



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

**ABOVE:** The major renovation and redesign of Our Lady of Assumption Church in Pajaro is nearing completion. **BELOW:** Jim Hanson of James Hanson Cabinetmaker shows an altar that he made in his Live Oak shop for Our Lady of Assumption Church in Pajaro. **BOTTOM:** A detail photo shows the workmanship of the walnut wood and burl altar.

# Church details being finished

Churches 2010

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**Dedication ceremony to be held Tuesday**

By TARMO HANNULA  
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The finishing touches are being made on a major redesign of Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Pajaro.

Over the last year, the façade of the congregation hall of the church was ripped down and the parking lot was re-worked.

Plans call for a mission-style church, similar to those commonly seen in small towns throughout Mexico, according to the Rev. Walter Espinoza. A new bell tower now dominates the structure, which also features sweeping arches, a tile roof and earth-tone colors.

Several statues on the property have been restored and mounted on new pedestals about the property.

Jim Hanson, a woodworker who has lived in the Live Oak area for the past 30 years, said he has been working on a new altar for the church. The 7-foot, 6-inch-wide and 3-foot tall altar is made of walnut wood and walnut burl. Hanson said he has worked on the piece for the past month.

Hanson has worked on a number of altars for local



churches and made the tabernacle, ambry (holy oil) cabinets, reredos screen, and the reconciliation room screen for St. Patrick's Church.

"It's really fun work," he said. "You get to work with architects, designers and the church. There's a lot of room for creativity. For me, working with wood is kind of meditative. I can really focus on what I am doing. These church jobs are particularly rewarding; the people really appreciate this level of work. It's sacred for these people that are using it, and there's a special quality, it's



blessed."

At the center of the altar built by Hanson is a space that

will house a religious relic, bone fragments from two Catholic martyrs who died in the Colosseum in Rome during the third century.

A dedication ceremony for the completed church will take place Tuesday at 6 p.m. Monterey Bay Archdiocese Bishop Richard Garcia and retired bishop Sylvester Ryan are scheduled to appear at the event. Father Myers, the congregation's first pastor, will also be present for the dedication.

The church is located at 100 Salinas Road in Pajaro.