

Making Room at Our Table

May 15, 2011

Please come to the

OPEN FORUM

in the church

***YOUR PARTICIPATION, INPUT AND FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT
TO THIS PROCESS. THIS IS YOUR PARISH! Child care provided!***

Sunday, May 22 immediately following the 10:00 am Mass

for a presentation by our architect Murray Mack.

Mr. Mack will give a summary of the process and
share schematic drawings of his proposals.

“Balancing the Old with the New”

The expansion of our facilities presented a considerable task for the architects. Of the utmost importance was the preservation of our German fieldstone church. The stones of this church were brought here by local farmers in the late 1860s. The shape of the church and steeple are part of the skyline of St. Joseph, which marks it as a historic, Catholic community. We did not want to attach a box to the front and call it a Gathering Space or compromise the entrance to the church. As far as possible, we wanted the building preserved.

After looking at possible solutions on the west and east of the church, consensus began to form around the plan to build on the west side, between the church and the school. Some of the obstacles to the east side solution had to do with technical problems, like buried pipes and a change in elevation. However, looking at the computer model of the proposed solution for a west expansion, it was clear that the architect's vision integrates and transforms the whole property in an aesthetically pleasing way. The architect's proposed low brick building with glass windows and walkway tie the school building to the church and also complement Minnesota Street's Main Street appeal. A walkway completing the line from the front door to Minnesota Street, with parking on both sides, further accentuates the church instead of detracting from it.

To learn more about *Making Room at Our Table*, check under the Communications tab at www.churchstjoseph.org.