

## Immaculate Conception Church Electrical Upgrade at ICC

As we continue to develop the long term site plan for the ICC site, the next phase is to assess the electricity that comes from the various parts of the property into the various buildings. The first, and most significant, is that which comes from Division Street above ground to a pole and then underground into the church building. We are working with an electrical engineer and personnel from PSE&G in order to determine the current and anticipated future electrical loads for the church building and the exterior components of the entire site. Following the installation of this new electrical service, the poles can be removed and we can continue with the development of the site plan in order to provide the necessary parking as well as grading the property so that the water, snow and ice drain AWAY from the existing and future structures. We will also be able to upgrade the interior electrical panel boxes in the future as needed. While this not a “pious” church project, it is necessary to continue to strengthen the structural and mechanical infrastructure of our parish property that has been neglected for far too long.



St. Joachim Church Pipe Organ, installed 1923

The Organ of St. Joachim Church is a 2-Manual (2 keyboard) 6 ½ Rank Hall Pipe Organ. The 6 ½ ranks of pipes are spread out over 24 stops on the instrument which makes it rather limiting to play. The organ is wired with the original double cotton coated wiring from the organ's installation in 1923, which needs to be replaced for safety reasons but also because it is affecting the way the pipe organ plays and the pipes speak the sound. Aside from the wiring, there are problems with the organ console itself from where the organist plays the instrument. The console is worn and has problems internally that cause notes not to play through the "speaking pipes".

During the past year there have been evaluations of the pipe organs in both of our church buildings. Presentations have been made to the Parish Patrimony, Temporal Administration, and Worship and Faith Formation Committees who have supported our resolve to begin work on the organs beginning this year with the instrument located in SJC. The best solution is to replace the wiring in the entire organ, replace the console, and add additional stops to support the congregational singing in the church. We will upgrade the wiring, replace the existing console with a new 3-manual rocker-tab stop console and add about 36 new digital stops to the organ. The pipes will be removed, cleaned, and repaired if they are damaged, and the casing of the organ will be completely cleaned inside.

This is an ambitious project that will address many years of deferred maintenance, so that other more-pressing priorities might be addressed, on this instrument so that our liturgical prayer will be enhanced for many, many years to come. We have been able to put off this project as long as it has because of the regular maintenance that has happened through the years. Like many things in our homes, it is now time for a major renovation. We are confident that this work will provide for the long term care of this instrument.

