

Existing Church

The lovely 1890's neo-Gothic church of St. Mark's parish in Peoria, Illinois was poorly treated in a trendy, but now sadly dated, remodel in the 1970s. Thus, greatly needed repairs called for a thorough updating: liturgical, aesthetics, accessibility, lighting and sound, and devotional. As part of a major capital campaign, Fr. Ben Reese first called Steven Schloeder, and asked **LITURGICAL ENVIRONS** to work with the long-range planning committee and to provide schematic design direction.



Previous Interior

A Remodel of Saint Mark Peoria II

By restoring the sanctuary to its original size, and pushing the pews up closer, we are able to create a sufficiently large narthex for gathering, cry room, and disabled access toilets. A funerary chapel for wakes, and a large octagonal baptistery are also planned to allow adequate space for these important events.

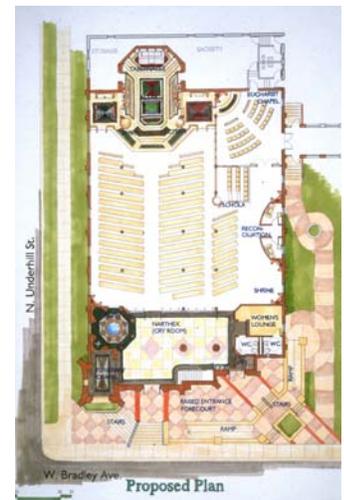
The right side aisle, part of a 1950's addition, is planned to contain the reconciliation chapels, a choir area, and a Blessed Sacrament / daily Mass chapel.

The front plaza will be rebuilt and raised to create a large outdoor space for social and liturgical functions and ADA compliant accessibility.

The first phase of the remodel is now complete, with the restoration of the High Altar and Tabernacle to its central place of glory in the apse. The sanctuary floor was stripped of the rust red carpet to reveal the beautiful original terrazzo, and the side shrines and parts of the original altar rail were later recovered and set in the side chapels. The altar and ambo were designed and executed by Fr. Gallagher and Murray Marble from Bartonville, IL.

The talented artistic team of Andrew Hattermann and Greta and Robert Hill (from MURALS BY JERICHO) have now completed the painting of the nave and ceiling with its heavenly blue vault accented by gold leaf stars and column capitals. They have also executed the magnificent murals after Blessed Fra Angelico that adorn the sanctuary and the side shrines.

In recognition of the liturgical, architectural, and artistic accomplishments at Saint Mark parish (and in gratitude for his intercession), Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria has declared this church as the Diocesan Shrine to *Blessed Fra Angelico*, patron of artists.



Floor Plan



View of Sanctuary



Remodel of Nave



Chancel Arch



Images courtesy of Murals by Jericho © 2004