



Building our Church, Sharing our Faith, Growing our Community
Questions & Answers

1. ***Why not renovate the existing church or build a smaller church?*** Insufficient seating capacity for many Sunday Masses and Holy Day Celebrations has been an on-going issue. One of the priority goals of this project is to build a church to meet the needs of our children and grandchildren, with sufficient capacity to absorb the growth of the parish for up to 100 years.
2. ***What will the structure and interior of the Church look like?*** The desire we have heard most often from parishioners has been to build a church in a more traditional style. 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 current religious pieces as well as refurbished items acquired by Bishop Rice from the decommissioned Church of the Visitation in the St. Louis Archdiocese.
3. ***Will the church be located further from the highway?*** The church will be positioned further east, approximately 50-55 feet from the road. In addition, Jefferson St. will be closed off and we will use parts of the street for parking and circulation related to parking.
4. ***Will the new church facility accommodate individuals with disabilities?*** 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 seating designed for those relying on walkers, crutches, and/or wheelchairs. An elevator with wheelchair accessibility will provide access to the choir loft and lower level.
5. ***Will there be a choir loft?*** The choir loft is included to ensure an atmosphere favorable for sacred music, worship, prayer, and celebration of the Mass with conscious participation in the Liturgy through its sung elements.
6. ***Is there a cry room or area designated away from the primary worship space?*** We encourage all families to come to the celebration of the Mass in full and active participation of the “domestic church” in the larger church community. Therefore, a specific “cry room” is not designated, instead the gathering space allows families to bring children to that area as needed and still be able to remain engaged with the liturgy.
7. ***Where will Mass be during construction?*** We were blessed by parish leadership’s foresight when the new school was constructed to have a space large enough for Sunday Masses, as well as for other activities in the Parish Center.
8. ***Why are we using builders, planners, etc. from St. Louis and beyond? Why haven’t we used local parishioners and construction companies?*** The architect and construction manager selected for our project both have 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 have already offered to donate certain elements of the work and we gratefully accept such In-kind donations.

9. ***Will we continue to use the school for some ministries?*** The only parish ministry we intend to utilize the school for is SRE. The long-term 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.
10. ***Will Youth Ministry be a priority?*** 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.
11. ***Why are we having personal visits for the fundraising strategy?*** Personal visits emphasize the distinctive nature of giving, allow for a thorough presentation of the need, give you the opportunity to ask your own questions, and allow visitors to express their enthusiasm for the project. In addition, personal visits place a greater emphasis on stewardship, allowing campaign volunteers to share their faith experience and trust in God.
12. ***Why am I asked to consider a specific amount?*** Parishioners need to know what levels of support are necessary to raise \$18.6 million. A gift amount is suggested for you to prayerfully consider because as Christian people we have an opportunity to return to the Lord according to the measure His Goodness has been bestowed upon us. No judgment is made on the level of gift you offer. *The important thing is that your gift be prayerfully discerned, proportionate to your means, and reflect a spirit of sacrifice in thanksgiving to God.*
13. ***What if I choose not to give the amount requested?*** We know matters of giving are subject to priorities and your situation is unique unto itself. However, you are asked to prayerfully consider a specific gift. Whatever your response, it should be one of your choosing made in a spirit of sacrifice, and all gifts will be beneficial to the work of spreading the Gospel.
14. ***If Immaculate Conception has approximately 1,150 registered households and the goal is \$18.6 million, why don't we ask each household to donate the same amount? Why are some people asked for a greater amount?*** Successful campaigns don't achieve their goals through mathematical calculation. In our parish, like most, 80% of parish support comes from 20% of the parish.

A goal of \$18.6 million cannot be reached without a number of substantial pledges and others at lesser levels. Some parishioners are blessed with ample resources, and others are not. The important thing is that our gift be planned, proportionate to our means, and reflect a spirit of sacrifice in thanksgiving to God.

15. ***Will my gift remain confidential?*** Yes! The only people who will have knowledge of pledge information are the volunteer and the campaign staff. These individuals have been instructed to keep all donor information confidential.