

Our Legacy: A Growing Parish

St. Meinrad Catholic Church has a 156-year tradition of serving and bringing together Roman Catholics in the area surrounding St. Meinrad, Indiana. Today, our parish includes 230 households and more than 500 people. For many, our parish is a central part of everyday life, fostering spiritual growth through multiple generations. In 2012, the *20/20 VISION for 2020* Commission was established and identified the need for a new parish activity center. The planning process revealed the importance of having a facility on parish grounds where we can gather as a community, extend hospitality to parishioners and guests, and offer ministries, programs, and activities.

Challenges We Face in Accommodating Parish Programs and Activities

We are hampered by having few meeting spaces in which to convene our many ministries, programs, and activities. Following the razing of the school building in 2007, which was too costly to upgrade, meetings occur in limited space in the parish office, which does not have a large space for many of us to gather. We juggle finding times to meet when office space is available. Parish ministries, programs, and activities must often be held off-site in spaces which sometimes charge a fee, do not provide storage, have limited availability and set-up accessibility, and are often inaccessible to those with disabilities. While we have made it work, the intangible sense of home and community are lost as people leave the parish grounds. Having numerous activities off-site also creates inefficiencies and impractical logistics.

Expanding Our Parish Home: A Campaign for a New Parish Activity Center

With input from the *20/20 VISION for 2020* Commission, our parish's leadership has prepared a visionary plan for a **new parish activity center** that will address our space challenges. This 6,650-square-foot space will be a welcoming, hospitable, and easily-accessible gathering center – located immediately southwest of the church on the grass lawn and connected to the church by a 20-foot hallway. Notable features of the proposed facility include:

- **Gathering Hall:** A large, multi-purpose room holding about 200-250 people and including a movable partition, a ADA- and FDA-compliant food serving line, and folding chairs and tables for flexible use of the space.
- **Meeting Rooms:** Five meeting/class rooms – two large and three smaller rooms – will comfortably accommodate faith formation programs and activities and provide overflow space for larger events. Each room will include folding chairs and tables and four of the rooms will include a movable partition.
- **Kitchen:** A sizable kitchen will include two doors at opposite ends and an exterior door; a long central work table; pantry storage; two large stoves with ovens; two commercial refrigerators; a full-size warmer cabinet for food service; an ice machine; sinks; ample counter space; and a sizable serving window.
- **Restrooms:** ADA-compliant restrooms will be available for indoor and outdoor parish activities.
- **Covered Entrances:** An extended covered entrance will be located by the parking lot and an enclosed walkway will lead to the south entry of the church, near the Marian altar.
- **Vestibule and Multipurpose Room:** A closed vestibule will include smaller adjacent multipurpose room, for viewings prior to a funeral Mass or other needs and will have a closed-circuit monitor for watching Mass and scrolling of parish announcements. This entry will reduce heating and cooling drafts throughout the building.
- **Storage and Mechanical Room:** This space will provide storage for tables and chairs as well as house mechanical components of the building.

The parish activity center will be designed with economy, function, and longevity in mind. While it will require an initial financial investment by our community, it will be more cost-efficient to operate than the prior school building and is anticipated to have immeasurable impact on the parish's sense of community, improve overall operations, and offer a more positive parish experience for everyone. **The new parish activity center is truly designed to serve everyone in our parish community.**

The VISION 2020 Campaign: Bringing us Together in Christ

St. Meinrad Parish is considering embarking on a campaign to raise \$1.36 million in support of a new parish activity center. All parishioners and others in the community are invited and encouraged to contribute to this campaign. Financial support beyond the sacrifice already made in regular stewardship giving will make this effort a success. The parish activity center will be brought to life with the support of our entire community. We ask you to faithfully consider making a bold personal financial commitment in support of building a new parish activity center. Your gift will not only help our community thrive today, it will leave a long-lasting legacy of faith and hope on our parish and surrounding communities.

Components of the VISION 2020 Campaign

Parish Activity Center Construction	\$ 1,200,000
Endowed Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 100,000
Campaign Expenses	\$ 60,000
Total:	\$ 1,360,000

“We preach about having a good spiritual home to live in, where we can safely gather and be nourished by stories at the table. Having this parish activity center will allow us to celebrate our heritage and build our future, as we share common things together. It will give us a feeling of home, filled with life and activities.”

Father Anthony Vinson, OSB

By the Numbers: Improving Our Parish Life

	Current	Future
Number of ministries, programs, and activities	50+	50++
Meeting spaces	608 sq. ft.	4,908 sq. ft.
Number of on-site meeting rooms	2	9
Approximate number of seats in meeting spaces	40	340
Estimated percentage of meetings/events held <i>off-site</i>	70%	less than 5%
Estimated percentage of meetings/events held <i>on-site</i>	30%	95-100%
Large gathering space on parish grounds	No	Yes 2,700 sq. ft.
Kitchen	No	Yes
On-site storage	Limited	Approx. 350 sq. ft.
Handicap-accessible restrooms	No	Yes
High-speed internet in meeting spaces	No	Yes
Ability to host outreach activities (Red Cross shelter, food pantry, etc.)	No	Yes

Parish Activity Center Preliminary Floor Plan

