



Letter from the Provost:

Chapel Construction and Temporary Changes

May 1, 2024

Hello everyone. Easter is the time we celebrate the new life offered to us by the resurrected Jesus. Now that spring has sprung signs of new life are all around us.

Renewal is also at work at the Oratory! And we appreciate your patience with the inconvenience it has imposed on you. I refer, of course, to the temporary loss of our pews while they are away being refurbished and prepared for a great and glorious return, which will probably occur in early August of this year.

Before the pews return we need to impose on you another inconvenience that will be painful (perhaps “awkward” is the better descriptor) but brief. On Thursday, May 2nd, work will begin to clean, resurface, and reseal the bluestone floor of the main chapel, which means that we will need to close the chapel at 10PM on Wednesday, May 1st. There will be no overnight Adoration Wednesday into Thursday.

Our Mass schedule will remain unchanged. We have set up a temporary chapel in the Oratory’s basement conference room where all of our Masses will be celebrated. Most of you will know which conference room I mean, but in case you don’t, it is located directly under the main chapel and can be accessed by the set of stairs to the right or elevator to the left of the main chapel’s entrance.

The situation this weekend will be helped by the fact that the Pittsburgh marathon is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th, which means that our temporary chapel in the basement will not have to accommodate our usual number of Mass-goers. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be back in the main chapel for the following weekend (May 11-12, which also happens to be the weekend of Br. Leo’s ordination).

Our Perpetual Adoration program will be slightly more affected by the chapel’s closure. Our overnight Adoration will be canceled until we can resume activity in the main chapel. Adoration each day will begin after the first Mass of the day and will conclude at 10PM each night. Adoration will take place in a temporary Adoration chapel we have set up in the glassed-in conference room on the 1st floor of the Oratory (the one directly in front of you when you come through the main entrance of the Oratory).

Our Confession schedule will remain unaffected, but Confessions will be heard in the first-floor office located across the hall from the water fountain.

Renovations and new construction will be going on all summer, and we will do our best to minimize the inconvenience it poses. Our goal is to be done with all improvements by early August.

I thank you for your patience. We promise that the inconveniences will be more than compensated by the refurbishments and improvements to come. We thank you also for your help with our Magnify the Lord capital campaign, which is making all of these improvements possible.

In Christ and St. Philip Neri,

Fr. Michael Darcy, C.O.
Provost, The Pittsburgh Oratory