

Dear Saint Michael Parishioners,

In this time of uncertainty, I hope this finds you and your family well.

The coronavirus has turned our known world and our day-to-day lives upside down. Normal routine changes daily, even hourly. Across the country, thousands are sick, losing jobs, or worse. Daily activities are restricted either by order or by common sense. Schools, public events, restaurants, and almost every aspect of public life are shut down. With the stock market down almost 30%, it is likely that US, state, and local economies will be pressured for the foreseeable future.

As exciting as it was to hold our long-awaited church and junior high groundbreaking on March 8, recently the project team—including the Building, Finance, Capital Campaign Committees, Diocesan leadership, Archbishop Lucas, and me—have reviewed current known and yet unknown obstacles to meet our projected project timeline and financial proforma.

Some of the most important considerations include the following:

- The \$4.5 million Building Our Faith Capital Campaign originally scheduled to begin in Spring 2020 is not feasible in the current economic climate.
- There is concern about the steady flow of materials necessary to maintain an efficient timeline.
- Federal, state, and local restrictions might hamper availability of construction workforce.
- We have seen a sizeable drop in weekly church support, impacting our school and parish budgets.
- Collection of existing outstanding pledges may be at risk, given job and investment losses.

I write to inform you that based on unanimous input from parishioners and non-parishioners involved in all aspects of the project, Saint Michael is hitting the **PAUSE BUTTON** on our project effective immediately. While I understand the disappointment this pause might create, I also know that parishioners want what is in the best interest of the parish long-term.

It would be appropriate to ask the obvious question “If not now, when?” While this is difficult to answer with any certainty, the team will continue to monitor all aspects of the plan and “**PUSH THE RESTART**” button as soon as it makes sense to do so. It would be my hope and prayer that we might be ready to begin construction in early spring 2021, which was our original timeline.

Be assured that all funds parishioners have so generously given to prior campaigns are secure and being held for our project. If you have an outstanding pledge, please continue to make payments; they will be a vital component in our efforts to move forward.

The possibility exists that the negative economic impact of the coronavirus might result in a more favorable construction cost climate in a year. We can be assured of our Lord’s hand at work.

I will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Let us continue to pray together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Kenneth Borowiak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Father Kenneth Borowiak