

KENNETH J. GRIESEMER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Consultation for Places of Liturgy and Devotion

UPCOMING PARISH BUILDING PROCESS MEETINGS

You are invited and encouraged to participate in a series of open parish meetings that will address the preparation phase of our church building project.

Session

Dates

Initial Information Meetings Sept. 11, 12, 13.

Liturgical Visioning Meetings Sept. 26, 27; Oct. 17, 18; Nov. 14, 15; Dec 6.

Why Have These Meetings?

The building process will be a significant moment in the history of Risen Savior Catholic Community. It is an opportunity to build up not only the church of brick and mortar, but also the church of flesh and bone - the Body of Christ, the holy people of God. Winston Churchill once said, "We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us." When we shape our place of worship, it will shape us and teach us about how to be a community of faith gathered together in common prayer to the Father. And this will impact the parish for generations to come.

Because of the importance of this event in the life of the parish, it is vital that we tap into the collective wisdom and various gifts of our members. The upcoming series of informational and liturgical visioning meetings is designed to provide us with the background we will need to make good decisions. There will be many opportunities during the meetings to provide feedback on important issues. The Steering Committee invites your participation and welcome your input.

Appropriate, beautiful, and affordable design takes time to develop, and is always founded on a thorough deliberation around our history, Roman Catholic liturgy and theology, Church documents on art, architecture, and music, our local needs, and all we hope to accomplish as a community of faith. This takes time and careful decision making to do well.

The Process

The journey together to shape the home for our community worship will be a time of listening and learning, sharing and growing. It will be a time of prayer, gentleness and openness. For each of us as individuals, and for the parish, it can be a time of spiritual growth and new ideas. It can also be a time to tell our story, honor our treasures, pass on our Catholic tradition of faith and worship to our children, and their children. It needs to be a time of trust - in the Holy Spirit, in each other, and in the professional team of liturgical specialists, architects, engineers and contractors who will help us make our building project a reality. We ask for your prayerful support and your participation in this pilgrimage into the future.

Initial Building Process Information Meetings – September 11, 12, 13

Each of the three introductory meetings will focus on different topics related to the creation of sacred space to support our liturgical and devotional life. The presentations will consider the historical, spiritual, and liturgical context of building a place for parish worship. The goal of the meetings will be to provide participants with an overview of the building process and how it involves aspects of liturgy and spirituality along with functional and practical considerations. Each meeting will include an illustrated presentation by our liturgical design consultant. The sessions will include time for questions and answers, and will conclude with a focus question to allow participants to engage in the session topic and provide feedback to the professional design team. Come and get a taste of the rich and wonderful world of church art and architecture and prayer.

Session 1: “To Build with Living Stones” –

An overview of the building process: This session will look at various aspects of the church design and building process. We will consider the spiritual foundation for a project, the roles of professionals, the steps, a timeline, resources and guidelines, and decision making. There will be time to get your questions answered and to provide initial input.

Session 2: “Our Story” –

A look at the rich history of church art, architecture, and liturgy: This session will be a review of the great story of how Christians have shaped the places where they have gathered together to worship God on a weekly basis. We will trace the development of liturgy and how liturgical and cultural conditions have influenced the design of church buildings, and how those buildings have impacted the liturgical participation of the assembly. From the early church, to the patristic church, to the medieval church, to the counter-reformation church, to the church in renewal and the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), we will study how we came to worship the way we do, and why we build church buildings the way we do.

Session 3: “Liturgical Spirituality & The Environment for Liturgy and Devotion” –

We will ask the question: If this is what we believe, what kind of church are we called to build? This session will examine a series of components of liturgical spirituality as a source for inspiration for the main topics we need to consider in the visioning and design of our place of worship. For example, if we are a baptismal people – if baptism is a foundational and life changing sacrament throughout our journey of faith – what does that say to us about how we might approach the design and placement of a baptismal font in the church? We will also look at some practical aspects of how we proceed from this point in the process, and share information about future meetings.

Parish Liturgical Visioning Meetings

Each of the six parish visioning meetings is designed to help develop the programmatic statements or “word pictures” of our liturgical and devotional requirements that will be used by the architect to design our new place of worship. This information will be combined with the architectural programming efforts of the architect and parish user groups. The meetings will be facilitated by our liturgical design consultant.

Meeting Set 1 . . . September 26 & 27, 2017

Gathering as the Body of Christ - Reunión en el Cuerpo de Cristo
The Place of Baptism - El Lugar del Bautismo

Meeting Set 2 . . . October 17 & 18, 2017

The Place of the Assembly - El lugar de la asamblea
The Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament - La reserva del sagrado sacramento

Meeting Set 3 . . . November 14 & 15, 2017

Shrines and Sacred Art - Santuarios y arte sacro
Drawing the Vision – An Exercise in Merging our Visions

Final Meeting . . . December 6

What have we heard and where do we go from here? - ¿Qué hemos oído y adónde vamos desde aquí?

At each meeting, participants will have the opportunity to give focused feedback to the Steering Committee and the professional team on the topic of the night. On November 14, the format will include small group work focused on merging participant visions for the layout of the new church. After a brief sharing, each group of four will be asked to prepare a floor plan diagram to include the major features discussed at previous meetings. It will be a fun and challenging night. Out of this process we will move forward together to create a sacred place, a new church, for each other, for future parish members, and for future generations of the Communion of Saints.

Our Liturgical Design Consultant

Ken Griesemer is a nationally active consultant and comes to us from right here in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He brings experience on more than 150 projects of various scale since 1985, and has worked in roughly 45 Catholic Dioceses around the country. Ken has worked exclusively as a liturgical consultant since 1991, and started his own practice on October 4, 1999, feast of St. Francis and anniversary of his baptism. He has completed the course of studies at the Institute for Liturgical Consultants at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and the Liturgical Institute of the Southwest at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in New Mexico. He is a founding member and past President of the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space. Ken is an Associate Board Member of the Southwest Liturgical Conference, and is a presenter at national, regional, diocesan, and parish events and conferences. He has served on the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe since 1997, and has been active as an RCIA team member since 1984 in four different home parishes. For 14 years, he has served his parish as a liturgical MC and member of the Triduum Planning Team. In 2016, Ken completed spiritual direction training at the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction in Tucson, Arizona. He and his wife Debbie are adoptive parents and proud grandparents. They have been members of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary parish in Albuquerque since 1996. They have also been Associate members of the Norbertine Community at Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey in Albuquerque since 2001.

REV 7-27-17