

Stepping Stones

Reverence and Space

As we begin to plan and gather input for the design of our new church,* we asked the Directors of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation, Music, Parish Life, and our School Principal:



“How would a new church enhance or benefit your programs?”

The answer given most often was, “more space,” followed by, “a dedicated sacred place for liturgical services.”

Additional space would:

- Help alleviate scheduling conflicts during the school day for a variety of parish and school activities such as Bible study groups, perpetual adoration, choir practice, adult faith programs, meetings with parents and volunteers, and therapy sessions for students in need of services.
- Expand the facility in ways that can create new programs or enhance the programs that we have. Possibilities suggested include: a performance auditorium, labs, additional pre-school opportunities, rearranging and moving classrooms, rooms with couches or chairs for adult groups, and extra-curricular activities. New spaces provide areas where we are able support and assist people and share the message of Jesus Christ with all age groups and ethnicities.
- Enhance the security of our school.

Sacred place would:

- Furnish the parish with a church that is the center of religious life and is dedicated to fostering spiritual growth by the celebration of Mass and our other holy sacraments.
- Allow flexibility when scheduling funerals and require less interruption of learning. (During the school day when a funeral is in progress, students have to eat in their classrooms or alter their class schedule. Currently, guests, friends, and family attending the funeral have to enter through Chapel Center by going down the side hall, or the wall between the cafeteria and the Chapel Center has to be opened and seating set up. Coffins have to be brought in through the back door.)
- Provide a dedicated space for receiving the sacraments without the feeling of being in a cafeteria.
- Offer new options for outdoor meditation areas.

*A free standing church will create the potential to renovate the space currently occupied by our Chapel Center into usable space. Please keep in mind that:

- No design has been chosen for the new church
- All past work and designs for new church will be reviewed and considered
- Input for church plans will be gathered through focus groups, surveys, and meeting with parish and school staff, councils, and ministry groups
- Any designs/plans will need approval of Finance Council, Parish Council, Diocese, meet city building requirements, and be within our budget.