

Catholic Courier

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Sacred Heart Cathedral: A work in progress

Renovations at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral — the mother church of the Diocese of Rochester — won't be completed until next year, but readers can catch a glimpse of the progress to date in this issue of the *Catholic Courier Monthly*.

A special four-page pullout section — which starts after page B10 — is dedicated to the renovation project and the work that has been done thus far. A detailed story and captivating photos will give readers a sense of what has been done and what is to come.

When the cathedral reopens in early 2005, parishioners and visitors will witness the wide variety of elements — both old and new — that came together in this project.

New features include the baptismal font, altar and cathedra, or bishop's chair, as well as the addition of restrooms, on the ground floor, more grade-level entrances, and the creation of nursery rooms, hospitality rooms, and two outdoor parks. All were designed with an eye toward making the cathedral more accessible and welcoming to those who wish to worship there.

Alongside the church's new elements will be those that are older and of great historical significance. For example, the tabernacle that will be placed in the cathedral's new eucharistic chapel once stood in Rochester's St. Philip Neri Church and has a tragic legacy. The many relics and altar stones placed beneath the cathedral's new altar were donated by parishes throughout the diocese, and the crucifix adorning the church's rood beam was displayed in the cathedral building until 1957.

Some features of the renovated cathedral will be quite familiar. Many elements — such as the stained-glass windows and the century-old oaken ambo — have been removed from the church, restored to their original condition and will once again take their place at Sacred Heart.

— Jennifer Burke



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

Six of 16 freshly painted and cleaned angel statues stand at the bases of Sacred Heart Cathedral's main roof beams.

See special pullout section on the cathedral