

Narthex / Gathering Space

General principles

The narthex will serve as a gathering space for parishioners before and after Mass and a starting place for seasonal liturgical events and funerals that continue into the Church. The narthex will also serve as a space for displaying and distributing religious materials as well as for fundraising sales for the church and school. It will also serve as a corridor that provides access to the parish hall, offices, kitchen, and day chapel.

Activities that will take place in the narthex

- Welcoming and gathering of parishioners before and after weekend Masses and services.
- Signing in of Mass servers.
- Changing of vestments before and after Mass.
- Hearing confessions on Saturdays and other days during the year.
- Proceeding into the Church during Palm Sunday and Holy Week; lighting of the Easter vigil fire.
- Selling products and SCRIP, picking up envelopes, holding school fundraisers.
- Meeting for visitations and funerals.
- Viewing of Christmas crèche.
- Dressing and meetings of bridal parties.

Space requirements to support activities

- Gathering and greeting space for parishioners before and after Mass.
- Ramp from parish hall that goes directly inside the Church.
- A Reconciliation chapel on the same level as the Church.
- Private space for priest, deacons, and servers to change into vestments.
- Area for families with babies and very young children to participate in the Mass.
- Area for a casket for funeral visitation.
- A convenient, safe place to unload and load caskets for funerals.
- Restrooms (gender-specific, family, handicap accessible) in close proximity to the Church.