



## Building Renovation Update

February 2022

Overview of the multi-phase renovation and upgrade.

- Phase I – Grounds & Landscape (Complete)
- Phase II – Building Exterior (Final Planning)
- Phase III – Building Interior (Initial Planning)
- Phase IV – Parish / Community Center (Future)

---

### Phase II

Phase II focusing on the exterior of the church building has entered the final planning step. Kuhn Riddle Architects is providing design and cost estimates for this phase.

Work will include:

- Replacement of the roof, gutters, and front columns and piers.
- Restoration of the stained-glass windows
- Need to address the distressed bell tower. The plan is to remove the Bell Tower and is being submitted to the Northampton Central Business Architecture Committee for review.

The bell tower is a wooden structure. The original design included an open area housing a bell. To our knowledge, a bell was never installed. At an unknown date, the base level of the tower was covered in vinyl cladding. Additionally, the arched openings in the second level were enclosed with Plexiglas glazing material. The cladding and what remains of the original decorative wood trim is damaged and weathered making it unattractive.

The rationale for removing the bell tower is twofold. The first is the cost for repair, which is significant at \$180,000. The second is that repair will not alter the need for significant ongoing maintenance every 15 to 20 years. While a replica tower could be constructed at significant cost, a tower is not needed functionally as there is no bell; and prudent stewardship of the building and available repair funds support the removal of the tower. The Parish feels that removing the tower will not negatively affect the design of the building. The overall Classical Revival style will be maintained without the bell tower.

(See the before and after Images)

---

### Phase III

Phase III has not officially begun; however, the plan is to install new flooring and refurbished pews from St. Mary's church.

Comments should be emailed to [info@saintelizabethannseton.net](mailto:info@saintelizabethannseton.net)

This is also posted on the parish website

<https://saintelizabethannseton.net/about-us/main-church.html>



# Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

The Roman Catholic Community of Northampton, MA

## Bell Tower Removal



**Before**



**After**

