

Why Do We Need a New Baptismal Font at Holy Angels?

Background

- The current baptismal font at Holy Angels was built as a temporary structure in 2004.
- When the new church was being built, plans called for a permanent font to be installed for the dedication. However, due to budgeting and timing constraints, the project was shelved until further notice.
- Members of the planning committee creatively constructed the temporary font using materials that would need constant monitoring, maintenance, upkeep, and cleaning, with eventual repair and replacement.
- The parish is grateful for the font's use over the past six years. As a parish, we have seen a great number of infant baptisms and have had our breath taken away as the Elect carefully step into the font and kneel down asking for God's prayers as they are baptized by immersion at the Easter Vigil. Those present at the Vigil can attest to this remarkable experience. Come and see for yourself this year: April 23, 2011!

Recent Issues

- Over the past 15 months, the temporary font has developed leaks that have been repaired. The fountain develops drips of its own and leaks onto the floor, and its metal is not compatible with the water.
- Since this past Easter season, the font has sprung new leaks overnight and would have to be mopped up the following morning, minutes before weddings, funerals, or morning liturgies!
- Finally, one afternoon in late September, the font was refilled. The next morning, the entire font (75+ gallons!) leaked all over the church floor; one hour before a funeral!

Why Not Fix It?!

- We have completed a series of "quick fixes" and have decided that "enough is enough." The time, energy, and cost of these fixes are not comparable to what the font represents. The font is a place of transformation—not a place where water appears one day and disappears the next!
- We have tried every option available to fix the font and we are moving on. We are finally ready to find a permanent solution that requires less maintenance and gives reverence to the Sacrament of Baptism.

What's Next? What Will It Look Like?

- Our Pastor, Father Fiore, our Director of Liturgy & Music, Stephen Adams, and our Coordinator of Art & Environment, Patti Walters, have begun to research options. We will update you via the parish bulletin.
- The new font will feature a pool for immersion with a connected pedestal "living water" feature to dip your fingers in for holy water (to remind us of our baptismal promises) and also to make it easier to baptize infants. The living (running) water feature will also allow for water to re-circulate more evenly.
- We hope to have some sketches available soon at the entrances of both churches.

How Much Will It Cost and When Will You Install the Font?

- We do not have a cost yet for the project. We hope to have a cost within the next few weeks.
- Our goal is to have the new font installed for the Easter Vigil: April 23, 2011, if not sooner.

How Can I Help? Where Can I Send Donations?

- Some parishioners have already volunteered to help install the new font and work on tiling the new font. If you are interested in donating time, goods, or services, please contact Stephen Adams, Director of Liturgy & Music at 302.731.2435 or sadams@holyangels.net.
- For those of you are unable to assist with material goods or labor, **DONATIONS** towards the new baptismal font project are welcome at any time. Please send your tax-deductible donation to the Parish Office: **Stephen Adams (ATTN: Baptismal Font Project); 82 Possum Park Rd.; Newark, DE 19711.** You may also place your donation in the collection baskets clearly marked: **"ATTN: Stephen Adams, Baptismal Font Project."**