

SURVEY FEEDBACK
ADDITIONAL
QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS & RESPONSES
February 27, 2022

SUGGESTION: Build a smaller church than proposed, with fewer seats.

RESPONSE: One of the priority goals of this project is to build a church with sufficient capacity to absorb the growth of the parish for up to 100 years. The current church has served us for 60 years and the church before that served us for 100 years. Given the large investment required, the decision was made to expand the main nave seating by 50% and to double the overall capacity with overflow and choir loft seating.

QUESTION: Where will Mass be during construction?

RESPONSE: All Masses will be held in the Parish Center. When the school was built the leadership of the parish decided to include a large parish center to serve as both the school cafeteria and a place for large parish functions. The future need for a space to celebrate Mass during construction of a new church was anticipated at that time, so we are blessed by their foresight to have a space large enough for Sunday Masses, as well as for other activities.

SUGGESTION: Add another entrance/exit off Adams St. to the north parking lot.

RESPONSE: We have asked the Architect to revise the plans to make this happen.

SUGGESTION: Do not put garage under rectory as this is a safety hazard.

RESPONSE: The Architect has advised that he will specify fire rated walls and ceiling to mitigate this concern. Building codes will dictate the minimum fire rating for including the garage in the basement.

SUGGESTION: Make the interior of the church traditional like Old St. Vincent Church in Cape Girardeau.

RESPONSE: The Mass is the "source and summit of our Catholic Faith." The beauty of a traditional high altar, religious art, stained glass windows, and statuary will be incorporated throughout the church utilizing refurbished items acquired by Bishop Rice from the decommissioned Church of the Visitation in the St. Louis Archdiocese. The details of the interior will be developed in the next phase of design development, and we will share with the parish those details as we move forward.

SUGGESTION: Two differing points of view were suggested concerning the choir loft. One said it is important to have and the other said we don't need it.

RESPONSE: The choir loft remains in the design at this point as it will ensure an atmosphere favorable for sacred music, worship, prayer, and celebration of the Mass with conscious participation in the Liturgy through its sung elements.

SUGGESTION: Access for the disabled is a major priority—more ADA parking and better access is needed. Sufficient designated pews for disabled are needed.

RESPONSE: ADA parking spaces will be provided along with a covered drop-off that is tied to an enclosed walkway leading directly into the church. There will be designated pews designed for those relying on walkers, crutches, and/or wheelchairs. Details will be determined in the next phase of design development.

SUGGESTION: Provide a sidewalk along Hope Street.

RESPONSE: A sidewalk along Hope Street will be in the final design.

SUGGESTION: Include a cry room for those families who feel a strong need for one and who might otherwise not come to church or bring their children with them.

RESPONSE: We want to encourage all families to come to the celebration of the Mass as a family. The full and active participation of the “domestic church” in the larger church community celebration of the Eucharist is indeed a major priority. While the schematic plan is not currently showing a designated cry room, the intent is to appropriately outfit the narthex area (gathering space) to allow families to bring children to that area as needed and still be able to remain engaged with the liturgy.

QUESTION: Has consideration been given to building the church on the gravel lot next to Adams St. where the original church stood, or on the existing site with a north-south orientation?

RESPONSE: Both of these ideas were considered, and the Architect provided the Building Committee multiple options. The Committee felt the Adams St. site is not large enough, since we do not own the house on the corner of Adams and Ohio Sts. Also, it separates the church too much from the school, and results in parking located too far away and/or downhill. The north-south orientation on the existing site leaves unresolved the issue of noise interruptions from the highway. While many churches are not east-west, an east-west orientation is preferred for the theological sign that is manifest; in addition, it provides better natural light opportunities and more favorable thermo-dynamic effects.

QUESTION: What is the plan for contingencies, rising costs of materials, etc.? Why are the builders, planners, etc. from St. Louis and beyond? Why haven't we asked parishioners in construction if they can help with construction and design for reduced rates or ask that they make their personal labor their donation to the project?

RESPONSE: There will be a detailed Value Engineering process during design development and construction documents phases to identify all potential cost savings. The design and construction of a Catholic church involves particular knowledge and expertise with specialized liturgical considerations. Even though we have excellent local general contractors, the Architect and Construction Manager selected for our project both have this extensive knowledge and expertise in large Catholic church design and construction.

All construction will be bid to local contractors and suppliers—all labor will come from the local area. Some parishioners in the construction business have already offered to donate certain elements of the work and others will be approached to be a part of the construction to the extent possible. At the same time, we do not want to take undue advantage of parishioners who depend on their business for their livelihood. In-kind donations are welcomed and appreciated,

but they should be prayerfully discerned with a sense of sacrificial generosity in the same way as cash donations from all parishioners.

QUESTION: Do the building price estimates include interest on any borrowed money for a total project cost?

RESPONSE: This cost was not included in the estimates. We will be developing a cash flow plan for the project as we get closer to construction.

QUESTION: Have we given up using some of the school for other ministries?

RESPONSE: We have no plans to use school space for parish ministries other than the SRE program as is currently operated. Our goal is to grow the school enrollment to the point that all classroom spaces in the school will be fully occupied for education programs. The Parish Center will be shared as it is now and will be further developed with a flexible fellowship room.

QUESTION: Will we have to suspend some ministries during construction?

RESPONSE: No ministries will be suspended during construction. We are looking at building the new fellowship room in the Parish Center first so that it can be used for those activities currently in the fellowship room under the existing church. With the flexible design of this space, it can be used for Mass seating as well as for other activities.

SUGGESTION: We need a designated Youth Ministry that has adequate space to attract more youth engagement.

RESPONSE: A dedicated youth room and associated office is included in the design for the basement of the new church. This space is intended to serve as both a leisure/recreation area and a discussion or small study group space. Larger activities would be scheduled in the fellowship room in the Parish Center.

SUGGESTION: We need a nursery or play space for infants and toddlers to allow for childcare during ministry activities such as bible studies, adult formation, Mom's morning out, etc.

RESPONSE: Current plans are to use the new fellowship room in a similar fashion to the existing fellowship room for childcare and playroom. However, we already have other facilities dedicated to pre-K instruction, care, and play in our school which could be used in conjunction with other parish activities if we develop the need, desire, and will to manage such a multi-use environment.

SUGGESTION: Provide convenient, designated visitor parking spaces with good welcoming and directional signage to make our church more visitor friendly.

RESPONSE: These details will be considered in the final design development of the project.

CLARIFICATION: In the first round of Q & A distributed last week, February 20, a phrase was included in the suggestion concerning tithing implying that some school families used their tuition payments as their Sunday Collection tithe. This is not the common or expected practice. Families with children in IC School contribute to the regular Sunday Collection and pay tuition in addition. This is a significant sacrifice made on their part and is very much appreciated.