



OUR LADY OF GRACE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AURORA

Rooted in History, Building the Future

Our parish began in 1945 when the current church property, known as the Fleury Estate, was purchased and the first Mass was held in July of 1946. In November 1953, a new church was built on the property which served the faithful until August 1983. Construction of the current 700 seat church was completed under the guidance of Father Paul J. McCarthy ahead of schedule, due in large measure to more than 8,000 hours of parish volunteers' work.

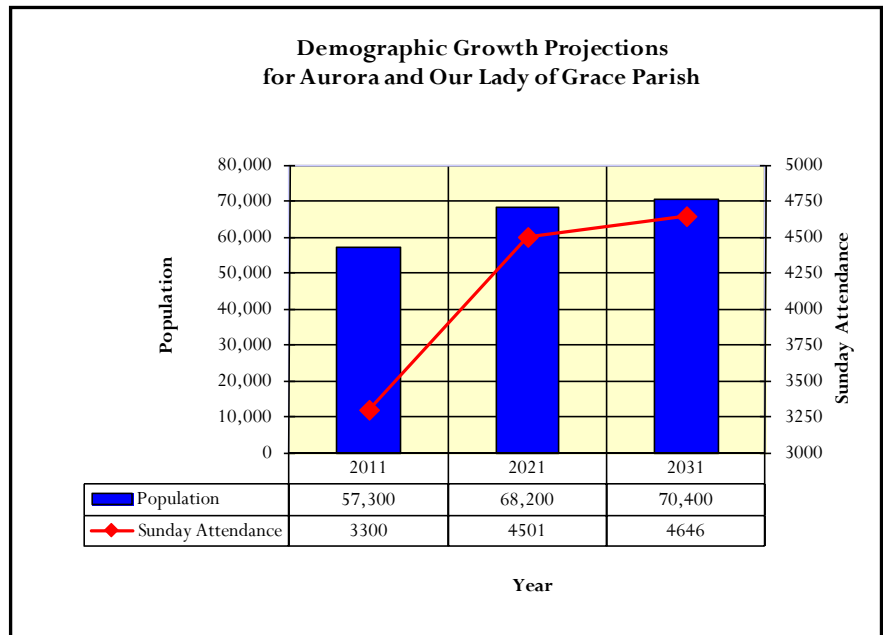
Today, Our Lady of Grace is known for its warm and friendly atmosphere, welcoming newcomers and nurturing long-standing parishioners alike. Our church is a testament to our faith, a place to celebrate the Eucharist, a place of prayer, and a place to educate - a beacon to the community. Our parishioners play an active and vital role in fulfilling the Church's ministry through gifts of time and talent. We have vibrant programs for Children and Youth, active lay-led groups, programs for outreach into our community and the greater world. All of this is centred on the Eucharist, which integrates people of all ages and backgrounds in worship and prayer as we are called to exercise our baptismal covenant. Thanks to you, our Church has stood as a concrete sign of God's love and presence for many in our local community.

As we looked to the future, we identified three critical factors that affect our proposal:

- **Aurora, and its Catholic community, continues to grow:** The Town of Aurora has a current population of approximately 57,300 people and is expected to grow to 70,400 people by 2021. Census data and Archdiocese of Toronto projections (based on current levels of Mass attendance and Catholic percentage of population) indicate the need for a 1000 seat church to accommodate regular Sunday services.
- **Sunday Mass Times are at a maximum:** Approximately three years ago, we added an extra Sunday Mass, but the expected growth of new parishioners cannot be handled by simply adding an additional Mass time and remaining within our current capacity of 700 people.
- **Renovating our existing building is not feasible:** Two independent studies confirmed that our current church cannot be considered for renovation because of its simple wood design (no steel or reinforcing beams), the need to totally replace its current heating/mechanical system (electrical heating and individual air conditioning units), and its lack of appropriate handicapped access to the church and basement. In short, it was built to residential standards rather than to the increased quality of building standards now used for long term institutional use.

Our Growing Community

Aurora is a scenic town situated on the rolling hills of the environmentally significant Oak Ridges Moraine. A mosaic of contemporary living in charming heritage surroundings, Aurora has expanded from a small town of approximately 1,540 in 1881 to more than 57,300 today. It has doubled in size since 1986 and the community is projected to continue to grow to over 70,000 by 2021.



The area's population growth is reflected in our increased weekly attendance. Our average weekly attendance has grown to approximately 3300, which led us to add another Mass more than three years ago. Based on the projected population increase for the region, by 2021, this number is expected to reach 4,500, with seasonal variations to a possible high of 5,500.

Our Challenge

This projected increase in our numbers, combined with the fact that renovations of our current church building are not an option, presents both a blessing and a challenge to our Church. We welcome the opportunity to share our ministry with visitors and new parishioners, but to do so, we must plan today to construct a building that will meet the future needs of the faithful in Aurora for generations to come.



The new Our Lady of Grace Church – from Lynett Hall

Our current structure fails to meet the basic modern accessibility requirements of the building code, including access to our basement. Parking is inadequate for peak Sunday Masses, our current baseboard heating system is uneconomical and inefficient and our six exterior wall-mounted air-conditioning units

are beyond their life expectancy. At our popular masses on Sunday at 10:00 am and 12:00 noon, many parishioners are unable to gain access to pews and must overflow into the gathering space, standing to worship.

Today, our Building Committee is recommending the demolition of all buildings on the current site and the construction of a **new church**.

Building for a Growing Community

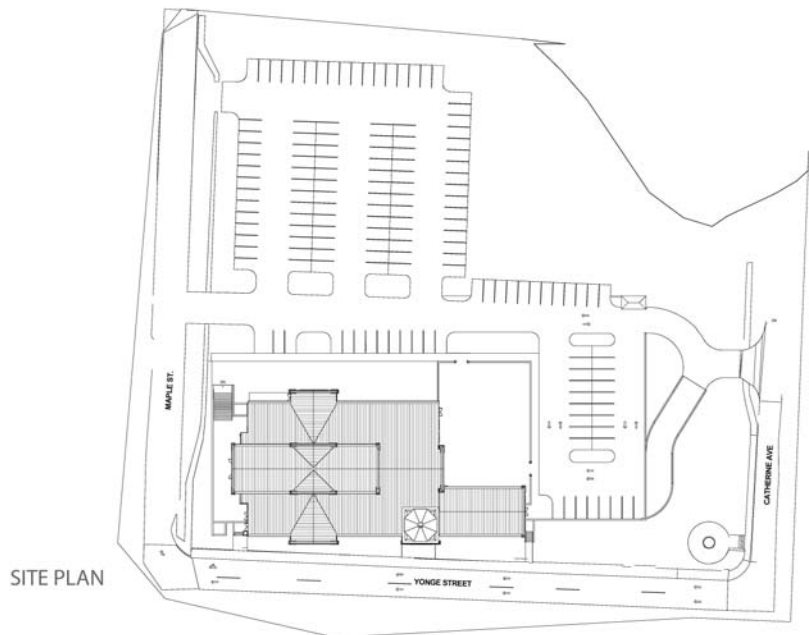
Drawing on the input of Our Lady of Grace parishioners through a number of parish consultations, the Building Committee has developed conceptual plans for a new church facility that incorporates height, natural light and beauty which will serve our Church family for generations to come.

We have been working with Roberto Chiotti of Larkin Architects to turn our parish's plans into a reality. Larkin Architects was chosen to design and develop the architectural plans of our new home, in collaboration with our Building Committee and pastor, Father Tim Hanley.

Through parish meetings held over the past two years, you have told us that rather than follow our current church design (utilitarian, dark and low-ceilinged with little decoration), the new church should incorporate the dimensions of height, natural light and beauty. As Denis R. McNamara reminds us in his seminal work "Catholic Church Architecture and the Spirit of the Liturgy:"

"Catholic liturgical art and architecture must be rooted in sacramental theology, because a church building is first and foremost a sacramental thing, more than a simple gathering space as the Catechism of the Catholic Church rightly states (CCC, 1180). A beautiful church is the very image of heaven itself made known in material form".

You have also reminded us that the design of the new church should be one where "all the faithful be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations" as expressed in the Vatican II document on the Sacred Liturgy.



Site Plan, showing location of new church on the property

Our conceptual design meets these concepts, and will carry on the rich tradition of art and architecture that has been the tradition of the Catholic Church for over 2000 years. The new church design is in keeping with the historical nature of the neighbourhood and the heritage designation of the surrounding

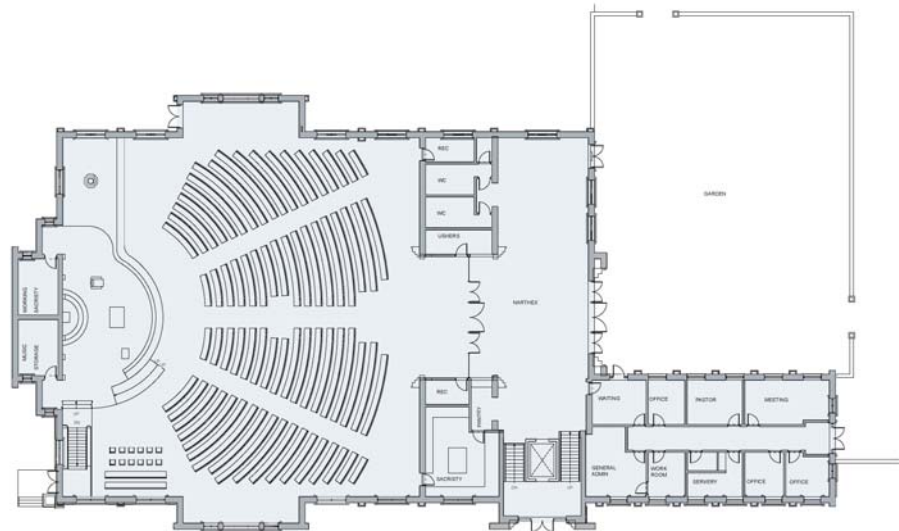


The new Our Lady of Grace Church, Interior

properties while incorporating a traditional form in the Roman Catholic style. The proposed new design responds to the pastoral and ministry needs of the community.

Some highlights of our plans include:

- a close and unobstructed view of the altar by all 1000 seated parishioners
- a welcoming gathering space, ideal for gathering the community before and after Mass
- a large and magnificent worship space that features 65-foot high ceilings imbued with natural light
- a 100-foot tower on Yonge St, a beacon to the community
- a 10-foot Corpus of Christ and a tabernacle, generously donated to the parish by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Morrow Park, will be central aspects of the sanctuary
- a ministry-focused parish hall to accommodate more than 300 people will provide flexible multi-purpose spaces for outreach and hospitality events
- the naturally lit basement will feature two smaller meeting rooms, an intimate lounge and a fully functioning kitchen
- ample parking, on two open levels, for 215 vehicles
- barrier-free child-friendly washrooms throughout
- an elevator with three stops to facilitate complete building access: one stop for the below-grade parking facility and for the parish hall, one for the Yonge Street entrance and one for the main floor worship space
- a convenient drive-up and drop-off area at the south end of the building



The new Our Lady of Grace Church – Ground Floor Plan

- ample ministry space and administrative offices for pastoral associates and priests
- a prayer garden that serves as a beautiful transition space, leading directly to the foyer and worship space.

The entire Church property will give glory to God and is carefully designed to serve the faithful of Aurora for generations to come.

Our 2.7 acre site does not allow for a separate rectory. A plan to provide housing above the pastoral offices was investigated; however, it proved more costly than providing a house in close proximity to the church for use as a new rectory.

Projected Costs

In conjunction with the project architect, the Finance Council and the Building Committee have determined that it will cost approximately \$15 - 16 million to undertake the proposed construction. The projected costs are:

▪ 32,373 square foot church, hall and administration space	\$11,124,000
▪ Below-grade parking structure	\$ 1,514,000
▪ Construction Contingency Costs	\$332,000
▪ TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST	\$12,970,000
▪ Soft Costs (architectural fees, municipal fees, reports etc.)	\$1,060,000
▪ Fixtures and Furnishings, Sound System, Security etc.	\$475,000
▪ HST (4.1%)	\$595,000
▪ TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR NEW CHURCH CONSTRUCTION	\$15,100,000
○ Additional Costs - Demolition	\$200,000
○ New Rectory	\$600,000
ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL	\$15,900,000

The church, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Toronto, anticipates the following sources of revenue to fund these costs:

▪ An interest free loan from the Archdiocese	\$3,000,000
▪ An interest bearing loan (4%)	\$3,250,000
▪ Funds currently on deposit with the Archdiocese	\$750,000
▪ Additional funds projected for deposit 2012, 2013	\$250,000
▪ TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$7,250,000
▪ A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$8,650,000

“Your heavenly Father knows all that you need” (Matthew 6:32)

A very significant fundraising initiative is before us at Our Lady of Grace Parish. This challenge presents a unique opportunity for us to work together to provide a spacious, beautiful spiritual home for Catholics in the Aurora area well into the future.

Each parishioner, as well as members of the broader community, will be asked to make a sacrificial, meaningful and proportionate gift over a five-year pledge period to support the construction of our new church.

St. Brother Andre, our newest Canadian saint and founder of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, was a simple porter in his religious life on Mount Royal. Now he is one of Heaven's special gatekeepers. He left us a powerful example of how to welcome strangers, the homeless, sick, poor and hungry into our communities. Some will come to our doors rejoicing, and others in fear; some will come healed and others to seek healing. The important thing is that we open doors and build bridges to those who come, so that all who seek the love of Christ will be welcome. As St. Brother Andre became more famous, he would insist, “I am only a tool in the hands of Providence, a lowly instrument at the service of St. Joseph.”

As we continue to ask the intercession of Our Lady of Grace, St. Joseph and St. Brother Andre in the building of our new church, let us remember to entrust our lives to the Lord, who knows all that we need, and prayerfully allow God's providence to generously direct our consideration of an appropriate sacrificial gift for our new church so that we may open the doors of our hearts and of our church to those in need for generations to come.

We look forward to meeting with you and we welcome your advice on how best to proceed with this important project. Please give this plan your thoughtful consideration and participation.