



Eric Duffert

### Space Use Challenges During Renovations

I would like to share what space usage during renovations of the church will look like. All Masses will move to the social hall mid to late July. This presents its share of challenges for space usage. Furthermore, the need for temporary confessionals and a sacristy in the downstairs area, and the recent addition of multiple convent tenants, adds further constraints to what is sure to be an already tight situation. While there will be challenges, I have no doubt that we can roll with the punches. This community is highly adaptable! When the social hall closed for renovations, it was impressive to see just how flexible and resilient we all were. Now, with our church renovation just weeks away, I have no doubt that the same adaptability will shine through once again.

One final note before diving in - this list is not a definitive one. There may be changes and adjustments that need to be made. We'll have a better idea once renovations begin, and we will cross that bridge when we get there. However, during this time, we will not be able to rent spaces for non-parish groups or events. Loaves & Fishes will remain operating on site with some changes.

**Social Hall** - The social hall will be available for use during church renovations for a limited number of functions. For instance, our Faith Formation and OCIA classes will still be able to utilize the south side of the space during renovations. Functions requesting the social hall will be decided on a case-by-case basis, and it won't be the first place we consider. It'll be more of a last resort if all other spaces are taken.

**Multi-purpose Room (formerly the Library)** - The former library will now be a multi-purpose space. When not serving as a temporary sacristy & confessional, it will be a meeting room for small to medium-sized groups. Due to its primary use as a sacristy and confessional, this room will be unavailable one hour before and one hour after all Masses. Outside of this time constraint, however, the room is available to reserve for parish groups or ministry needs.

**Side Room off Social Hall Kitchen** - The side room off of the social hall kitchen can seat up to ten people comfortably. It may also be used as a confessional during renovations. It will not be available for groups to use during Mass or confessions.

**Convent Southeast Meeting Room** - I am excited to share the addition of this room to our available spaces list (and let me tell you, it could NOT have come at a better time). This room was formerly unavailable to us as it served as an office and meeting space for a former tenant. The convent southeast meeting room can seat small to medium-sized groups comfortably, with a large table, ample seating, and a TV with HDMI and USB hook-up. While the convent is not air conditioned, the basement floor stays surprisingly cool.

This room also serves as a break room for our convent tenants. Around the corner from the meeting space is a food prep area and an extra table. So far, the sharing of this space between St. Gabriel groups and our tenants has worked out well. I am confident that it will continue to be a great spot for all parties involved.

**Convent Main Floor Meeting Room** - When one enters through the convent front door, there is a room to the right that is good for a small group. It would be ideal for 1-on-1 meetings, a scheduled phone chat, or a workspace for a few people. There is a small table, and a few chairs set up, as well as a small desk.

**Caring Room** - This room is located directly across from the Adoration Chapel and will also work for a small group. It really is a great space and one we are eager to spruce up and start utilizing. Many of you are aware that the caring room currently doesn't have a door. I am happy to report that a new door will be installed soon.

With this room just across from the Adoration Chapel, sound is a concern. Rest assured that we are aware of this, and it's being factored into which door will be best and what will get scheduled in that room.

#### What if these areas don't work for my group/meeting?

If the aforementioned spots won't be a good temporary fit for your parish group and/or meeting needs, please give me a call. I am ready to work with you and find the best possible solution. Most of all, remember that this is only temporary. Soon enough, we'll be worshipping in a stunningly renovated church, making all this creative shuffling around worth it and then some.

*--Eric Duffert, Parish Life & Operations Manager*



Convent Southeast Meeting Room