

**Building Team Report to the 2022 Annual Parish Assembly**  
**Jack Mitchell, Konstantin Poplavsky, Brendan Hayden**  
**February 19, 2023**

~~~/~~~/~~~/~~~

Construction on the new multi-use parish social hall and Orthodox Classical Academy school building has recommenced. The original building permit through the State of Michigan had expired. Currently we are in the process of applying for a new building permit through the local Chelsea Area Construction Agency. When the permit is issued, DTE will be able to coordinate with our electrician Iott Electric to bring in electric service to the building.

Our new zoning compliance permit application has been approved and will be issued through Lima Township.

A brand new state of the art septic system and drainfield was installed in the summer of '22, to accommodate the new building.

With the help of a few intrepid volunteers, we were able to complete the next phase of construction inside the building- framing a flat ceiling with 2"x4" purlins and installing 3200 sq ft of Type X 5/8" drywall to create the fire break at the bottom chord of the trusses (ceiling). More framing lumber has now been purchased and staged by volunteers and we now await the framing crew that is slated to start work in February to complete the interior wall partitions - with volunteer help welcome.

A very small number (but very high quality) of volunteers have been consistently pushing the project forward on all-parish work days, and on several occasions working extra days in between the official work days to complete crucial tasks ahead of our professional subcontractors. Many thanks especially to our tireless snack benefactor for so thoughtfully giving the brothers something to eat on these frigid dark days.

Currently we are working with a local family owned Dexter company, Custom Climate Systems, on designing mechanical systems for heating and cooling the building.

Chelsea Plumbing is our plumbing contractor and is awaiting next phases of construction to be completed before returning for a small amount of rough plumbing and to install finish plumbing fixtures.

We are searching for ways to lower costs by utilizing good quality salvaged materials such as fire-rated commercial doors and other items that may be available for sale after removal from larger institutions during renovation and remodeling.

Some hurdles remain in completing this (or any) construction project post-pandemic. Inflation, high construction material costs, occasional supply chain issues, and a local labor shortage may pose challenges, but the new parish building project has a clear vision, good momentum, and some very dedicated and resourceful volunteers and donors. With God's help and continued financial support from our parish family, success will just be a matter of time. As of February '23, we are poised to redouble our efforts and make a push towards the finish line. The target date for completion of the new building is September 2023.