



As we work with our architects to refine the final plans for our new church, our focus remains on creating a worship space that truly reflects its purpose as a spiritual home for the Catholic community of Arnold—today and for generations to come. Certainly, there are many practical considerations: parking, pews, sound systems, and restrooms, to name a few. Yet we must never lose sight of the importance of beauty in the place where we encounter God.

Our church will be beautiful in a way that is faithful to Catholic teaching. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the meaning of a church building in paragraph 1180: *“These visible churches are not simply gathering places but signify and make visible the Church living in this place, the dwelling of God with men reconciled and united in Christ.”* In the following paragraph, the Catechism, drawing on the Second Vatican Council, teaches that a church *“ought to be in good taste and a worthy place for prayer and sacred ceremonial. In this house of God, the truth and harmony of the signs that make it up should show Christ to be present and active in this place”* (CCC 1181).

Likewise, in its guidelines for art, architecture, and worship, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states that *“the external and internal structure of the church building should be expressive of the dignified beauty of God’s holy people who gather there and of the sacred rites they celebrate.”* Sacred art and architecture, they explain, *“invite believers to raise their minds and hearts to the One who is the source of all beauty and truth.”*

We are building this church not only for ourselves, but as an instrument of hope for the future of the Catholic Church in our community—a place where all who enter will find their hearts and minds lifted to God. Therefore, I ask every member of our parish family to prayerfully and joyfully join us in this holy endeavor.

God Bless,

Fr. Blessing