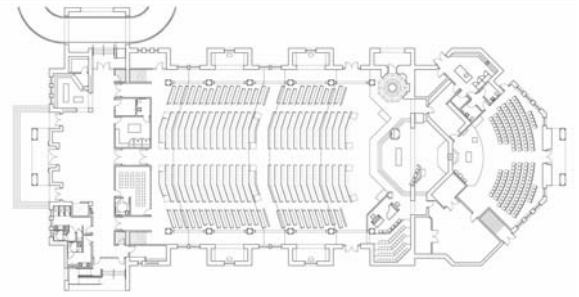


The parish of Saint Paul in Pensacola, Florida found it was time to enlarge and upgrade their facilities. Already packing a church, administration building and K-8 grade school on their tight suburban site, the parish needed a larger church building, social facilities, and expansion to the grade school.

Fr. Doug Halsema asked LITURGICAL ENVIRONS to help shepherd the project. In order to first select an Architect of Record, the parish wanted to host a limited architectural competition of pre-qualified local firms. Steven Schloeder organized the competition, presented an evening seminar to the architects and the parish on the history, meaning, and language of Catholic church building, worked closely in private with each of the firms as they developed their respective designs, and chaired the jury proceedings as a non-voting member. After the top design was selected, we have continued to work with the winning firm, BULLOCK TICE ASSOCIATES, to develop the plans into a schematic design package which is currently being used for the \$10 million capital campaign.



Church Plan

A New Church for Saint Paul Pensacola FL



St Paul Exterior Perspective



St Paul Interior Perspective

The design has evolved into a beautiful and creative synthesis of both traditional Catholic and local Floridian considerations. The underlying Gothic style was chosen for the historical association of the French Catholic presence in western Florida. However, the church is not intended to be an exercise in historicism. Rather, contemporary materials and structural systems create a lighter and more modern feeling to the nave.

The deep overhangs, clearstory light, and glue-lam framing provide an uplifting feeling to the nave while protecting the interior from the harsh sun. The overall massing of the building – the taller longitudinal nave with lower side aisles and side chapels, the expressed sanctuary flanked by the choir and baptistery, and the daily mass chapel wrapping around the rear of the church – give rise to a harmonious interplay of forms that signify the traditions of the Catholic faith wrought in the language of contemporary vernacular architecture.

Through the careful selection of materials, forms, and architectural details, this new and powerful church building appropriately speaks to the vitality and strength of the local Catholic community in a way that is solidly rooted in the deep traditions of our Faith while confidently embracing the best in contemporary architecture, materials, and building techniques.

Client: Saint Paul Catholic Church
Pastor: Fr. Douglas Halsema
Architects: Bullock-Tice Associates
Liturgical: Steven Schloeder, PhD

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