



CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH

Making Room at Our Table

Feasibility Study Case Statement

Our Strong Foundation ...

Since 1856, the Church of Saint Joseph has been serving the spiritual needs of its parishioners in downtown St. Joseph. The stone church, consecrated in 1871, stands as a living testimony to the strong Catholic faith of the founding families and their vision of a worship space that would serve not only themselves but also future generations. The school built in 1927 still provides educational space for the Lab School and parish faith formation, youth programs, funeral lunches and other parish community events.

Our Mission ...

We, the Church of Saint Joseph, are a Catholic, Benedictine faith community. Our liturgy invites and inspires active participation and faith-filled living. Through our ministry of formation in Christ, we continue to build a solid foundation as witnesses who eagerly respond to the needs of the parish and wider community.

To determine whether we are able to achieve our mission with our current facilities the Programming and Facility Evaluation Team (PFET) was formed in January 2008. Their thorough evaluation of current and future programming and facility needs identified maintenance priorities, necessary upgrades for handicap accessibility, and the addition of appropriate meeting and social gathering spaces.

The Planning and Design Committee was formed in the fall of 2009 to implement the results of the PFET. "Making Room at Our Table" was chosen by the Pastoral Council as the theme for the undertaking. The Planning and Design Committee selected Hagemeister Mack Architects to develop schematic drawings addressing facility needs and Mark Davy & Associates to determine the feasibility and affordability of a potential building project.

To sustain and deepen the faith life of this community, we must provide the necessary space to enable the parish to fulfill its vision and mission.

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Our Vision ...

Maintain our facilities

The church roof needs replacement and a gutter system needs to be reinstalled. Carpeting in the church, parish office and areas of the school needs replacing. Some windows in the school also need to be replaced.

Provide handicap accessible restrooms

Handicap accessible restrooms are needed in the church to create a welcoming environment for all.

Create a hospitality room

Families preparing for weddings, wakes and funerals also need private space to gather and make final preparations. This space would also be available for nursing mothers.

Create a gathering space for the church

A gathering space allows for preparation and social opportunities before and after liturgies and can serve as a “crying room” during Mass. The space would provide opportunities for parishioners to meet and deepen their relationships with each other. The gathering space would be connected to the handicap accessible restrooms.

Create a social hall

A social hall with kitchen facilities, able to seat and serve approximately 300 people and conveniently located by the church, would provide opportunities for breakfasts, funeral lunches, and parish gatherings. It would be versatile enough to allow for small and large groups. Scheduling availability would not be affected by the school calendar. The additional space would also allow for parish activities currently taking place off site, for example, parish quilting. The social hall would have access to the handicap accessible restrooms.

A Future Filled with Hope

The parishioners of the Church of Saint Joseph have a future filled with hope. Modeling the life of Jesus can be challenging and even difficult in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as faithful Christian stewards of God’s many gifts. Women and men who seek to live as faithful stewards learn that “all things work for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

We urge parishioners to participate in this process by providing feedback and praying for the success of Making Room at Our Table.