

STACM

Statement of the Physical and Spiritual Elements of our Future Redesign Based on the Town Hall meeting January 13 2015

Mission:

St Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs Parish is a Halifax based Roman Catholic community of disciples of the Lord Jesus.

We strive to proclaim Jesus Christ in word and deed and build up the Kingdom of God on Earth by celebrating dynamic liturgy and worship, evangelizing and working for social justice and charity.

Vision:

A vibrant, welcoming and inspiring community of faith, engaging all ages and stages, joyfully active and alive every day.

What we want our Church and Parish Centre to be

Worship spaces

In our worship spaces we want:

- Joy, reverence, holiness, inspiration, safety, vibrancy, hospitality, security
- To feel fulfilled, part of a family, drawn in, humble, not pressured, not judged, at peace, wanted, relaxed, contemplative

Physical aspects:

- Accessible (including the altar)
- Space for choir
- Space for artwork
- Bright
- Natural light
- Clean
- Kid and senior friendly
- Good acoustics
- Better seating
- Comfortable furniture
- Expandable
- Modern technology and facilities
- Large foyer space (narthex)
- Large parking lot
- More bathrooms (wide door for accessibility)

- Cross on top
- Larger Sacred Heart Chapel
- Efficient
- Landscaped around the church
- Sustainable renewable energy sources

Community spaces:

In our community spaces we want:

- Comfort, organization, flexibility, functionality
- To feel warm, valued, supported, relaxed, engaged, challenged

Physical Aspects:

- Better parking
- Up to date audio visual
- Good kitchen
- Stage/theatre
- Food centre
- Family friendly
- Open to general public
- Available for social gatherings and functions

Program spaces

In our program spaces we want:

- Warmth, flexibility, versatility, durability, accessibility,
- To feel inviting, conducive to learning, well planned, functional, inclusive of the community, inspired, energized, not institutional

Physical aspects:

- Bright
- Durable
- Interconnected
- Modern
- Efficient and useful
- Expandable
- Roomy
- Safe and secure
- Multi-purpose
- Good acoustics
- Sufficient washrooms
- Seminar rooms
- Storage

- Rental space for revenue
- Space for:
 - Sports activities
 - Family events
 - Preschool programs
 - Recreation
 - Concerts and movies
 - Social activities
 - Discovery
 - Celebrations
 - Classrooms

Ministry spaces

In our ministry spaces we want:

- Comfort, reflection, inclusion, accessibility, intimacy, approachability
- To feel a sense of belonging, informed, privacy, Parishioner engagement

Physical aspects:

- Accessible
- Clean and tidy
- Storage
- Coat racks
- Comfortable seating
- Better technology

What we Value in our current Churches

Valued at STA

Worship space:

- AV screens
- Choir loft and pipe organ
- Architecture
- Mother's room
- Sacred Heart Chapel
- Sanctuary
- Central location
- Pew arrangement

Other spaces:

- Kitchen
- Stage
- Lots of daylight
- Sign on Oxford St
- Discussion rooms
- Grounds
- Front steps (for weddings)
- Traditional aisle (good width)

Valued at CM

Worship space:

- AV system and screens
- Intimate layout
- The altar
- Baptismal font near the congregation
- Place to hang coats
- Kneelers

Other spaces:

- Size of the common space (gym)
- Wheelchair accessible
- Multifunctional
- Brebeuf room
- Office spaces
- Kitchen
- Flexible downstairs
- Stage
- Lots of windows

- Window from gym into kitchen for serving
- Fire protection
- Open to the community

What we don't like in our current Churches

Doesn't work well at STA

Worship spaces:

- Not enough natural light
- Poor temperature control
- Poor sound
- Small foyer
- Lack of parking

Other spaces:

- Inadequate parking
- No functional program space
- Kitchen facilities inadequate and too small
- Hall not connected to the church
- Wet basement
- Damp
- Old tables and chairs
- Furniture uncomfortable
- Cold
- In disrepair
- Dark
- Need more washrooms
- Lack of discussion rooms
- Lower level of hall is too low and small
- Accessibility issues

Doesn't work well at CM

Worship spaces:

- Roof leaks
- Not warm or welcoming (cavernous)
- Heating issues
- No railing for seniors (altar)
- Lack of space for wheelchairs
- Altar should be higher
- Washrooms inadequate
- Lack of choir space

- Orange tiles
- Pews uncomfortable

Other spaces:

- No direct access from church to gym
- Tables and chairs are old
- Lacks cleanliness
- Kitchen is not functional
- Poor sound system
- Stage too high
- Gym floor needs work
- Toilets need replacing
- No lunch room for staff
- Lack of air flow
- No music practice space
- Lack of parking
- Awkward entrance
- Inefficient office space
- Cold