

SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC PARISH *and* SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: CHURCH BASEMENT & MEETING ROOM EXPANSION

Why are we not considering the church basement as the parish hall?

At first glance, the church basement might seem like a convenient option. However, after careful consideration, it's not the best fit for our parish hall. The location is not central to our campus, and parking is far from ideal – especially for our older parishioners who would need to walk quite a distance. It also sits directly below the nave of the church, which means sound easily travels between floors, making it less than ideal for simultaneous use. The space lacks natural light and would still need to be used for equipment and ministry storage needs, leaving less room for gathering. Ultimately, it offers less usable space than what already exists in the Multi-Purpose Center (MPC).

Why are we expanding the church meeting spaces?

Our parish is growing, and our current spaces no longer meet the needs of our ministries. Expanding parish basement Room 37 and reimagining Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 will allow us to better serve marriage ministry, youth ministry, formation programs, retreats, and parish events.



What will the expansion of church basement include?

- A larger meeting area for family & youth activities and ministry gatherings.
- Added kitchenette to better host retreats and formation events.
- Space opened for a dedicated childcare center once preschool moves to the school building – allowing childcare during retreats, ministry events, and parish formation.
- Two current office/podcast rooms returned to meeting space, with one additional new meeting room added.
- A redesigned reception area with improved entrance, security, cubicle space, and a private meeting room to meet current staffing needs.

How will Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 be re-imagined?

We heard parishioner feedback that we need more than just the MPC for medium-to-large gatherings, especially during the school day. While a new COR building is not feasible in this phase, we are addressing space challenges by:

- Expanding Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
- Increasing capacity from 88 to 150 (sit-down) and up to 250 (auditorium style).
- Creating a flexible space for OCIA, marriage enrichment, charism workshops, and evangelization events.

Why is this important for our mission?

This expansion directly supports the growth of:

- **OCIA** – more than 40 candidates plus sponsors expected in 2025–26.
- **Marriage enrichment** – every offering has already exceeded capacity.
- **Charism programs** – empowering parishioners to discover and live their gifts.
- **Evangelization** – providing space to welcome and form new disciples.

How does this project reflect our parish values?

- It strengthens our focus on **marriage and family life**.
- It equips us to **activate the pews through charisms**.
- It provides **more opportunities for encounter and evangelization** – all rooted in our mission to put hearts on a collision course with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

2 TIMOTHY 1:6a

MISSION INVESTMENT

See the vision. Hear the call. Be the spark.