

CASE STUDY:
ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH



NEBRASKA CONGREGATION PUTS THEIR FAITH IN ICF.

Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Bellevue, NE



Challenge

This complex build of a large church was designed to incorporate a dramatic sloped roof with steel structural point loads to both 12" and 8" ICF block wall connections. A variety of window sizes, combined with the numerous elevation changes, sloped walls and cathedral walls, made for an extremely time-consuming and complex build.

One of the major design features is the building's transparency. As one enters the narthex, they are met by a wall of suspended opaque glass panels surrounding the baptistery, making it a focal point of the building. As one enters the nave, there is glass transparency from the altar to the chapel behind, and then vertical windows to the exterior, bringing the morning light. This concept then allowed for a two-sided tabernacle to be placed between the sanctuary and the chapel. The nave is also designed in a semicircle, rather than as a long, narrow nave. This allows the farthest pew to be only 62 feet from the altar steps, rather than double that in a conventional church, making the worship space more intimate.

When construction began, extremely wet conditions, including flooding, delayed the process. Then the pandemic hit. Even with these delays and the complexity of the build, the building was finished in fall of 2020, and parishioners were finally able to hold services in their very own building that November. The priest and the diocese are extremely pleased with the project.

Project Highlights

**2nd Runner-Up 2022 ICF
Builder Awards**

**Congregation had been
waiting for close to 25 years
for their own worship space**

**The building includes
numerous elevation changes
on wall heights, several
bump-out dormers with
windows and gables, several
sloped walls to follow the
contour of the roof, and
areas with elliptical arches
that were built out of ICF**

Project Stats

Location: Bellevue, Nebraska

Industry: Heavy Commercial

Size: 37,000 sq. ft.

ICF Use: 22,700 sq. ft.

Cost: \$9 million

Total Construction: 81 weeks

ICF Installation Time: 100 days



Sustainability

It is projected that ICF construction will afford lower operating costs over the life of the building versus conventional construction. The high reinforced walls will provide the strength needed to resist Nebraska winds, and the walls will also act as a heat sink to help reduce heating costs in the winter.

Budget

The project was constructed within the established budget with only 0.3% change orders. This congregation had been worshipping in gymnasiums since the parish had been established, so this was a dream come true for them to now have a church to start to meet all the parish needs and to be able to better serve their community.

Timing

Even with flooding early on in the construction timeline and the COVID-19 pandemic, parishioners were able to attend their first service in the church in the fall of 2020.



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