

Gymnasium Updates

This page will provide ongoing updates regarding the St. Clement's gymnasium, including building assessments, next steps, temporary space solutions, fundraising efforts, and any changes that may affect school operations. We will continue to update this page as new information becomes available.

Timeline

- **February 2026 - Gymnasium Roof Leak**

In February 2026, a leak was identified in the gymnasium roof that was allowing water to enter the building. Following an investigation by the School's owner's representative, it was determined that the leak resulted from an improperly installed and blocked roof drainage system. Although the drainage system was cleared, water infiltration continued. Visible cracks in the gymnasium façade also required further investigation.

As a result, the School hired [C.T. Male Associates](#), a well-respected local engineering firm, to conduct a structural evaluation of the gymnasium and determine the extent of the concerns. Since that time, C.T. Male engineers have visited the school on several occasions to perform testing and evaluate the gymnasium's structure. Their investigation remains ongoing.

- **July 7, 2026 - Preliminary Structural Evaluation**

The School's structural engineers, C.T. Male Associates, provided a preliminary assessment of the St. Clement's gymnasium, identifying structural concerns that required further evaluation. Their engineers have returned to the school several times and continue to investigate and assess the building's condition.

- **August 28, 2026 - Gymnasium Closure**

Following professional evaluation and review of the gymnasium, the decision was made on August 28, 2026, to close the gymnasium and discontinue use of the space. This decision was made with the safety of our students and staff as the priority, in accordance with the recommendation of C.T. Male Associates and in conjunction with the Saratoga Springs Office of Code Enforcement and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department.

Following the gymnasium closure, C.T. Male Associates conducted an additional investigation of the entire school building. This broader review evaluated areas beyond the gymnasium to ensure they could continue to be safely used by students and staff. We were assured that the remainder of

the school building was safe for students and staff to return and occupy. We are currently awaiting the final written documentation from C.T. Male Associates and will share additional information when it becomes available.

Temporary plans were then put in place for Physical Education, lunch, Morning Prayer, Extended Day, and other activities that would normally use the gymnasium.

● **September 2026 - Ongoing Review & Next Steps**

Professional review of the gymnasium continues as we work to determine the best path forward. C.T. Male Associates, Superintendent Bott, local contractors, and other professionals have continued to investigate the condition of the gymnasium and evaluate potential options moving forward, including repair or replacement of the gymnasium.

At this time, both restoring the existing gymnasium and the possibility of building a new gymnasium are being explored. No final decision regarding the future of the gymnasium has been made, as more information is needed to evaluate both options from a feasibility, cost, timing, and long-term planning perspective.

The safety of our students and staff has been and will remain our priority in these discussions. This includes careful consideration of whether and how any potential work could be completed safely while school is in session.

Several meetings have also taken place with Saratoga Central Catholic, Principal Signor, Superintendent Bott, and Fr. James to explore additional space options for our students and the many activities that typically take place at St. Clement's.

Once the School and Parish determine the best path forward- whether that involves repairing the existing gymnasium or pursuing a new structure- the next steps will include the necessary planning, design, and approval processes. These steps will take time and will be completed carefully, with the safety of our students and staff and the continuity of instruction as our highest priorities.

Temporary Space Options

We are continuing to explore several temporary space solutions while the gymnasium remains unavailable. One option is a relocatable classroom, which could allow us to free up a larger space within the school for PE, lunch, Extended Day, and other student activities. We are also looking into the possibility of a larger temporary structure or dome on school property that could provide additional usable space for our students.

Each option comes with different requirements and costs. We must consider the expense, installation requirements, available space, safety, length of use, and whether the investment makes sense as we continue to determine the long-term plan for the gymnasium.

No decision has been made regarding a temporary structure. We want to ensure that any short-term investment is practical, financially responsible, and truly meets the needs of our students. We are also considering, as part of our evaluation of whether to repair or replace the gymnasium, temporary space options or additional noise and dust protection measures for use during any active construction.

Working Together on a Long-Term Plan

The St. Clement's School Board has met with the St. Clement's Church Finance Council to discuss the current situation and explore ways the school and parish communities can work together and provide support as plans develop. Coordination with the Parish on our long-term planning for the School will remain important, as we are all committed to ensuring the continuing safety of our students and vitality of Catholic education in Saratoga.

The Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools Office and Bishop Mark have also been part of discussions regarding potential funding and the steps necessary to move the gymnasium project forward as quickly and responsibly as possible.

A Thoughtful Process

Please know that these meetings, conversations, professional reviews, and planning efforts are ongoing and continue throughout each week. Nothing will be done hastily. We are committed to making thoughtful, well-informed decisions that consider safety, feasibility, cost, timing, and the long-term needs of our students and school.

This process requires input from professionals with different areas of expertise. Engineers, architects, land use planners, builders, contractors, and other professionals each evaluate the project through a different lens. Their expertise helps us understand the structural needs of the building, possible design solutions, construction requirements, costs, timelines, and how work could safely take place around an active school.

Bringing these perspectives together takes time, but it is an important part of carefully evaluating each option before decisions are made for the long-term health and safety of our students, staff, and school.

Supporting Our Gymnasium

If parishioners, alumni, or families wish to contribute financially to our gymnasium project, donations may be specifically designated or restricted for the gymnasium, and those funds will be used for the gymnasium project. Our other fundraising efforts throughout the year, including the Fun Run, Winter Raffle, and Spring Ball, will continue to support a combination of our daily school operations, special classroom needs, and the School's long-term plans.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued generosity and support of our families, parish community, alumni, and friends of St. Clement's as we work toward the future of our school and this important space for our students.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was the gymnasium closed?

Based on the professional information available at the time, and consultation with the City Code Enforcement Office and Fire Department, the decision was made on August 28, 2026 to discontinue use of the gymnasium as a conservative precaution to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Student and staff safety is and will remain our foremost priority.

Was the rest of the school building evaluated?

Yes. Following the gymnasium closure, C.T. Male Associates conducted an additional structural investigation of the entire school building and communicated to us that the remainder of the school building is safe for our students and staff.

Will the existing gymnasium be restored, or will a new gymnasium be built?

No final decision has been made. Both options- restoring the existing gymnasium and the possibility of building a new gymnasium- are being explored. Professionals continue to evaluate these options as we determine the best path forward for St. Clement's long-term future.

Why is the process taking time?

There are many factors that must be carefully considered before a decision is made. Engineers, architects, builders, contractors, and other professionals each bring specialized knowledge to the process. Their input helps us evaluate safety, structural needs, design possibilities, costs, construction requirements, and timelines. Our goal is not simply to make the quickest decision, but to make a thoughtful and responsible decision for our students and the future of St. Clement's.

When will a final decision be made?

There is not yet a final timeline. Meetings, professional evaluations, and discussions continue throughout each week. We will share information with families as decisions are made.

What are students doing for PE, lunch, and other activities?

Temporary arrangements are currently in place, with outdoor and alternative spaces being used whenever possible. We continue to evaluate additional options that will provide our students with appropriate space.

Are temporary space options being considered?

Yes. We are exploring several possibilities, including a relocatable classroom and a larger temporary structure or dome on school property. Each option must be evaluated for safety, cost, practicality, and how long it would be needed.

Are other facilities being considered?

Yes. Conversations have taken place with Saratoga Central Catholic, Principal Signor, Superintendent

Bott, and Fr. James regarding other possible spaces and opportunities for activities that would typically take place at St. Clement's.

Could work on the gymnasium take place while school is in session?

This is an important part of the ongoing discussion. Any plan will need to consider the safety of students and staff and how work could be completed while minimizing its impact on daily school operations. Options to be considered include additional protective measures for our existing school building, as well as temporary space options for times during active construction, among other things.

How will the project be funded?

Funding is part of the ongoing planning process. The St. Clement's School Board and St. Clement's Church Finance Council have discussed potential support, and the Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools Office and Bishop Mark have also been involved in conversations regarding funding and moving the project forward.

School fundraising efforts, including the Fun Run, Winter Raffle, and Spring Ball, will continue to support a combination of our daily school operations, special classroom needs, and the School's long-term plans. Donations specifically restricted for the gymnasium project will be used specifically for that purpose.

How will families receive updates?

Important information will continue to be communicated directly to families. This webpage will also serve as a central location for ongoing updates and information.

Questions?

If you have questions about the gymnasium or any of the information shared here, please reach out to me directly. I am always happy to answer questions and provide the facts and information we have at this time.

You are also welcome to reach out to Dr. Bott, Superintendent, or Fr. James with questions or concerns. We are all working together, with the same goal of supporting our students and determining the best path forward for St. Clement's.

I know that when there are many conversations taking place, information can sometimes become unclear or inaccurate. Please do not hesitate to ask. We want our families to have accurate information directly from those involved in this process.

We are all in this together, and we are grateful for your patience, trust, and continued support of St. Clement's School.

Last updated: September 21, 2026

We would like to share an update on our gymnasium and the next steps toward developing a repair plan.

C.T. Male has completed its most recent evaluation of the school building and gymnasium. A small area of structural brick was examined, and no apparent structural concerns were identified in that area. This is an encouraging initial finding, but further investigation is needed to identify the most cost- and time-effective repair option, with the safety of our students, staff, and everyone involved remaining our highest priority. We have engaged Bast Hatfield and its masonry division to assist with this additional exploratory work. Work is scheduled to begin this Friday, October 2, 2026, and is expected to take about a week, with working hours of approximately 7:00 am to 3:30pm.

There will be no impact on classes or regular school access.

The work involves carefully removing two large sections of the interior 4" CMU block veneer on the east and west wall near the stage, approximately 12 feet wide by 6 feet tall. This veneer is non-load-bearing- it does not support the roof. The openings will expose the structural brick near and below the steel roof joists, so the engineers can examine its condition. The existing structural brick will also be tested to evaluate its strength and help determine the appropriate repair approach.

The following measures will protect the gymnasium and separate the construction work from the school:

- **Floor protection and scaffolding:** Protective coverings will be installed over the gym floor where work is being done, and scaffolding will be set up inside the gymnasium for access to the upper walls.
- **Dedicated construction entrance:** Bast Hatfield will use the west double doors for all construction access and the movement of materials and debris.

- **Dust containment:** The doorways connecting the gymnasium to the school and the kitchen roll-down opening will remain sealed with plastic barriers throughout the work. These barriers, together with the contractor's dust-control measures, are designed to eliminate construction dust migration into the school.

- **Noise Mitigation:** Noise-reduction barriers will be installed at the doors connecting the gymnasium to the school and at the kitchen roll-down opening. The construction team working in the gymnasium will remain in communication with school staff throughout each workday and adjust noise-reduction measures as needed. With these precautions in place, we do not anticipate construction noise causing significant disruption to classes or school activities.

- **Materials and cleanup:** This exploratory work does not involve asbestos-containing materials or other materials requiring hazardous-material abatement. Masonry dust will be controlled and cleaned up in accordance with applicable OSHA requirements, including those addressing silica dust.

Once Bast Hatfield's exploratory work is complete, C.T. Male plus an additional structural engineering firm will review the findings and work collaboratively to develop their recommendations. This review will help us select a safe, practical repair approach that addresses the gymnasium's immediate needs while considering both cost and completion time.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work carefully through this process. We will continue to share updates as the investigation progresses and the repair plan is developed. *Last updated: September 30, 2026*

