



VRF Solutions Preserves Landmark 170-Year-Old Bronx Church's Historical Integrity with Ductless HVAC System

*Design-build mechanical contracting firm restores
St. James' Episcopal Church with sustainable electric heat pumps, located at 2500 Jerome
Avenue and 190th Street in Fordham*

NEW YORK (DATE) -- [VRF Solutions LLC](#) is renovating St. James' Episcopal Church at 2500 Jerome Avenue and 190th Street in Fordham, founded in 1853, by replacing their outdated boiler and steam radiators with ductless electric heat pumps. The comprehensive zero carbon on-site retrofit includes bringing the landmark church, hall and classrooms up to code while also keeping the original elements from the famous New York architect, Henry C. Dudley, and providing substantial cost savings to the parish.

VRF Solutions was contacted by the architect Tomaz Mlynarski of Narska Architects and Paul Sheridan, the construction manager of Victor Zucchi and Son Construction, to see if there was any way to avoid removing the 130-year-old wainscot molding from the perimeter of the Nave to accommodate the proposed ductwork for the new HVAC system. Immediately, Thomas Esposito, President of VRF Solutions, and Joe Novella, VRF Solutions' Chief Building Scientist, said that would not be necessary as they could value-engineer a ductless VRF heat pump system and replace the old steam radiators with discrete floor consoles that could be integrated into the existing woodwork.

"We are sensitive to the restoration, preservation and high-quality construction and craftsmanship of the millwork and the history that goes with that, including the church's Tiffany windows," mentions Howard Schlessinger, AIA, Vice President of VRF Solutions. The prominent Tiffany family were founding members of the church and fabricated and hand-signed the Naves-stained glass windows. Mr. Novella adds, "What is quite special in how we do this is, in the end, you don't see the equipment. It is blended into the architecture subtly without any visual impact on the space. Our mission is to ensure everyone is comfortable with the renovations."

There is also an added bonus with the updated system. "Traditionally, these faith-based facilities were not built with air conditioning, only boilers for heat. Now they are getting wedding business and hosting other life celebrations year-round, which was not possible before due to inclement weather in the summer," Mr. Esposito highlights.

The project commenced in the fall of 2022 and is expected to be completed by July 2023.

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About VRF Solutions LLC

Founded in 2006, [**VRF Solutions LLC**](#) is a wholly unique design-build contractor of high-performance and electrically driven heat pumps, decarbonizing the greater New York metropolitan area and southwest Connecticut. In addition to expert building energy analysis, VRF provides a full scope of design, engineering, and construction services that deliver long-term value. VRF Solutions' clients include the New York Athletic Club, Bryant Park Winter Village, The Belnord Apartments, 400 Central Park West, Manhattan Mini Storage, Manhattan College, The Stewart Hotel, Diocese of Bridgeport-St. Joseph's, The Church of Saint Ann, 240 West 37th Street, and many others representing all asset classes.