

If you could CHANGE one or more things about the existing church or overall St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception facility, what would those changes include?

Expanding the seat capacity into the Narthex area. The landscaping is not attractive.

Expand seating. Designate areas for those who can not kneel and in or near front of church. Would love to have a place I can witness mass where I am more comfortable with my chronic cough - but I don't see that as possible.

We had an adoration chapel (we had a big parish), a (crying room). I like that our parish really does a good job with the little ones of not making it hard for the elderly. Look around and notice that it's a young family parish, but also a lot of elders- none of us are getting younger.

More and larger meeting rooms. Remove chairs and have all pews.

(New church better style-too modern). Meeting room-all new kitchen, dishwasher, electrical, heating and cooling, etc.

I would build a new church to the West and not attempt to modify or enlarge the existing church. The new church could be designed to provide modern sound system, adequate seating for the present and future congregation's for the next 20 years, etc., etc. This approach would enable essentially normal operation in the present facilities and remove most structural restrictions for the design of the new church. In the long run, this may be the lowest cost option depending on the objectives for an expansion of the existing facilities.

Bigger narthex, bigger seating area, event hall/gathering space for funerals, etc.

More space, offices centrally located

Adoration chapel or a special prayer room with Jesus in the tabernacle present (a room right behind the church that people could go to for prayer where it is always quiet).

I have always been drawn to a more traditional altar and a worship space. Our altar is a little blah-direct from the 70's. That was the style of the time, but the Church is timeless. Those spaces should be so.

What I would change with the existing church is increase seating capacity if possible. I would like to see more emphasis on the Tabernacle. Pine board paneling fails to pay homage to the Lords presence. I would like to see the addition of flex-space that could be modified according to our needs. I think the future of our school requires the addition of a gymnasium. We cannot overlook the expansion of our cemetery.

Raise the altar area above the main seating area of the church. Enlarge the narthex (gathering space) area to encourage people to congregate and become more engaged with other parishioners.

Some of the "other" events to be held @ 5:30 from time to time so not too late into evening.

Add additional space for seating or open the room behind the glass for seating.

I don't know.

A more "open" concept with spacious gathering area, spacious seating and an open spacious altar area. More natural light. Strong reverence for the sanctuary and altar. Noise abatement. Architecture that creates a peaceful atmosphere. A specific choir area.

Less singing -- children and adults in autistic spectrum can't always tolerate music and sensory overload. Would be nice to have one Mass earmarked for just singing of the songs and not the prayers. Mass times earlier time especially on holidays, i.e. Christmas and New Year's.

Make the children's room a place where Mass feel like a person is involved. Have speakers that work and include the responses of the parish congregation.

A family chapel that feels like part of church (St. Pius' chapel is a great example.)

It is very difficult to go to confession with a wheel chair. Also make the last rows for those with walkers and wheelchairs, and a place to set a cane so people won't trip on stuff.

I'd like to see a regular parking lot with lined parking spaces. Also a "walking" area to the door instead of through the path of traffic to get to the door.

More seating as the congregation is expanding and more religious (traditional) stained glass windows, statues, pictures in church
There are a number of changes that would be nice (expanded church, new gymnasium/activity center and more offices), but I don't see the money coming in to make the changes.
Parish meeting rooms, more traditional church, parish social hall/kitchen
New kitchen, more seating, new gym, new community center
Add nice size chapel, add some big stain glass windows, add cafeteria (school lunches, fundraisers, funeral lunches, etc.
More space is needed; however, monetary considerations are also important
Would like to see what the song numbers are no matter where you sit.
Replace paneling especially behind the altar. Replace red carpet with lighter, non-carpet flooring (it often looks dingy and dirty). Better design around the tabernacle and better, more prominent, usable space for stations of the cross and prayer candles.
Gathering space with a kitchen and bathrooms. A new gym, health facility would be great!
Social gather area with coffee & treats after Mass on the main floor or a basement large room.
Have a music room (shared by school?) where music stands, sheet music & hymnals can be stored. This would also be a practice room with piano & proper seating & acoustics. Also would like a choir loft in back of church so sound can flow outward over congregation.
Expand the church to the rear through the existing offices and into the parking lot.
Nothing.
all mentioned in question #2
Add on a conference room/hall for funeral lunches or rent out space for private parties i.e.: baby showers etc.
No pie shape design.
Classic old reverent design. Bring back the feel of being somewhere beautiful to deepen the sense of reverent worship.
Better smelling bathrooms.
School & church restrooms. A library & music room - so church areas don't have to be used.
I would have had a basement for doubling space.
Bigger, room for growth, added gym, parish center.
It's nice having a large foyer, but something even bigger would be better!
Expand the existing church into narthex/office area after a new addition or building for parish/gym. Temporarily we could hold Mass in the new area while the existing church is remodeled.
More natural sunlight - crying room with good sound system - place for choir/piano (don't want organ) - warmer & more functional vestibule.
A larger area needs to be set aside for a choir/music. Would like to see expanding the music talent with our parishioners to include more forms of music. i.e. guitars, drums, piano, brass, etc.
Increase the ability to socialize after Mass. Larger space for worship & meetings.
<u>Church</u> - 1) Large gathering space to allow for large meetings, receptions, seminars, etc.; 2) breakout rooms; 3) adoration chapel; 4) larger sanctuary; 5) small child viewing room. <u>School</u> - 1) Music room (could be used for church choir practice); 2) art/science room that allows for storage of supplies; 3) new gym that the community wants to utilize; 4) dedicated library; 5) recreational fields.
The parking lot. I would pave the whole thing and not have dirt as part of the lot.
The red carpet - the pews need refinishing.
NEW GYM!! A church with more seating and WINDOWS for natural light.
I would start a savings account to pay for future building expansions.

More seating space. Does our existing sink for cleaning the chalices after Mass have a direct line into the ground? Need a social hall and kitchen for funerals.
A cry room similar to St. Pius. No red carpet. Add a hall or meeting space.
Larger facility with more worship space, meeting room space, office space, and accommodations for the handicapped and elderly. Also a much larger parking area with good traffic flow.
There would be no change.
Have the altar in a bowl-type setting and the pews graduating up and around 3/4 of the altar.
Larger worship space.
The front entrance with overhead canopy -- because of the canopy many people use this area to stop and unload people going into church. This is a safety issue as many times it causes traffic backup -- sitting on Hwy. 76 waiting to be hit from back....it is just a matter of time. Also the way traffic comes into church and the need to walk across the traffic going into the parking lot....is one other safety issue.
Meeting spaces! Example - coffee and donuts after Mass, wedding receptions, funeral at same time as retreat.
More gathering space. Youth center. Chapel for more private prayer. Better traffic flow.
Remove the back walls and put in more pews. We do not need such a large narthex. Or put the offices back a little farther and make a small narthex there. Years ago most churches did not have hardly and narthex.
I would have a "cry" room that would be utilized by parents with crying/noisy kids. I come to church to get something out of the Mass. And a decent "mike" system or someone to train people how to use it so they can be heard.
Have a nice hall with tables and chairs for funerals and other breakfasts and social gatherings. Maybe a bigger kitchen too.
Enlarge the existing church and narthex. Change the red carpet in the church to a neutral color.
More pews and larger area for the choir and piano.
A more traditional looking church (design). I think much could be done that is not too costly. Marbling, artwork, paintings. Make it beautiful and people will be drawn to it. High altar. Work-in-progress -- doesn't have to all done at the same time. This will probably encourage people to dress nicer. Not so casual. Take the painting of Mary in the library and put it in a prominent place with a plaque telling the story.
Size, lighting, red carpet, more welcoming gathering area, being able to see altar from all seats.
Having gone through several construction projects in my food service career, I am willing to help with additional input on the social hall. What has been critical has been to determine what events/projects want to be presented and design the kitchen/community room around these ideas and future growth. Storage area both for the kitchen and the entire new facility is critical. Something that we did miss at my previous parish with that new building was a family room/restroom for nursing moms and families with small children.
We would add a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel that could be accessed separately without access to the church proper or the school (i.e. see St. Pius X of Appleton's Adoration Chapel). We would add more worship space for Mass; more meeting space period/ more space for the school for science, music and art; we would relocate the choir to a loft/an area behind the nave.
Make sure lighting is natural and soft. No harsh, white lighting - be able to dim lights.

Perhaps a bigger narthex - more conducive to congregating after mass - don't like the chaos in front and sides of church.

Replace the carpeting with laminate floors - easier to keep clean.

Some how adding some more pews.

That the church was bigger. I don't want a modern looking church. I love the beauty and mystique of old traditional looking churches.

The temperature in the summer time.

If the school gym will be the large gathering space, it should be more convenient to the church.

Better (after church) congregation area that you can sit. Make an actual baby room for families. More sitting in the actual church. Better speaker outside of church for overflow. Put in a 24 hour chapel like St. Pius has that would be awesome.

See #2 comments. - #1=being the semi-circle design. Parishioners cannot participate in the stations of the cross for example. #2=would be a better/proper sacristy.

I am not sure if I would change anything. Although some additional seating would be nice. The cost could be outrageous. The modest church itself is a very warm place to come to. We don't need a Taj Mahal.

Make sure hymn listing is visible from all seats. Larger seating area for congregation. Easier access to coat racks to encourage people to remove coats before services.

Narthex & gathering area.

I would be in favor of a new church, gym, and meeting area. In addition, I would level the floor of the existing church and convert this into offices, meeting rooms, etc.

See #2.

40 hour adoration chapel should be added, presentation of the trinity for each person - pictures, symbols etc. God, is what this is all about, larger crucifix on alter, prominent stature of Mary. A greeting area that is not next to the church to keep down the noise (talking etc.) Have a break between the greeting area & church. In greeting sell things like bake goods, scrip, books, holy items etc. as we do now for fund raisers. A sound system that can play soft music before Mass etc.

If we could afford a new parish center, with a kitchen and restrooms, and enough seating for the over flow at our masses. Could be used for weddings & funerals as well.

Additional seating & more hard surface parking.

I would change the stained glass windows to be image of Scripture the Saints so they are a teaching tool as well as a thing of beauty. I would add a large gathering space that includes a kitchen facility. I would put the cry room (looking more like a chapel) at the back of the church, similar to St. Pius.

It needs more seating.

Expand for more pews.

Expand the church and the back area.

Add more meeting space, add a greeting space with serving area / sitting space. More capacity in church.

Maybe have a community hall. It could also serve as a over flow for the church.

Build a side altar to hold items that lead to adoration so main altar is focused on God alone.

It would be nice to have natural daylight in the church (St. Raphael's in Oshkosh has a neat way of incorporating the stained glass windows with clear glass windows.

I think there should be room in the narthex area, such as a coffee nook/room. Where there would be a snack bar (like in a home kitchen), a few small tables and perhaps a sitting area, couch, or several chairs w/lamps. This way, it could serve as a smallish intimate meeting area, but would also have a cozy more personal feel, that Father or Deacon Dave, etc. could use for small meetings w/people or one-on-one meetings with people suffering a loss, planning funerals, weddings, or needing counseling, marriage prep, etc. It could also serve as a nice prep/clean-up area for our Sunday doughnuts or when we were snacks after any church function. If sliding doors could be incorporated so that there could be privacy it would be beneficial and I feel very useful. Screens on each side of the alter is a thought. Immanuel Lutheran uses theirs weekly. I've been to services in that church and it is very nice for people to be able to follow along to scripture & songs and to project special images to help with worship.

We need a big area for worship.

Have a traditionally designed church. Move the extra "stuff" - icons/pictures off of the sanctuary to place focus on Eucharist.

More seating for worship

More seating. Bigger Narthex.

Gathering area for meetings, social events, funerals with a kitchenette, tables, etc.

See above (Lack of space in church and meeting/gathering room large groups. Gym is small for school activities, especially athletics.)

Make the sanctuary larger.

Father's back facing right side of church, lack of gathering space, outdated carpet and sound system. Please get Father a microphone that stays where he needs it to be.

More vigil seven-day candles. We would prefer the Gloria sung as it is written in the missal (straight through together as group w/o back and forth with choir and congregation), the addition of a media room with books, CDs, DVDs for anyone to check out materials provided through donations; larger Narthex.

More space for more people.

Expand into the parking lot. Keep the existing building and add on/renovate vs. an entirely new building. I am supportive of adding on, but NOT of starting from scratch.

Add a bigger children's room. Perhaps add a nursery for ages 1 yr. - 3 yr. so parents can attend church. (staffed with volunteers).

I feel all aspects need some form of improvement. I would like to see an expanded/new church, community room and improved school classrooms that all utilize current technologies to enhance the worship & learning experience. I do feel this may best be accomplished through a phased approach to an overall long-term plan.