

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM TOWN HALL MEETINGS

December 2014

During the time frame July thru September 2014, the building committee facilitated four town hall meetings to present the proposed Holy Trinity Church remodel to the parish. In an effort to reply to the numerous questions raised, the building committee has compiled the following questions and responses based on the best information available at this time. Periodically information will be communicated via the parish bulletin, website, emails and Facebook as new information becomes available.

- 1) What is the estimated cost of the church remodel?

A budget of 2 million dollars for the church remodel is based on the Archdiocese guidelines which use a percentage of the annual parish contribution to determine what can be raised. As the church remodel design is developed, we will be able to better estimate the actual cost. Our goal is to avoid long term debt to accomplish this remodel.

- 2) Where will we celebrate Mass during the church remodel?

Mass will be celebrated in the social hall during the remodel. In order to provide space for Mass and some of the regular social hall functions, a canopy covered patio area with doors off the social hall is being planned.

- 3) How will the funding be raised?

The funding will be raised through voluntary parishioner contributions over a three year fund raising campaign.

- 4) Why not just leave the Altar where it is?

Moving the Altar to the west wall of the church allows for parishioners to enter the church from a central entrance, (Narthex), with the altar in a visible line of sight to all who enter into the church. The objective is to create a worship space that is beautiful, functional and conducive to enhancing the worship experience. We have retained church architect, Steve Lee with over 20 years of experience in remodeling churches for the Archdiocese of Seattle to guide us in this process. Another priority is to allow social hall utilization without interrupting the Mass. This arrangement will provide a more inclusive worship experience in the proposed overflow areas vice the current social hall overflow area. The wall between the social hall and church body will be soundproof.

5) Why is the Tabernacle being moved off of the Altar?

The revised "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" states that "the Most Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the church that is truly noble, prominent, conspicuous, worthily decorated, and suitable for prayer" (#314). It is up to the judgment of the bishop of the diocese to determine where the tabernacle will be located. He may decide that the tabernacle be placed in the sanctuary apart from the altar of celebration or in a separate chapel suitable for adoration and private prayer of the faithful that is "organically connected to the church and readily noticeable by the Christian faithful" (#315). , In "Built of Living Stones, Art, Architecture and Worship," the Guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on church art and environment, it states that the location of the tabernacle should also allow for easy access by people in wheelchairs and by those who have other disabilities (#74).

The above documentation has been further nuanced by our bishop in the directives of the Archdiocese of Seattle document, "Supplemental Policies for the Building and Renovation of Churches." With regard to the location of the tabernacle, it states that "The tabernacle is to be located in a chapel of reservation. The chapel shall be placed in a worthy space apart from the altar of celebration. The chapel of reservation must be visible to all upon entrance into the main body of the church and must also be accessible directly from the main body of the church. The chapel is to be designed to accommodate personal devotions. The size of the chapel is to be proportionate to the needs of the community." Our Building Committee and our architect Steve Lee have incorporated all of these elements into the location and design of the chapel of reservation.

The choices that are being made are not arbitrary or based on the personal preferences of the Building Committee. Instead, they are meant to support the general law of the Church, our American bishops, and our archdiocesan bishop who is our local shepherd and spiritual leader regarding norms concerning the tabernacle, the place for the reservation of the Eucharist, and the focus on the celebration of the Eucharist at every Mass.

Clearly, Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament is a treasure that the Church has cherished and revered over the centuries. The reservation of the Eucharist was originally intended for the purpose of communion of the sick, for those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, as "Viaticum" (food for the journey) for the dying, and as the object of private adoration, devotion and prayer.

*The **celebration** and **action** of the Eucharist is the focus of the normal Sunday assembly when we gather together as a community to keep holy the Lord's Day. We gather to give praise and thanks to God and to follow the command of our Lord who asked us to do one thing for him: "Do this in memory of me." Our attention is drawn to the altar and our ability to enter into and give our "full, conscious, and active participation" to the sacrifice of Jesus for us.*

A Chapel of Reservation for the Blessed Sacrament specifically designed and separate from the action of the Eucharist is an important value so as to avoid confusion between the celebration of the Eucharist and the reservation of the Eucharistic bread. Having the Blessed Sacrament reserved in a place apart from the sanctuary does not mean it has been relegated to a secondary place of no importance. On the contrary, a space well designed and lighted can give proper attention to the reserved sacrament and afford to our parishioners a special place of prayer and devotion.

- 6) Will the Mary and Joseph statues remain in the sanctuary?

The Mary and Joseph statues are planned to remain in the sanctuary along with our current altar furniture.

- 7) What will happen to the wall behind the existing altar?

The wall will be removed to accommodate the new entrance. It has not been determined what, if any part of the wall will be retained. We have received a request to retain some portion of the wood and this will be considered, but no decision has been made. Suggestions for how to incorporate parts of the wall into the redesign are welcome.

- 8) Why make a major change for such a small improvement; this is a huge expenditure?

While the improvements may seem small, in reality there will be structural changes, added fire sprinkler system, an expanded footprint, flooring, furnishings and many other things that actually will amount to a significant improvement. Besides improving the environment the changes in sound, light, color, seating and the addition of the new narthex area, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, baptismal, and Mary Shrine will enhance the worshiper's experience. Also, there will be

additional seating within the church body and overflow areas for about 900 people. We see this as significant improvement over the existing church layout.

- 9) Why is the Mary shrine placed next to the storage unit?

The Mary shrine is part of the church body and accessed from the church. The storage area is accessed from the narthex to provide chairs for overflow. They share a common wall but are not connected in any way.

- 10) Considering growth and population increase north of Bremerton, is the right decision to renovate or consolidate with Star of the Sea and consider a new church in Silverdale area?

Star of the Sea and Holy Trinity are two major sized parishes in Bremerton. There are no plans by the Archdiocese to consolidate these two parishes and the costs would be prohibitive. The question has been asked of the diocese as to whether or not a new parish will be constructed in Silverdale. The Archdiocese has no future plans for a new church in Silverdale. We are the parish that will continue to serve the Silverdale area. This decision rests solely with the Archdiocese.

- 11) Could colored glass be incorporated into the windows on the west side of the church (stained glass)?

The arts and furnishings associated with the remodel have not been planned so early in the process. There are many options that will be explored and stained glass windows may be a consideration.

- 12) What is the hurry?

In 2005 a 20 year plan for the remodel of our church facilities was promulgated. The first phase was the Ministry Center which completed in 2010 over a five year period of planning, design, fund raising and construction. In early 2013, a decision was made to eliminate the construction of a new community center by retaining the existing social hall. The final phase to remodel the church body from inception in 2012, through planning, detail design, fund raising and construction is about a 6 to 7 year process. Indeed this is a long process, and the building committee and others are in no extra hurry, but proceeding methodically and carefully to the culmination hopefully by 2017/2018. By

eliminating the community center, the 20 year plan has been reduced to about a 15 year timeframe.

- 13) Can there be an area for families with children that can be sound proofed?

The Archdiocese guidelines do not allow for construction of “cry rooms” separate from the church body. The proposed plan provides an area behind glass and doors in the narthex where parents can take a noisy child during Mass.

- 14) Will we have to install sidewalks on Pine Rd. like the county wanted us to do when the ministry center was remodeled?

We have met with Kitsap County Planning Board and they stated they would not require a sidewalk along Pine Rd.

- 15) Will there only be one entrance into the Social hall?

The existing main entrance into the social hall will remain from the entrance hall on the north end of the social hall. The social hall will be accessible from the church body via existing double doors and single door that exist on the west and north ends. The exterior entry walkway into the faith formation classroom wing and social hall will continue to provide easy access.

- 16) Will the double doors from the narthex to the sanctuary be too small for so many arriving about the same time?

The design of the entry into the narthex and church has not been finalized, however the size and number of doors will be sufficient to allow the easy flow of people into and out of the church at the beginning and end of Mass. There will be at least the same number of doorways as currently exists.

- 17) Will there be restrooms and drinking water near the entrance?

The current restrooms will continue to serve the church. There is no plan for additional public restrooms in the narthex. A drinking fountain may be considered but no decision has been made. There will be a restroom in the vestment changing area for the priest and altar servers.

18) Where will the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic perform cleanup after Mass and will the size of the space be sufficient?

The plan is to construct a sacristy behind the new altar. The area will be sufficiently sized to accomplish this task.