



CAMPAIGN FAQ #2: Exterior Restoration

AN FAQ ON THE EXTERIOR RESTORATION

- In the fall of 2024, we removed the paint on the north side of the church.
- We tuckpointed all the bricks on this side and replaced damaged bricks.
- In the spring of 2025, we completed the same work on the west side of the church.



ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE EXTERIOR RENOVATION PROJECT:

Are we taking out a loan for the projects? What if we do not meet our goal?

No, the parish will not incur debt, except for construction loans that are covered by pledges. Our prayers to Mary and the Infant of Prague have made so much possible. We believe that the project can be funded. We will continue our prayer, ask for support, and trust in the goodness of God. We would not undertake this work if we thought the funds were inaccessible. We cannot accomplish it unless we believe. Yes, it is a journey of faith and we believe it is ours to make.

When will work begin on the south and east exterior walls?

We plan to begin work on the exterior after Easter of 2026 which falls on April 5. We anticipate that the work will continue through the remainder of the year until the onset of winter weather.

When work begins on the south exterior, will there be scaffolding on the south exterior of the church?

Yes, scaffolding will be part of the construction process to provide access to the towers and facade of the building and safe platforms for workers laboring at these heights. Further, this structure will help maintain safety for all who pass by the worksite or wish to enter the church.

Why is this restoration needed now?

Our building is a historic treasure entrusted to us and requires upkeep to preserve its integrity and beauty. It is the most public expression of our Catholic faith in downtown Lincoln. Peeling paint, broken bricks, loose mortar, damaged louvers, weathered doors, rusty downspouts are not us. St. Mary is our Mother's home, and we desire to restore it because we love Her. As one of the parishioners told Fr. Walsh in June 2021: "Father, I'm embarrassed by the state of the church." He was right. He got us started. Why now? Because one brave man said...no more. And our Lady smiles on our Yes!

What on the exterior is being repaired?

The paint will be removed. We will tuckpoint 100% of the brick and stone. We will repair and replace damaged bricks and stones. The entire building will receive a final wash and a protective sealant. We will also repair louvers and damaged finials and spires. We will install new gutters and downspouts and replace the exterior doors. We want to take the building back to its original state, as much as possible, and allow the spectacular architecture of this shrine to perform its artistic mission: to help us praise the glory of God and express our devotion to His Mother.

How will construction affect us as we gather and celebrate Masses?

The exterior restoration work will not affect the interior of the church. We will maintain our schedule for Masses and confessions and other devotional services within the church. During some phases of the exterior work, some entry points into the church will be temporarily restricted. Once construction is completed, these will be accessible again, while others will be restricted. We will balance this appropriately so that entry and egress is sufficient and safe for everyone.

Are you planning to paint the church again?

The overwhelming response from people is not to paint the church exterior. Our current plan is to leave the stone in its original state.

Are you going to restore the interior of the towers at this time?

No, this will wait for the next and final phase of our work.

What about the windows? Are they in good shape or do they need restoration too?

The windows will be studied and if repair is needed, we will address this issue during the interior restoration work.

How does the interior renovation in the Sanctuary tie in?

Once our exterior is secure and in good order, the interior renovation can proceed more smoothly and cost-effectively. The two phases together ensure that both the "shell" of the building and the "heart" (interior worship space, gathering areas) are restored and enhanced.

MARY THE TEMPLE,
Christ the temple's Lord:
MARY THE SHRINE,
Christ the God adored!

—MARY THE DAWN,
FR. JUSTIN MULCAHY, C.P.