



# Nativity of the Lord Town Hall

Status Update of St. Mary church Alma

June 21, 2023



*Dcn: Lord, as we prepare to begin our meeting,  
We recall your promise to be present  
When two or three are gathered in your name.  
We know that without you here among us,  
And within each one of us,  
We will labor in vain.*

*All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit*

*Dcn: Inspire us with your Spirit of wisdom;  
plant seeds of your vision in our hearts and minds;  
give us humor and give us humility  
in our working with one another,  
so that we may know the privilege of participating  
in the coming about of your Kingdom.*

*All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit*

*Dcn: We aks that working together  
will increase the communion among us  
as members of your Body on earth.  
May the communion we experience  
give us new courage in all that we do for you.*

*All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit*



*Dcn: Grant us the willingness to be open to each other,  
to respect each other,  
to listen to each other,  
to be honest with each other,  
to be supportive of each other,  
for the sake of your Kingdom.*

*All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit*

DCN: It is our hope, Father, that your son, Jesus,  
will be our spiritual transformation  
and the transformation of others through us,  
and the transformation of Nativity of the Lord Parish.

We ask this of you as we now begin  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN

# Historical Background

- 2015-2018 – Many Parish Surveys completed on options for the assets for Nativity of the Lord
- May 2019 - Bishop Hurley relegated St. Mary Church in Alma to secular but not unbecoming use
  - This would have allowed the parish to sell or repurpose the building for other use
  - Environmental Architectural appraisal completed by the Diocese
    - Appraisal only include fixing the obvious, not restoring and making it compliant to current building codes
- June 2019 – Parishioners appealed this decision
- July 2019 – Bishop Hurley suspended his decree and the parishioners appeals where suspended
  - In this letter Bishop Hurley noted reasons that the presence of a church in Alma was needed
  - Bishop Hurley commissioned Deacon Rick, the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council to study the various appraisal and develop a plan to present to Bishop Gruss

- Organic materials that would have trapped water and mold where removed from the church (carpet, pews, peeling plaster, song books, etc.)
  - In an attempt to see if the building would air out and what further water damage existed beyond the surface
- Appraisals were evaluated and further inspections and construction estimates completed
  - Estimates to not just fix, but make the existing St. Mary Church sustainable for many years were > \$5 million.
    - Very high level estimate
    - These estimates would not have accounted for unforeseen issue
- A very successful capital campaign could raise 5x annual giving
- Talked with several foundations and philanthropic organization to seek financial assistance to restore the building
  - All organization were encouraging the parish to restore the building, but none were able to assist with financial support



Tasks  
Completed

- Parishioner feedback in the last survey suggested to consider other options for a church in Alma, namely, a smaller Chapel
- Work began to investigate the possibility of a chapel in Alma
  - Worked with a reputable commercial contractor who offered high level design and estimates
  - The cost and option of a Chapel in Alma was considered as a viable option



Tasks  
Completed

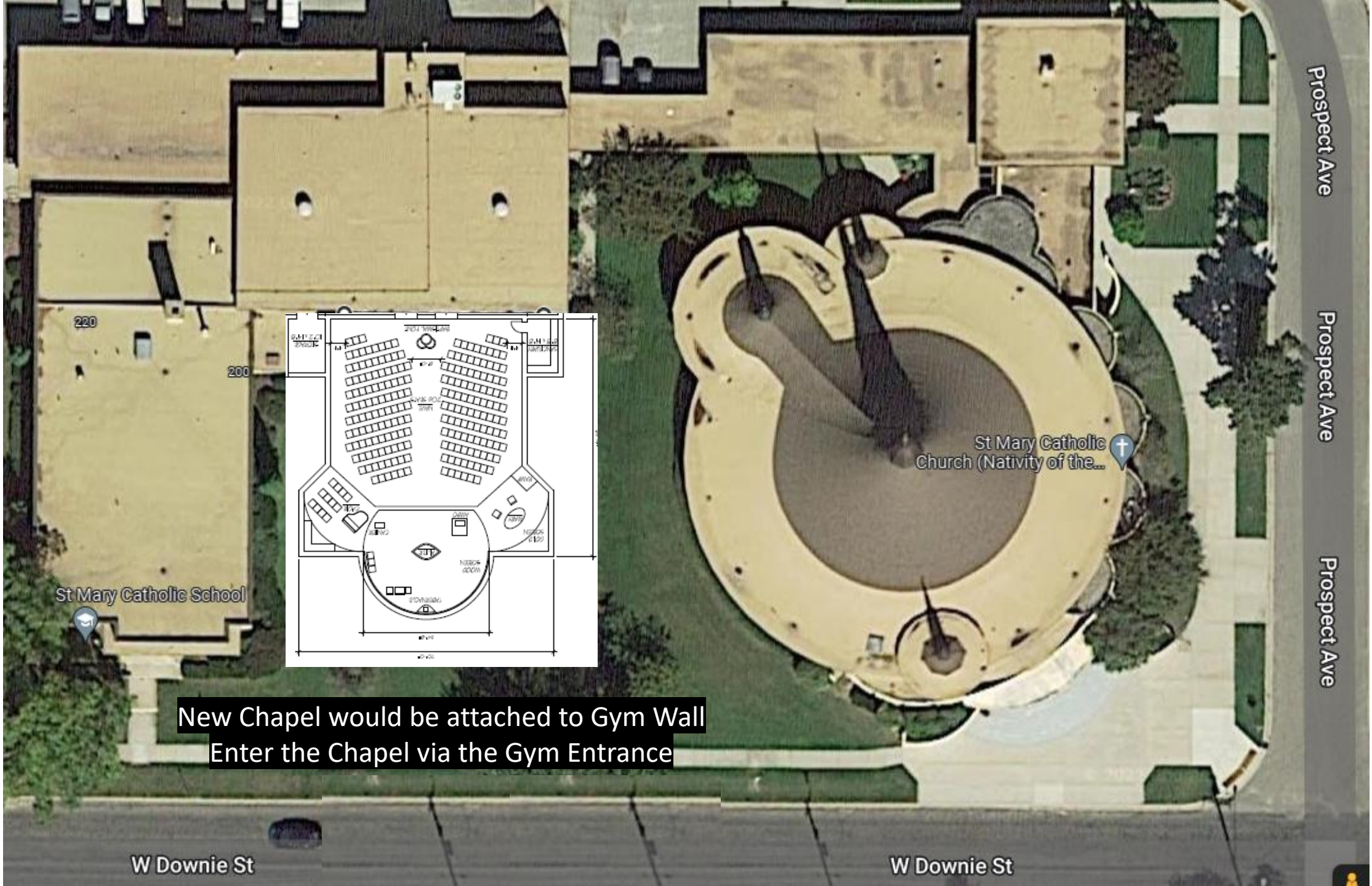
# Why Presence of a church in Alma

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- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of parishioners call St. Mary their home
- School is sustainable and growing
- Campus Ministry (Welcoming the young adults as part of our parish community)
- Parishioners are asking for it
  - We were baptized there
  - We received our first communion there
  - We were married there
  - Many parishioners left NOTL parish to other parishes, church denominations, or just left
- Sunday Evening Mass
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Mass on the weekend
  - Gratiot County does not have a Sunday evening Mass to support the needs of busy or alternative schedules
  - Sunday morning Mass would continue to be at Mount St. Joseph Church

*“Bringing the Old and the Old Old into the New”*





Prospect Ave

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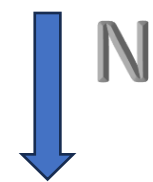
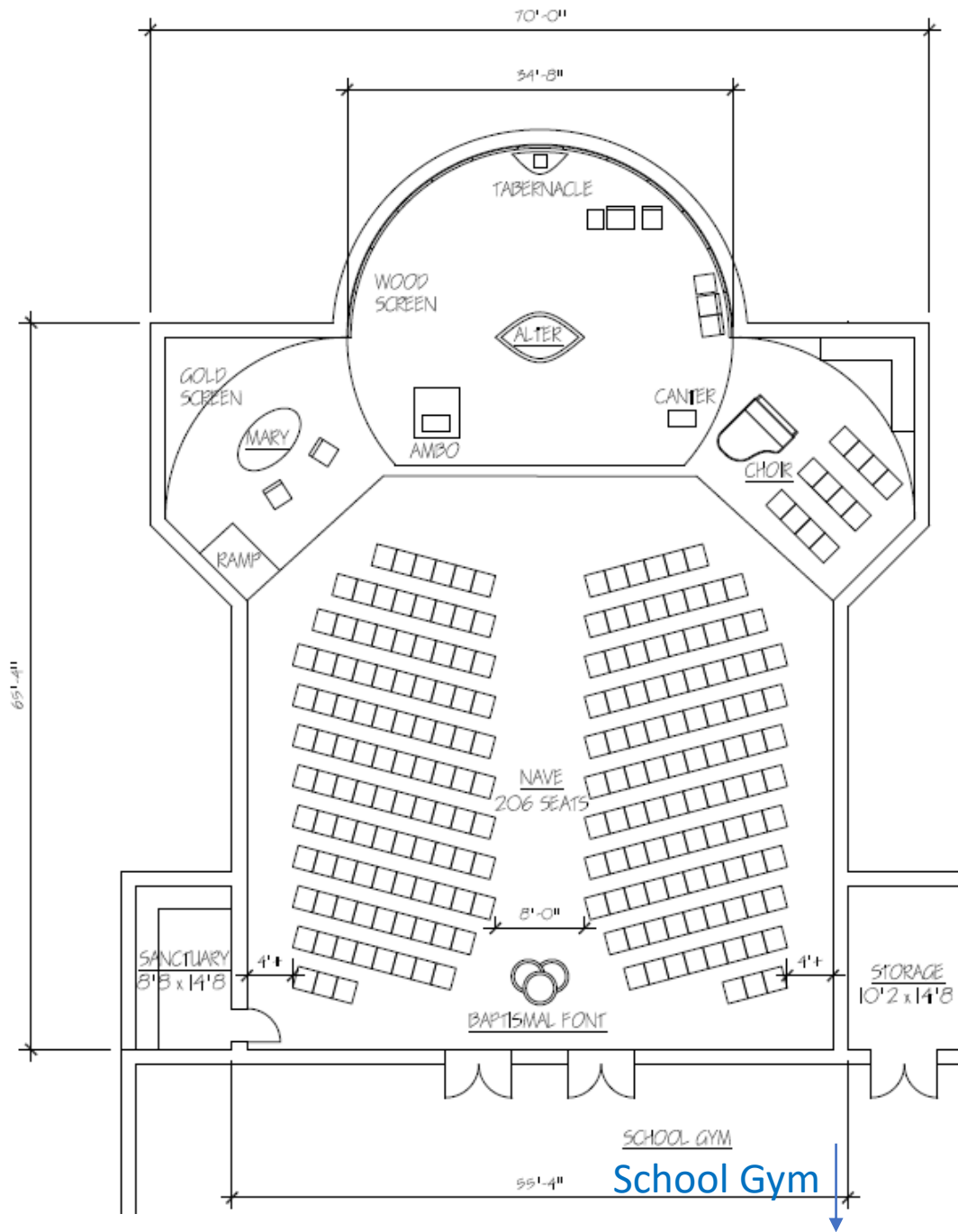
St Mary Catholic Church (Nativity of the...)

St Mary Catholic School

New Chapel would be attached to Gym Wall  
Enter the Chapel via the Gym Entrance

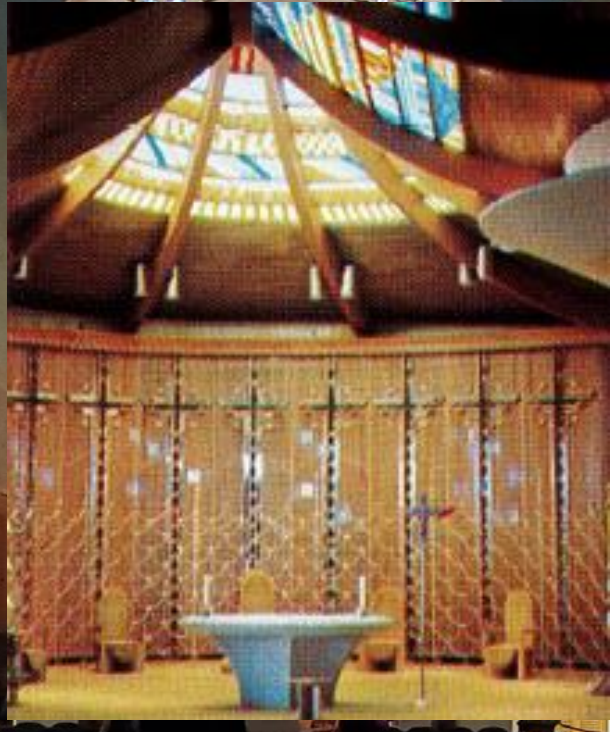
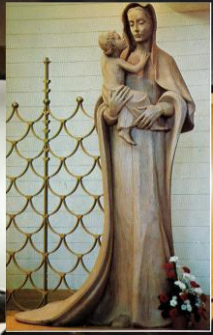
W Downie St

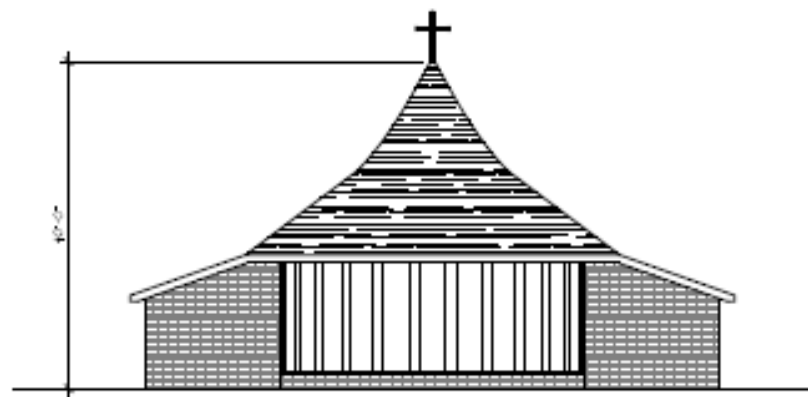
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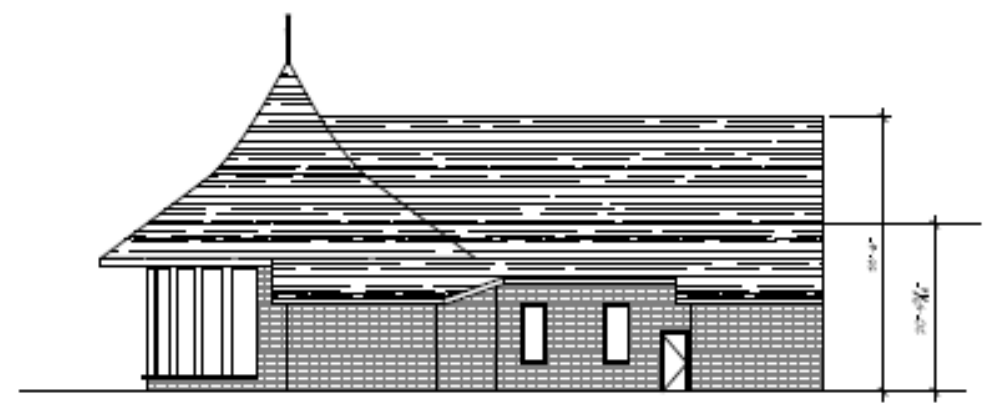


St. Peter Gallicantu in Jerusalem – Inspiration for the Chapel Concept

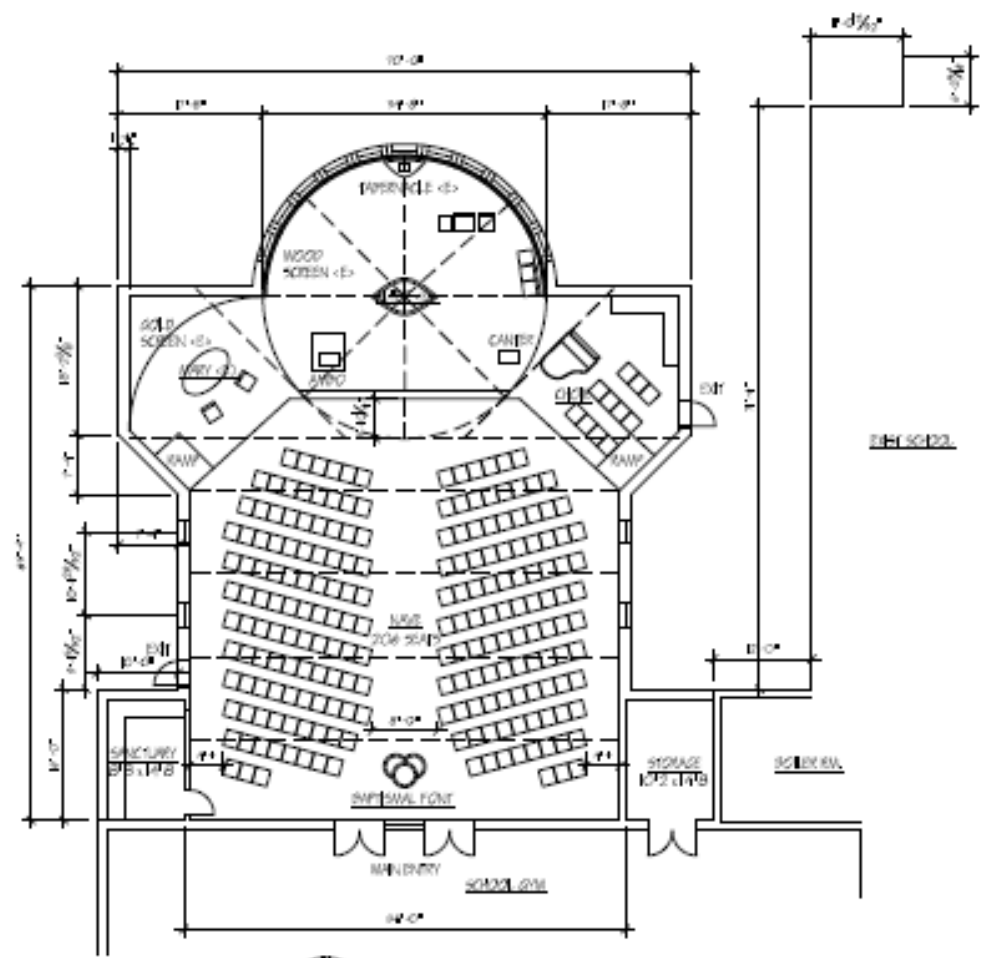




**SOUTH ELEVATION**  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**WEST ELEVATION**  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



NORTHEAST VIEW



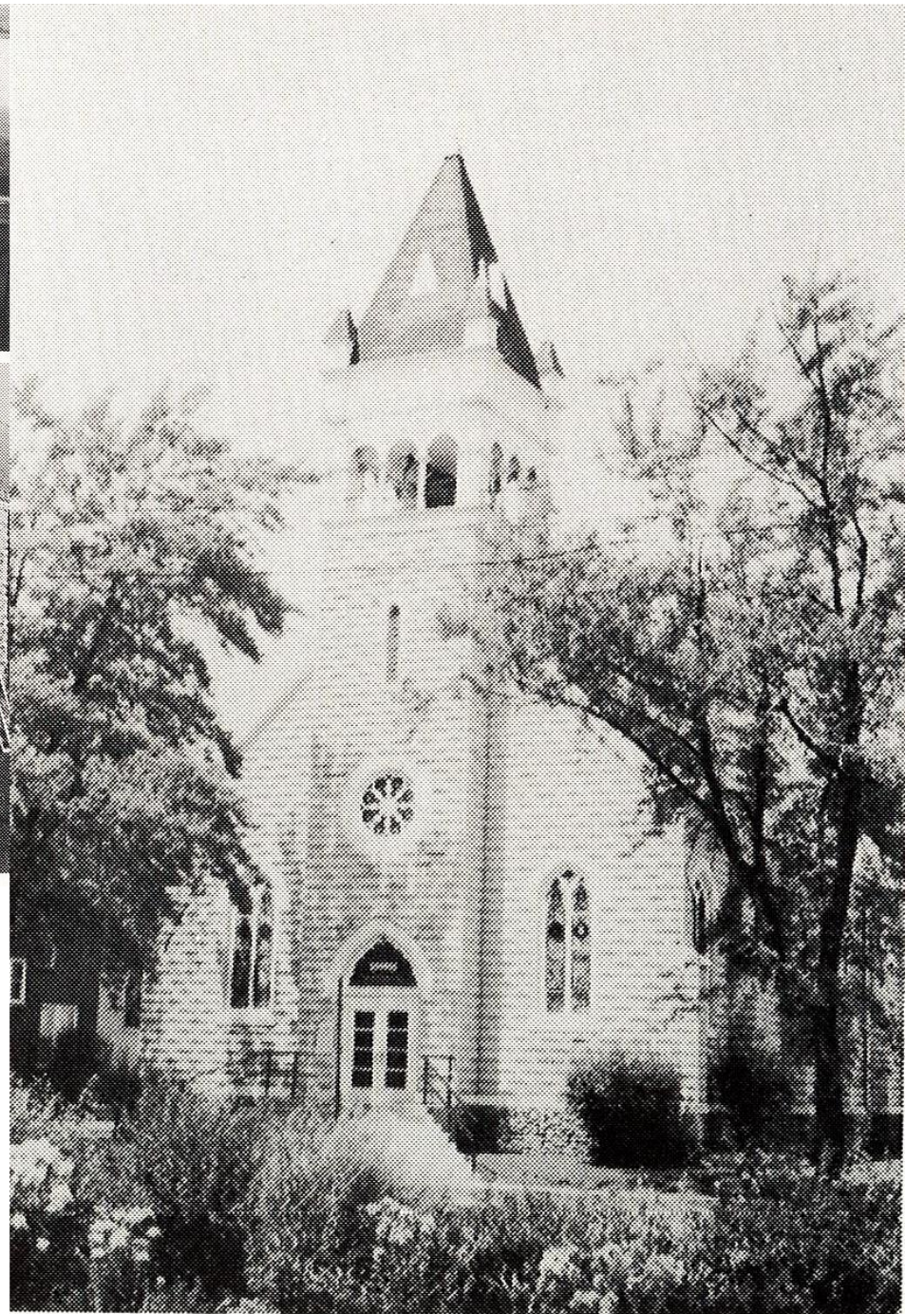
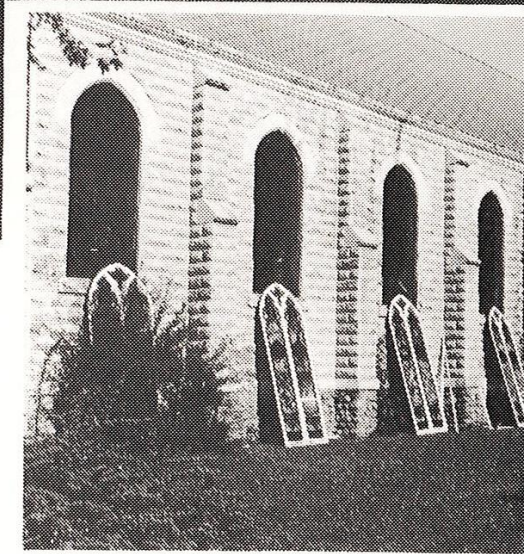
NORTHWEST VIEW



SOUTHEAST VIEW



The Stations of the Cross, crucifix, and stained-glass windows were taken from the old church before it was razed. Monsignor Eugene A. Forbes, Vicar General of the Diocese of Saginaw, officiated at the cornerstone-laying for the new St. Mary's Church



# Potential Chapel Cost ~ \$3 million

- Demo of existing church
- Building ~ 3500 SqFt Chapel
- Architect Design
- Construction Management
- Contingency
- Work would be needed to reduce costs
  - Reuse of existing church furnishings
  - Repurposing church furnishings (e.g. Pews) from other area churches



# Next steps

- Formal Architectural drawings
- 90% accurate cost estimate
- Capital Campaign

# Questions