

Major Masonry Repair on Perimeter Walls and Ramps



As many parishioners have noticed, the brick and cap stones on the perimeter walls and ramps are in need of repair. After each winter for the past 3 or 4 years we have been monitoring the condition of these problem areas and it has reached a point now where, if not addressed, the damage will escalate to a problem that will require more than repair. In fact, it will require these areas to be totally rebuilt.



The problem is a result of water damage, or water is being allowed into these walls by failing cap stone joints. In **photo A** you can see how the problem first presents itself as a small flake of surface brick separating from the main body of the brick. Just as water will expand in a bottle when frozen and rupture the can so will water in a brick expand and crack the brick.

In **photo B** the problem that allowed this water problem is evident. One of the delays in realizing the problem was that the splits between the cap stones was small and unnoticeable when passing by but none the less, large enough to allow water in.



As this water found its way behind the bricks its next natural progression was to escape from the wall. Water will always seek the path of least resistance and in **photo C** it can easily be seen how the mortar has been destroyed both wrecking the wall and allowing more water in only making the problem worse.



In time the wall will begin to lose its stability if the water is not stopped as can be seen in **photos D and E** resulting in damage that goes far and beyond tuck pointing and brick replacement. We are now at that point in many areas of the perimeter walls and ramps forced to make the investment to repair, restore and protect the Church from further damage to ensure that it remains the proud landmark it has always been here in Edwardsville.



After consultation and proposals from three masonry companies, the STB Building and Grounds Committee, recommended contracting Precision Industrial Ltd of Edwardsville to begin work immediately in order to prevent more damage before winter weather approaches. The cost of the project is \$85,000.

Repairing the perimeter walls and ramps is phase 1 of a more intensive plan to preserve and restore the 1869 (old Church) building which is in dire need of extensive work. God willing, phase two will begin in June 2017. More details will be forth coming regarding phase 2 while keeping parishioners updated on the progress on phase 1.