

Parish of the Immaculate
Church Renovation
Frequently Asked Questions
(and Answers)



Who made the decision to enter a capital campaign? We all did. After setting up a study committee (during Fr. Tony’s pastorate) and holding three town-hall meetings, a feasibility study was contracted (by Generis). After conducting parish surveys and interviews (with 64% of the parish approving) the next step was to proceed toward soliciting our families to RESPOND by way of their prayerful and financial support.

Why renovate the church at this time? Our church building is now fifty-six years old. It has held up very well with very basic maintenance and mechanical upgrades (HVAC, Sound Systems, Roofs, etc.) as needed. But, just as with our homes, our building could use some updating – decoratively as well as liturgically and sacramentally. The materials used for construction in the mid 1960’s are low maintenance and practical but are ‘dated’ to that time and not as warm and hospitable that is expected in church construction today. The marble and terrazzo will remain but alternate material enhancements are being incorporated to soften the atmosphere of the church.

What changes will occur in this renovation? A new Narthex (gathering space) will be created by expanding the current vestibule at the main entrance (\$650,000) together with the main interior body of the church renovations/enhancements (\$1,850,000) are what we are calling the 1st Mile. (See next Question) If initial responses exceed the \$2.5 million 1st Mile, then the 2nd Mile will include external changes for covered entrances on the east and south, plus a priest vesting area off the Narthex. To view the suggested changes, you may see drawings and a video on our parish website, www.immaculateparish.org then click on the “Respond” logo.

What’s the difference between the “First Mile” and the “Second Mile” I keep hearing about? These terms refer to the approach we are making toward our fundraising goals. The initial and full scale renovation that the renovation committee designed came back with a price of \$3.1M. Then our financial feasibility study suggested that we can feasibly expect to raise \$2.5M. So the renovation committee revisited the design and worked with the architect to separate the ‘needs’ from the full design that included the ‘wants’ of the project. The ‘needs’ became “Mile One” and the ‘wants’ became “Mile Two”. The idea is to start raising the money with a goal of \$2.5M as the First Mile. After the campaign is underway giving parishioners a chance to see what both the First Mile AND the Second Mile include, there is a possibility that the giving may increase and the Second Mile can be approached. We will only complete what we can afford and never ask the parish to give more than they feasibly can.

What is included in “Mile One”? Mile One is everything inside the church building: The Altar area (sanctuary), the new gathering space, new lighting, new ceiling, refurbished pews, the relocation and building of a new Baptismal font.

So, what is included in Mile Two? Mile Two is everything on the outside of the building: the extra vestibule/entrance on the south side of the gathering space, a new vesting room for priests and a covered drive thru canopy at the main entrance.

Will the Tabernacle is moved? No. The tabernacle will remain in the same location. The materials and lighting around the Tabernacle and the area where it sits will be renovated to draw more attention to it and create a space for close, private prayer.

Where will the cry rooms be? The new gathering space becomes the place parents can take children when needed during Mass. There will be flexible seating in the space and easy access to the main restrooms in the parish hallway. Sound will be installed in the gathering space, and along with the large glass windows looking into the church proper, one can still participate in the Liturgy should they need to be in there for a longer period of time.

What about the restrooms; are you getting rid of those? The current restrooms in the church vestibule will be removed to make way for the large gathering space. The design of the space will allow for a large doorway into the PFC hallway where the restrooms are. These restrooms are large, commercially adapted with changing stations and will still be under the same roof, a short walk from the gathering space.

Why is the Baptismal font being moved to the ‘back’ of the church? The proper place for Baptism is at the main ‘entrance’ of the church to signify that life in the Church begins with Baptism; we enter our Christian life through the waters of Baptism, then through the other sacraments we make our journey to the Altar. The font is placed at the entrance of the church to symbolize the first step we all take in our faith journey.

Will we be able to see the baptisms that take place with the new Baptismal font being in the “back” of the church? The font will be placed at the “main entrance” of church. The new placement of the font will allow for more visibility by being ‘within’ the assembly, making it closer to a larger number of people than it is now. The new design of the font will be much larger and more visible to all of us wherever we are seated in the church, and serve as a reminder of Baptism for anyone who enters and exits the main entrance of the church. The size, beauty and permanence of the font will be more appropriate to the sacredness and importance we place on the sacrament itself.

What about the pews and kneelers? The pews will be removed during renovation and consequently be refinished and repaired along with the kneelers. They will also be reconfigured to make way for wheelchairs throughout the assembly. Some of the pews will be removed permanently and be replaced by flexible seating around the Baptismal font. This will allow different seating arrangements around the font for various occasions. (for the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, a funeral wake service, to accommodate a larger attendance for a baptism outside of Mass, etc.)

The carpet in the sanctuary is always buckling up. Will that be replaced? Yes. The new design of the sanctuary will require new flooring. In addition, a moisture problem that we have within the ductwork of the HVAC system will be explored and repaired so that the moisture will not pose a problem inside the church during certain seasons of the year causing unwanted changes to many materials inside the church, including flooring.

When will the renovation projects begin (and end)? Our RESPOND campaign will wrap up by Thanksgiving of this year. The diocese requires that we collect a minimum of 40% of the expected cost before we proceed with any of the renovation. The diocese will loan us the balance for a three year term at a low rate. We anticipate that the initial gifts will allow us to begin no later than spring. Until we bid the contracts for renovation, we won't have a good handle on when renovation will be complete.

What are you asking of my family? Four things – your prayers for success, your participation in the campaign, your financial generosity and your encouragement to fellow parishioners. The campaign team has provided tools to assist you in your discernment; A devotional guide for prayer inspiration, an informational packet of detailed information about the renovation, along with drawings and videos on our parish website. We encourage your family to spend quality time with these tools for guidance.

What kind of financial gift are you seeking from me (or my family?) You should give the gift you feel the Holy Spirit directs you to give. Being comfortable with the gift you give is a matter of prayer by you and your family. God will make known the path of generosity you should follow. We're not asking families for "an equal amount of giving" but we are asking for "an equal amount of sacrifice".

How will families be contacted and informed of the campaign process? Packets of information will be distributed to a majority of families by way of (social) home gatherings of six to eight parish households where a Campaign Leader will walk through the process and answer questions. Packets will include, in addition to other items, a RESPOND card that will be taken home, prayerfully decided on and then returned to the parish. Then in October, we will have a three week program to reach the balance of the parishioners culminating on RESPOND Weekend (Oct. 23-24) and finally close out with a celebration in November.

What happens if we do not raise the full amount of the 1st Mile (\$2.5 million)? While we confidently believe that our parish has the financial capacity to raise the full amount, if the goal is not reached, parish leaders will prioritize our renovation needs by directing available funds toward a balance of the most pressing needs.

What if we commit to a gift and something happens, making it impossible to fulfill the commitment? Filling out a RESPOND card is not a binding contract. It is a statement of your intentions only. If unforeseen conditions make it impossible to fulfill your gift, all we ask is that you inform the parish office and complete as much of your gift as you feel comfortable. Your RESPOND card affords us the ability to total all cards and thereby know how far along in our efforts we have progressed and how much farther we have to go. In addition, every gift is important, no matter what size. Participation by "all families" is our goal. ***As an aside, regular Sunday giving must not suffer in an effort for you to make an additional capital campaign commitment.*** So, we ask that you first maintain your regular Sunday giving for the sake of ongoing operations and then commit what you can afford to the renovation.

Is our parish able to accept gifts of stock and securities? Yes, but talk to your CPA and/or financial advisor first. It is generally better to transfer securities directly to the parish rather than to cash it directly in your name. The parish has a financial advisor who is willing to outline the options that would apply to your gift or circumstance.

What about our shortfall in our School Assessment? We remain roughly one and a half months behind in our payments to the Owensboro Catholic Schools System but we are paying our assessment. We do have an education fund on deposit with the diocese which could be used to supplement an annual shortfall but the account would eventually be depleted if the problem isn't corrected. We hope the enthusiasm of the capital campaign might spark greater involvement by parishioners and thereby resolve some or all of our timing issues.

What if the Loan from the Diocese is Not Paid Off in Three Years? An unforeseen family circumstance with a donor is likely to impair the fulfillment of some commitments. If that occurs, we may ask parishioners to continue their commitments for the extra months needed to pay off the diocesan loan. In addition, as an offset, new families joining the parish during the campaign will be afforded the opportunity to make a commitment to the campaign.

For more information about the renovation, including the architect's proposed drawings and videos, please browse through the links on this renovation page of our website.