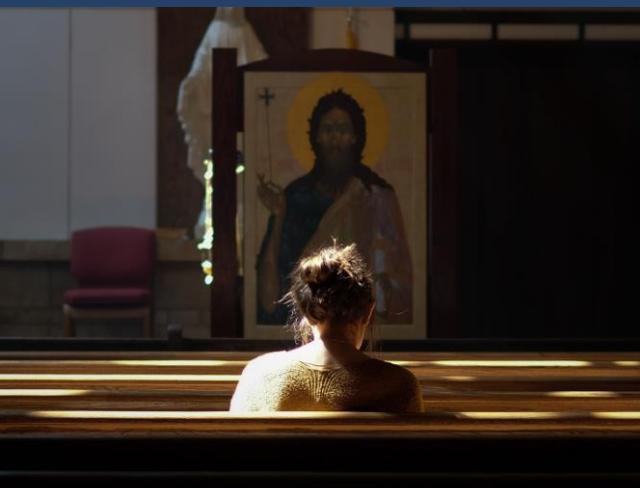
While this arrangement of our priest off-site may seem unusual for our parish community, many rectory spaces in our Diocese are separate from the church; some down the street, some separate but on another part of the church property, some believe it or not, in the neighboring parish bounds. Rest assured, Father is not far, about 1.5km and further work will be done to ensure the connection to the parish and all emergency needs are met within this new reality.

You will see in the Frequently Asked Questions section another note regarding office space and use of the hall and church as this process moves forward. Closing day on the new house was, quite fittingly, the feast of St. Clement, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. May he intercede for us in all that is taking shape, growing, and coming to being fulfilled!

# 1 FLOCK SHEPHERD HOUR



## UNITED AS A PEOPLE OF FAITH



One Flock, One Shepherd, One Hour. It was an idea that came to me in prayer when I was on retreat in 2016 or 17. The idea I was wrestling with at the time was how to listen to the Holy Spirit moving in the hearts of the people of God. I wanted to hear the voices of God's people that could help inform the 'pastoral plan' and priorities we would set forth at my previous assignment. It was a great success and led our community to thrive in ways that we could not at the time imagine. Some might even say it was an experience of 'Synodality', the buzz word in the Church today before synodality was cool.



So, what is it? The basic premise is that it's an opportunity for us to come together; first to listen in silence and in prayer to the voice of the Good Shepherd, in adoration for 30 minutes. Then, and only if you've participated in the first 30 minutes of prayer, to come together for a time of guided conversation.

Many parishes might consider something like a 'town hall' a way to do this, but what makes One Flock, One Shepherd, One Hour different is that it's not about what I want, but where I feel the Lord is calling us as a community of faith. We know that unless we are grafted to the vine, we cannot bear fruit.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**How do you experience being a member of your church community as a blessing, personally, family wise, and communally? For what do you give thanks?**

**What do you see as some of the challenges/areas of concern/questions that your church community needs to consider?**



**What do you need as a member of your church community to grow personally, family wise and communally?**

**How are you willing to be part of helping your church community continue to grow in faith and service? (Practical suggestions appreciated)**

**FRI DEC 8 11AM  
SUN DEC 10 3PM  
WED DEC 13 630PM  
IN THE CHURCH**



**30 MINS  
SILENT  
ADORATION**

**30 MINS  
CONVERSATION  
GUIDED BY THE  
HOLY SPIRIT**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **1. What does Fr Markus know about construction?**

Believe it or not, I know more than your average bear. Through university I worked on construction sites; everything from demolition to bricklaying. I even built a room in my mother's basement so that I would have my own bedroom; all the electrical, drywall and carpeting included! What really drives my passion in a project like this is that I've done it before, at my last assignment, Canadian Martyrs and the St. Kateri University Student Centre. There, we renovated the hall, added new meeting rooms and office space, and a new rectory, sound familiar? As they say, history may not repeat itself, but it does rhyme. We did this project through covid, and it was my day-to-day job to review all aspects of the build, not to mention the 3 years of build-up work to see the project through to the construction phase. In the end, that build came in less than 10% over budget and 100% greater than anything the community or I could have dreamed of. Most importantly, it was a space that the community was ready to embrace and live in once it was complete. The work of building is just that, building. The true work of the Church is how we as the living stone continue and are encouraged in our life in Christ, and hey, that's the other part of my job, right?

## **2. Will the Church still be open for Mass during construction?**

Yes! Absolutely. There should be no disturbance to our sanctuary or worship space as all the work is focused on the hall, office and rectory spaces.

## **3. How will construction impact office space, parking, ministry meetings, etc.?**

We have already begun planning for additional office space and meeting room space during construction. Plans are too preliminary to share but rest assured we'll do our best to make sure our community can continue to live and thrive through this process. We want to come out the other end, not only ready to use the space, but needing the space to use!

## **4. Who will be involved in the decision making of each process step?**

There are many levels of decision making in a project of this scope, our Parish Finance Council (whom have already been part of the conversation to bring us to this moment), the Diocesan Building Committee, a local parish building committee, the Bishop himself of course and you the people of the parish. We will keep you informed as best we can and share the exciting milestones we reach along the way.

## **5. What is happening with the funds from the One Heart One Soul Campaign?**

So many generous pledges were made back in 2020 for our OHOS Campaign and then envisioned and dreamed of Gathering Space. These funds have now been received and put us in a great position to show the parishes commitment to the renewal of our physical plant here at St Clement. Though the scope of the project has expanded to include the needed office and meeting room space, all funds donated through OHOS will be directed at the set project of the Gathering Space.

## **6. Why do this work now?**

Our parish is the largest in Cambridge. We have a wonderful building and an amazing community. As the church sets out in the next 100 years, we need our building to be ready to have the space to meet the needs of community and faith life. This is so different from 100 years ago when the church was first built. We are in a sense seizing the opportunity to do the physical work now and continue to enliven and re-enliven the life of faith. Together we will see the work of the Holy Spirit drawing us and so many into a relationship with Christ, the ultimate reason for all that we do.