

May 15, 2011

Two years since the inspiring and faithful mandate of almost three hundred of our parishioners in May, 2009, we embark on an exciting and very tangible phase of the realization of our dream defined by the Special General Assembly of St. Demetrios Church. We break ground! The day has come as meticulously planned and we all want so much to celebrate - rain or shine - our official ground breaking ceremony, presided over by Metropolitan Methodios, Fr. Nick and Fr. Alex that takes place on May 15th.

After Liturgy, we are all invited to assemble on the plaza in front of our church for a brief service blessing the construction to begin after which we are asked to enjoy a buffet in the church hall which will serve as the temporary worship space during construction. Please plan to attend this historic moment in the vibrant, growing life of our active parish. Although photos plus an HD video of the event will become part of our growing archive of milestones, and several YouTube clips will appear online, nothing will compare with your actual participation in a history making event.

Many milestones have been achieved along the way to this moment: an large, incredibly talented and dedicated team of volunteer parishioners has come forth; \$4.2 million, or over two thirds of the \$6.2 million project cost has been pledged; \$2 million has been donated; a beautiful design has been completed; a construction manager worthy of its sacred task has been engaged; all necessary public entitlements have been obtained; construction financing has been arranged and approved; the movement in one short week of our worship space has been planned; our icons and mosaics will be preserved and properly stored; a new link to our church's website (go to www.stdemetriosweston.org and click on "[Building on Our Faith](#)") has been created to inform the whole parish and the world of our project's history and its progress; four webcams will be installed so each of you can personally monitor the construction's progress; and much, much more.

In achieving each of these milestones and more, the volunteers continue to dedicate thousands of hours of their valuable time and skills. This project is a reflection of the parish itself. No one person or group could possibly make this happen. Only when we have an overwhelming mandate; a large group of volunteers; the love and support of all our parishioners; and importantly the smart, inspired leadership of our clergy can such an undertaking succeed. This can only mean our project is blessed. And this is worthy of a great celebration. See you at the groundbreaking!

- Peter Bassett