Gymnasium Updates

This page provides ongoing updates about the St. Clement's School gymnasium, including building assessments, repairs, safety measures, temporary arrangements, and information affecting school operations. We will continue to share updates as new information becomes available.

Latest Update: November 12, 2026 - Gymnasium Repairs Continue

We are pleased to share continued progress on the repairs to our school gymnasium. Since work began on November 2, Bast Hatfield and the construction team have been moving forward with the necessary repairs, and several important steps have been completed.

Completed Roof Work

All gymnasium roof work is now complete, including the installation of metal coping over the existing parapet caps, roof drain repairs, and other necessary roof repairs. These improvements are intended to help prevent future water infiltration. No further gymnasium roof work is required as part of the current repair plan.

Current and Upcoming Wall Repairs

- **East and west walls:** The construction team has begun carefully removing damaged, nonstructural 4-inch concrete masonry unit (CMU) blocks along the upper portions of the east and west gymnasium walls, from above the windows to the underside of the roof. This portion of the work is scheduled to be completed by Friday, November 13.
- **Stage area:** After the east and west wall work, the team will move to the stage area to remove the same type of damaged upper-wall CMU blocks. Four windows on the north exterior wall will also be removed, and the openings will be filled with CMU and brick. This phase is expected to take approximately two weeks.
- **Wall restoration:** Areas where the nonstructural CMU blocks have been removed will receive new framing and sheetrock, which will be finished and painted to match the existing gymnasium walls.

Safety During Construction

The safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority. Contractors will continue to use a dedicated construction entrance, protective floor coverings, dust-containment barriers, and noise-reduction measures. The construction team will remain in communication with school administration to help minimize disruptions to classes and daily activities.

Moving Forward

We are pleased with the progress being made. While additional work remains, each completed phase brings us closer to safely restoring this important space for our students. We will share further information as the project progresses and as the reopening schedule becomes clearer.

Thank you to our families, faculty, staff, and parish community for your continued patience, flexibility, prayers, and support.

Project Timeline

February 2026 - Gymnasium Roof Leak

A leak was identified in the gymnasium roof that allowed water to enter the building. An investigation by the School's owner's representative identified problems with the installation and blockage of the roof drainage system. Although the drainage system was cleared, water infiltration continued. Visible cracks in the gymnasium façade also required further investigation.

The School retained C.T. Male Associates to evaluate the gymnasium and investigate the structural concerns.

July 7, 2026 - Preliminary Structural Evaluation

C.T. Male Associates provided a preliminary assessment identifying concerns that required additional evaluation. Engineers made subsequent visits to inspect the building and gather information about its condition.

August 28, 2026 - Gymnasium Closure

Following professional evaluation, the School closed the gymnasium as a precaution, in accordance with recommendations from C.T. Male Associates and in consultation with the Saratoga Springs Office of Code Enforcement and Fire Department. The safety of students and staff guided this decision.

C.T. Male Associates also reviewed the remainder of the school building and advised that other areas could continue to be occupied safely. Temporary arrangements were made for Physical Education, lunch, Morning Prayer, Extended Day, and other activities normally held in the gymnasium.

September 2026 - Evaluating the Options

Throughout September, the School and Parish worked with engineers, contractors, diocesan representatives, and other professionals to evaluate potential solutions, including repairing the

existing gymnasium or replacing it. These discussions considered safety, feasibility, cost, timing, and the long-term needs of our school.

The St. Clement's School Board and St. Clement's Church Finance Council discussed the project and ways to support it. The Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools Office and Bishop Mark were also involved in discussions about potential funding and next steps.

At the same time, we explored temporary space options, including a relocatable classroom or larger temporary structure, and worked with Saratoga Central Catholic and parish partners to identify alternative spaces for student activities. These options were considered while the scope of the gymnasium repairs was still being determined.

September 30, 2026 - Additional Exploratory Work Announced

Following a recent evaluation by C.T. Male, a small area of structural brick was examined, with no apparent structural concerns identified in that area at the time. Further investigation was needed to determine the most appropriate repair approach.

Bast Hatfield and its masonry division were engaged to perform exploratory work beginning October 2. This involved carefully removing sections of the non-load-bearing 4-inch interior CMU block veneer on the east and west walls near the stage. The work allowed engineers to examine the structural brick near and below the steel roof joists and evaluate its condition.

Safety precautions included floor protection and scaffolding, a dedicated construction entrance, dust-containment barriers, noise-reduction measures, and appropriate masonry dust cleanup procedures.

October 26, 2026 - Repair Plan Selected

Following the exploratory work, C.T. Male and Ryan Biggs reviewed the findings. The structural concerns were determined to be related to damaged interior CMU blocks within the gymnasium walls.

After reviewing the available repair options, costs, and anticipated timelines, the Parish and School decided to proceed with repairs to the existing gymnasium, subject to the necessary engineering review and approvals. The proposed work included addressing the damaged CMU along three walls, with structural bracing and anchoring as specified by the engineers, as well as roof and drainage improvements to help prevent further water infiltration.

A meeting with the City Building Inspector and engineering professionals was planned for October 30 to review drawings, coordinate the scope of work, and address permitting. Work was scheduled to begin November 2.

November 2–12, 2026 – Construction Underway

Bast Hatfield began the planned work on November 2. Roof repairs have since been completed, and work is underway on the damaged nonstructural upper-wall CMU along the east and west walls. The next phase will focus on the stage area, followed by framing, sheetrock, and finishing work. See the **November 12 update above** for the latest details.

School Operations While the Gymnasium Is Closed

Our students continue to participate in school activities using temporary arrangements. Morning Prayer is held in the Parish Center, and Physical Education takes place in alternate indoor or outdoor spaces as appropriate. Lunch, Extended Day, and other programs have also been adjusted to make the best use of available space.

We continue to coordinate with staff, parish partners, and community organizations to support students and minimize disruptions while repairs are underway.

Safety and Construction Coordination

Student and staff safety has remained central to every decision. The gymnasium remains closed to regular school use during the repairs. Contractors use a separate construction entrance, protect work areas, and maintain dust and noise barriers between the gymnasium and occupied school spaces. School administration and the construction team remain in communication throughout the work.

As construction progresses, we will continue to adjust school arrangements when necessary to support safe, productive learning environments.

Supporting Our Gymnasium

Families, alumni, parishioners, and friends who wish to support the gymnasium project may designate their donations specifically for gymnasium repairs. Donations restricted for the gymnasium will be used for that project.

Our other fundraising efforts, including the Fun Run, Winter Raffle, and Spring Ball, continue to support school operations, classroom needs, and the School’s long-term plans.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and care shown by our school and parish community.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was the gymnasium closed?
The gymnasium was closed on August 28, 2026, as a precaution following professional evaluation and consultation with local officials. Protecting the safety of our students and staff remains our first priority.

Was the rest of the school building evaluated?
Yes. C.T. Male Associates reviewed the remainder of the school building and advised that it could continue to be occupied safely.

Will the existing gymnasium be repaired or replaced?
The Parish and School have decided to proceed with repairs to the existing gymnasium. Construction began November 2, and work is progressing in phases.

What work is being completed?
The project includes completed roof and drainage repairs, removal of damaged nonstructural CMU blocks from upper-wall areas, work in the stage area, infilling four exterior window openings, and restoration of the affected walls. Structural details are guided by the engineering professionals and approved plans.

When will the gymnasium reopen?
We do not have a confirmed reopening date to share at this time. Our priority is to complete the necessary work safely and thoroughly. We will provide further information as the construction schedule and required approvals become clearer.

What are students doing for PE, lunch, and other activities?
Temporary arrangements are in place, including use of the Parish Center, classrooms, and alternative indoor and outdoor spaces. We continue to make adjustments as needed.

Can construction take place while school is in session?
Yes. The construction area is separated from occupied school spaces, and contractors are using protective measures to control dust and noise. School administration remains in communication with the construction team to address disruptions as they arise.

How is the project being funded?
The School, Parish, and Diocese have been involved in discussions about project funding. Contributions designated for the gymnasium will be used for that purpose. Other school fundraising supports a combination of school operations, classroom needs, and long-term priorities.

How will families receive updates?
Important information will continue to be communicated directly to families. This webpage will serve as a central location for project updates.

Questions?

If you have questions about the gymnasium or the information shared here, please reach out to the school office or to me directly. You are also welcome to contact Dr. Bott, Superintendent, or Fr. James with questions or concerns.

We want families to have clear, accurate information directly from those involved in the project. Thank you for your continued trust, understanding, and support as we work together for our students.

Last updated: November 12, 2026