



EZRA
needed
NEHEMIAH

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EZRA WAS A PRIEST. NEHEMIAH WAS A BUILDER.

The Babylonian Exile began with the fall of Jerusalem in 597 B.C. Years later, in 444 B.C., God called Nehemiah back to Jerusalem and tasked him with rebuilding the city's walls. Soon after, God called Ezra the Priest to return to Jerusalem with the responsibility of restoring the faith of the returning exiles. Nehemiah focused on the physical reconstruction, while Ezra addressed the spiritual needs. Both roles were essential; Nehemiah needed Ezra, and Ezra needed Nehemiah.

**WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.
THEIR JOB IS TO GET THE CHURCH READY.
OUR JOB IS TO GET OUR SOULS READY.**

The Old Testament story of Ezra and Nehemiah serves as a powerful source of inspiration for us at Our Lady of the Isle. After the Babylonian Exile, God chose to rebuild the Temple and the wall of Jerusalem. Similarly, after Hurricane Ida, God is guiding us to rebuild, restore, and renew our church. As we embark on this final chapter of our construction journey as a parish family, we can draw valuable wisdom from Ezra and Nehemiah's efforts in the 5th century B.C. They remind us that rebuilding physical structures is just the beginning; God longs to renew our spiritual lives as well.

This truth was reaffirmed by the Lord during Fr. Mark's personal pilgrimage in Assisi, Italy. On July 29, he received a profound message: "The restoration of the church is meant to teach what I want to do in hearts. It does no good to leave and renovate the church if you return to it with the same hearts."

We are excited to introduce "Rebuild this Temple." This Lent, you are invited to prayerfully prepare your heart. Just as we will reconsecrate the Church to the Lord, we invite you to reconsecrate your heart to Him as well.