

# Church Includes Many Interesting Features

**Horseheads** — After 14 years of exclusive use of the chapel-gym setup for weekend Masses, St. Mary Our Mother parishioners will probably need some time to become accustomed to their new church.

The new worship space is significantly different from that used previously.

As parishioners enter the church's main entrance, which faces a large lawn, they will see the seasonal shrine. The space will be decorated according to feasts or seasons of the year.

To the left is the reconciliation chapel. An outer area for reflection and two reconciliation rooms there provide a quiet space dedicated to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Rooms offer either face-to-face or anonymous confession conveniently.

Worshippers coming to Mass will go to the right after entering the church, to the narthex, which stands at the head of the main aisle.

Large windows light this area, which also includes a permanent location for the paschal candle, and the holy water-baptismal font.

Turning to the left, the church proper will be seen, with the pews surrounding the altar in a fan shape, which

makes it possible for many people to be close to the altar. As the visitor proceeds down the aisle, other features of the church become visible.

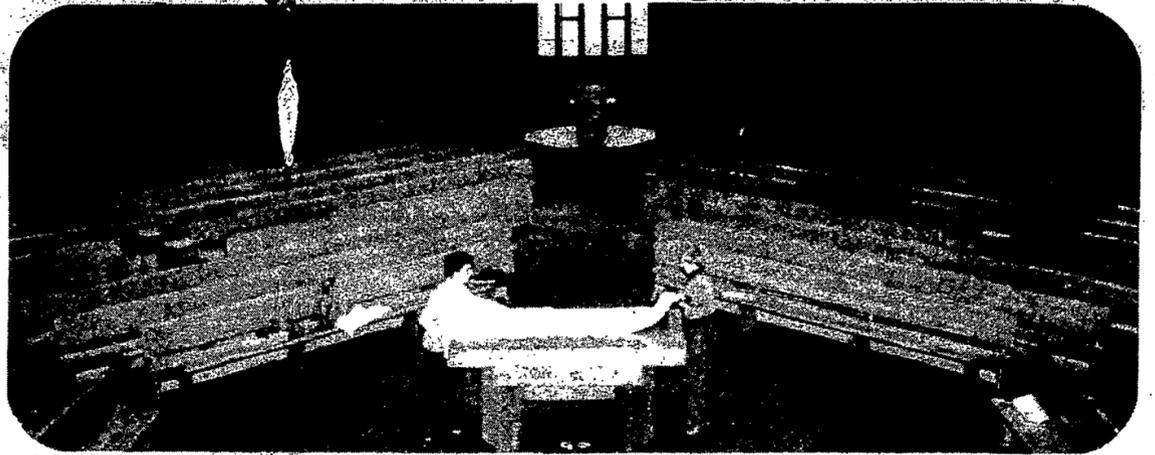
To the left is the Eucharistic chapel. Enclosed with glass and equipped with movable pews, the chapel will be used for weekday liturgies or by small groups. The tabernacle is located there, as is an altar for use when Mass is celebrated there. The windows allow the chapel to be used when all the pews in the church's main body are filled.

To the right of the Eucharistic chapel is the pit where the organ will be installed, and behind it is space for the choir, and, in the wall, where the organ pipes will be installed. At present a rented organ will be used; the Notre Dame organ is scheduled to be installed in the spring.

Looking farther to the right, visitors will see the altar itself, at the end of the main aisle. Above the altar is a large screen that will be used for audio-visual presentations. When not in use, it will be covered by a curtain.

Also to the right of the altar, is the shrine of St. Mary Our Mother.

Above, visitors will see the cone-shaped ceiling, which at its peak has an array of windows that admit light. Also at the peak is a major



The church's interior, taken from above the altar while parish workers were preparing the altar cloths. The font can be seen in the center of the picture in the Narthex. The Eucharistic Chapel is on the right.

feature of the church's positive ventilation system. Four large fans, which are not readily visible, will push hot air back down to the pews in the winter, and work in reverse, taking hot air out of the building in the summer.

The church has several other features that aren't immediately apparent. The first three pews around the altar are movable and can be rearranged for special events. Two sacristies, one near the narthex for vesting, and one behind the altar used when working in the church and other storage spaces also are included.

The church also is connected to the school by a hallway that will enable easy access between the two buildings.

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