

ACOUSTIC SOUND PANELS:

Helping Church Members Hear Again

CHALLENGES

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church serves hundreds of families as a worship center. When the steadily growing congregation began losing parishioners, it was a surprise to learn that the church's current sound system was failing them.

Director of Facilities, Ryan Kiniry said: "People were getting upset because depending on where you sat in the church you just couldn't hear."

CONSIDERATIONS

- Will upgrading or replacing the current audio system become a capital investment?
- How will the sacred location be protected?
- What will acoustic panels look like in a church?



SOLUTION

A Smarter Systems engineer researched the problem eventually deciding the current system didn't need to be louder, the reverberation needed to be dissipated and the sound needed clarity. The solution would be the installation of acoustic paneling throughout the auditorium.

"Smarter Systems could have come in and said you need a whole new speaker system and we would have put in a whole new speaker system because we were losing parishioners," said Kiniry.

The sanctuary is a sacred place, filled with furniture, artwork, and expensive statues that are hard to move. The Smarter Systems install team took great care to protect the environment and respect the sacred nature of the facility.

"Everything was covered, everything was taken into consideration," said Kiniry.

All sound baffles featured beveled edges and closely matched the room interior. They were strategically placed for both acoustics and aesthetics.

"We weren't too sure about the looks of it in the church but now that you look around, it looks like this was actually part of the sanctuary when the sanctuary was built," said Kiniry.

RESULTS

Sound quality increased dramatically after installing 70 lower and upper wall mounted acoustic sound panels. Smarter Systems added a finishing touch by modifying the sound system's digital processor to increase the dynamic volume of the microphones and the sense of presence in the sound reinforcement. The solution eliminated the auditorium's dead spots.

Almost immediately following the installation, Our Lady of Grace began to notice the return of the parishioners who had left. Smarter Systems is committed to building systems that improve a facility. To know the client was well served and that it created a tangible effect on their services was quite an accomplishment for the team.

Kiniry says, "some of our current members have gotten a hold of the other folks that left and we've now gotten them back because the sound system is better." Kiniry added, "we are absolutely thrilled with the outcome."