



Our Lady of Consolation

CATHOLIC PARISH

4865 11 Mile Rd NE Rockford, MI 49341

January 21, 2024

Dear OLC Community,

The recent weather events have been an adjustment for us all. Between schools closing and hazardous driving conditions, we've had to change some of our daily routines and adjust accordingly due to snow, ice, and event cancellations. Thank you for your patience!

Unfortunately, total snowfall and ice accumulations on certain structures have caused some minor damage leading to water seeping into the Sanctuary Narthex and Kateri Lodge. See details below:

Saint Kateri Lodge

Effective immediately, I have decided to close the Kateri Lodge building until further notice. Water has been seeping through the ceiling along the north and south edges of the roof due to severe snow melt and ice buildup. As well as water entering at the bottom of the north wall at ground level. Until we can stop water from leaking into the building only certain staff members are allowed access to the Lodge. For those who lead ministries at Kateri and would like to collect certain items please contact Steve Keyser head of Maintenance. This decision to shut down the lodge is unfortunate and we are currently exploring options to restore the building to safe and operable conditions.

Sanctuary Narthex Roof Leakage

There are two major roof systems in the Church Sanctuary: The shingled pitched roof and flat roof sections. In the summer of 2023, the pitched roof was reshingled along with new roof vent installation, skylights, and corrugated panel siding on the upper Sanctuary. This eliminated major leaking into the mechanical bulkhead above the baptismal font and other areas. We are very pleased with the final product. What now needs maintenance and resealing is the flat roof membrane that covers the Narthex and staff office areas. This was not done at the same time we had the pitched roof reshingled. All snowmelt runoff from the pitched roof flows onto the flat roof where the water is collected by drains and shed down to the ground through gutter drains. The ice and snow have plugged the drains and water has been collecting on the flat roof. This water seems to be finding its way through the old joints of the membrane roof and leaking into the Narthex ceiling. We have removed much of the ice and snow, which has unplugged the drains. We have contacted a few roofing companies to provide options to fix this issue.

As we continue to experience Michigan winter weather, we strive to keep the OLC community informed and safe. Please be patient and pray that we can correct these issues as quickly as possible.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

Fr. Dominic Couturier
Pastor - Our Lady of Consolation Parish