

SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

I wish you all the best as we begin our Lenten disciplines. Lent is a time for abstaining from those pleasures and personal indulgences that can inhibit our freedom in Christ. Therefore, Lent is a time of personal renewal. Just as an artist or an athlete trains in their area of skill, we engage in spiritual discipline to prepare ourselves to face present and future struggles. If we are not willing to abstain from food or give money to the poor, we must not assume that we will be brave enough to turn down a bribe or resist a strong temptation. We have to prepare for game day.

Spiritual discipline also helps us face our past. As we grow in the Lord, we learn that all things will be brought into the light. In the last few months, Catholics across the world were hit hard by another bout of horrific revelations of sin in the Church. In my youth, people tried to tell me that sin is an outmoded way of talking that we have overcome. Sadly, denying the reality of sin is not only dishonest, it also prevents us from openly challenging evil in the world. Bishops, priests, and lay people were so afraid of losing assets or esteem that we hid facts and denied what we knew was right and just. What certain priests and bishops did is plainly evil and they should be held accountable if proven guilty by a just court. We must never suppose that the mercy of Jesus releases us from the responsibility to live with integrity and justice. Let us not have to learn this lesson again.

However, our experience of evil ought never deceive us into thinking that evil is greater than God's mercy. If we honestly repent, do penance (otherwise known as "reparation"), and resolve to change our ways, there is no sin that God cannot forgive. With that in mind, I am happy to announce that we are getting closer to restoring our confessional. Every Parish church ought to have a space that is worthy of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, with lessons learned through the aforementioned crimes, it will be built in order to ensure the safety and the good reputation of the penitent and the priest. As I have mentioned before, we already received a sizeable donation to help pay for this project. We are now searching for a contractor who can help us realize this vision.

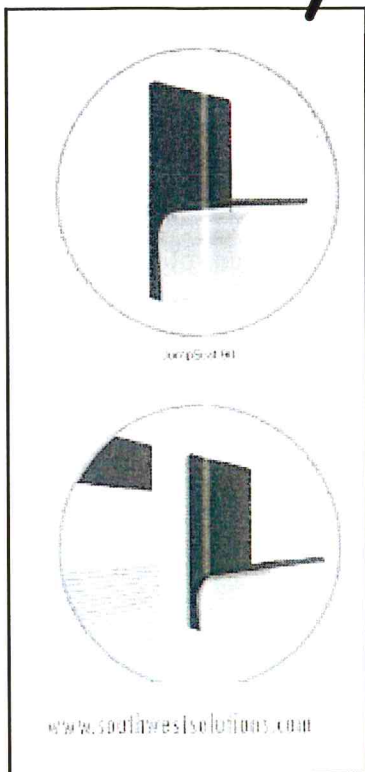
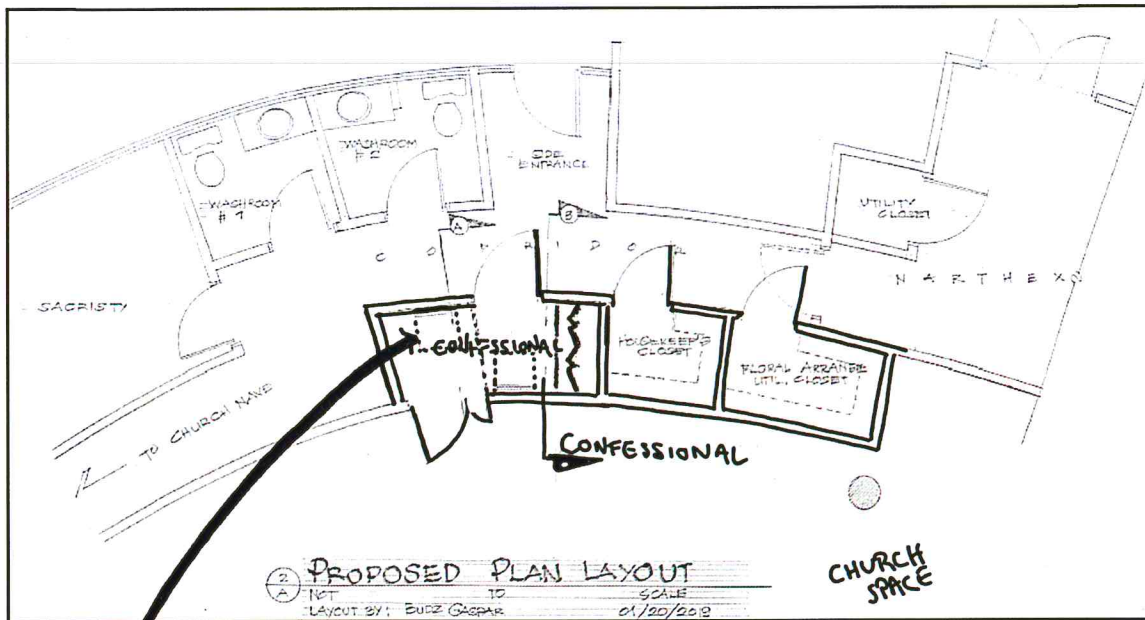
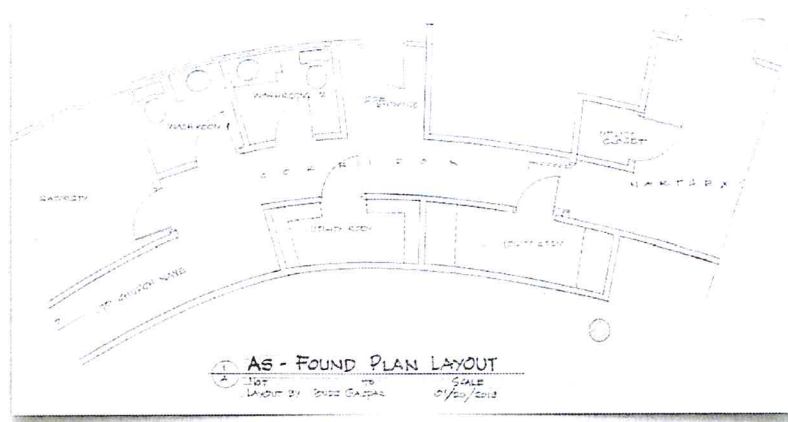
As for an update on our lighting and fans, we have begun consulting with an engineer to determine our ventilation needs before we commit to any form of lighting and fans. Once we have determined what sort of specifications are required for our unique worship space, we can find the appropriate tools for our needs. The lighting options will also be affected by our plan to paint the church and to replace the flooring. We want a unified aesthetic that is true to the symbolism in our worship space. Eventually, we will post a few choices for carpets and floors from which the community will be asked to contribute to a decision. We are taking our time on this process, but it is still a cause for excitement.

Finally, in the last few weeks, the amp in our sound system blew out. Some of you may have already noticed the change in sound quality as we use a loaner amp from the sound company. Due to several factors, we will require a new system. Fortunately, the speakers are appropriately placed and do not require replacement.

God bless and Happy Lent

Father David Hogman
Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish

We are pleased to inform you that we have an interim plan for our confessional. Below are the images of the current floor plan and our proposed plan.



The confessional will use special foldable chairs and will provide enough space for a wheelchair. We have designed the space to allow for seated face to face, kneeling and anonymous, or wheelchair accessible.

We will also create two separate storage areas for our floral ministry and janitorial supplies.