



STRONG AURAL AND VISUAL COMMUNITY

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

This new 1,000-seat sanctuary supports contemporary style for catholic worship and supports a strong music program. Featuring instrumentation consisting of guitars, keyboards and wind instruments, music programming is characterized as high energy and is oriented to supporting strong levels of engagement from the congregation.

Sanctuary design deliberately responded to the church's strong sense of community. Conveyed through a semicircular floor plan with alter extending into the seating area, this configuration strengthened a physical sense of community but also created a sense of intimacy between all seating areas and the platform.

An acoustically responsive environment was needed to support congregational participation and engagement but posed challenges for acoustical control needed by the musicians. This aspect was addressed through creating a locally controlled acoustical environment for the musicians which couples their performance area with the main volume of the sanctuary through acoustically transparent section of the walls and ceilings. While there is visual separation that helps preserve the space's sense of intimacy, ceiling and wall shaping offer a responsive acoustical environment by sending strong sound reflections between various seating areas in the congregation.

Speech intelligibility of sermons was accommodated through close collaboration with audio system designers. A sophisticated sound reinforcement system was devised to balance the space's natural acoustics and audio system focusing directly into the sound absorptive seating area. This integrated approach enabled minimal spill of sound energy on and off sound reflective surfaces of the wall and ceiling yet also preserved the space's architectural aesthetic by concealing the speakers within the ceiling design and out of view.

CLIENT

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

LOCATION

Gurnee, IL

PROJECT TYPE

New Construction

COMPLETE

1998

SEAT COUNT

1,000

ARCHITECT

HGA

CONTACT

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SCOPE

Acoustics
AV Systems