



100 Years of Faith, Hope, & Love Newsletter

SACRED ARCHITECTURE SET IN STONE

1960-1962

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”
-Ecclesiastes 3:11

DESIGNS CHANGE

As construction on the new church building progressed, various modifications were made to the initial architectural plan. The final design has simplified turrets that jut out more prominently from the south façade than initial sketches had indicated. The planned clerestory windows were done away with, likely for monetary reasons, as well as to allow ductwork for future air conditioning. Designs for side aisle windows with arched frames were eventually simplified to be rectangular. Early sketches for the church included a prominent spire which was eventually removed. An unsubstantiated report suggests that an influential politician in St. Louis Park would not approve of the church building if it included a belltower.



The 1950s and early '60s were a time when modernistic influences began to have an impact on church design. The one nod to modern design in our church is in regard to the proportions between the Gothic arches and the supporting columns along our side aisles and in the central stone arch in the nave. In traditional Gothic architecture, the pointed arch is smaller in height and width than the rectangular space below the arch. The opposite is true for the central stone arch in the sanctuary and for the side aisle arches of Holy Family. However, traditionally proportioned arches can be seen elsewhere in the building (notably in the frames of the stained glass windows on the north and south sides of the structure).



CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED

In 1962, two years after groundbreaking, construction of the Gothic-style church building on the south side of Lake Street was completed at a cost of \$428,600 (today over \$5 million). Fr. Wilkins celebrated the first Mass in the new building in June of the same year, and the building was dedicated in October.