

July 18, 2025

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

I am writing to share another important update as we continue our thoughtful journey toward a potential expansion of our parish facilities. It has been a productive summer, and I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support along the way.

Architect Selection: RDG Planning & Design

In June, we interviewed two architectural firms and, after careful consideration, selected RDG Planning & Design of Des Moines. Many of you may recognize RDG as the original architect of our current church building. Their strong track record — including more than 35 years of experience designing Catholic churches — along with their deep understanding of sacred architecture and parish life, makes them the right fit to guide our expansion planning.

RDG's approach emphasizes community participation, spiritual purpose and intentional design. Their presentation to us underscored the importance of liturgical space that invites reflection and connection, and they laid out a collaborative process that will engage parishioners in meaningful ways throughout the design journey. We look forward to working with RDG to define our goals, shape our vision and begin outreach with the wider parish in the months ahead.

Liturgical Consultant: Search Underway

As outlined in the Diocese's building guidelines — and strongly encouraged by the deanery — we are also in the process of selecting a liturgical consultant. Much like the process we used to identify an architect, we've sent out Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) to several experienced professionals and are reviewing their responses. This consultant will work closely with RDG and our committee to ensure our worship space reflects the richness of Catholic liturgy and supports the spiritual life of our community.

Feasibility Study: Timeline Adjusted

We have decided to delay the start of our feasibility study with George Joseph Consulting until we are further along in the architectural planning process with RDG. This adjustment will provide us with a clearer picture of the project's scope and cost, which will be vital to the study's success. We anticipate getting underway with this crucial phase in the next 4–6 months.

Next Steps: Forming a Building Expansion Committee

To help guide the project going forward, we are forming a dedicated Building Expansion Committee. I will serve as chair, with oversight and support from Father Joseph. We are currently reaching out to several parishioners who have already expressed interest in serving, and we will soon be inviting broader participation. Please stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved.

How You Can Help Right Now: Pray!

Many of you are asking what you can do to help us right now. At this stage, the most important thing all parishioners can do is pray. We ask for your continued prayers for our church, for our leadership, for this discernment process and for the consultants and professionals who are helping guide our next steps. Your spiritual support is the foundation of everything we do.

St. Mary's Expansion Project Prayer: "A Place for Everyone and a Future for All."

Almighty Father,

You sent your Son on a mission into this world to give us life to the fullest. You have granted us the blessings of sharing in that great mission by making Christ present in Pella, Iowa.

Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us and grant us the Wisdom, Generosity and Charity to guide us in bringing our mission, "A Place for Everyone and a Future for All," forward.

We entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Immaculate Mother Mary as we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Thank you again for your trust, encouragement and faith in this process. We remain committed to open communication and will continue sharing updates as more milestones are reached.

With hope in Christ,

Brian Huddle
St. Mary Parish, Pella