

September 12, 2025

Dear Parish Family of St. Mary's Pella,

On Thursday, September 11, the Building Expansion Committee held an important meeting with our chosen architect, RDG Planning & Design, along with our parish commissions: Church and Family Life, Building and Grounds, Faith Formation, Liturgy and Social Action — as well as our parish staff.

This gathering marked the beginning of Phase I of our Building Expansion Project, which focuses on pre-design input sessions as part of the programming and master planning process. These early conversations are vital, as they will guide RDG and our Building Expansion Committee in taking the next steps in programming.

Programming will involve:

- Identifying the spaces needed to meet the goals of our parish
- Quantifying the size and number of rooms that will be necessary
- Qualifying the type of space and how each relates to other areas in our facilities
- Setting a course for the future of our parish community

We believe this process will help us thoughtfully plan for growth, ministry and hospitality in a way that strengthens our mission as a parish.

Please take a moment while you're reading this update to pray our Expansion Prayer:

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 to bring 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.

At this time, we also want to invite more parishioners to be part of our Building Expansion Group. Our goal is to broaden the group beyond the commissions already represented. We need more volunteers to ensure our plans reflect the voice of the whole congregation. Please consider joining us! **Please note that participation will require a willingness to attend a significant number of meetings, either in person or virtually. If you feel called to be part of this important effort and have availability to serve, please reach out to me directly.

Thank you for your prayers, support and discernment as together we shape the future of St. Mary's Pella.

In Christ,
Brian Huddle
For the Building Expansion Committee