

foresight architects

Needs Assessment Report

for

The Most Blessed Sacrament Parish

May 1, 2020



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INTRODUCTION

§ 1 § One of the most significant and formative experiences in the life of a parish community is the process of building or renovating a church. As part of that process, parish members are called upon to study the Church's teaching and liturgical theology and to reflect upon their personal pieties, their individual tastes, and the parish history. By bringing together these personal and ecclesial elements in faith and in charity, parishioners help to build a new structure and to renew their parish community.

§ 2 § The decision-making process and the parish education component that are part of the building experience can assist the parish and its individual members to deepen their sense of Catholic identity. This identity is shaped by the history of the particular parish, by its relationship to other parishes in the local Church known as the diocese, and by its relationship within the communion of local Churches known as the Roman Catholic Church.

From the Preface of *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship - Guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops*

From the very start of the rebuilding process, the leadership at the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament has been dedicated to helping parishioners deepen their sense of Catholic identity while renewing their parish community as part of this process. At its second meeting, the Church Restoration Committee identified a need to establish for all parishioners a firm foundation of the liturgical considerations essential for rebuilding. In that regard, the parish hosted a workshop on February 6, 2020, for all parishioners. Directed by Reverend Thomas Dente, the Director of the RCAN Office of Divine Worship, the purpose of that presentation was to review the basic tenets of *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* and *Built of Living Stones*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document outlining fundamental considerations in church construction. Following that presentation, Father Dente, Father John and Committee Chair Frank Bivona responded to questions about the evening's program and rebuilding plans. A summary of Fr. Dente's presentation was printed in the February 16, 2020 bulletin and is included in this report as Appendix A. This was just the beginning of the parish education component of the rebuilding process.

On April 2nd and 4th, 2020, Jim Hundt of Foresight Architects, the liturgical architect for the rebuilding process, conducted two virtual parish-wide workshops. The focus of these identical workshops was to explore ways in which the new church could communicate the parish's Mission Statement through its design. After showing several examples of how other churches had done the same, attendees were asked to complete a survey regarding this topic. The survey is included as Appendix B and the results are included in Appendix C.

Over the course of April 20 & 21, 2020, Mr. Hundt met with the pastor, Fr. John, and a group of 30 parishioners to discuss the specific ministry needs of the parish. Prior to their discussion, they were given the following instructions:

This is a very important step in the process of preparing to design your church. Because we plan for our churches to last for many decades, we need to be thinking as much about the future as we are about the present. The purpose of our meeting today is to gather detailed information about the ministries represented here at today's meeting so that we can gain a full understanding of the needs of these ministries. We will start with questions about how you have done things in the past but we also want you to think about what you would like to have been able to do in your church but couldn't because you were restricted by the building. I also would like you to dream about the future of your ministry – what needs you think you might have in the future to effectively minister to your parish. For today, you don't need to limit yourself to ideas that you think you can afford or that are physically possible within the constraints of the site. There will be time to place limits on those dreams as we progress through the design process. Just for today, let's pretend that there are no restrictions and just tell me what you need to do the ministry you do.

Using a detailed questionnaire provided by the Architect, they discussed and documented the needs of the church in the areas of Worship, Music, Hospitality & other ministries. A wealth of information was gained from these discussions. The results of those discussions are documented in this report.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

According to the *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar* (ch. 2, no. 1), the church is "the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and celebrate the Eucharist." Therefore, we start our discussion with the liturgical schedule of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church.

The parish starts the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist with a Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM on Saturday. On Sunday, Masses are at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and noon. For the last 2 years, the average attendance at all weekend liturgies (with the exception of special celebrations) has been just over 200 worshipers at each Mass. Looking just at 2019, not including a January weekend with snow & ice, the lowest attendance (125) was at the noon Mass on Memorial Day weekend. The most heavily attended regular weekend liturgy was the very first Mass after the fire – December 14, 2019. That Saturday evening Mass was attended by 360 parishioners. Prior to that, the largest attendance (325) was at the noon Mass on February 2, 2019.

When we look at special celebrations, the numbers differ significantly. Not surprisingly, the largest attendance is for Easter and Christmas services. Easter services ranged from 300 at the Easter Vigil to 770 at the 10:30 AM Mass. (It is interesting to note that total attendance at all Easter Masses in 2019 was the highest since 2014.) For Christmas services, attendance in 2019 ranged from 126 worshipers at the 8:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day to 1,060 at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service. The noon Mass on Christmas Day had 690 attendees. Total attendance for Christmas services was the highest since 2016.

Other highly attended Masses include First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses, which typically have between 600 and 650 worshipers. First Reconciliation usually draws

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between 200 and 250 attendees. Most weddings held at Most Blessed Sacrament also tend to be in the 200-250 range.

Daily Mass is celebrated Monday through Saturday. Monday through Friday, Masses are at 6:45 AM and 9:15 AM. Saturday Mass is at 9:00 AM. Attendance ranges from 25 at the 6:45 AM Mass to 80 at the 9:15 AM Mass during Lent.

Before thinking about the seating capacity of the new church, it might be helpful to look at the seating capacity of the previous church. This can be calculated by looking at the length of each pew, dividing it by the width per person and rounding the result down. The question is what number to use for the "width per person". All building codes require that benches (which is what pews essentially are) be calculated at 18" per person for exiting purposes. That assumes the maximum seating capacity for safely exiting the building in the case of an emergency. On the other hand, the Franklin Lakes Zoning Ordinance allows twice as much (36") per person on benches. So what is a realistic number to use? Church chairs are typically somewhere between 19.2" and 21" wide. As the population continues to grow in height and girth, some theaters have moved to 24" wide seats. As many churchgoers bring their coats, purses, diaper bags and other bulky items into church with them, the space requirement goes up even higher. It might be helpful to assess the capacity of the previous church at various seat widths before making a decision as to how many worshipers the new church should accommodate.

18" width	19.2" width	21" width	24" width	30" width	36" width
498 seats	462 seats	408 seats	372 seats	264 seats	210 seats
<u>+ 32 chairs</u>					
= 530 seats	= 494 seats	= 440 seats	= 404 seats	= 296 seats	= 242 seats

Based on these numbers, we can safely assume that any services with over 500 people in attendance – which includes First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses – were "Standing Room Only".

Given the wide disparity in Mass attendance, we can think about the capacity of the main worship space in a couple of ways. Since the average attendance at weekend liturgies is only slightly more than 200 and the maximum is 325 (not including special occasions), we will want to make sure that the church doesn't look too empty on a regular Saturday evening or Sunday morning. At the same time, based on some of the larger numbers, a seating capacity of 650 would accommodate First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses as well as all but three liturgies a year (the 10:30 AM on Easter, the 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve and the noon Mass on Christmas Day). Adding an overflow area for as few as 120 would leave only one service – the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service – over capacity. (There are other strategies possible for accommodating the extra 290 people for that Mass.)

Assuming that people are willing to use only 18" per person at a crowded Mass, we would need 975 linear feet of pews to accommodate 650 worshipers. When the Mass is not crowded, people are more likely to use 24" per person so the same amount of pews would fit 488 people very comfortably. In addition, if the church is more than 80% full, it will feel too crowded at first glance and may discourage first-time visitors from staying or coming back. Therefore, the

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same amount of pews is actually ideal for 390 people maximum. But this is still almost twice the normal attendance at weekend liturgies.

Another strategy to consider is having some permanent seating and some moveable seating that is only used when needed. For example, if the outer aisles were wide enough in a central plan church, an additional ring of chairs could be added behind the last ring of pews to accommodate larger groups. Because this ring has the largest circumference of all the rings of pews, it would significantly increase the seating capacity. The same concept could be accomplished with oversized aisles. These strategies would allow the amount of fixed seating to be reduced while still accommodating most Masses. For a church where the weekly attendance is so much smaller than the larger liturgies, this may be an ideal strategy to keep the church from looking oversized for the weekend liturgies. First time visitors often interpret big churches with empty seats as not being vibrant and growing – another disincentive to joining the church. For the worshippers, it is much harder to feel connected to their fellow worshippers when they are spread out all around the church, which is how people tend to arrange themselves. This strategy would also allow for much easier movement through the worship space, which is especially important for liturgical processions.

In short, the ideal seating capacity might be fixed seating for approximately 500 at 18" per person, which is essentially the same as the previous church. This would accommodate 375 people at 24" per person, which would make the church look and feel more than half full at a typical Sunday Mass. To provide for the larger services, flexible seating should be provided within the worship space for an additional 100-150 and overflow seating for 100-150 more, for a total seating capacity of 700-800. This would accommodate all services except the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service. Note that if we exceed a total seating capacity of 763, additional parking spaces or a parking variance will be required. The 763-seat maximum is derived from the Borough of Franklin Lakes' Zoning Ordinance, which requires 1 parking space per every 3 seats in the worship space. The ordinance counts every 3 feet of pew length as one seat. If we had 750 linear feet of pews, that would equate to 250 seats for zoning purposes, even though 500 people could actually sit there. With a current parking count of 171 spaces, we could only have a total of 263 chairs (since each chair would count as one seat) without having to increase parking.

If a Daily Mass Chapel is desired, it should have a maximum capacity of 100 seats. It is unlikely that a space that large could also effectively serve as overflow space for the church, other than with a video feed. Also, if the seating capacity of this chapel were to be added to the seating capacity of the main worship space, the zoning ordinance might require us to increase the number of parking spaces.

Returning to the liturgical aspects of the Sunday Eucharistic celebrations, all four weekend liturgies have the same worship style, with the exception of the 8:00 AM Mass, where there is no music. All other services have a cantor/song leader accompanied by either a piano or the pipe organ. The pianist/organist also directs the 9-person choir at the Saturday Vigil Mass from the keyboard bench. Congregational music is found in *Today's Missal • Music Issue*, a music resource featuring popular Catholic songs. Preaching is from the ambo. The demographics are similar for all Masses; however, the 8:00 AM Mass tends to attract more senior citizens while the Saturday Vigil and the 10:00 AM Mass tend to attract more children.

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The parish was planning on starting a Children's Liturgy of the Word in April 2020; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has put that on hold for now. Nonetheless, space for Children's Liturgy of the Word should be included in the new facility. It will be held during the 10:00 Mass and will be available to children 3 or older who have not yet made their First Holy Communion. Because that includes a wide span of ages (5 or 6 years), it would be ideal to have two separate spaces so that the children could be divided into 2 smaller groups. It is hard to predict how many families will participate in this new program, as there has never been one like it at Most Blessed Sacrament parish. Family attendance at the 10:00 Mass may also increase due to the initiation of this program, as it has in other parishes. Flexibility will be key in the design of spaces for this use. It is important that the children do not have to leave the building to go to the Children's Liturgy of the Word, as there is limited time available for this catechesis and security issues are easier to deal with if the children do not leave the building.

In terms of meeting the needs of families with children, consideration should also be given to providing a space adjacent to the worship space where families with children with special needs that include occasionally disruptive behavior could feel comfortable participating in the Mass without feeling that their children are taking away from the worship experience of others. There should also be a comfortable place with visual & auditory access to the worship space for parents with small children to temporarily step out of the worship space if they feel that their child needs a short break from the service.

In the previous church, Holy Communion was distributed by 10 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – 6 ministers of the host and 4 ministers of the cup. On special occasions when the church was full, extra ministers were used to reduce the time it took to distribute Holy Communion.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is made available to parishioners between 4:30 and 5:00 PM every Saturday and after both weekday Masses as well as by appointment. There are also communal Penance services held during Advent and Lent. These are usually attended by 25-30 parishioners. Ideally, the new worship space would have two handicapped-accessible Reconciliation Rooms that would both offer the options of screened or face-to-face Reconciliation.

There are an average of 60 infant baptisms per year at Most Blessed Sacrament Church. Baptisms are held during a weekend liturgy if there is only one child to be baptized that month. Otherwise, multiple infants are baptized at the same time at a 1:30 PM service on the third Sunday of each month. Depending upon the number of infants being baptized, there could be as many as 250 people in attendance at that service. The pastor's preference would be that some of these baptisms would take place during weekend liturgies so that all parishioners could take part in this important sacrament of initiation. The new church should be able to accommodate both scenarios. To make sure that as many people as possible can see, there should be ample space around the font to accommodate the participants. Adults are typically baptized at the Easter Vigil. There is usually at least one candidate every year with as many as 8 in one year. Regarding the location of the baptismal font, many would prefer that the font be located more in the center of the church rather than at the entrance, as recommended by the Archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship.

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In a typical year, there are about a dozen weddings held at Most Blessed Sacrament Church. Typically, the bride & groom are seated on the altar platform and the bridal party is seated in the pews to either side of the altar platform. Shortcomings of the previous church include the lack of a bride's room, an appropriate place for the groom to wait, the short main aisle and the challenges of navigating around the baptismal font at the entrance to the main aisle with a bridal train. Sometimes the bride & groom want to present flowers to the Blessed Mother as part of the wedding ceremony. In the previous church, the Marian shrine was near the entrance to the church so the bride & groom had to walk down the main aisle to do so. The pastor accommodated this by temporarily moving the statue of the Blessed Mother to the front of the church. In the new church, consideration should be given to the location of any Marian shrine with this practice in mind.

Masses of Christian Burial are celebrated an average of 40 times a year. The small Narthex does not accommodate many mourners before the casket stops at the font for the beginning of the ritual. There is no place to hang the pall before it is placed on the casket. Most problematic is the lack of space at the head of the aisle around the casket, especially at Communion time. It would also be nice to have a space for a small repast after the funerals, if so desired by the family. Although the church is available for wakes, it has only been used for that twice in the past 9 years. Due to lack of space at the font, the casket was placed at the foot of the altar platform for the wake. Ideally, there would be space near the font for the casket to be placed during a wake. Also, if wakes were frequently held at the church, it would be good to have some kind of parlor space for the grieving family to use before, during and after the wake.

Other uses of the worship space include First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, First Saturday Devotion to Our Blessed Mother, May Crowning of Mary, October Rosary in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Hour of Grace, a devotion of Mary on December 8th, the feast day of her Immaculate Conception, and a Mass of Anointing of the Sick. Stations of the Cross services were also held in the worship space but these services did not work particularly well because the ministers were essentially behind the participants as they processed from station to station. In the past, the youth of the parish presented Living Stations of the Cross on the altar platform. This was a very popular Lenten event that may be resumed if there is enough interest from the youth in the parish.

Non-liturgical uses of the worship space might include as a gathering place for Cornerstone retreats as well as concerts, as the parish has done in the past. The largest outside group that had performed at the church is the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea – a 47-musician orchestra.

The church has always had a chapel for Reservation of the Eucharist. However, in the recent past, this space was most commonly used as overflow space for the main worship space and was not particularly conducive to private devotions. In fact, even though there was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on First Fridays and First Saturdays, the only times the seating was actually arranged facing toward the tabernacle was on Holy Thursday. Although there is currently no tradition of Perpetual Adoration at the parish, it should be considered as a possibility in the future.

Although this was the only devotional space in the church, there had been other liturgical art, including:

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- Statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the Holy Family and the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Stations of the Cross
- A hanging crucifix over the altar
- Two crèches – one large and one small.
- Stained glass windows in the Reservation Chapel.
- Various seasonal banners.

All of this art, with the exception of the large crèche, was destroyed in the fire. (This crèche might be more suitable for outdoor use.) Much of the lost art was consistent in style, which helped add to a sense of unity in the worship space. Twelve new statues of saints had been contemplated for the Reservation Chapel in the proposed renovation, as well as new stained glass windows in the proposed addition. Parishioners have already made donations for these pieces.

To support the proper functioning of the liturgical action, various support spaces are required. These include:

- The Vesting Sacristy, located near the entrance, where the ministers vest for the service. The previous Vesting Sacristy, which measured approximately 14' x 19', was too small. There was not enough room for the ministers to gather (especially for special events, when you could have more than a dozen ministers in the room at the same time) and not enough storage space for vestments and altar cloths. There was also no privacy due to a good deal of traffic in and out of the room. Space should also be provided for steaming & ironing altar cloths and storing the equipment needed. Consideration should also be given to a separate vesting area for acolytes as a way to reduce traffic in the Vesting Sacristy.
- The Work Sacristy, which is used to clean and store communion vessels, such as chalices, ciboria, wine flagons, etc. Secure storage should be provided for those vessels made of precious metals. Other items used to furnish the altar and surrounding area, such as candles, candelabra and baptismal and incense supplies & vessels, would also be stored in this sacristy, wherever they could fit them. This room should also be equipped with a dual sink, with one sink plumbed in a normal fashion and the other sink, the sacrarium, drained to the earth, without a trap and provided with a hinged cover. There should also be an appropriate place for disposal of the ashes used in the thurible.
- Liturgical Storage. In addition to the items listed above, there are many items that are needed throughout the liturgical year that should be stored in a nearby, easily accessible storage area, rather than in a difficult-to-access loft or in the attic of another building on the church campus. Typically, seasonal banners would be stored in this room as well. Convenient means of hanging, lowering and storing banners without risk of physical harm or damage to the banners should be provided. This typically consists of some type of pulley system at both the display location and the storage location.

Turning now to the Music Ministry and their needs, we start with the drawbacks of the previous arrangement. The choir was seated in one of the seating sections of the assembly in

chairs. While the chairs provided some flexibility, the choir was not elevated in any way, which made it hard for them to be seen and heard. Ideally, the entire Music Ministry would be elevated above the main floor level and the choir members would be on risers, facing the congregation. They were also very close to the focal point of the altar, which sometimes caused distraction for the other worshipers when they needed to communicate with each other or move about the choir area.

Another significant component of the Music Ministry space was the Peragallo pipe organ. Although the console was movable, its range of movement was limited. The space also accommodated a grand piano. A replacement piano has been donated for the new church. The new piano is a 7' Schimmel Grand Konzert piano, model K 213T (serial number 366707) with adjustable bench, made in Braunschweig, Germany in 2013. The piano is equipped with a humidity control system. The Music Director is open to considering a digital organ as a replacement for the original pipe organ, citing advantages of requiring less space and not requiring regular tuning. The location of the keyboard instruments within the Music Ministry area is important, as the pianist/organist directs the choir from the keyboard bench.

In addition to the two keyboard instruments, there are occasionally 3 or 4 other instruments used on special occasions – typically string & brass instruments. Having chairs in the choir area versus pews allows the flexibility to accommodate various combinations of singers & musicians.

There is also a seasonal children's choir in addition to the adult choir. The number of children participating fluctuates between 5 and 12, depending on the year. They sing at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass and at the 10:00 AM Mass on Easter. Christmas Eve usually has more children participate than Easter. They stand where the choir would normally stand.

The Music Ministry also requires office space and rehearsal space, ideally located adjacent to the worship space. The office space should include space for a music library. Since this space is often used in the evening when the church is not being used, the arrangement and lighting should provide a safe egress to the exterior from this space. The rehearsal space should have room for a keyboard and at least 12 singers, ideally in the same configuration (and with risers) as in the Music Ministry space. The rehearsal room should also have convenient access to a restroom, as rehearsals are held the hour before they choir sings.

Although the new worship space should be designed to work well with natural acoustics, a sound reinforcement system is needed to make sure that everyone can hear the spoken word and the music. The parish has been using over-the-ear microphones for worship leaders. A minimum of 4 such microphones should be provided in the new church. The choir has been using microphones on stands but would like to consider hanging microphones instead. At the very least, the microphones should be suitable for amplifying a group of singers rather than individual singers (area microphones versus direct microphones). Wired microphones are also required at the altar, ambo and for the song leader. An easily accessible mixing board should be provided so that adjustments can be made to the sound system based on the audio needs at the time.

Regarding the room acoustics, in addition to providing the ability to hear both the spoken word and the music, the acoustical environment needs to encourage and enhance the participation of the congregation in prayer, whether that be spoken or sung prayer.

The previous church had a hidden rear-projection screen that was accessed by opening hinged panels covering the screen. This arrangement made use of the screen very difficult. Typically, it was only used for the Archbishop's appeal or similar appeals. There are mixed feelings about how to incorporate a visual projection system in the new church. Many are concerned that such screens can be distracting, both when in use and not in use. Others see the potential of using modern technology to enhance the worship experience and to expand the potential use of the worship space to include catechetical events. This topic will require serious consideration during the design phase, as it is much easier to plan for future use of such technology than to add it later. An important design factor will be the ability for everyone to see the screen(s), unlike the previous arrangement.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Hospitality is a very important element of any church experience. There are many components to creating a feeling of hospitality in a church. One important element is that all worshipers enter the worship space through one entrance. This was the case in the previous church and should be continued in the new church. However, the space through which all worshipers entered that single entrance was much too small and constricting. This should be corrected in the new church design.

Coatrooms are another sign of hospitality. The new church should have a much larger coat area than the small closet that served that purpose in the previous church. Although many Catholics are accustomed to wearing their coats in church, some prefer to hang them up before entering the worship space, while others might choose to hang them up afterwards if they are staying for a while after Mass to have coffee and socialize. Furthermore, many of the ministers, such as lectors, ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and others, need a place to hang their coat and, in some cases, a safe place to store their handbag or purse. There are several different ways to provide for coat storage but it must be conveniently located if it is to be used.

The Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers) at Most Blessed Sacrament Church are men and women of the parish who welcome members of the congregation as they arrive for Mass, assist with seating as necessary, coordinate the Offertory collection, and distribute the weekly parish bulletin. They might also provide a wheelchair or an umbrella for someone in need of such items. Therefore, they need a storage closet that can accommodate a wheelchair, umbrellas, collection baskets, lost & found and other items needed to do their job in as hospitable a fashion as possible. If not in this closet, an additional closet near the entrance should be provided for snow shovels, salt, safety cones and other equipment needed to keep the entrance to the church safe during snowstorms.

One of the most traditional forms of hospitality in churches is what is known locally as "Coffee and"; i.e., coffee and snacks provided after services. Traditionally, this has only been provided at Most Blessed Sacrament for selected liturgies, such as the Mass of the Anointing of

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the Sick. It was held in the Narthex but it was very tight trying to do it there. In the past, "Coffee and" has sometimes been done when the weather was good enough to have it outside. If there were enough indoor capacity, this hospitality space could accommodate most of the people at the special events, such as a Christmas concert, and 60-80% of the worshipers attending weekend liturgies. Based on those goals, this space – which could include both indoor & outdoor spaces – should be able to accommodate at least 200 people.

This space should allow for a variety of types of connections through its arrangement and its furnishings. While some people might be happy to stand and converse with a cup of coffee in their hand, others might prefer to have a high-top table to rest their drink. There could also be stools at some of the high-tops so that people could linger longer. For some parishioners, especially the elderly, more comfortable seating such as sofas and wing chairs, might be best suited to spending time visiting with other parishioners. The current thinking is to provide hospitality after the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses, except when there is Breakfast Club. Unless there were a full kitchen elsewhere in the facility, a small kitchenette would be required for the preparation and cleanup from the coffee hour.

On a related note, at one time there had been a tradition of having coffee available after daily Masses where participants could make a cup of coffee with a Keurig coffeemaker and sit and chat for a while. Although not a lot of people availed themselves of this, it might be worth considering this option in the new church.

Although there has not been a tradition of a coffee hour at Most Blessed Sacrament, there has been a long tradition of building community through the Breakfast Club. This program has been the primary regular social event at the church. A group of about a dozen volunteers prepares a hot breakfast to be served on the third Sunday of each month. Starting at 8:30 and continuing through 11:30 AM, these breakfasts are available between all the Sunday Masses. The program, which has operated from the school cafeteria since its inception, draws around 150 parishioners in shifts of 50-60 at a time. The assumption is that more people would attend if it were in the same building as the worship space, which would help foster the building of community, both among the volunteers and the attendees. In order for this to happen, the new church building would have to have dining space for up to 75 as well as commercial kitchen that would include:

- A commercial range for cooking pancakes, eggs, bacon, French toast, sausage and frittatas for 50-60 people at a sitting.
- A commercial exhaust hood with Ansul fire suppression system.
- A large commercial refrigerator for storing large boxes of eggs, milk, etc. while preparing breakfast. Most other cooking ingredients are brought in on the day of the breakfast.
- A storage cabinet for the dry goods (plates, cups, utensils, napkins, etc.) required for serving.
- Prep space and equipment for the foods mentioned above.

Members of the Breakfast Club prepare food for other parish functions and fundraisers such as Breakfast with Santa and a summer picnic for the Senior Ministry as well as a Thanksgiving Day continental breakfast.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Other ministries that could use the new church building include Senior Ministry and Youth Ministry. The Senior Ministry provides a wide array of pastoral services for the elderly and homebound, including bringing Communion, visitation, correspondence, and prayers. This group also sponsors a weekly Chair Exercise program, as well as a summer picnic and a Breakfast with Santa for the seniors of the parish. In the past, they have also hosted BINGO for 50-70 people. Most of their social events are held after the 10:00 AM Mass, with student volunteers assisting with serving the seniors beverages and finger foods brought in for the event. These events sometimes attract as many as 100 seniors. They also host a reception following the Saturday morning Mass of the Anointing of the Sick. Seventy-five seniors attended this event last year.

Although it has not been operational for several years, there is a strong desire to reactivate the parish Youth Ministry. In its most recent incarnation, it was a weekly ministry program for junior high and high school students led by the Youth Minister and a small group of volunteer adults. The Youth Ministry would ideally provide opportunities throughout the year for young people to participate in events designed to help them meet others within the parish, learn more about themselves, learn more about their Church, serve those in need, and participate in parish life. With enough interest, this group could resume the Living Stations of the Cross tradition and could possibly participate in special youth-oriented liturgies in the worship space. Since part of the purpose of this ministry is for the youth to enjoy themselves and each other's company, areas for games, Karaoke, board games, movie nights, etc. should also be provided. If there were a full kitchen in the building, that could serve as another focal point for youth gatherings, as many youth enjoy cooking and food-focused events.

Space is also needed to continue the current social outreach ministries, including the Food Pantry, Thanksgiving Baskets and the Christmas Giving Tree. For the Food Pantry, donations of non-perishable food are dropped off in the Narthex on the second Sunday of each month. They were stored in a 170 square foot room off the Narthex that was provided with shelving around the perimeter. This size room seemed to be adequate for the amount of food collected, which was then picked up by church volunteers and delivered to a food pantry in Hackensack, with the exception of the collections done in November.

During the month of November, a list of items needed for the Thanksgiving baskets is distributed to parishioners. These baskets contain everything a family might need for Thanksgiving dinner except perishable items, which are provided via gift cards included in the baskets (which are actually boxes). Over the course of a day and a half during the week of Thanksgiving, the boxes of food are assembled and distributed before Thanksgiving Day. It would be ideal if there were a space in the new building where this assembly process could take place.

Through the Giving Tree program, which takes place during the first 2 weekends of Advent, requests from various religious and service groups are put on ornaments on a large, live Christmas tree located in the Narthex of the church. Parishioners provide the gifts listed on the tags. These Christmas gifts are given to children of all ages, people with disabilities, senior citizens, and other people in need. As the gifts are subsequently collected, they need to be

stored while waiting for pickup by local charities. Storage space for a minimum of 700 gifts should be provided.

There are also other church groups that meet regularly who could use rooms in the new church if appropriate spaces are provided. These include the Associates of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the Bereavement Group, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Pre-Baptismal Program, RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Women’s Spirituality Gatherings (Cornerstone).

SUMMARY

While the functional needs of the parish are succinctly described in the information above, the feelings of the parishioners are somewhat more challenging to summarize. At first glance, the 68 pages of parishioner input in Appendix C might seem to be devoid of much consensus – if any at all. But a more careful reading reveals some common threads.

The original church was a contemporary design that reflected much of the Catholic Church’s current thinking at that time about how Catholics should worship in a post-Vatican II world. As with most buildings, some elements of the design were successful while others were not. It might be most helpful to start with the successful elements:

1. When asked to identify what aspects of the worship environment enhanced the experience of coming together as a community, 117 of the 166 survey respondents cited elements of the interior layout. The most common element cited was the circular seating arrangement. Many parishioners also felt that the circular seating arrangement made the church feel more welcoming. While there were a few minor criticisms of the circular seating arrangement, there seems to be a very strong sentiment that this is an important design element to be carried over to the design of the new church.¹
2. Parishioners shared over one hundred comments about the natural lighting in the previous church. Although there were some complaints about glare caused by the skylights, most parishioners surveyed liked having natural light in the church and most wanted more of it.²
3. With a score of 7.8 out of 10, there was incredibly strong support for some kind of gathering space. While a few folks spoke against it, most saw it as a wonderful opportunity to improve community and social action at Most Blessed Sacrament. There were many wonderful suggestions as to how that space could be used to support the parish mission statement – all of which should be given at least some consideration during the design process.³
4. The survey participants were generally happy with the thermal comfort and acoustical properties of the previous church, giving them scores of 7.3 and 7.5 out of 10 respectively.

Unfortunately, for every successful design element, there was at least one unsuccessful design element. While understanding the successful design elements of the previous church helps us to see what should be included in the new design, a listing of the unsuccessful design elements can be just as helpful in understanding what to avoid in the new design.

CHURCH OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. For every mention of natural light in the survey, there was at least one mention of the word “dark”. This complaint was applied to both the entry and the worship space, as well as being used to describe the interior building materials. Many parishioners felt that the dark qualities of the church made it feel cold and unwelcoming and detracted from the experience of coming together as a community. Of the 120 times that word can be found in the survey results, it was only used twice in a positive statement. This was clearly the most universally disliked aspect of the previous church and should be avoided in the new church.
2. Although some parishioners described the architectural style of the building with positive words such as “unique”, “open” and “simple”, six times as many survey respondents felt that the design style of the building negatively impacted a welcoming feeling than those who felt that the design style of the building contributed to a welcoming feeling. The split was less drastic when asked about how the building or interior design impacted the sense of community but there were still more opposed to the “modern” design style than in favor of it. Although the word “traditional” appears over 50 times in the survey results, it is most often used in reference to traditional elements of Catholic worship spaces, such as stained glass windows, artwork, statuary, etc., rather than referencing a preferred architectural style.
3. Even though most survey respondents said that the church (or parish) did a fairly good job of meeting the needs of the elderly and disabled parishioners – giving a score of 6.7 to 7.0 out of 10 – there were nonetheless many complaints about the lack of accessibility throughout the church – particularly seating areas for wheelchairs.
4. Meeting the needs of youth and families with children scored somewhat lower: 5.7 to 5.9. The biggest concern seems to be a lack of a place for parents with noisy children to step away from the Mass for a bit to quiet their child. While not everyone agrees on how this needs to be addressed, it seems to be a concern of many.
5. A fairly frequent complaint was relative to the location of the tabernacle, which many felt was not prominent enough in the church. Many stated that the design & layout of the church did not reflect the name of the church – The Most Blessed Sacrament. This was based on the fact that the tabernacle, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, was not readily visible in the church.⁴

While there was some consensus on the needs listed above, there were differences of opinion on a wide range of issues: the seating capacity of the church, the need for a small chapel, what to do about the baptismal font, etc. All of these things will need to be discussed with the Church Restoration Committee. But it seems like the issue on which there was no consensus at all is what to do with the existing bell tower.

When looking at the survey results regarding this topic, it is important to distinguish between comments related to the bells and those related to the bell tower. Many people feel that the bells should be preserved or reused in some fashion but the feelings regarding the tower are pretty much polar opposites. On one side is the sentiment that the tower should remain, as it is part of the history of the parish and is the only part of the church that survived the fire—that it serves as a symbol of strength and endurance. On the other side is the feeling that the tower is a sad reminder of a tragic event and that, as the new church will be a sign of

moving forward, it is not helpful to keep that reminder of the past. Furthermore, there are concerns that keeping the tower and trying to incorporate it into the new building design will steer the design toward the architectural style of the tower – a design style that is not particularly favored by most parishioners. Finally, there are those who see the bell tower as the primary architectural symbol of the building as a church and are less concerned with its role in the history of the parish.

Whether referencing the bells or the bell tower, the sentiment is the same—that the history of the parish, as reflected in the construction of the church that was destroyed by fire, should somehow be acknowledged. This sentiment points to the importance of “memory” as a component of the design of the new church. The church building is understood as an extension and reflection of the people who gather there – which includes their past. It balances and gives life to both the traditions and the visions of the community. In short, one of the main roles of a church building is that of a *storyteller*. The bell tower is one possible way to tell part of the church’s story, but it is not the only way.

As there is no clear consensus on the issue of the bell tower, it is probably best to explore the option of keeping it during the Schematic Design Phase to see if it is even possible or practical and, if so, what kind of impact it would have on the design. It is unlikely that any parishioner feels strongly enough about the bell tower that they believe that all other design criteria should be subjugated to its preservation. However, if the original bell tower is not retained, the bells could certainly be reused in the new design in a variety of ways – including a new bell tower. All of these options – and others – should be explored during the Schematic Design phase of the project.

The following excerpts are from *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship*. They are included here in reference to the parishioner input summarized above. The full text of *Built of Living Stones* should be carefully considered in the design of the new church.

1. The Congregation's Area:

§ 51 § The space within the church building for the faithful other than the priest celebrant and the ministers is sometimes called the *nave*. This space is critical in the overall plan because it accommodates a variety of ritual actions: processions during the Eucharist, the singing of the prayers, movement during baptismal rites, the sprinkling of the congregation with blessed water, the rites during the wedding and funeral liturgies, and personal devotion. This area is not comparable to the audience's space in a theater or public arena because in the liturgical assembly, there is no audience. Rather, the entire congregation acts. The ministers of music could also be located in the body of the church since they lead the entire assembly in song as well as by the example of their reverent attention and prayer.

§ 52 § Two principles guide architectural decisions about the form and arrangement of the nave: (1) the community worships as a single body united in faith, not simply as individuals who happen to find themselves in one place, and the nature of the liturgy demands that the congregation as well as the priest celebrant and ministers be able to exercise their roles in a full and active way; and (2) the priest celebrant and ministers together with the congregation form the liturgical assembly, which is the Church gathered for worship.

2. Lighting the Place of Worship

§ 228 § Light is a powerful symbol for the followers of Christ who is the "light shining in the darkness" and whose image is seen in the sun and in the paschal candle whose flame is "divided but undimmed." In addition to its theological symbolism, light takes on pastoral, aesthetic, and practical import in the construction of churches. Careful planning enables parishes to choose options that make maximum use of the natural light, which can be supplemented by artificial sources.

3. The Gathering Space or Narthex

§ 95 § The narthex is a place of welcome—a threshold space between the congregation's space and the outside environment. In the early days of the Church, it was a "waiting area" for catechumens and penitents. Today it serves as gathering space as well as the entrance and exit to the building. The gathering space helps believers to make the transition from everyday life to the celebration of the liturgy, and after the liturgy, it helps them return to daily life to live out the mystery that has been celebrated. In the gathering space, people come together to move in procession and to prepare for the celebration of the liturgy. It is in the gathering space that many important liturgical moments occur: men and women participate in the Rite of Becoming a Catechumen as they move towards later, full initiation into the Church; parents, godparents, and infants are greeted for the celebration of baptism; and Christians are greeted for the last time as their mortal remains are received into the church building for the celebration of the funeral rites.

4. The Location of the Tabernacle:

§ 74 § There is a number of possible spaces suitable for eucharistic reservation. The revised *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states that it is more appropriate that the tabernacle in which the "Blessed Sacrament is reserved not be on the altar on which Mass is celebrated." The bishop is to determine where the tabernacle will be placed and to give further direction. The bishop 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 for the private prayer of the faithful. In making his determination, the bishop will consider the importance of the assembly's ability to focus on the eucharistic action, the piety of the people, and the custom of the area. The location also should allow for easy access by people in wheelchairs and by those who have other disabilities.

APPENDIX A
SUMMARY OF FR. TOM DENTE'S PRESENTATION

BUILDING A CHURCH, CONTINUING A MISSION

Worship Space in the 21st Century



On February 6, Father Thomas Dente, Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Newark, spoke with about 125 Most Blessed Sacrament parishioners about the liturgical foundations to be considered in building a new church.

Father Dente's forty-five minute presentation was derived, in part, from *Built of Living Stones*, a publication of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding church renovation and construction. The complete document is readily available on-line. Father Dente also included content from *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*.

Father Dente began his talk by reminding the audience that the word "church" refers to people, not buildings. **The Church** is the Body of Christ, the people of God. **A church** is the house that we worship in. Churches, as buildings, inform our worship and thus our experience of God. But, as he said, "The Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament was the same Body of Christ after the fire as it was before."

He then spoke of some things to keep in mind regarding church design. "A church must be suitable for carrying out the sacred rituals as well as ensuring the active participation of the faithful."

To that end, he spoke about the need for "worship space" to be flexible, practical, authentic and welcoming. He used the phrase "noble simplicity" to convey the idea that a church should not be adorned with an excess of things that can distract or detract from the liturgical celebrations that take place within its walls.

"The Church is open to all kinds of designs and styles," he said, "but certain essential elements must be present. Among those, the altar is the most important furnishing in any church. It is the place where the divine and the human come together."

He went on to discuss some of the practical considerations of building and locating the other essential furnishings of a Catholic church: the Ambo (lectern/pulpit), Tabernacle, and Baptismal Font, as well as any statues and artwork that enhance the experience of prayer and reflection. For instance, he observed that "ideally, there should be a direct line from the baptismal font to the altar reflecting the profound relationship between the sacraments of initiation and the Eucharist."



As a practical matter, Father Dente encouraged the audience to think about the various "rites" that occur in each liturgical year, pointing out that a church must be able to accommodate several different types of liturgical experiences. Primary, of course, is the celebration of daily Mass, but a church must be flexible enough in its design (and even its seating) to facilitate the celebration of the holy seasons of the year (particularly Christmas, the Paschal Triduum, and Easter), the sacramental rituals, marriages and funerals and, at the same time, be a place where individuals feel welcomed and at peace when present for private prayer and reflection.



Following Father Dente's presentation, Mr. Frank Bivona, chair of the MBS Church Restoration Committee gave an update on its progress. He said that the four essential issues before the Committee right now include the following: 1) assembling the

documentation needed to maximize the parish's insurance claim; 2) establishing a realistic budget, which, of course, is based, largely on an accurate insurance estimate; 3) identifying an architect (four architects with specific liturgical experience will have submitted initial proposals by February 7) and 4) continuing a dialogue with parishioners through on-going meetings such as the one tonight, and regular communications in the MBS church bulletin and website.

APPENDIX B
SURVEY USED AT PARISH-WIDE WORKSHOP

Participants were asked to answer the survey questions with Most Blessed Sacrament Church's Mission Statement (below) in mind:

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish is a welcoming community which comes together to implement Christ's mission. We join to teach, to evangelize, to accept, and to encourage ourselves and others in ongoing spiritual growth. Serving and supporting those within and beyond our parish remains a major focus as we recognize that each of us is called to be a witness to God's love.

What are the needs of the parish of the Most Blessed Sacrament as you see them?

1. Using a scale where 0 means "unwelcoming" and 10 means "extremely welcoming", how would you rate our previous church on being welcoming to all peoples, in all places?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. Do you think visitors felt the same way?

Yes

No

Not sure

3. How do you feel the building design impacted that feeling, either positively or negatively?

4. Did you feel that the worship environment enhanced or detracted from coming together to worship as a community and as a family?

Enhanced

Detracted

Both

Not sure

5. What aspects of the worship environment made you feel that way? Please list as many as you like. If you feel that some aspects enhanced the worship environment while others detracted from it, please specify which did which.

6. We had been planning to add significantly more space to our church that could be used for greeting and gathering. Using a scale where 0 means "unnecessary" and 10 means "extremely important", how important were those additional spaces to you?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7. Please list some of the ways you would like to see that space being used to support our parish mission statement?

8. For the following questions, using a scale where 0 means "not at all" and 10 means "extremely well", how would you rate how well our previous church met the needs of our families with children?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9. ...our youth?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10. ...our elderly parishioners?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11. ...our disabled parishioners?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12. ...visitors to our church?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

13. Is there anything our church needs that we didn't have in our church before?

14. Is there anything we need to change in the new church in order to meet the needs of our present and future community?

15. For the following questions, using a scale where 0 means "completely dissatisfied" and 10 means "completely satisfied", how would you rate the thermal comfort of the previous church?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

16. ...the acoustics of the previous church?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

17. ...the natural lighting in the previous church?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

18. ...the electric lighting in the previous church?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

19. Please list any specific things you liked or didn't like relative to the areas of thermal comfort, acoustics and lighting in the previous church.

20. Do you have any additional comments you would like to add, either about the survey questions or anything else related to our new church? (Please try to word your comments as "needs" rather than "solutions". For example, if you think the new church should have a steeple, you might say something like: "It is important to me to that the building can be easily identified as a church.")

21. If you ran out of space, please continue your comments below.

22. If you ran out of space, please continue your comments below.

23. Please indicate your current age group.

- 14-17
- 18-30
- 31-40
- 41-55
- 56-75
- 76 or older

Submit

APPENDIX C
PARISHIONER INPUT

CHURCH OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish is a welcoming community which comes together to implement Christ's mission. We join to teach, to evangelize, to accept, and to encourage ourselves and others in ongoing spiritual growth. Serving and supporting those within and beyond our parish remains a major focus as we recognize that each of us is called to be a witness to God's love.

1. Using a scale where 0 means "unwelcoming" and 10 means "extremely welcoming", how would you rate our previous church on being welcoming to all peoples, in all places? **6.7**
 - Do you think visitors felt the same way? **Yes: 62%; Not sure: 38%**
 - How do you feel the building design impacted that feeling, either positively or negatively?

Positively:

General Design:

1. I think the design was great for when the church was built.
2. It was a unique design and most seemed attracted to it. For others who may have not favored it, as my son said, it grew on you and became your home.
3. I feel that it was welcoming because of its simple design. When the church was being built, people outside our community had a negative attitude toward it. They assumed that it would be ostentatious and most were pleasantly surprised when it was completed. There was no tribute to large donors; everyone was appreciated for their contributions.
4. I think that our church fostered a welcoming feeling based on the design.

Exterior:

1. The outdoor space was large and welcoming.
2. There were paths leading to the three entrances. Handicap accessibility was good because there were no stairways and a button to get a door open.

Entry:

1. The wide entry allowed for greeters to welcome people as well as the visibility of the main sanctuary.
2. The covered exterior space and the small narthex were places where people gathered before but mostly after Mass to meet and greet others.
3. Covered entry and ease of "pulling up" to drop off passengers was good.
4. Curbside drop-off - positive
5. Narthex (entry foyer) - somewhat positive
6. Entry cover - positive
7. The narthex has enough room for ushers welcoming people to Mass. The altar table being white sets it off visually so that it can be clearly seen from the outside of the church looking in which is welcoming people to come in.
8. The narthex lent itself to welcoming by the celebrant and the ushers. Their greetings were especially important for visitors.
9. The main entry was good for welcoming everyone and allowing people to congregate outside during nice weather. Also a place for the priests to interact with parishioners after they left. I like the side entrance, which allowed for more discreet entrance if desired. The circular or fan structure of the seats made it feel as though everyone was included and invited to participate.

CHURCH OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

10. The glass doors leading into the church itself allowed for those walking in to see what was going on.
11. I feel the foyer area to greet people as well as the circular design impacted the feeling welcoming all peoples.
12. There was one entrance. The Greeters were able to welcome all who came to Mass. The presiders were also waiting to say hello. I always felt welcomed.
13. The entrance was very welcoming in its design.
14. The entrance enhanced the welcoming atmosphere of the church.
15. The narthex was quite open and the glass panels let in light, which was nice. The doors could have been opened more to be more welcoming at services.
16. The entrance and narthex allowed greeting and welcoming of any and all parishioners.

Interior Layout:

1. Open.
2. The openness of the design, that no matter where one sits, one can feel the enveloping warmth that radiates from the altar. It is a very welcoming feeling that one is not stuck in a corner.
3. The configuration of the church with the pew arrangement in a semi-circle.
4. I think the design had a welcoming feeling because of the seating in a circle around the altar where everyone could see each other and worship together.
5. The pews being circular felt a closeness to those attending Mass.
6. Because the main worship space was circular, it felt welcoming - but felt dated.
7. I loved the semicircle design, and it made me feel more connected to my fellow parishioners.
8. I felt that circular building was encompassing for all who were present.
9. Open and everyone could see everyone else.
10. I believe that the fan shape of the seating made all able to feel a part of the community. It also enabled you to see the parishioners and not be stuck in the back of the church or behind a column.
11. The circle design was positive.... because you are able to see everyone in the church.
12. Semicircular seating - positive
13. Large altar area that allows for concerts and other events.
14. The lighting inside and the circular design gave a positive feeling.
15. I felt that the atmosphere of the church benefited from the fan shape design of the seating. I feel that the entrance area was welcoming, but it felt as if it did not match the inside of the church. The brick design also severely made the church feel colder; this takes away from its welcoming property and does not provide the warmth of other materials and colors.
16. The circular layout provided a visual feeling of being close to all in attendance. In a more traditional layout you never see those who are seated behind you.
17. The fan shaped seating
18. The seating in a semi-circle enabled parishioners to acknowledge each other, especially during the sign of peace, even when not sitting close together.

19. The church on the inside was very welcoming with the altar centered and the "fan-like" seating arrangement. (I would love to see that same scheme incorporated again.)
20. Round seating, feeling of open space with natural light was welcoming.
21. The building shape was the best aspect in terms of welcoming.
22. Very Open. No columns.
23. I think the design in the round brings everyone together, almost like you're all sitting around a table together, and makes everyone feel included. I've been to many churches, and long rectangular churches with columns do not create the same warmness and sense of community.
24. When you walk in you see everything in front of you, welcoming you in with open arms, and warmth.
25. The semi-circular layout of the pews was a definite positive.
26. The fan or semi-circle seating layout provided a feeling of coming together. The high ceiling along with the natural light enhanced the worship service.
27. The circle is very good, please keep if possible, the dark colors were a little too cold and if possible please use softer lighter whiter design- soft and gentle with lots of light and nature, garden atmosphere
28. I love the half circle facing the altar.
29. The semi-circular shape of the seating area did facilitate community.
30. I think visitors and parishioners alike felt like a community with the circular seating. It enabled everyone to feel like a part of a bigger entity, together.
31. The circular design of the seating, the lighting, the layout, the colors, the ceiling.
32. I feel that the round design is a positive. It creates a communal feel and is more intimate. The entrance portion with the covered area is a welcoming area.
33. MBS was very welcoming because when you entered through the interior doors, you could already see the whole church. You weren't too far away from the altar. Some churches have long, narrow main aisles, and you feel so far and removed from the altar when you first walk in. Our previous church had an excellent warm, cozy feeling, primarily because of the fan-shaped design of the pews. With this setting, we could see one another and feel more like a community.
34. Circular seating.
35. The round building and the warm feeling and colors and lighting all contributed to the feeling.
36. Fan-shaped seating a plus but the building was not warm and comfortable.
37. The seats in a circular configuration very welcoming.
38. Seating in the round; chapel area, light colored altar.
39. Like the round altar and pew design, you can see faces. The depth on the number of rows of pews was not too deep, so all were relatively close to the altar. White paint and stations very nice on the exterior walls.
40. The fan seating in the church provides an intimate setting allowing everyone to worship together.
41. I always felt that our church was warm and welcoming. I feel this way because we were able to see all the parishioners rather than just the backs of their heads.
42. Circular seating was welcoming.
43. Circular seating helped everyone feel engaged.

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44. The church was rustic, bright with light, wood frame and design was inviting.
45. The bell tower is definitely a staple and I like the way the church was designed in somewhat of a circular fashion.
46. I believe that the circular formation of the church was a welcoming space for all who attended. As you sat in any of the pews, you were able to view other parishioners and create a connection with people during Mass.
47. The relatively short distance (and covered space) from where you were able to drop someone off in front of the church to the pews was/is important for parishioners with mobility issues.

Light:

1. Lots of natural light and the seating in the round.
2. I loved the lighting.

Warmth:

1. I thought that the design of the original church building had a very warm, welcoming feeling. In large part, I thought the brick played a role in this, being warmer and more welcoming than stone and yet still retaining the venerability and stateliness of a more solid material, as opposed to say sheetrock. I also felt that the extensive use of wood, both with regard to the pews, the roof beams, and the ceiling in the worship space contributed to this, as did the skylights and other windows.
2. It had a very cozy feeling, especially at night Masses.
3. The use of natural materials such as wood and brick and tile gave a warmth to the inner building. While the Church interior could be brighter for the evening services, the natural light emanating from the 4 directions overhead also created a sense of elemental integrity---the lighting was not stark and artificial, but natural. Seating of fellow worshipers in the round did not exclude, but rather invited all around the Table of the Lord.
4. I feel that it's more important as to how you are welcomed into the church by the people. The church was a peaceful & comforting place. The materials had the church warm and comforting but a little too dark. Needed more electric and natural lighting.

Other:

1. Positively if it encourages you to actively participate.
2. I never thought it had any impact. It was our church and I always felt welcome and very comfortable there.
3. Building design was ok.....it is the people that make the building come alive...hospitality by all is the key
4. Am a parishioner of 50 years, my devotion and love for MBS was my primary reason for going to MBS!

Negatively:

General Design:

1. I'm giving my age away! LOL. Personally I prefer a church to look like a church...steeple for sure and keep bell tower.

2. The previous space - both outside the church and in the open area before directly entering the Church itself was small. That reflected, I gather, the design and practices from a few decades ago. Therefore, given the diversity of God's people and the more complexities of our world in 2020... I believe that a new design might be more open and thus more welcoming. If the space might allow such an opportunity, it would be very appropriate.
3. Circular building - didn't look like a church - somewhat negative.
4. There was nothing special about the church.
5. The former church style was already becoming outdated. It was not classic in any way. Not bad, but I know of someone who did not even know it was a church until it burned down. It certainly did not look Catholic.
6. Dated modern and brick interior walls.
7. Lack of tradition. Catholic church traditional statues including the Blessed Mother were missed.
8. Limited stained glass. Not complaining the people were the church but the building lacked a lot.
9. The [negative] feeling was partly due to the design of the building, but mostly due to the materials used as well as the lighting and landscaping/hardscaping.
10. The building as it was did not do enough to invoke a welcoming feeling.
11. At the time it was built, the design was somewhat trendy vs. a more classic or traditional church like Mt. Carmel in Ridgewood (size wise, our needs aren't the same however). The previous building was somewhat dark as well.
12. More like a Lutheran church or a Jewish temple.
13. The modern design of architecture...much too contemporary.
14. I believe a more traditional feel is more welcoming and not as "stark" as more modern churches. Higher ceilings, T-shape, more light, and larger choir presence add to the welcoming factor as well.
15. Too much stark brick and not enough natural light. Didn't know there was a church from the road, which detracted from warmth.

Exterior:

1. Entrance faced away from any public street, no external indication of Mass times to the public.
2. The exterior of the church was quite ominous. Lack of transparency, the absence of a true steeple, substandard gathering space, and brick privacy walls resulted in a lack of understanding as to what the building was until someone entered.
3. From the outside I do not believe one was drawn into the structure, as it was not very pretty.
4. Its low profile and brick exterior were not "warming" attributes.
5. The exterior brick walls, especially the one on the left, blocked access to the chapel.
6. Church seemed hidden to some. Chapel entrance confusing to visitors.
7. Exterior doors not overly inviting.
8. Building sited wrong - doors should be visible to community and look out toward road(s), not parking lot away from community; building should not be hidden behind walls, berms, etc.

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9. There was no entrance plaza where people could gather. I believe this impacted it negatively.

Entry:

1. The entrance way felt like a security screening area, stark/dark and separated from the rest of the church.
2. It was the building design that impacted the feeling negatively as there was not any space for fellowship. You could not interact with worshippers after Mass.
3. Darkness of entrance...walls, flooring
4. No common greeting area; did not promote community.
5. The entrance of our old church was passé. We need the space and the environment that the new design puts forth.
6. The entrance to the Church was too dark, too small. Dark doors, no windows, not enough natural light to bring a sense of welcome. Inside entrance too crowded with "Information tables" on top of inside entrance doors.
7. Relatively small opening for a wheelchair or walker to access the entrance space.
8. Entrance area too small and the outside walkway not deep enough.
9. Small entrance way, a bit dark inside
10. The entrance area did not have the same feel as the rest of the church and was very plain without a lot of room and could be crowded easily.
11. Very small lobby/limited space in narthex.
12. There were stairs or steps to hinder the entrance of the people in attendance.
13. The size of the space inside and outside of the front doors was limiting. Outside spilled into area that was used by cars and prohibited groups from gathering after Mass and sacraments. The doors were nondescript and the church and narthex were dark.
14. The vestibule was extremely limited in space. It was difficult to form processions of any kind (bridal, solemn liturgies, etc.) There was also no space for families with young children. They would gather in the tight vestibule and they would have to stand.
15. When you entered the church it was dark and you had to go through two sets of doors.
16. Too small of a welcoming space.
17. After watching this webinar, I think architecturally a bit negatively - especially the entrance area. It could be larger, brighter on the outside, better designated "landing curb" areas for those with walkers, wheelchairs & canes. Better outside lighting and signage, as well as board posting Mass times, etc. Visitors who pass by don't have a bulletin to view schedule & shouldn't have to look it up on a website. It should always have the Mass schedule posted near the doorways. And say Welcome - join us!!
18. The gathering space was too small.
19. Small entrance, heavy doors.
20. The entryway outside approaching the doors felt a little confining.
21. The small gathering space in the church and aesthetics of the front of the church did not make the church building itself very welcoming, in my view.
22. Handicap accessibility could have been better.
23. The entrance was too small and discouraged people from gathering

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24. It felt like the entrance was dungeon like, no natural light, very closed off, dull and claustrophobic.
25. I think the gathering space was too small, the doors were nondescript and the church and narthex seemed too dark at times. (Not a lot of natural light.)
26. The design affected welcoming into the church negatively. The narthex space was limited. People couldn't really stop to greet one another, as people would be trying to enter into the narthex from outside as well as depositing the food donations at the designated closet areas off from the narthex. Additionally, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist would also be signing in right behind the entry door.

Interior Layout:

1. The chapel, which appeared like something just added on, and not an integral part of main body of the church.
2. Not having space to congregate after Mass was a negative.
3. Because the worship space is circular the movement of congregation is distracting and makes people uncomfortable. A traditional church feels more reverent for me in a spiritual way has an impact.
4. Too modern; seating was nice though.
5. The indoor space was small and cramped, which resulted in a feeling of being ushered out of the church quickly.
6. The round wall at the back of the sanctuary was pushing out instead of welcoming in.
7. There was no place where people could gather afterwards. You went to church, exchanged hellos with the priest and nuns, then left.
8. The whole structure was just like empty space, the brick wall in the sanctuary pushing you away. Church should feel like the place of Jesus. Everyone walking in should feel that awe. We should be welcomed to contemplate Jesus, not converse with each other.
9. There was no gathering space and everyone was funneled into their seats. There was also a separate side entrance and seating area, that seemed separated from the rest of the church.
10. Once inside near the baptismal font, I feel that the brick without anything to soften the area tends to negatively impact the feel of a welcoming space. Also, the weight of the entrance doors is quite heavy and hard to open without the handicap button.
11. The design impacted the feeling negatively in regards to the "back room" which somewhat had you feel left out.
12. The building was and the interior spaces were dark and lacked communal spaces. The interior space was also segmented, i.e. rear chapel area. Exterior area had no seating/benches. People came to Mass (never take off coats) and leave. There is no community.
13. Lack of a "cry" or young child room.
14. Lack of a separate chapel.

Dark:

1. It was a little too dark and there was not enough seating.
2. I think it was very dark and I would have found it more uplifting if it was lighter.

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3. Poor lighting except for altar area.
4. Our old church tended to be rather dark, although I liked the design. I think greater transparency would help, along with more artwork (stained glass, icons, statues).
5. There was not enough outside light; it was too dark without any lights.
6. The narthex was a bit dark, so that could feel somewhat unwelcoming to a visitor.
7. I felt there could have been more lighting, more spirituality to the building and I feel a more traditional crucifix would've been more welcoming.
8. Too dark inside but liked having a circular atmosphere. The corpus was not welcoming.
9. The church was very dark inside and had a feeling of design from the 70s/80s. We are so lucky to have priests that would bring light to the church with their words so that even though the church was dark, it never felt it.
10. Not enough natural light. Larger gathering area.
11. The dark interior (despite the natural light).
12. The church was too dark; it didn't seem welcoming.
13. Negative impact because of the overall dark feeling, the starkness of the altar and overall interior space.
14. The design was dark - no windows, too much wood, no natural light. It felt like you were entering the inside of an ark. Nothing drew your eyes towards heaven, nothing inspired you. The back wall of the sanctuary was dated, incapable of meaningful adornment. The entire church felt closed and so the people in it assumed that attitude. In fact, when I moved to Franklin Lakes, I actually registered at a different parish (OLMC in Ridgewood) because I found the church in our town, MBS, to be so heartless and cold.
15. Too dark. Circular design gives a feeling of not being close to others.
16. The building design did not incorporate a lot of natural light, giving off a cold, unwelcoming, dark feeling in the church. This was expressed by visitors that came for certain events as well.
17. Very dark. Rather cold and uninviting. Little indoor community space to gather.
18. Poor lighting left for a dungeon type feel, mainly during Saturday PM Masses outside of summer. Loved the church, but the darkness of the church made it less comforting.
19. I am not sure that the red brick didn't make it seem dark. That would be my only complaint.
20. The inside was too dark and monotone with no natural light. The church looked beautiful at Easter and Christmas when we brought in decorations and plants/Christmas trees, but for the balance of the liturgical calendar it was very drab.
21. I feel that if the church were bigger and brighter, with more stained glass windows, people would feel more welcome.
22. It appeared to be very dark, it might feel a little more welcoming with a little more light or brightness.
23. Entrance (vestibule) was small and dark. Sanctuary was very dark. Bright is welcoming and uplifting. Seating arrangement was good.

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24. Heavy front doors, very dark interior (especially the ceiling) hard wood pews, not a lot of natural light, no interior gathering space or entry way, or bigger exterior space in front of the doors discouraged socializing after Masses.
25. There were three aspects of the former church design which, in my opinion, detracted from the 'welcoming' appeal. First, the dark nature of the interior bricks. I believe they tended to create a 'coldness' to the environment. Second, the decor was modern ... and as such again, created a coldness. The center Cross was an art form but lacked a warmth.... the 'modern' Tabernacle off to the side of the Church. Third, lighting that was dim and windows that were not particularly attractive.
26. The darker tones in the Church didn't project an overly welcoming feeling, however the vaulted ceiling did.
27. I felt the previous building was very dark from the floor tiles to the carpeting, lighting, etc. I liked some of the lighter tones and entrances shown in the presentation which to me would be more welcoming.
28. The building was not welcoming. It was dark - dark floors, walls and ceiling, dark wood and stone, limited natural lighting, no natural beauty with simple brick wall behind altar.
29. Very dark, no natural light, too much wood, poorly lit, non-operating baptismal fountain at entrance, small Narthex.
30. The Narthex and the church in general were dark, more natural light would be nice.
31. I felt as though the church was very dark and didn't feel welcoming to me.
32. Too dark and not enough windows.
33. The old church was dark and cold.
34. Dark, dated and the entrance was sometimes a bottleneck. I would love to see a lighter, warmer design, letting in more sun from above and sides.
35. It was very dark, dated, and confined.
36. The design of the old church was cold, dark, impersonal, and incredibly unattractive. The brown brick on the inside was claustrophobic. The brown walls, the brown pews, the brown floor was very depressing. Very little natural light.

Cold:

1. The coldness and color of the brick walls harbored a colder feeling inside the church.
2. The choice of the building materials created a cold feeling. The brick and tile floors coupled with the overwhelming wooden ceiling created a chilly overall appearance. The Stations of the Cross were well thought out. The circle feeling is distracting. One has the tendency to look across the church at other parishioners.
3. The church was warm in wood beams but cold in spiritual feeling.
4. To me the church always felt cold, the plain wood and solid brick wall were lacking in warmth.
5. The parishioners and clergy are extremely welcoming. I however, have always felt the design and materials of the church gave off a "cold" feeling. That is the only reason I gave it a 7.

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6. Once inside it was comfortable, but could have felt more warm, from outside it seemed a little cold

Other:

1. If people thought our building negatively impacted worship, they need to seek formation. Our fellowship is in ministries.
 2. The crucifix was simply horrific - it was some sort of weird, art-deco that reminded me of cartoon character.
 3. Unfortunately, many people were not happy with the risen crucifix.
2. Did you feel that the worship environment enhanced or detracted from coming together to worship as a community and as a family? **Enhanced: 55%; Detracted: 12%; Both: 19%; Not sure: 14%**
 - What aspects of the worship environment made you feel that way? Please list as many as you like. If you feel that some aspects enhanced the worship environment while others detracted from it, please specify which did which.

Interior Layout:

Enhanced:

1. The circular design definitely led to a feeling of togetherness.
2. As noted, I liked the notion of "worship in the round", or a fan shaped concept. However, whether by natural lighting or illumination, I believe it could be even more welcoming.
3. The arrangement of the pews, fan shaped; the closeness to the altar; the fact that we can see the congregation's faces, their happiness, their serenity, their solemnity.
4. Being round seating and round altar.
5. Circular seating.
6. Pew arrangement in semi-circle.
7. Few rows front to back.
8. No columns, unobstructed view from all locations.
9. Risen Christ crucifix was main focus.
10. The circular seating setup always gave me a feeling of inclusion as well as a feeling of communion with other worshipers.
11. Holy water fountain and baptismal font at front of church. Churchgoers entered through one common entrance. The round design allowed churchgoers to see one another, contributing to a feeling of connection. The plants above the altar was a nice touch.
12. The large windows and stained glass, the altar being a grand centerpiece, and the baptismal font being another centering point all enhanced the worship environment.
13. Liked the circular aspect - altar in the middle with the pews around.
14. The pews were in a circle, everyone felt involved.
15. The parishioners seated around the altar made you feel as you were a part of the Mass- this enhanced the experience.
16. Feeling as if it was one family in worship.
17. The circular seating made you feel like you were part of the service, which was good.

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18. No matter where you sat, you could see the altar and the priest. It made you all feel part of the Mass. The altar was easily accessible for the lectors and cantors.
19. The proximity to the altar enhanced the worship environment.
20. The circular or fan shape was very inclusive. You could see everyone with that configuration and that brought everyone close together
21. We liked the baptismal font, the pew layout and the entrance way.
22. The Church in the round with the pews all around was a major strength. We were able to see the faces of nearly everyone in the Church because of that design and I strongly feel this would be a requirement. I have not heard in many years any complaint about it- quite the opposite. When family would come to our Church, the complimented the inclusivity.
23. The altar was close to most spots in the church.
24. I feel that the seating in the round is very warm and comforting, while also making it possible for everyone to be able to see the altar.
25. I think having no stairs for our elderly or special needs parishioners was great too, our aisles were spacious for disabled
26. I thought the placement of the altar of our church was visible to everyone and there wasn't a "bad seat" in the church due to this.
27. Semicircular seating.
28. The fact that the church seating was semicircular made it feel like we were one body/family.
29. Circular worship space.
30. Seating arrangement.
31. Small worship area off to the side.
32. No one was more than 8 rows from the altar. Gave a feeling of being together as a community.
33. No one was too far from the altar; yet, if one chose to sit a little further away, there was the option. At the Easter Vigil, parishioners could be a part of the action and see what was happening from all areas of the Church.
34. Closeness to the altar.
35. Circular with center aisle - we could all see each other.
36. The fact that all parishioners sat in a semicircular fashion everyone was a part of the Mass.
37. Fanned seating around the altar.
38. The size and shape of the pew arrangement made it easy to see others, acknowledge them, and enabled me to seek out others after the service.
39. Fan shaped seating structure felt very inclusive. And for those that needed more personal space, the individual seats in one section were good. As was the chapel in the back.
40. The front lobby, location of the Baptismal font, circular layout of the church.
41. The centered altar and the fan like, close knit seating was the best element of the design as it brought the congregation closer physically. This allowed congregants to see each other's faces creating a closer parish family.
42. Seating around the altar enhanced the worship environment
43. Seating layout fostered sense of community and inclusion in Mass.
44. "Church in the round" configuration of the pews. Felt as "one" with the other parishioners.

45. "Church in the Round" design enhanced the environment.
46. I feel the circular worship environment made me feel that way.
47. The circular aspect helped with the community feeling of the congregation.
48. I think the semi-circle was an enhancement because it made for a connected environment between the people and also to the celebrant. A longer aisle would be nice for a bride but for the usual use of the church the semi-circle is more beneficial.
49. Having the altar in the middle of the church with seating around it helped you feel closer to the altar.
50. Fan style seating, no stairs for the disabled.
51. Mass in the round enhanced.
52. Being in the round.
53. Musicians and choir, cantor visible, on the same level.
54. The altar was visible to most which was a positive.
55. The circular nature of the seating helped the people gathered feel like a community.
56. Liked the fan shaped seating.
57. Loved the beautiful round altar.
58. The ability so see each other, yet still have an area where people do not have to be in front of a crowd (perhaps with active children, or when you just want to celebrate Mass on your own) allows all to feel welcome and never leaves anyone having to feel uncomfortable during Mass
59. The round design, as well as the open space upon entry and exit. The large covered outside allowed people to congregate after Mass and encouraged a sense of community. It was welcoming to the elderly and handicapped as they could be dropped off close to the door, and allowed the ushers and greetings to create a welcoming atmosphere.
60. The main area around the altar brought everyone much closer and you felt more part of the service.
61. I like the church in the round design.
62. Sitting in a circular shape.
63. Seating arrangement, altar arrangement.
64. The altar area was welcoming and the semicircular seating added to our sense of gathering in a close, familial space.
65. The elevated altar and the seating design increased the feeling of belonging and community.
66. The circular format focused on the altar, but also allowed for parishioners to see and interact with each other.
67. Fan seating was a positive.
68. The circular layout of our seating was very inviting and promoted a more communal feel than pre-Vatican II worship spaces. I also appreciated how ACCESSIBLE our worship space was, so that someone who had difficulty walking or was in a wheelchair had no obstacles, except at the altar.
69. Like the round altar and pew design, you can see faces. The depth on the number of rows of pews was not too deep, so all were relatively close to the altar.
70. Round seating good.

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71. The semicircular layout certainly enhanced being able to see all as we gather & worship.
72. The circular design and the number of rows enhanced participation.
73. Circular design.
74. The circular shape of the worship environment enhanced the worship.
75. Circular seating with the altar at the center.
76. I love the fan seating it makes so many including myself feel very part of the community easily.
77. Circular seating arrangement.
78. Circular seating.
79. Natural lighting.
80. Natural components (wood, marble, etc.)
81. Stained glass.
82. I liked the circular design of the Church since it allowed good visibility to the altar....and provided a sense of unity.
83. The church-in-the-round gave people the opportunity to be closer. The altar in the center provided the opportunity for more to be able to see what was going on and to be more connected.
84. I believe the fan-shaped interior gave the feeling of togetherness.
85. The circular design enhanced the welcoming feeling. The size also was not too big to make all feel welcome.
86. Fan-shaped pews enhanced the experience.
87. I think the circular seating enhances the worship environment. I feel when you can see people's faces from across the church you actually feel a connection even if you never actually meet. You recognize people and feel as part of the same 'family'.
88. The circular design enhanced from the standpoint that wherever you sat you were close to the altar. However, the design could serve as a distraction.
89. The altar in the center.
90. Fan layout of pews.
91. The positioning of the seats.
92. Sitting in a circle like fashion or similar design was helpful.
93. The fan seating in the church provides an intimate setting allowing everyone to worship together.
94. Circular seating.
95. The seating felt intimate and most seats were close to the altar which was nice.
96. Proximity to the altar was nice.
97. I do like the half-round design where seats are surrounding the altar.
98. Seating in the round.
99. The circular design made it feel as if you were close to the altar and to each other.
100. The circular congregation was nice and welcoming.
101. Circular seating enhanced the worship environment.
102. Circular environment.
103. Circular seating.
104. I feel the design of the worship space did enhance the feeling of community. The arrangement of the pews around the altar provided the feeling of family gathered around the table.

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105. The rounded shape allowed everyone to feel close to the altar and the clergy.
106. The interior design, in the round, was welcoming.
107. The round seating enhanced the community feeling. The central round altar was lovely.
108. Organ and music were positioned in the front and clearly visible; altar was visible from all seats.
109. The theater in the round seating makes the church warm and inviting.
110. I think the altar placement and the semi-circle of pews were a positive in the old church. I think it is important to feel connected to the priest and other participants in the liturgy.
111. Altar a true focal point.
112. I feel that the round dome-like layout was a positive and definitely contributed to a warm community feeling. I feel the new design should incorporate the "dome" layout but with much higher ceilings.
113. Semicircular seating seemed to engender a sense of community, open altar area brought the congregation closer to the celebrant as jointly offering sacrifice.
114. The circular seating was positive in that you felt more part of a family during the worship service.
115. Circular seating.
116. Entrance welcoming.
117. Visibility of altar from all pews.

Interior Layout:

Detracted:

1. Although I liked the circular design of the pews in the former structure it did pose a challenge to the people sitting to the left or the right of the altar as they were always looking at the side of the priests not looking straight on.
2. The altar was not raised enough above congregation to see well from all parts of church. Couldn't see the choir or musicians from the pews. No place to even stand and chat in narthex after Mass without blocking traffic.
3. Seating in the round a bit distracting for those on the wings; tabernacle should be additional focus for Most Blessed Sacrament church, not hidden; seating in chapel for Mass detracted from "community"; Narthex too small and with too many things distracting from its function as gathering place - those should be elsewhere.
4. The worship environment felt more like a town hall environment — very focused on community and not focused on worship of Our Lord. Felt more like a convention space than a church.
5. The fanned out seating arrangement enhanced and detracted. If you were seated in the front area I believe you felt closer and more involved during worship, but the side views, and from the piano side, blocked and altered the view, detracting from feeling involved. I prefer a seating environment that you are able to view the altar from the same direction.
6. The circular arrangement for the church created a few issues. The two center rows had the best visuals of the altar. The outer pews did not. I have been a parishioner for 40 years. I've attended weddings, funerals, daily Mass, Sunday Mass, first Communion and confirmation. The center rows were always

considered "the best". I've seen confusion at funerals and weddings with visitors sitting in the outer pews.

7. I do feel that it would be nice to have a center aisle that is a bit more defined than all the other isles. When I have been to weddings it didn't seem like the bride was actually walking down the aisle due to the fact that it was the same size as all the others.
8. It is very distracting to see other people across the way - sometimes I would be thinking more about their appearance than what was happening on the altar.
9. Facing people was distracting at times. People sitting in the chapel area were not part of group & were facing away from the tabernacle which should be a focal point.
10. It was easy to be distracted by other people that you were facing.
11. The only detraction would be the visual line to the altar being blocked for some standing by the left side door entrance (due to the sliding doors pulled back)...leaving overflow &/or late comers to feel somewhat disconnected from the Mass - certainly visually, but also sometimes questionably audibly too.
12. Location of tabernacle in the chapel detracted. Allowing natural light streams from glass walls and ceiling enhanced.
13. Circular aspect. No entrance aisle fails to focus on the altar.
14. The circular aspect was too wide as sightlines for video or slide presentations could not be seen from the extreme left or right. Semi-circle, or fan shape I have seen in other churches is better than our old 270 degree shape.
15. Only drawback is the last rows on the sides do not have a good view of the altar.
16. The long pews were not good, it created a lot of wasted space and they were hard to navigate. The space for the Choir was very lacking, the acoustics in the area were really bad and no one knew that there was really a choir there.
17. Narthex became crowded, noisy and distracting before and after Mass.
18. I thought that the narthex was rather small and really didn't allow for very much community interaction. MOST IMPORTANT of all, the fact that the Tabernacle was off to the side did NOT provide for a sense of a family of worship.....gathered around THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT. In fact, overall, the former church seemed to lack the reinforcement of the name of the church.
19. The placement of the Tabernacle created confusion re: genuflection when entering the church. Name of church is Most Blessed Sacrament and our backs were to it during Mass.
20. Tabernacle not in church (we are the church of The Most Blessed Sacrament). I was taught that you remain kneeling after Communion until Jesus is returned to the tabernacle. It was not visible from most seats. Not even the priest knows when the tabernacle door is closed.
21. Tabernacle not located in close proximity to altar.
22. Tabernacle should be in a position for all to see as we are Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
23. The Tabernacle not being the focal point greatly discouraged many.
24. I would prefer to see the tabernacle behind the altar instead of off to the side as it used to be in the small chapel.
25. Tabernacle placement was not optimal.
26. Tabernacle not in front.

27. The Blessed Sacrament was not center of Mass. Attending Mass with back to the Sacrament was odd. Also, no crucifix on the altar was very odd. You didn't get the feel that the church was Catholic. In Catholic worship we should be oriented to Christ on the crucifix and his real presence in the Eucharist.
28. Attached chapel.
29. Small chapel open area off to side of main church area too open and not conducive to individual meditation.
30. Maybe not having the small chapel so close.
31. The separate seating area on the side was rather disjointed.
32. It would be advantageous to incorporate the overflow room into the new design so all parishioners are together.
33. Internal areas and features were not connected.
34. No interior gathering space or entry way, or bigger exterior space in front of the doors discouraged socializing after Masses.
35. Lack of area to talk with other worshipers after Mass impacted negatively.
36. Music area very awkward. Not conducive to choir or musical group.
37. The design in the round, the space to the left of the altar that could be cordoned off with an accordion wall. The tiny narthex and no space welcoming to families. Everything about [the design] repulsed me.
38. From a functional standpoint, the lack of a meeting area or an overflow room was a drawback. These types of areas are needed for families with small children or for holy days when Mass attendance spikes higher than the number of available seats in the church.

Building/Interior Design:

Enhanced:

1. Environment.
2. Interior finish.
3. Stained glass.
4. Lighting.
5. Stained glass, high ceilings.
6. Good ceiling & natural lighting
7. Crucifix & stations were beautiful; organ great.
8. I felt, firstly, that our church was not overly ornate. This appealed to me in the sense that there were not a tremendous amount of distractions during worship and it emulated the humility of Christ.
9. I always liked the brick interior. I always felt that it was a safe place to worship. The colors were warm and gave a secure feeling.
10. The fact that the area felt cozy & warm, and not too expansive lent to that feeling.
11. The light from the windows, the wood felt very natural in the church.
12. Bright light and windows to outside.
13. The dark wood of the pews provided a comfortable, warm feeling and the balance between the lighting and natural light was appropriate.
14. I love the way the light pours through the skylights on sunny days. Flowers, plants, tapestries and items such as these are used on occasions and the space is enhanced both visually and spiritually for me.

15. The skylights were great when the sun appeared during Mass on a cloudy day.
16. The side windows were welcoming.
17. The natural lighting.
18. I loved the natural light.
19. Loved the natural light, but would have liked more of it.
20. Natural lighting enhanced the spiritual feeling.
21. The crucifix behind the altar was breathtaking.
22. The second thing I liked very much about our past church is the way the natural light comes in with some open windows.
23. Loved the bell tower; hope it can be part of the new building.
24. I liked the tall ceiling.
25. The tall ceilings were nice as well.
26. High ceiling, beams and upper windows.
27. White paint and stations very nice on the exterior walls.
28. Baptismal font sound was soothing and peaceful. Font itself projected sense of security and protection.
29. Stained glass and depiction of holy family near Tabernacle was beautiful and encouraged prayer.
30. Doors from outside to narthex gave a feeling of strength and safety.
31. When we chose MBS as our church it was because the design was modern and not overdone with too many stained glass windows, which welcomed us in.
32. The fact that it wasn't very ornate allowed you to concentrate on the spirituality of the service.
33. I personally loved the windows (skylights) in the roof that let the sun shine in.
34. Warm materials, relatively low lighting, and high ceiling.
35. Windows and skylights. Incorporating even more light and windows would increase the welcoming feeling.
36. The giant wood front doors, the smell, the colors.
37. High ceilings.

Building/Interior Design:

Detracted:

1. Interior design detracted.
2. There was no natural beauty in the design. It looked like a poor parish that couldn't afford adornment, using only functional materials - brick and wood - in construction. Limited statuary, no beautiful stations or places of devotion, not even a proper chapel for Eucharistic adoration.
3. It wasn't very inviting. When you walked in the church the architectural design did not move us either way spiritually. There was no grand "inviting" entrance.
4. The hard surfaces, was not warm and welcoming.
5. Dark.
6. Church was too dark.
7. Not enough light. Dark flooring and dark pews with brick walls.
8. The dark wall behind the altar was dark and stark and did not contribute to the warmth of the gathering.
9. It was too dark inside the church, being brighter would feel more welcoming.

10. I feel the church was dark and using natural light with artificial in the new church would be beneficial.
11. The overall cold nature - missing all tradition - never made you feel like you were in God's house.
12. The big wall with fake plants behind the altar was very distracting and not very spiritual. It felt like a communist church built in the Eastern blocks in the 60s.
13. I feel the look and building materials did not give off a warm, welcoming feel.
14. The lack of visual stained glass windows did not make it look like a church. Also, there were no candles to say a prayer or offering for the patron saints.
15. No Saints, Jesus, the Divine Mercy, electric candles, it felt very cold.
16. No statues; no candles; no marble; should look like a cathedral; should take your breath away.
17. 99% of the church services are in the daytime hours. One never felt uplifted by natural light.
18. The lighting or lack of natural light was a negative.
19. The sky lights were a distraction if sitting with the sun in your face.
20. Skylights made some people have to keep sliding over or put on sunglasses.
21. Distracting sun glare, lack of open windows, doors, and fans led to marginal air circulation.
22. The former church was very dark. The lighting was poor. The brick structure gave the appearance that we were sealing ourselves in. There was little transparency.
23. Brick wall backdrop to altar - very cold.
24. I think the brick and stone of the altar sometimes gives off a cold feeling when, especially when there is no light coming through.
25. The only detraction was that it was too dark.
26. Lack of natural light; dark.
27. Heavy front doors, very dark interior (especially the ceiling), low ceilings, hard wood pews, not a lot of natural light.
28. The minimalist design (e.g., altar, crucifix, windows) made the church feel cold and unwelcoming.
29. I would have liked a separate chapel building.
30. Spartan interior.
31. Lack of artwork.
32. The interior furnishings...like the stark, unrealistic, "Preppy" style crucifix of Jesus over the altar. Chapel tapestries were also lackluster. They did not inspire prayer or reflection due to their abstract design.
33. Iconography did NOT give a sense that the Church is a place to encounter holiness. Upon entering, people should see more than an altar in front of bricks. The crucifix over the altar was totally confusing. Was it Christ crucified or triumphantly risen? No. Was it Christ descending to the dead??? Stained glass - inconspicuous & confusing. Stations of the Cross were small, conveyed little & most had no space for more than 4 people to gather.
34. I do think the previous church was dark and did not enhance worship. The Stations of the Cross were also dark and not conducive to praying.
35. I was constantly distracted by was the carving of the crucifix above the altar. I feel a traditional crucifix gave me a more spiritual feeling.

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36. The overall of darkness and lack of any kind of light, ethereal feeling in the old church.
37. The structure of the darkness of the church caused me to feel isolated.
38. The interior was quite monochromatic, which was a bit drab.
39. The worship environment was too dark, uninviting. "Scary" Jesus on the Cross was not a welcoming sight. Not enough natural light, windows, stained glass windows to tell Jesus' story as to why we are gathering.
40. As we continued to worship here, we felt the "feel" of the environment was heavy (dark?), compared to, for example, St. Elizabeth's where it's light filled and more uplifting."
41. The hideous flooring and wall of the sanctuary, the dark wood ceilings, the hideous dark brick, the tiny windows always dirty and steamed up, letting in so little natural light.
42. Lighting, all dark brick.
43. The interior of the church left much to be desired, poor lighting, and the light from the skylights in your eyes in certain parts of the church.
44. The environment was too much dependent on artificial lighting and even that was dark. If Jesus is the Light of the World, our church building should proclaim that.
45. The building was very stark and the brick wall pushing outward detracted from the environment.
46. There were limited attractive features in the building. Limited artwork and stained glass.
47. The poor lighting was a detractor in that it made the environment very stark and solemn as opposed to being a joyful atmosphere.
48. I think the colors chosen for the floor, walls and altar were too dark. There was not enough lighting or windows to brighten sanctuary.
49. The overall appeal of the building design was lacking. A nicer environment would make people feel more positive about coming to Mass on Sunday.

Other:

Enhanced:

1. Holy Mass.
2. Father John.
3. Though there were occasional problems with the mic/audio system in the Church, the amplification seemed natural.
4. The clergy always very welcoming.
5. I liked hearing the bells ring. It reminded me that this was a holy time of day. It told me to put aside what I was doing and to think of my spiritual side.
6. Good acoustic & music-Father John's greetings...& friendly ushers.

Other:

Detracted:

1. Acoustics often detracted from worship; certain spots are hard to hear from. Temperature inside was also uneven.
2. There were spots in different sections where people could not hear clearly.
3. The dried up baptismal font with a bowl in the top for holy water.

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4. What needs work is..... Hospitality and making everyone comfortable....reaching out to those who come to church only out of sense of obligation.....sense of belonging.

Other:

Both:

1. Depended on who Celebrant was!!!
3. We had been planning to add significantly more space to our church that could be used for greeting and gathering. Using a scale where 0 means "unnecessary" and 10 means "extremely important", how important were those additional spaces to you? **7.8**
 - Please list some of the ways you would like to see that space being used to support our parish mission statement.

Hospitality-related

1. It would be good if we can have some get-together after Mass with some light refreshments, to build closeness among the congregation. We need a place where we can chat after Mass.
2. A gathering space for social events.
3. Dedicated gathering space as well as storage space for volunteer/community outreach events.
4. Kitchen/cafeteria for church-related social events.
5. A third bathroom for families.
6. Gathering together after Mass to "catch up" with your fellow parishioners.
7. A space for after-Mass reception with Coffee & Munchkins to promote the sense of belonging
8. On exiting the worship area, space should be provided where worshipers could gather to interact with others who have attended the service.
9. I love the idea of a gathering area and more stained glass.
10. A gathering space with more natural light, maybe a small garden area, mainly a gathering where a full breakfast and or other meals could be served.
11. I don't feel a large greeting area is necessary because it's just that - to greet people coming in or going out. I do think the covered outside space is important for that purpose also. The renovation design was it was going to be on the side which makes more sense to me. I don't think it should be part of the worship area.
12. An area outside of the Narthex where people feel free to gather and chat, maybe sit down, where they are not disturbing others gathered in the sanctuary to pray and meditate. An area with enhanced, modern, handicapped access bathrooms (welcoming to all). An area with plants (allowing for meditation).
13. Hold functions such as the Breakfast Club.
14. The Breakfast Club needs a full kitchen on site to continue their ministry. In this way, if the Parish ever lost control of the school building, they can continue with this 30+ year tradition. More people would participate if they did not have to cross the parking lot - this is evident now: with the services occurring in the school gym more people come to Breakfast Club.
15. The new entrance could be larger for welcoming and gathering before and after church.

16. A larger gathering space to socialize before and after Mass is important. A small meeting area with comfortable seating would be inviting.
17. Vital for after-Mass socializing or gatherings. Also appropriate for greeting attendees at funerals, weddings, baptisms. Could also be used for small repasts, post-concert receptions, Sunday School classes for children, display areas for photos, bulletins, and pamphlets.
18. Gatherings for fellowship after Mass and in connection with other functions, meeting space for classes, etc., all generously sized; storage elsewhere. Perhaps a large space can have movable dividers for flexibility. I never thought the planned space was large enough.
19. I think having everything in one building is a great convenience. To be able to have the Breakfast Club just down the hall for instance would be great. It would also be a nice environment for senior groups, school fund raisers (bake sales and such), meeting space for the different ministries, etc.
20. We need space for gathering - for breakfasts and events and lectures - but they should be below (or separate from) the church and they should have a sanctuary-like feel which can also be used for Mass when needed. We don't need a Starbucks on site. But we do need a kitchen for events like Communion breakfast and beefsteaks. Every space should feel "Catholic."
21. To be more welcoming. To accommodate more space to other church functions, i.e.; visitors that may require tables, displays, etc.
22. Coffee before Mass.
23. Wine and cheese after Sunday Mass.
24. Gathering area; stained glass.
25. Gathering space for all parishioners including youth.
26. To enlarge the narthex would encourage fellowship and provide an opportunity to gather after Mass or programs for refreshment and community before departing for our individual homes.
27. Community center/parish hall could be used as place for community gatherings and events.
28. Gathering for children, space for raising donations/support for the needed, welcoming in the community, food/snacks (see Cornerstone Christian Church in Wyckoff).
29. Open gathering space like larger vestibule.
30. We need a space in the church for functions besides the school. The school has not been welcoming in the past couple of years to having people outside of the school. As a member of the MBS Breakfast Club I would like to see a full kitchen as part of the new design. Currently we cook in the school cafeteria but they have put so many restrictions on us that it is getting harder to make that space work. Also it would be useful for the seniors and Youth Group to all have events.
31. I would like to see a bigger entrance with stained glassed windows to expose lights and welcoming. One of the pictures showing a place where we can congregate with coffee, without the table and chairs, would be a nice addition.
32. I feel that a having an inviting fellowship/gathering area attached to the worship area would bring people together after services, much more so than walking across to the school gym/cafeteria.

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33. It would be beneficial to have a gathering space in the building before you enter the church for those wishing to gather before exiting.
34. I loved the idea in the video about couches and coffee or donuts...really nice space to gather.
35. For after Mass coffee/donut socials, for seasonal seminars, for senior events, young adult social gatherings,
36. The narthex could be used more for gatherings if it were larger.
37. Place where groups can gather for a coffee, lecture, planned events, etc.
38. I feel we need a large fellowship space to provide an area to gather, to talk, to share happiness and sadness. To provide a communal area for refreshments etc. This way people will remain in church longer, form parish family ties, and not run out to their cars.
39. Post service gatherings for refreshments or socializing. Groups often gathered after Masses outside but of course weather and the lack of space prevented larger and lengthy discussions....
40. Community Center with full Kitchen to make it safer for those to get to Breakfast Club Sundays as well as other events the church may hold in inclement weather.
41. The coffee-gathering area is something I think is needed.
42. Welcoming entrance to gather before and after worship.
43. A reception area that is warm and inviting.
44. I love the idea of a gathering space for before or after Mass, whether it is due to weather or not, I think a large entry foyer would be lovely.
45. I think a larger gathering space outside the front doors and a brighter, transparent narthex would enhance fellowship. A meeting area with comfortable seating and a small kitchen area would help with fellowship also.
46. There is no need to have a space in the church for greeting or gathering. The church is a sanctuary for the sacraments and it would be inappropriate to conduct other activities there. Some other facility, perhaps and expansion of the parish house, would be appropriate for non-religious activities.
47. The social space, to me, is secondary. The worship space is most important.
48. Prior to this webinar I thought the gathering space was unnecessary but, after more thought, perhaps there is a need.
49. Mingling of parishioners after services.
50. Open areas that will invite and stimulate more interaction with the church and its community.
51. One thing I will say is that, due to the nature of our old building, there was not a lot of opportunity to hold events or meetings in it that did not warrant the use of the worship space. Having the addition of a gathering space and/or meeting rooms would be nice and would facilitate a more active use of the building.
52. Pre-Mass and post Mass gatherings.
53. As discussed in presentation, having gathering space, fellowship space, and prayer space would help in supporting our spiritual growth (particularly the prayer space).
54. Greeting area larger, possibly multi-functional. Gathering (sanctuary) could be somewhat larger.

55. Absolutely essential! We've attended Mass in many locations across the country and always felt most welcome at those parishes where people gathered after Mass for coffee and a chat. A great way for new members to get acquainted.
56. To enhance a sense of community, we need more/bigger space to congregate after Mass, not just standing in the parking lot.
57. Our old smaller Narthex felt very cramped---especially when ministries were inviting people to participate through the use of signs/posters/announcements. Things constantly had to be shifted to accommodate newer items. This section could also be brighter (light) for a welcoming feel. There is a great need for a space for people to connect--our old space did not foster this connection either dispersing from Mass or entering.
58. We're not entirely certain significant more space for greeting and gathering is necessary, and believe the space would be unused most of the time. Perhaps a space just large enough to allow for small gatherings, as we don't feel it's necessary to have a space for concerts or plays, etc.
59. I would like to see a community room for socializing.
60. Larger space upon entering the church
61. The gathering space would allow for interaction among churchgoers outside of the actual church; the noise level before and after Masses in the worship space is disrespectful and distracting.
62. Giving the option for people to gather and discuss out of the way from those who need to leave.
63. Parish gatherings.
64. A space where people can gather after church.
65. Space before Mass and after Mass to get to know your fellow parishioner.
66. Incorporate a kitchen so the Sunday Breakfast Club could draw more of the parishioners to come together on a social level.
67. As a gathering space after Mass, a place that could be used by other ministries in the parish, youth group, Communion or Confirmation gatherings.
68. Perhaps the space could be used for fellowship after services.
69. Seems like many worshipers rush to their cars after Communion so space for post-Mass socialization is probably of no interest to them. However, having a social hall could be advantageous for post-wedding, post-funeral, etc. gatherings.
70. I think a space to gather is very important in order to reach the congregation. Everyone just filed out and tried to get out of each other's way. There was no place to wait for the priest or another parishioner besides the sidewalk.
71. The extra space would have been very nice. However, design flaws in the plan for the addition (such as a very small kitchen area) seemed to be poorly thought out.
72. A gathering space for us all to be together. The space funneled us right into Mass and right out of Mass - there was no space to have a conversation after Mass.
73. If the budget permits, a slightly larger area at the entrance of the church would be a nice addition. Everything we were looking to add would be great additions to the church - an area to congregate before/after Mass and have a cup of coffee together, an area for our parish staff offices, etc. An overflow area would

be put to good use on holy days when attendance soars above the norm. An area for families to take their young children for a few moments as needed while still being able to listen to Mass.

74. A community gathering center/area for prior to/after Mass and receiving of sacraments.
75. A separate gathering space more than an open entrance area. Sometimes Masses bump into each other so people are arriving while others are leaving. This prevents those leaving from congregating. It can be noisy when people are arriving for those wishing some private visitation time
76. Gathering for senior activities. Space for young adults to meet instead of the Parish Center. For hospitality instead of outside by the curb.
77. Having a gathering space is not a bad idea. However, we had gone down from 5 weekend Masses to 4 - the argument for needing more space is not there. And the original plan had been to connect the parish center to the church and if that had been in place the parish center might have burned down as well.
78. For gatherings before/after funerals and weddings.
79. We are a younger family and I know talking to other younger families that we would love a place for us to gather after and hopefully have more family friendly activities to do other than Mass.
80. Larger space for gathering inside and out (covered) but not separate rooms.
81. It would be great to have an area to gather before or after Mass in an area that does not block people from entering or exiting and not disturb those still praying with noise. A space outside with an awning would be nice for processions or blessing of the animals and a meeting space on site for groups to meet would be good.
82. Larger space as you enter the church.
83. Additional space as community gathering for after or before service gathering.
84. The proposed gathering areas provided more flexibility for various types of worship or gathering; they should be included in future designs.
85. A meeting space would allow parishioners to gather before or after Mass, without having to immediately go outside. The previous lobby was too small for this type of gathering, so people often went right to their cars after Mass, not feeling like there was a "good" space to gather.
86. A gathering space is very important to bring the congregation together. After Masses, instead of "running to cars" because the entrance space inside and outside is too small, a larger gathering space would be very beneficial. To hold "Coffee/ bagels" after Mass, meetings at certain times, room for food pantry and religious item "sale" would add to our parish mission statement to be there with and for one another and bring a sense of community.
87. Larger gathering place (multiple) for before and after the service. Gathering area for the youth & the elderly. You need more places to sit, perimeter seating, food collection area, if not a dedicated crying room, then they could gather here and still feel a part of the service.
88. We need space for Communion breakfasts, talks and lectures, family events.
89. A large gathering and greeting area should be considered!
90. I feel this is very important but the spaces should be separate. The greeting space should be when entering the church, while the gathering should be

somewhere away from the entrance and the actual worship environment. Both are extremely valuable, just not together.

91. Gathering areas, coffee/donuts. Additional bathrooms.
92. If there is a gathering space I would not like it in the entrance of the church. I believe the greeting space should be used as a place for our priests to welcome and greet people after Mass, and information about what is going on in the parish. The gathering space should be separate as I believe a gathering place right at the entrance would take away from the sanctity of what we go to church for, which is to worship and celebrate Mass.
93. Room to linger greeting people before and after Mass when the weather is not conducive to being outside.
94. Fellowship space is nice for committees and events/gatherings.
95. Coffee after Mass, chair yoga for seniors, youth groups.
96. Community gather space both inside and outside.
97. Although the parish would benefit from more space for gathering, it would be beneficial if this space was completely closed off from the church to prevent conversation taking place in the place of worship. The church should be a time of quiet, peace, prayer, and reflections
98. I believe that a gathering space for multi-purpose uses.
99. Kitchen to be used for refreshments.
100. A place to socialize after Mass. A place for meetings, Sunday breakfast. Room to gather before Weddings, Baptism, Confirmation, Graduation etc.
101. Gathering after Mass encourages all to get to know one another and include newcomers to the group. We are a nice parish. We just need someplace to be together in the church space not going to another building.
102. Gathering area large enough to be a multi-purpose room.
103. We need a gathering space and a place for fellowship of various types.
104. People tend to congregate in the exit area, however whenever we have special guests, support groups, etc. that set up after Mass, there is very little space for people to interact with these groups, and they often must set up outside. A little extra space would certainly assist in all aspects mentioned
105. "Welcoming": From the moment one enters, the person should feel they belong. "Hospitality": there was no place to gather after liturgy for continued fellowship and socializing.
106. I think a gathering area would be nice for the community to come together after services.
107. Yes, if the space was used to gather after church for coffee or breakfast club. Or to hold meetings in. Especially if our school closed at some time, with the enrollment down.
108. The MBS community is varied and having the added space would allow for some of the individuals to be able to participate in more activities. It would allow for some of them to move around more easily (wheelchairs, walkers, stairs presenting a problem). The added space would offer opportunities for set-up/clean-up at times where it would not interfere with school activities in the school gym. This added space would probably be more welcoming in its decor and functionality.

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109. For social activities before and after Mass, First Communion, Confirmation, etc. where participants can greet and mingle.
110. Larger space for greeting, etc. Would be great. Space within Church is more than sufficient now. We need to be practical and not build a building with Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter in mind.
111. An area for fellowship after Mass but NOT in the foyer with tables; that's too much like a restaurant. If possible, an area for infants so parents can sit with them, but that's not totally necessary.
112. A medium-sized gathering space. Small crowds in large spaces make it seem uninteresting
113. Place for parishioners and guests to gather and talk. Possibly a welcome desk or multipurpose desk for visitors to be welcomed and/or special events (people selling raffle tickets etc.) would be very useful. Like the idea of an area for parishioners/guests to have a coffee or talk at tables, chairs. To me all of these aspects to make the parish more welcoming would be additive and helpful to maintain and hopefully grow our parish.
114. A welcoming space, a possible meeting space, a possible location for the religious gift shop

Worship-related

1. Overflow space for Christmas, Easter complete with video and audio.
2. A crying room for children that has audio so the accompanying parent could still hear the Mass.
3. Often times our church was half-filled. It was only Palm Sunday, Easter, and Christmas, three days a year that our church was overly crowded, otherwise I enjoyed sitting in my regular seat each week. The larger the space, the more cavernous, the less intimate the experience.
4. A small chapel makes sense.
5. A small worship area to the Blessed Virgin.
6. It can be used for certain liturgical functions around the major celebrations of the Church, e.g. baptisms, Easter liturgy.
7. "Evangelizing": there was no space for Children's Liturgy of the Word; RCIA sessions within Mass, etc.
8. For spiritual growth lectures, (Renew, Catholic Charismatic Prayer group, etc.)
9. I think that a portion of added space should be for a chapel.
10. Area to bring children to worship.
11. We also need a "cry" room for young children.
12. Cry room.
13. Overflow for holidays.
14. We have a lot of space in our campus for gathering. The whole "community center" (former convent then rectory) could be renovated to create excellent community space. But the Church proper doesn't need more community space. It needs more adoration, more Blessed Sacrament, more reverence.
15. Most Blessed Sacrament Parish is a welcoming community, therefore, it might be nice to have a glassed in area for families with young children. Of course, they are always welcome in the main area of our church but it might be nice to have

an area for them to feel 100% comfortable. Sometimes parents want to refrain from Mass because they are worried their child might be disruptive.

16. We need better worship space so that we can more effectively have Christmas concerts, recitals, high Masses and beautiful liturgies that will be enhanced by the space. I went to Mass there weekly but always elsewhere for important services because the lack of beauty detracted from liturgy. We need space for a crying room for families, a small separate chapel for weekday Masses and to come together to worship the Eucharist.
17. Daily Mass chapel.
18. Chapel area for private and quiet prayer.
19. A small chapel would be nice, too.
20. We need a chapel for quiet worship in a comforting separate space.
21. I would like to see the predominant use be spiritual, i.e. a chapel and prayer space.
22. I would like to see a chapel that is filled with statues and soft lighting is very important to include.
23. I would like to see a "crying room" or an area for parents to feel comfortable and supported with small children, where they will still be a part of the Mass.
24. I don't think we really needed the extra addition that was planned. The church was never filled to capacity at Sunday Masses. Only on holidays.
25. I know many people do get deterred from going with their younger kids because of behavior so if there was a comfortable spot they could go to when children act out would be a plus. Also many have mentioned adding a children's Mass to the schedule.
26. Greetings, a way for information to be passed on, a "crying" area for children and maybe televisions that show the Mass if parents need to step out with their children.
27. Outdoor prayer garden area maybe with memorial tiles.
28. Special Blessed Mother chapel.
29. Separate children's area but within the main church.
30. Extra seating is deemed necessary. Continuation of pews, or designated spaces for extra seating for major events.
31. Separate Daily Chapel.
32. A smaller chapel space for baptism or weekday Mass would also be a nice idea.
33. A Chapel an area for saints.
34. Room for wall of saints (as previously proposed) with electric votive candles.
35. Also the proposed area with Saints was a great idea!
36. Sacraments more visibly displayed with LED Lighting.
37. Holy Water Fountain with troughs on both end. Saw one in a church I visited in CA and it was amazing and statues.
38. Digital Signage for our Written Word to help visually impaired as well as a hearing-impaired audio system.

Ministry-related

1. Space for youth groups/CCD kids or for events/lectures to help parishioners grow and learn the faith.

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2. I think a more accessible food pantry to the community is important so those who need it are equally welcomed.
3. Places to have prayer groups, rosary groups, lecture space.
4. Looking very forward to community space. I think it is VERY important for our youth and all ministries to have a place to gather. I think it be a very important for our congregation to have this space.
5. Youth group, various ministry meetings, small prayer groups, etc.
6. Future youth group.
7. It would also be nice to think of how we can involve the teen community more in our church.
8. No need for food pantry to be quite so visible; a more private space.
9. Bring back the Youth Group and have a space for them to be more involved.
10. Liked idea of designated food pantry for food and also Christmas presents.
11. I liked the idea of the food collection and the other items for donation to be perhaps more openly visible and perhaps available. There is tremendous generosity in the MBS community and in previous church it was largely non - visual, not virtual, but not an obvious aspect of the church. Perhaps as the church has evolved to tremendous degree regarding service to community, this point and value should be evidenced in the new space.
12. A food pantry, gently used/new clothing collection.
13. I love the idea of a food pantry that's inviting to the community.
14. If possible, please do the food pantry. Can also be a little library.
15. I belong to the prayer shawl ministry and it would be wonderful to have an area in the church for us to use and not have to stop meeting when other things are going on in the room where we meet now.
16. Meeting room for socializing after Mass, prayer group and other ministries.
17. I like the idea of a food pantry or "thrift shop" space to store donations - physical space near the entrance to encourage participation in donations is important.
18. "Witnessing": there was little space to store our monthly food collection for the poor and the children's gifts at Christmas.
19. Gathering space for implementing Christ's mission, teaching & evangelizing should have a place for people to pray the Rosary & have rooms for 2 or 3 things a time like Bible studies, MOMS group, invited speakers for Respect Life, young adult ministry & youth ministry. Area should not look like a secular gathering place or comfy lounge. Very important: SECURITY SYSTEM, area for pamphlets, displays & information tables, technology for showing Catholic videos. Full kitchen not needed. No confusing modern art!
20. I think a dedicated space for food collections items or a pantry is a wonderful idea. I would hope by seeing what is collected that additional parishioners would donate. Perhaps a larger women's room/dressing room would aid with brides.

Meeting Space

1. Modest size multipurpose room equipped for small gatherings and meetings.
2. I do feel a separate community gathering area is necessary for small groups to meet or even for larger groups to meet but not necessarily as part of the church.
3. Meeting area for teens, seniors and youth groups.
4. Good place for classes for newcomers & others to see & learn.

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5. Bigger vestibule not needed, but a basement room with windows for meetings is very important.
6. Meeting place for a youth group or the like.
7. Support group meetings.
8. Prayer groups, meeting areas for pre-sacrament use (baptism, marriage, etc.) rather than community center, which is cramped and has many stairs.
9. Since we have Parish Center, I didn't see much need for meeting rooms.
10. We need comfortable accessible space for meetings, especially for seniors and our youth.
11. Place to have meetings and prayer groups.
12. Retreat space that is more comfortable and more spiritual than the school gym.
13. As a community meeting area, as a place to hold Bible study classes, informal youth or ministry meetings, community service space maybe.
14. Meeting space, good for before and after Mass or events.
15. Gathering rooms for meetings of any purpose - organizing charitable events, family gathering space after sacraments.

Other Suggestions

1. Since we are in the Northeast, I liked the idea of using plants and possible pond to signify life.
2. I would explore notions such as a gift shop or food pantry, although I would not encourage a café. A labyrinth is an interesting notion, particularly for children (or anyone).
3. We feel that an addition is not needed on the direct church. An enclosed glass way to the Parish Center could be erected and the center's downstairs (first floor) could be revamped for gathering purposes.
4. A bigger gathering space to sign up for Feeding the Hungry, adoration, taking a tag from Giving Tree, so if you are reading a sign or chatting with someone you do not feel like you are blocking someone's exit. I think if we did take some seating from our sanctuary we could make that space bigger, I do not think this space should be our refreshment space though. I think the screened porch could be taken down so we can make our footprint larger for that type of casual space to be used for learning/social.
5. I would like to see a community room added. This space could be used in many ways throughout church events. This could lead to bigger participation from the congregation.
6. The exit-way (narthex?) was always jammed with people and made it difficult to leave after the Mass so more space and exit doors would be a plus.
7. I believe the prior "renovation plan" outlined the needs very well. Aside from a Chapel, gathering and community space was sorely needed. Also needed was proper storage (for community food bank, etc.) and a preparation area for brides.
8. Let me preface my list with how I think the church should evolve. I would like the church to play a more important role in the life of the community - not just be there to visit on Sunday then forget the rest of the week. And, I feel people want to connect more and through church is a great way.
 - Speakers / seminars

- Hold concerts around the different holidays (i.e. Easter, Christmas) as well as bringing in talented musicians/singers
 - Breakfasts
9. I've lived in Franklin Lakes for forty years and it struggles as a town for a sense of community. A building alone will not create that sense. I would like it to be a spiritual house. Many of the photos you showed us could have been corporate buildings with welcoming foyers. Franklin Lakes is a unique town. I would like to see the current parish center integrated in the plan as well as the school. You cannot forget about those two structures.
 10. A gathering space could be used for parish events. For example, at our winter home church, there is a small gathering room for the quilt ministry, teen groups, etc. St. Thomas Apostle, Tucson, has a larger room for coffee and donuts, bake sales by Marians, Bible study groups using main room and 3-5 adjacent "classrooms" for smaller group (10-15) interactions. The larger room is used by The Knights of Columbus for dances, fund raisers, the parish Valentine's Day dinner/dance, St. Patrick's Day celebrations, etc.
 11. Since we have the school and parish center, there is space, albeit dated. But there's drop-off when people have to go to a different place.
 12. Food pantry, funerals/wakes/repast, Bible study, meetings, kitchen area etc...
 13. I love the pictures that were examples. The first one reminded me of what we had but updated - covered walkway, welcoming transparency, small garden - like we have had in the past. Love the wood door with the glass door to come in. Love the tree of life doors - spiritual with light and open in two of your photos are lovely. Would love to see the bells somewhere in the landscape, if possible. I would hope that we all can do something that will remind us of what we had in the past. I do think we were ahead of our time.
 14. We were planning to build on a shrinking population. We have seen many parishioners leave our parish over the last several years for other parishes. And, with the school enrollment down to low levels, we have fewer young families involved in the parish and/or attending Mass with their families. We need to understand why people are leaving our parish or simply no longer attending Mass.
 15. When the addition was introduced I would have rated it unnecessary because I felt there were other things to concentrate on & space was available in the school/parish center that could be updated for far less \$. However, now that the church is starting from scratch, I feel that it is very important to have the extra space to be used for so many things - hopefully increasing outreach efforts and committees, enhancing a welcoming community.
 16. Ample size and shape, allow for good traffic flow, take the variety and diversity of functions this space will address into account.
 17. If a new large space is created, I think the parish should start developing programs for the youth of the parish (aside from catechism classes.) When I was growing up in the church there was an active youth group where I met some of my lifelong friends, it helped the young people to feel that they were important, included in the parish, and to have a place to spend time together.
 18. Grand pipe organ

19. Taking inspiration from the images shared of a large gathering space with natural elements, we could create a beautiful serene gathering place that would feel peaceful, warm and welcoming.
 20. I love MBS because the second you opened those interior doors, you were amazed by the beauty. While some people see the importance of a gathering space, I would hope it doesn't take away from any "wow factor." I wouldn't enjoy walking into a church, navigating my way through hallways, crowds, etc., and then finally turn a corner to enter the church; however, if that is the case, hopefully there would still be gorgeous interior doors that make the transition from the gathering space to the church beautiful.
 21. I think more stained glass would be special.
 22. Although I think that it might be nice to have one room set aside for community gatherings, I don't think it is necessary to have an elaborate space.... & I don't think it contributes to the mission of the Church to build a separate kitchen. Rather, we should focus our attention and our funds on building a sacred place of worship. A place where people will be drawn back to God's house to adore Him....and adore Him. Meeting rooms and kitchens are nice....but priorities need to be set. Not a social club.
 23. Need more dialogue and participation with this committee.
4. For the following questions, using a scale where 0 means "not at all" and 10 means "extremely well", how would you rate how well our previous church met the needs of...
- our families with children 5.9
 - our youth 5.7
 - our elderly parishioners 7.0
 - our disabled parishioners 6.7
 - visitors to our church 6.9

Is there anything our church needs that we didn't have in our church before?

1. The church's name is Most Blessed Sacrament: Could we have something in the new church that is a concrete representation of those words - a "centerpiece" so to speak that would make an impact on the worshipers and say that this is the house of the Lord?
2. More design to portray the Most Blessed Sacrament upon entering would be an asset either by stained glass or design or larger, brighter doors.
3. More lighting - either natural or electric.
4. As noted, I think greater use of liturgical art (but not overwhelmingly so) would be an asset, along with lighter materials and/or illumination.
5. More designated space for the choir.
6. A more traditional and old world feel of a chapel.
7. Working restrooms, meeting or gathering space large enough to accommodate at least half the people who attended Mass, doors which are easy to open, the old ones were very heavy.
8. Candles to light (electronically or virtually) for prayers or intentions.
9. Better bathrooms, a water fountain, and a larger place to place donations of food or presents.
10. Stained glass windows.
11. More lights, votive candles, Blessed Mother Chapel.

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12. Should include audio/video, varied seating/tables and refreshment area, but not a full kitchen. We are not a full kitchen parish.¹ Room occupancy 75 max; we rarely meet for large parish events unless they are worship related. Remember we no longer have a youth group that did Living Stations of the Cross, we no longer do a Christmas concert as these became under-attended events. But if we had a Bishop Barron video series teaching you may get 50 people & seniors for café.
13. A crucifix and Blessed Mother Statue where people could go to pray; statues of the saints, electric candles, and on a practical note- smoke detectors, fire alarms, security
14. More room for interaction.
15. Dedicated men's room and ladies' room, not single universal restrooms.
16. A separate gathering area.
17. New church needs more restrooms, preferably unisex/family, each with a separate entrance from the public area and with PLENTY of ENHANCED ventilation and NO air dryers - they save paper but THEY DON'T WORK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
18. A "crying" area for children who need to leave the Mass.
19. Area for families with children to participate despite the sometimes audible challenges of bringing our children to Church.
20. Absolutely critical will be areas for the disabled (special enclosed spaces, etc.) Our church did not have this and it would be more inclusive to consider this more tangibly.
21. A private chapel per the reconstruction plan. Room for hospitality, gatherings, etc.
22. An area for our choir.
23. We have a wonderful choir who sits facing the front of the church while they're singing. Many in the congregation have said they cannot hear the choir from where they are seated. If there was an area for the choir where they would be facing the congregation, their voices would project and be heard.
24. More signage would be nice, and a little more detail to the altar and behind it.
25. Better bathrooms for the family. Before the bathrooms did not provide changing tables which made changing diapers difficult. And again a place to go where we can still hear the Mass if our children might be acting out. Though even when children did act out our parish was still welcoming.
26. Room for parents with young children.
27. Area for wheelchairs /walkers.
28. Way to have parishioners to advise when they have guests coming.
29. More space in the narthex and more religious artwork.
30. A room where we can store the cleaning stuff. Basically we need many storerooms.
31. People. If we have a welcoming atmosphere, we pray more "young" people would come. Enhancing children's programs, choir etc. Aka: Churches in Rome and how there is such a feeling of the Lord's presence when you enter them. Traditional updated mix.

¹ Why I do not think we need a fellowship space that has a full kitchen which was in our renovation is because we fellowship, but in small groups. For example, the folks who feed the hungry are basically a group, the folks that do Thanksgiving boxes them too, Giving Tree, Cornerstone, Knitting Circle, SSJ associates. These ministries, just to name a few, are cohesive, they fellowship together. Is there overlap? Yes, which is good. So our parish has many groups that fellowship together. We are not a parish of 100 like Methodist church in town who will have a BBQ and get 50 to attend, which is why I think our "Fellowship Room" could have a 75 person occupancy and we would be well suited for now/later.

- Love a steeple. Hopefully a part of the bell tower as a remembrance of the original building either in full form or one bell in statue form either outside or inside the Church.
32. A magnificent holy water display for entering and leaving church.
 33. Yes, prayer candle.
 34. Devotional spaces.
 35. Better bathrooms.
 36. Better access & accommodations for disabled.
 37. Unfortunately at times those using wheelchairs had to stay in aisles. Maybe an area of the last aisle could be set aside to provide an area out of the aisle to conveniently "park" their chair and be with their family or healthcare assistant.
 38. Our church needs adequate and comfortable space for congregating before and after Mass.
 39. Yes! We could definitely use an extended space for small hospitality functions: i.e. meet & greet (doughnuts & coffee) following Masses, refreshments following concerts, capability for hosting small repasts following funerals. Also: more restrooms for parishioners and private restrooms for priests and church musicians.
 40. Perhaps a designated space for disabled persons, especially those in wheelchairs, so they wouldn't have to be placed at the end of pews in the aisles for services.
 41. We've had to go to St. Elizabeth's to light a candle for a special prayer, but would really like to have electric candles in the new church.
 42. A water fountain would be appreciated.
 43. An excellent sound system.
 44. A dedicated choir area.
 45. Water fountain.
 46. Larger gathering space.
 47. More light in sanctuary.
 48. Places that our handicapped could sit with walkers and or wheelchairs without being in the aisles. Place for the youth, families or elderly could gather before or after the Mass. The space for certain liturgical needs. Holy Thursday, Palm Sunday, funerals weddings, we really didn't have any convenient storage for liturgical & seasonal items.
 49. WINDOWS! More natural light. Beauty - that inspires and calls to mind the majesty of our God! Stained glass, statuary, high ceilings, graceful arches, beautiful stone, a gorgeous floor, the best of the 2000 years of tradition in our faith with some modern touches - arches and columns with glass in place of some stone walls. A gorgeous crucifix, tabernacle, ambo, altar! The previous altar was not befitting its role. We need both a pulpit for the priest to proclaim the gospel and an ambo. A beautiful floor.
 50. Perhaps an area for wheelchairs, strollers, young children. A designated place for a choir.
 51. Handicap places for wheelchairs etc. room for children. Meeting room for youth group, elderly etc. more accessible bathrooms for elderly, handicap, infants.
 52. Long main aisle with a focus on the altar.
 53. I believe we need a space for the Tabernacle on the altar and a chapel for prayer and candles to be lit. Parishioners and visitors alike, I believe, like to have a space to light a candle and pray for an intention. I enjoy doing this in any church I attend.
 54. A gathering space for parishioners to meet before and after Mass, location of the tabernacle directly behind the altar, handicapped accessible bathroom for those in wheel chairs.

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55. Daily chapel (small worship space for small group less than 50), flexible seating, interior and exterior gathering spaces.
56. Move the tabernacle back to the center!!! It is the Most Blessed Sacrament!!!
57. Infant room or at least space insulated from general congregation for those families with particularly disruptive infants/children.
58. Modern HVAC system. Accommodation for wheelchairs.
59. We need space where moms can take their fussy children and still be part of Mass. We need bathrooms that accommodate real people - families, babies, seniors. We need adoration. We need holy devotional space.
60. Gathering space.
61. Natural lighting, more color, family room, better overflow area, room/area to congregate before/after Mass.
62. Just a little bigger for Mass service so we can have different events there for our community.
63. There should be a designated meeting room to be used for youth groups, senior groups, young adults, choir and our families with children.
64. The internal and external gathering areas are very appealing. The transparency concept is very appealing to me.
65. I am very partial to having glass openings to the sky which let sun beams filter in. that the old structure had.
66. While I liked the modern feel of church a more tradition look would give a warmer feel. If there was a possibility of a lower level that could be used for other gatherings that would be a nice addition.
67. We need to figure out why our church is not thriving relative to other churches in our surrounding area.
68. High ceilings. Inviting main entrance.
69. Clean and usable and handicap restrooms, adequate and maintained space for parish sponsored projects such as food/gift collections.
70. Intimate space for devotions.
71. Stained glass windows.
72. A special spot for the BVM.
73. Electronic candles for special prayers.
74. Handicap seating area.
75. A basement meeting room.
76. A quiet place for families with little children to have the option to sit separately, yet be included in the Mass.
77. A place for those with special needs or disabilities to be able to sit comfortably.
78. I believe that the new space should have a kitchen set up. When utilizing the gathering space for various groups and their functions, it would be convenient and beneficial to have the ability to prepare refreshments, snacks, desserts on the premises. I feel that we need candles as a part of our worship space. I realize that they probably will need to push button type, but I feel that it would add to the spirituality of both the space and our parishioners.
79. An area for wheelchairs, walkers and people on crutches. An area for families with young children. Candles (electric) to light for our special prayers.
80. Our parish needs a gathering space for before or after services.

81. A quiet room for families with little ones so they wouldn't feel they were disturbing others. Not everyone smiles & tells them it is fine. Using the chapel for little ones is wrong. I have seen them try to climb that altar. St. Catherine of Siena in Mountain Lakes has a quiet room. Having been in it - it works. You can see & hear Mass while the little ones play. They also don't seem to go to the rest room. Parents wouldn't feel like they had to go to separate Masses or not at all.
82. Music ministry deserves supportive quality enhancement (ex. organ) that reflects the importance of its contribution to the Liturgy. Our parish is blessed with talented and dedicated musicians.
83. A chapel dedicated to Our Lady is our prayer.
84. Besides the community space I think we need better bathroom facilities and areas for bridal parties.
85. Cry room.
86. Separate chapel.
87. A smaller chapel for weddings, funerals and personal prayer.
88. The church needs a youth group.
89. A true chapel for prayer and candles to be lit. Along with praying in church, this can be a place that will draw parishioners and visitors alike and will bring more activity and involvement within the church. I would also like to see a place for the tabernacle somewhere on the altar.
90. More bathrooms, indoor and outdoor gathering areas, exterior benches, exterior covered entrance, more natural light, better acoustics and sound system.
91. Some stained glass.
92. An enclosed crying room for babies/children to lessen distractions during services. Proper seating area for elderly and disabled parishioners.
93. Did the church have a cry room???
94. A community room or rooms to provide religious education classes, cornerstone groups, rosary clubs, and other church groups a place to gather.
95. Nicer chapel.
96. We need a handicap accessible bathroom and a diaper changing area.
97. The old church needed a stronger entry vestibule with more space and natural lighting.
98. More color, more nature, living things.
99. Easier access from several points to indoor.
100. Corridor which would enable latecomers or early leavers or those going to restroom to not have to walk to the one main exit which can be disruptive to many.
101. I think it would adding a gathering space or spaces as planned in the new redevelopment would be nice. Additionally, especially in this day, I think that while our church was not 'closed', we should consider adding more windows, especially at the entrance for an even more transparent feel, maybe even on the street sides as well. I know adding a 'cry room' was discussed, I do not particularly care for them as I feel people should not feel the need to take crying children out of Mass, but I could see that too.
102. Some churches have a separate area for children.
103. Area for families with young children. I'm aware cry rooms are passé; however, an area (possibly off greeting) where family can worship, especially with special needs children, autistic etc., or for that matter an active 2 yr. old. Better space for music ministry.

104. Re: our youth: need better teen group, and something for the “forgotten 20-30 year olds”. Architecturally: a much larger Narthex for greater flow generally, with larger wall of wooden slots for religious pamphlets/magazines, larger bulletin space to post events (not just at MBS but local parishes, Divine Mercy conferences/concerts, etc.) that would be of interest to parishioners. E.g., St. Elizabeth’s in Wyckoff even has a small religious book & CD rack to purchase from with slot box payment (for Spiritual growth).
105. A space up front designated for wheelchairs. Would love cushions for bad backs.
106. A crying room, a niche for prayer to Mary.
107. A large gathering area.
108. A quiet room for young children and their families. Meeting spaces for our youth and elderly and all parishioners.
109. Electronic worship candles. If used in corners maybe two of these <https://www.churchsupplywarehouse.com/furniture/votive-light-stands/electric-electronic-votive-light-stands/19xe49c-corner-votive-stand-19xe49c-7517.html>.
110. Transparency via glass windows and glass walls would be a wonderful addition that we did not have enough of in the old church.
111. Attentive cleanliness (bathrooms) grounds upkeep and maintenance. Grounds are not maintained.
112. Larger gathering space; a community center for fellowship and meet and greet opportunities; a tastefully designed area for families with children who might prefer to be seated there; a chapel for weekday Masses and smaller weddings and funerals; rooms for CLOW; RCIA; small parish meetings.
113. I think seating for disabled persons would be more welcoming to the community as those who require wheelchairs, etc. did not have an area, other than in the back of the church, to be a part of the congregation. I also think, as noted above, that the pantry should be accessible to those who need it. I also think we could use more natural lighting.
114. I think a room we can use for meetings or events with a kitchen.
115. The Tabernacle should be front and center of the Church.
116. There should be some special ‘framing’ ---- floor to ceiling (or at least large enough to create a focal point) --- around the Tabernacle.
117. The Tabernacle should be lifted (slightly elevated) in such a way that people can see it over the altar.
118. "The Tabernacle should be more ‘traditional’ in appearance. The one in the former Church was ‘modern’.....and had NO depictions of Our Lord. We should emphasize MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT in all our décor for the Church.
119. The crucifix hanging over the altar should be more ‘traditional’ to depict the crucified Christ. The use of artwork is cold.
120. Statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph should be in the front of the Church.
121. The Stations of the Cross should be more ‘traditional’ in depicting the 14 stations.
122. The church should be brighter with more natural light and, perhaps, brighter walls and ceiling.
123. More handicapped accessible. Not necessarily a crying room, because children are part of the assembly. We need to build community so that we can deepen family life. We need to look at what the Church in 2020 is. Reality is a major factor in planning this building. The bell tower if at all possible should remain for it has been a visible sign to all as a sign of the Catholic Church.

124. Maybe a bigger restroom area with a disabled stall.
125. Some churches have a glass enclosed quiet room (sound proof) for families with children so that they do not disrupt the Mass.
126. I would like to see more outdoor/garden gathering space adjacent to the church.
127. A room for infants, babies and toddlers, in which parents can view and hear the Mass.
128. Mary and Joseph on the main altar, or a prominent place for Mary.
129. Stained glass visible to all.
130. Clear iconography that serves to teach & inspire holiness. The tapestry that was behind the Tabernacle was colorful but overall was confusing.
131. Stations of the Cross clearly showing what took place, with enough room for a group of people to gather.
132. Tabernacle and sanctuary lamp clearly seen near altar.
133. Better lighting & security lighting.
134. Effective security system.
135. Votive candles.
136. Not needed: chapel for small weddings & funerals; bridal suite; bland art.
137. Greeting area. Baptismal font was in bad place and detracted from service. Should be in a more prominent place for all to see.
138. Changing tables in the restrooms for babies/young toddlers would be helpful to those with young families.
139. Within a larger gathering space, I would consider a welcome desk and an area for parishioners to sit/stand and have a coffee before or after Mass or events to grow the fellowship of our community.
140. Overall, I think a sanctuary with better lighting and a bit more modern would be much more compelling for our community.
141. Have seen in other churches an open row to accommodate parishioners with walkers or canes.
142. Would like to see a more defined area for our music ministry.
143. More natural light, and stained glass, seating designated for handicap/disabled (wheelchairs).
144. A private confessional(s).
145. Clear & traditional depiction of the Stations of the Cross, previous ones were abstract.
146. Better bathroom facilities.
147. More traditional aspects, stained glass, soft hues, elements, etc.
148. Small crying room, kitchen in community center for meals (current location is school gym),
149. Gathering Space and Recreational space. Space for Casual/Informal gathering (coffee/snacks). Better AV system throughout.
150. Wider area for wheelchair, holy water font spigot to fill container, more visible Stations of the Cross.
151. A parish hall and kitchen.
152. Stained glass windows.
153. Candles to be able to light and offer a prayer.
154. More prominent baptismal area with holy water basin.
155. Chapel, natural light, beauty, lighter building materials, longer center aisle, more traditional style (long nave vs. round) which would be attractive for and welcoming to

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- guests, beautiful stations and statues and altar and ambo and back wall of sanctuary and better sacristy.
156. The place where the sacred vessels were cleaned was cramped and impractical.
 157. Need gathering space. Use for separate instruction during Mass for young children, RCIA candidates, etc.
 158. More stained glass and natural light.
 159. Gathering space.
 160. Separate spaces for adoration (chapel) and prayer is needed. An elevated or separated area for the music ministry would be helpful to enable clear visibility by all of the congregation. I do believe a separate but visible baptismal font is needed to draw special attention and provide distinction to this sacrament.
 161. The Tabernacle in the center of the main altar area
 162. More bathrooms, maybe a crying room?
 163. Handicap accessibility. Community rooms for different organizations. Youth, prayer shawl, religious education, breakfast club to name a few.
 164. A private chapel with a door that closes for meditation/prayer by the tabernacle.
 165. A gathering space to accommodate overflow after Mass.
 166. A "crying"/family room where young families can hear and see the service but not feel like second class parishioners.
 167. Large screens on both sides of the altar where the responses and songs are projected (more welcoming! - save some trees! - economical!) We will also be able to clearly see the Archbishop's annual appeal and Papal messages, etc.
 168. A dedicated Youth Group space.
 169. We need a warm and inviting Community center for ministry groups to meet. We need a multipurpose room for Cornerstone and youth retreats.
 170. We need better bathrooms. We need handicapped accessible and a diaper changing area. The church needs handicap seating, which would include an area for wheelchairs.
 171. Dire need for more rest rooms. Much too limited in the past. Desperately need a "Bawl Room" for noisy or uneasy tots attending Mass with parents. Open space area for wheelchairs (like those in theaters and on cruise ship venues) and enlarged main aisle to accommodate coffins at funerals.
 172. A children's quiet room.
 173. Better siting - turn it around so that it faces the community instead of a screened parking lot.
 174. "Crying room" for families with small children - although I enjoy the children, their parents are often embarrassed and probably go to different Masses to avoid having to take children. This would welcome families.
 175. More stained glass.
 176. Better Stations of the Cross.
 177. Warm welcoming entrance plaza.
 178. A feeling of warmth and cheerfulness; interior was too dark.
 179. An area where worshipers could gather after Mass.
 180. Security system.
 181. A separate area where parents can step out with their children if they feel they are distracting. I enjoy the children being with the congregation but parents sometimes feel self-conscious.
 182. Permanent area for choir/ piano/ instruments, like St Elizabeth's in Wyckoff.

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Is there anything we need to change in the new church in order to meet the needs of our present and future community?

1. Never enough seating on Christmas, Easter, but that's probably true of any church.
2. Having car exits cross in front of people exiting church makes for traffic conflicts.
3. The Stations of the Cross seemed like an afterthought, not well placed or lighted.
4. Poor ability to see movies/slides from anywhere in the church and during the bright daylight.
5. Too much kneeling required for the elderly.
6. PLEASE DO AWAY FOREVER with the hand shaking - it's unsanitary!!!!
7. The narthex was too small and unwelcoming. It was small, our tables and signage took up much needed space, but we need signs for ministries we serve and we try to fellowship so a bigger gathering space/sign up space is needed. Although right outside the sanctuary should not be a refreshment space, that can exist, but then I say we have the school to use.
8. Certainly, the church should be ADA compliant, and have fire alarms and sprinkler systems to prevent a recurrence of the tragedy, and it should be somewhat larger.
9. Small gathering area maybe for refreshments after Mass
10. The chapel always felt a little separated from the main body of the church during full Masses and not separated enough during Eucharistic adoration. Don't know if it needs a redesign of eliminate it all together.
11. Relocate the tabernacle. Continue with plans to build the gathering space for the reasons cited above. Consider a separate chapel to provide a more intimate worship space for more intimate gatherings (Exposition, Novenas, Rosary).
12. Better video capabilities.
13. We do need a casual space and larger entrance/exit as stated above. Regarding casual space, not right by sanctuary, could be used for children's liturgy, youth group, senior citizens to have coffee after daily Mass, chair exercises for seniors, and teaching like SSJ associate meetings, Cornerstone, a video series like we do with OLPH, the numbers on our joint efforts are also down to about 50 and that is not counting this year's data, so 75 or less is more than ample.
14. Better exit and entrance to parking lot.
15. I would like to see a youth group reinstated and a Children's Liturgy of the Word.
16. I would like to see the new church much brighter and more inviting to our future community- possibility more stained glass windows, welcoming entrances, and places for food bank and donation collection, as well as retrieval. I loved the idea of the welcoming space for our needy parishioners of our community. I loved the idea from the presentation that showed the Witnessing and Care-giving room.
17. Needs to attract young people.
18. Be sure all areas are wheelchair accessible.
19. Cushioned pews would be nice. I have seen these in many churches.
20. Seat cushions.
21. Lighting needs to be accessible so that dead bulbs can be changed easily.
22. It was always TOO DARK in there at night or on rainy days - uplighting would have gone a long way to improve the atmosphere inside.
23. A permanent place for the choir would be good so that they don't take away seating during Christmas, Easter crowded times.

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24. A more traditional approach would be more welcoming, a place to light prayer candles would also be nice.
25. More spiritual statues would also be nice, as well as stained glass windows.
26. I believe inclusiveness and attention to the needs of the very young, very old and the disabled is critical
27. Need a community room for meetings, hospitality, etc.
28. It's always great to let parishioners know any and all ways to get involved or mission trips that are available to help others. Maybe add more to our website or have a small room or area where pamphlets and info can be easily accessible.
29. Beautiful entry doors.
30. Updated restrooms.
31. Larger gathering area.
32. Bring back the confessional.
33. A children's area in the sanctuary would be helpful for families with small children
34. A choir loft or other designated space for our music ministry -- the placement of the musicians at the front is distracting. When the cantor needs to consult the organist, for example, that isn't something Mass goers need to be part of. The music ministry should have more "privacy".
35. Larger narthex.
36. Although the overall capacity of the former Church was more than adequate for most occasions, on Christmas Eve, Christmas and Easter it sometimes was filled beyond capacity. If the "Community Area" could provide for some flexible seating/capacity for these very special days. Also, a "cry area" for some of our very young parishioners and their parents.
37. Please make the pews comfortable (padded?) and make the interior bright!
38. Make the doors easier to open. The old ones were too heavy!
39. Updated A/V equipment, perhaps with the capability of providing closed captioning for hearing impaired or missals (projection of hymn words).
40. His and her lavatories definitely.
41. Perhaps a space where a parishioner could lie down if something happened, like the altar server who passed out during service years ago, for example.
42. A small gathering room would suffice.
43. Doors were heavy to open. I don't want flimsy doors but certainly something could be done here.
44. Gathering space.
45. Place to serve food.
46. We have the opportunity to make a difference on how we treat our family.
47. Start with a traditional design and modernize it (vs. starting modern and adding traditional touches). Our church needs to be a place where people are inspired by our Lord and our faith to be Christ's hands in the world. The space needs to give all who enter a sense of the awesome wonder of our God. All the reasons that gothic arches and high ceilings and stained glass windows and long naves and stone statuary brought our minds and hearts to God still hold true today.
48. Handicap accessible entrances, bathrooms
49. LIGHTING. Natural and otherwise.
50. With new construction of housing in town we may have a larger parish.

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51. Because we are the Most Blessed Sacrament the focus should be on the Lord and although we are a resurrected people in Christ, it is through our crosses & weaknesses that, only with the power of Christ, can we attain Salvation. The Crucified Christ on the Cross draws us closer to Him and to each other!!! This is the Cross that should represent our parish. I also love, love, love a bell tower and am not in favor of the old one. I love the steeple idea!!!
52. New design and gathering space.
53. I believe the center aisle should be longer to meet the needs of the present and future communities. This would accommodate processions into the church, brides walking down the aisle, and first communicants processing.
54. I think the space allocated for the music ministry could be better defined and not take up space or block the view of some parishioners.
55. I would encourage you to brighten the new church as compared to the previous church. A brighter environment would enhance the spiritual nature of the environment.
56. Brighter atmosphere, entrance that is transparent.
57. We are the church of the Most Blessed Sacrament. We need to boldly proclaim Christ present in the Eucharist. He should be the center of all, not stuck out in some side place where no one can find Him.
58. Gathering space.
59. Place for "children's church".
60. Environmentally friendly (reusable resources, energy efficient).
61. A better defined area for our music ministry.
62. More lighting from the outside within.
63. I think if the church seemed more joyful in appearance and attitude we could meet many needs in the future.
64. It would be good to have enhanced technology in the new church. A screen to show presentations, such as from visiting missionaries for example. Or for the announcements..... Pictures tell a much better story!
65. The meeting area in front would be most important.
66. We need to figure out how to draw people in and make the church experience more fulfilling. For instance, start a folk Mass where the music is more in tune with the audience. We lose people with our music program because it is not inclusive of the audience but rather songs that are not known to the parishioners.
67. Elevated/designated area for the musicians.
68. Raised altar to allow the little ones to see more.
69. Art/statue at main entrance-something spiritual.
70. Better accessibility for handicapped parishioners.
71. More accessible for wheelchairs
72. I believe if we want to continue to welcome parents and families we need to meet their needs.
73. We need to do a better job welcoming the elderly with easy handicap access.
74. The renovation project was going to have meeting rooms.
75. Drop down screen for videos.
76. Brighter light! The example with natural light with trees inside, as well as beautiful stained glass windows, would give our church a more welcoming, spiritual feeling.
77. I feel that a section maybe for handicap persons as it is often difficult with width of the pews. Many churches have a children's room, for those parents who are not

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comfortable bringing small children into church as they are afraid to create a disturbance. Although MBS is very children friendly, maybe more it would encourage more families with infant and small children to come to Church.

78. More parking spaces will encourage more to come.
79. Church should be closer to Franklin Lake Rd. to be more visible to new people.
80. Should have a sign listing Mass times.
81. The tabernacle at the main altar offers comfort that Jesus is here and draws us to Him.
82. As we address the goals of our mission statement, we also need to incorporate a seamless, effective, unobtrusive security system.
83. Consideration of the needs of single people in the 20 - 40 age group is important.
84. I think MBS was a very warm and welcoming church to begin with and I can only pray that our new church will be as welcoming if not more welcoming to our present and future community and look forward to new beginnings and opportunities for our parish.
85. Space for fellowship.
86. Inviting exterior doors.
87. Light-filled space.
88. Natural elements would be lovely.
89. Not too contemporary.
90. Additional space for our programs, including youth programs, church functions etc.
91. Accepting others is a huge part of the mission statement but, with respect, this needs a lot of work- there are many people who need to feel a sense of belonging - divorced, gay, all races, young adults, 30's, 40's, etc., disabled, single people, not all are wanting to get married, some are waiting for the right person, some are single with adopted children, etc. etc.- acceptance and belonging are critical areas to emphasize- as Jesus' loves and accepts everyone we need to do this as well.
92. Upgraded sound system, top line security and technology infrastructures.
93. I think a quiet space where the Mass can be heard and seen from. This would allow parishioners that are special needs as well as families with small children a place to worship and not feel that they would disturb the Mass. Having three children of our own, when they were very young it was difficult to bring them to church because we worried that they would disrupt the Mass.
94. We need better bathrooms.
95. The new church will need to memorialize the old church and connect the old with the new. There are too many memories for all of the parishioners to not properly honor the old church.
96. Easier access for elderly.
97. I think that among things that I would change would be the placement of the tabernacle (behind the altar as opposed to in a chapel), moving the Mary Chapel to opposite the main worship space (as outlined in the proposed addition/renovation).
98. Prayer space, gathering space, brighter. I agree with the gathering space concept both inside and out.
99. Three lanes on High Mountain Road: one for entrance from High Mountain Rd. and two for exit - one a left turn, one for a right turn.
100. Larger statuary.
101. A defined area (like we had) with the Tabernacle that's cozy - for Adoration, quiet prayer before it and beautiful crucifix there, and for recitation of the Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy.... that's Very Important!

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102. A tiny religious shop would be nice, but not essential... but would've used more if one was seen vs. hidden in few shelves in Parish center.
103. More room behind last pews for wheelchairs.
104. Handicap ramp.
105. Handicap Entrance immediately close by.
106. Video Camera System to allow parish to broadcast Masses and services.
107. Larger outside meditation garden.
108. Much more seating to allow all church comers space to worship.
109. Better accessibility and seating for handicapped.
110. Additional number of restrooms.
111. Sacristy for priest vesting that would have its own restroom.
112. Bridal gathering room.
113. Preparation room for lectors, altar servers, etc.
114. I think we need more seating for disabled persons.
115. I also think we should incorporate stained glass and more natural lighting inside the church.
116. I also think we need to offer a food pantry that is more accessible to the community who will use it. We collect food all the time, and it would be nice for people who need that service to have a nice area to go to collect their items, instead of a small closet.
117. Better accessibility and a few more bathrooms. More spaces for wheelchairs around the church so the individuals don't necessarily need to stay in the back.
118. Very strong fire detection and strong alarm and cameras everywhere.
119. EFFECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM.
120. Better handicap accessibility.
121. Would it be possible to have a UV light purification system for the baptismal font and holy water fonts? I think that a big baptismal font for immersion is not a good idea because the more water, the bigger the challenge to keep it reasonably germ-free.
122. I think we have to be more attractive to a younger family community and encourage child attendance. We have a school which is not doing that well that needs to be integrated into the church life.
123. More suitable for children, elderly, and disabled
124. Engage youth and more families with children.
125. If our parish is growing, if our attendance at Masses on Sunday at full capacity, every pew is filled, then yes. However, if devotion is at full capacity on Holidays, then a compromise would be considered.
126. If skylights are used, please consider placement. The previous ones were impractical and made 5 pm Mass a challenge without sunglasses.
127. Basement and open/large entrance with hallway for gathering. Include large kitchen space for entertaining in Basement and gathering areas.
128. Handicap access with more space between seating in some section.
129. Better space for the Choir and music ministry.
130. It would be spiritual to have a separate room/chapel for quiet reflection.
131. No carpets, but flooring.
132. A church should have stained glass windows to distinguish it from other buildings.
133. More statues to say prayers and reflect with burning real or buttoned candles.

134. I think it is extremely important to have a house of worship as quickly as possible. I worry that in a large expansion will we will lose some of the warmth and intimacy we have so enjoyed.
135. I do think some better accommodations for the elderly and disabled should be considered.
136. Space more conducive to family attendance - crying room or narthex with bench seating and glass back wall, some accessible meeting space for religious education, handicap accessible, space for strong music program and future recitals and sacred music concerts, more areas for private worship and devotion.
137. Accessibility.
138. Accessibility requirements for handicapped persons under current building codes.
139. Should be like the cathedral in the drawings.
140. Stained glass.
141. Not plastic.
142. Gathering space
143. Better audio and video.
144. Designated areas for special ministries to gather (and perhaps distribute) food or clothing.
145. More traditional church than modern.
146. We have to address a digitally savvy younger audience and improve our youth programs. To be a "welcoming community which comes together to implement Christ's mission" we need to accept that our younger community of Franklin Lakes has changed. We are no longer the largest faith community for them. This is an opportunity for us to evangelize and create beauty that will draw in new, younger believers in welcoming, gathering spaces.
147. Slightly larger main church to accommodate services without having to use the chapel most of the time.
148. We need to increase the ministry for youth and continue providing men and women's Cornerstone retreats.
149. Sprinkler system for fires, leak proof roof and baptismal font.
150. More handrails for people with mobility problems. Pew cushions for worshippers with back or spinal problems.
151. The church needs to be brighter and more comfortable. The old church had uncomfortable benches and kneelers.
152. Tabernacle should have a place of honor and be focal point, as is appropriate
153. Perhaps learning center with Catholic literature and history that can be used as gathering to further our Catholic formation.
154. Perhaps a baby room.
155. Emphasis not only on religion but on fellowship with areas where increased fellowship would be made possible.
156. Seating for disabled parishioners, especially at holiday time where the seating is difficult for the disabled and elderly
157. Better ground & maintenance...clean windows & repairs.

6. For the following questions, using a scale where 0 means "completely dissatisfied" and 10 means "completely satisfied", how would you rate the...

- thermal comfort of the previous church **7.3**
- acoustics of the previous church **7.5**
- natural lighting in the previous church **5.0**
- electric lighting in the previous church **5.2**
- Please list any specific things you liked or didn't like relative to the areas of thermal comfort, acoustics and lighting in the previous church.

Thermal comfort:

1. At times it was quite chilly.
2. At times air conditioning was too cold.
3. Difficult to keep a constant, comfortable temp. Insulated walls and a more efficient HVAC system, and perhaps non-intrusive fans for air circulation, would help. Installation would be costly, but should decrease heating, etc. costs.
4. The heating and AC were always causing a problem.
5. At times, AC could be really cold or not cold enough.
6. Air conditioning was not very effective at times.
7. Always seemed too cold regardless of the time of year.
8. Church was cold.
9. It was cold in the winter.
10. Could sometimes be either be too chilly in winter or too hot in summer.
11. Too warm in winter (a little less heat).
12. The thermal comfort was fine when the church was not crowded; however, when the church was overfilled on holidays, the church would get stuffy and too warm.
13. A more dependable heating and cooling system.
14. Windows that would open and /or fans would be nice. Delete ceiling windows.
15. The HVAC system was ineffective: operation of the system was impractical to turn on or off; the building was either too hot or too cold.
16. The church always seemed comfortable in temperature.
17. Probably difficult to regulate climate with such high ceilings. The automatic-opening doors installed relatively recently were terrible - needed to be a strong-man to open them by hand - there must be something better. And, they remained open too long. Since the inside doors were always open, trash (e.g., leaves) and wrong-temperature air (e.g., hot humid summer air) could easily enter the building.
18. It was cold most of the time.
19. In our previous church some areas were very warm, while other areas were cold.
20. I generally felt that the church was too cold in the warmer months and too hot in the winter months. I rarely felt comfortable temperature-wise.
21. Thermal comfort at times was too warm, and people could be heard commenting about that.
22. The environment always felt damp.
23. Sometimes air was a bit still, bit can't really complain.
24. I thought the previous church was too warm inside in the warmer months.
25. Often the church was too hot, stagnant airflow.
26. HVAC kept the facility at a good, steady temperature.

27. The old church was pretty comfortable temperature-wise. The a/c had been an issue for a while, but seemed to have finally been repaired.
28. It was often cold.
29. The temperature was mostly moderate with the slight exception in the hot summer months where it could be slightly warm.
30. Not having exposed ductwork was an important part of the MEP design to keep the space from looking too commercial. The highly-visible HVAC system in the back of the church, however, was a mistake.
31. I never recall the church being uncomfortable from a thermal standpoint so I must say that it was sufficiently heated and cooled.

Acoustics:

1. Sound was good, placement was good for visibility, but they were cramped in space.
2. I thought the acoustics and sound system were wonderful. You could hear all that spoke or sang.
3. The floor was ugly and there was no good cushioning on benches or floors to muffle noise.
4. Sound could be better.
5. I have been in other churches that the acoustics are much better. So that would be an important detail for the new church.
6. There were sections of the old church where the audio was poor.
7. I believe the acoustics could be improved, particularly if there are performances, and it should be more audio/visual friendly, so all can see a presentation.
8. Improvement on the sound and microphone system.
9. Acoustics certainly could improve by providing better amp/speaker system.
10. The small screen where would see special presentations certainly was not designed for the church and the sound is always horrendous during those presentations. However, the acoustics for the Priest, choir etc. was always good quality
11. Circular configuration was positive, sound amplification was poor.
12. Considering the height of the ceiling, the acoustics were fine.
13. The acoustics were always wonderful (organ, speakers, singing.. always clear and beautiful).
14. No surround sound, voices didn't project, quality of music harsh sounding.
15. Need louder acoustics to keep children and everyone engaged.
16. At times the air conditioners were noisy and disruptive. The acoustics of the former building were excellent, well beyond any other church I have been in, and most favorably commented upon by Father Alfonse Stephenson, who held Christmas concerts in the church for many years.
17. The acoustics were good (except for the occasional microphone problems for the priests.)
18. The sound was awful.
19. Acoustics in the chapel were "off" ...for some celebrants, you needed to turn off the speakers.
20. Neutral on acoustics. I could hear the priest and readers easily. I appreciate the lack of singing at the early Sunday Mass. During holiday Masses with the band the music is too loud.
21. It was hard to pray in chapel area if music was practiced.

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22. I believe we need a choir loft. Music is meant to help the faithful lift their hearts and souls to the Lord. The movement and necessary consultation between the music people need not be a visible distraction to the faithful.
23. Acoustics in the church were good.
24. Sound was fine, but I never sat on the opposite side of the musicians to see how it sounded over there.
25. I loved the bells in the church; when they would ring during Mass on holidays. You could hear them from miles away and I think that's an important aspect of the church we knew.
26. I also felt the acoustics were very good, permitting you to project well, with or without a microphone.
27. Acoustics were good for sermons & singing, but need improvement... especially in a side area where tabernacle & seating are. (Previously either just ok, or flip switch and heard great-but would BLAST w/music.
28. The sound system was troubling. I often sat in the chapel area....and the sound was so loud and harsh especially during the singing that parishioners often shut the speakers off. Also, when videos were used, people sitting in many of the rows could not see....and the sound was often spotty.
29. I might be nice to be able to see the musicians better. It was difficult to view the screen when we had to watch a program that was projected from there. (I usually sat on the far left side.)
30. I loved how everything sounded in church, but honestly I feel like in the AMBS gym the music is so much more powerful and louder...sounds so amazing!!!
31. Acoustics were good except for area where Tabernacle was.
32. Prominent feature of the pipe organ, perhaps elevate singer or choir.
33. The acoustics were dull and the sound did not propagate accordingly. Ideally, the priest should not speak with a microphone and the layout should accommodate that.
34. Audio system wasn't always perfect.
35. Acoustics will need to be better especially if the church will be bigger.
36. The instruments in the choir are too deafening. I do not know whether it has anything to do with the acoustic.

Lighting:

1. The natural light was clouded by the old skylights and the electric lights were poor. The church was dark in the winter and the replacement of bulbs was a complicated process.
2. The natural lighting could be blinding at times given the location of the clear windows. Electric lighting could be brighter.
3. Natural light lovely, but electric lighting too dim.
4. Old church was very dark (very little natural light) and artificial light didn't really help. Would really prefer to have more natural light.
5. I always found it to be too dark. The Daily Mass Chapel (as it used to be called) actually had very nice lighting originally.
6. Lighting could be more invisible
7. The lighting both natural and artificial could have been better.
8. The sun shining through the roof transepts was often harsh, blinding and distracting if you happened to pick the wrong seat.

9. I liked how it was darker at night in the church because it didn't feel artificial. I absolutely adored the way the windows were before in the old church, the only problem was that in certain places at certain times of day the light was directly in your eyes and it was hard to see.
10. Not enough natural light and stained glass windows.
11. Transparency not indicated to any great degree.
12. I like a church that when properly illuminated from the inside it lights the outside like the examples you showed. I would feel less safe with big floor to ceiling windows and doors in the present time in which we live.
13. Sun would be blinding for some on one side of the church in the morning and for others at later in the day Masses.
14. I love natural lighting, however, if you were at Mass when the sun was going down the sunlight could be blinding.
15. I feel that the church was too dark and would like to see more natural lighting.
16. With the open glass windows in sections it could be blinding at certain times
17. I would prefer to have more electric lighting, but the natural lighting was nice also.
18. I loved the idea of the natural light in one of the examples that was given - in our Church we had moments during many of the day Masses where sunlight would stream through to illuminate the altar, the presider, etc. It was exquisite and tangible evidence of the Spirit.
19. The electrical lighting was not good while walking through areas to rooms behind the altar. As important as I feel the natural lighting is, while we are in worship, some aspects of it proved to be a nuisance for those seated in the rear pews near the windows, when the sun was setting.
20. Sometimes the church felt dark on rainy/cloudy days
21. I love natural light and was really drawn to the pictures in your presentation that had churches with large welcoming windows.
22. Lighting not soft enough, no dimming capability, all overhead lighting and no lighting on the walls, no spotlights to enhance the Stations of the Cross. Spots would be very helpful if we had artwork.
23. As I loved the idea of a skylight, it was not very practical. The light was frequently blinding, depending on where you sat, and it leaked. Warm light glowing from within seems welcoming to me.
24. Need more natural light.
25. Natural lighting was a very important feature of the church, it should be used with electrical lighting to present the right atmosphere of the church.
26. More stained glass windows
27. If the sun was shining, the ceiling windows allowed a blinding glare. Also they never looked clean.
28. Notwithstanding a preference for the relatively low lighting, improvements to natural lighting would be welcome.
29. Lighting was functional and adequate but I often wondered how any burned out light bulbs were changed in the fixtures near the ceiling at the center of the Church building.
30. The natural light was good, but I would prefer more. The electrical lighting was horrible.

31. Lighting for night services was a bit spotty in certain areas and the lightbulbs burned out frequently leaving gaps for long periods of time
32. The church always seemed to be on the dark side. When it was a bright sunny day, the windows in the ceiling let in the sun almost too much, so that it was in the eyes of people directly in line with it, and the rest of the church remained on the darkish. Perhaps more windows on the sides would be nice.
33. During the summer everyone knew to avoid sitting in certain pews because the sun would hit your eyes and blind you.
34. Way too dark: I didn't like the skylights
35. I wouldn't like a transparent church because I think it would distract from the spirituality of the place. I like the idea that you are entering church and leaving your daily problems at the door.
36. Too dark.
37. Needs more natural & open lighting as well as better electric lighting.
38. Don't want super bright lights but to have the area to be generally lighter. Loved the wood & brick (gave a sense of strength & warmth) but need it to be offset with lighter materials.
39. The church was just too dark but the worst part of the church was the dark brick and dark wood and minimal natural light. It was like being in the galley of a ship. Awful.
40. Ceiling natural sunlight was blinding some Sundays as a seasonal problem.
41. It seems a bit dark in places.
42. I always felt that the lighting in the previous church was too dark. The previous church could have benefitted from more stained glass windows, allowing light to flow in a reverent way, and brighter electric lighting as well.
43. The limited natural light combined with antiquated and limited electric light not only made the church dark, but it also did not present a dramatic spiritual experience.
44. My preference is natural light over electric but recognize both are needed. A white ceiling would help a lot. I was a member of the OLM parish in Kinnelon for 15 years and that church is nice and bright inside which I always found welcoming, spiritual, inviting and pleasant.
45. The brick was fine - the skylights got very dirty
46. The church and narthex were too dark. A brighter entry would make the church more welcoming and positive feeling.
47. When cloudy outside the church felt dark during the services even with the lights on. Could have been resolved with additional lighting or lighting that was more strategically placed. A number of the light bulbs were burnt out at any particular time and not replaced on a timely basis.
48. No sunlight coming through the roof please, we were blinded often depending on location and season.
49. I would like to see more of a lighter aspect. In the photo slides, I was drawn to the photos of the transparency examples, especially with the entranceway of the complete front facade of glass.
50. Church was a bit dark and there were times of the year when the sunlight was directly coming in through certain skylights in a blinding manner
51. Electric lighting was OK. Would love to see more natural light.

52. The lighting needed to be more, loved the openness from above but needed more of it, not so many windows.
53. There was not enough natural or electric lighting.
54. Natural lighting!
55. The church felt dark.
56. The church interior was dark, even with the lights on.
57. Skylights were nice, but not enough natural light.
58. Natural light with trees and more stained glass windows.
59. The church was very dark unless there was an abundant amount of light coming in from outside.
60. The skylights were a problem especially the organ side because of the sun. They all always looked dirty.
61. I was always very comfortable but I did feel it was a little dark. I don't know if that means we need more electrical lighting or more windows. There are pros and cons with both.
62. Interior lighting too dim, but I don't want it to be as bright as St. Elizabeth's in Wyckoff. I like having an element of natural daylight.
63. I loved our previous church, however it always seemed a little dark.
64. I would like to see a little more natural light in the new church, as well as some stained glass.
65. The church always felt relatively dim. More traditional features such as stained glass could have helped and would be very welcoming. The 1970s/1980s style skylights would not be a choice for the future church.
66. Some of the skylights made portions of the church uncomfortable on bright days
67. I used to love how the sunlight would beautifully stream in. Sometimes it kissed my cheek during the Mass and it made me so happy. I recommend using a lot of natural light, garden-like with trees, soft white... gentle.
68. Electric lighting was too dim and did not suffice in evening/dark conditions.
69. I liked the skylights and all and feel like they could be incorporated into a stone church that would be beautiful with stained glass windows.
70. The only complaint I would have with the natural lighting would be when at certain Masses the light from the windows that went up the ceiling would shine right in your face. It could become uncomfortable for that parishioner.
71. Natural lighting was very nice. The electric lighting needs an improvement
72. Skylights let in glaring sun at times.
73. Lack of natural light.
74. The skylights let in a great deal of natural light, but at night the electrical lighting was more than sufficient to light the worship space.
75. Windows with the sun coming through - very positive.
76. Lighting now was dark, many times lights missing.
77. Dark and low ceiling not uplifting. Would prefer much more natural light and higher ceilings.
78. Lighting was just ok. Nice in that not too bright, so ambient and warming glow, but actually a bit dark. Needs more natural light and liked the idea/ visual of some upward lighting reflecting rays etc. & somewhat brighter interior.
79. Lighting brighter.

80. The rays of light from the skylight could be a problem on a hot day if there was no room to move to avoid them.
81. I liked the cross windows in the ceiling; however, they sometimes made a blinding glare on certain pews.
82. Natural ceiling lighting would be very desirable but was minimal in our old church. Stained glass windows could add to the ambiance. And uplighting could highlight the beauty and strength of the elevated beams and structure.
83. Enjoyed the center light, even though now it will be LED, there still needs to be that main ray of light, especially the one that stays on almost all the time.
84. I think we could use more natural lighting in the space for sure. I think electric lighting would be a nice supplement, but bulbs were often blown, so I don't think that should be the main source.
85. I felt the old church was too dark.
86. The natural light coming through the roof of the church; if you were sitting under one of them when it was sunny, you were blinded by the light and sometimes very warm. You had to move out of the way of the beam of light.
87. The natural lighting was BEAUTIFUL.
88. The cross beams on the ceiling gave MBS a very special and beautiful feel (when the lighting would come through those glass panels along the ceiling)
89. At certain times during the year and of the day the sunlight was too strong on certain pews.
90. Loved the way the light from outside filtered through the windows at Saturday 5:30 Mass.
91. Lighting too dark in the sanctuary. The skylights would also shoot sunlight into certain spots of the church and make it not great for those sitting directly in the line of that sunlight.
92. Really appreciate the natural light that came into the church and hope that would be included in the new design
93. Church was too dark, more natural light needed via more glass, stained glass windows and lighter colors inside.
94. Better lighting at perimeter of church interior.
95. The church always seemed dark even in the middle of the day. There was very little natural light until the end of the day when you would be blinded by the light coming in thru the skylights that would make half of the church unusable.
96. The lights were too dim with not enough natural light.
97. My personal feeling was the church was quite dark. I would definitely like to see lighter tones and enhanced electric lighting.
98. The church was dreary whether the weather was sunny or rainy. It was just too dark and the long windows overhead were misted and leaking and moldy. The lighting couldn't solve for the poor natural light. It was just always dark in the church. Nothing lifted the spirit to God.
99. Placement of windows to allow natural light created areas with "blinding sunlight" at certain times.
100. I felt that the lighting was not sufficient or effectively implemented.
101. Not enough light, dark interior.
102. More lighting both natural and electric.

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103. The lighting has always been questionable. I would love to see more natural light and open spaces to bring us to feeling closer to God and His beautiful world.
 104. Very dark and lightbulbs were always burned out giving the sanctuary a very sad aspect.
 105. We need to keep the skylights with natural lighting in the church as this was beautiful and tasteful.
 106. I think more windows and natural lighting would be welcoming.
 107. It was a bit dark so better lighting is definitely a must.
 108. Would have liked greater natural lighting.
7. Do you have any additional comments you would like to add, either about the survey questions or anything else related to our new church? (Please try to word your comments as "needs" rather than "solutions". For example, if you think the new church should have a steeple, you might say something like: "It is important to me to that the building can be easily identified as a church.")
1. Was difficult to see the music ministry from all areas of the church. It would be wonderful for the music ministry to have a well-defined area that would be visible to entire congregation. Please replace the organ! Lastly, there is no reason to save the bells unless you install them in a nicer tower. Please - no more bricks (of any color) and please, please, please build something that is light, bright, clean and more welcoming.
 2. I always liked that we could, if necessary, drive up to the entrance. I liked in the examples how some of the doors both outer and inner had unique designs. I definitely want the bell tower to remain – as a reminder but also as a symbol of the hope it gave us when it seemed that all was lost.
 3. I believe that if it is structurally sound, the bell tower should be retained, not just as a memorial to the tragedy, but also as a symbol of continuity with the old church.
 4. A beautiful steeple with a bell. Also if possible, somehow incorporate the bell tower.
 5. Recognize that a previous well-loved church existed.
 6. Need for low maintenance to control future costs.
 7. Need ease of access.
 8. Need to carefully assess size as membership may remain the same or decrease in the future.
 9. I think keeping the bell tower would be a connection to the past, a tribute to those who helped build the original church and a reminder of what the parish has gone through this tragedy and our survival as a parish.
 10. Additional bathrooms, changing areas for babies. We love the bells and feel it is important they are incorporated in some way. A steeple is also important.
 11. The walls of the church should be a warmer color to further enhance natural and electric lighting, enhancing the feeling of welcome and community. Light colored marble has been used in other churches to achieve this objective.
 12. It is important to me that the new church feels like the old church because I want to be able to bring my kids back here and actually recognize what I am bringing them to.
 13. Would love to keep the bell tower somehow in the rebuild to remind us of the old church and how we as a church overcame this tragedy.
 14. I think the bell tower should be kept as a sign of our past.
 15. It's important to me that building can be easily identified as a church.

16. Dear God, no adult Baptismal font!!!!
17. It is important to me that the building can be identified as a church. It does not have to have a steeple but should look like a sanctuary and the architecture can do that. I liked almost every type you showed except for these 3 examples: very high outside covering at Church of the Holy Family; doors that look like angels or trees; or free standing columns. I like a classic look: two doors that come together as a cross. Larger Stations of the Cross "area". If we can incorporate our bells that would be comfort. I also think the idea of building a chapel for small weddings/funerals is not necessary. If our seating capacity could be made slightly smaller to make the narthex bigger, we will achieve the look some were going for but also address the needs of flow in/out of church & we create casual space for 75 max.
18. It is important to have a steeple or keep the bell tower so the building can be identified as a church. I also think it is important for the building and structure to be inviting from those who are passing by on the busy streets. Thank you for your time and accepting the parishioners' feedback for this very important cause that is so near and dear to our hearts!
19. I think we should do all we can to have a part of the old church in the new church like the bell tower should be restored and used.
20. Although the bell tower is still standing, I believe trying to design the church around it will limit the design and/or materials used in the new structure. The circular seating is welcoming and inclusive. Stained glass could provide some color and lightness.
21. I would like to see the church in the round again. I feel it is much more welcoming and community oriented. The long aisles seem to keep people too far from the altar and hard to hear. I feel that you then have your back to most of the congregation and you cannot see your friends and neighbors. I would also like to see the church bells saved and used as part of the new design. It would be a nice reminder of the history of the church. Utilizing both old and new in the design; I would like to see the tabernacle on the altar instead of in a separate area. I would still like to see the beautiful statues in the church along with some stained glass, perhaps the Stations of the Cross in stained glass.
22. I think it was pretty clear that it was a Roman Catholic Church.
23. I love the fan shape for reasons I mentioned. When out of town I visit many churches. The long aisles make it more difficult to be part of the service for those in the rear. Churches with center aisles and side aisles are a nightmare during Communion. The traffic flow is disruptive. As an usher I appreciate good traffic flow. I would keep the bell tower as a piece of our old church. It is a symbol that our church is enduring.
24. It would be nice to incorporate the still-standing bell tower into the new facility as a remembrance of what was. Failing that, it would be nice to incorporate the bells into the new facility - and actually USE them - as a remembrance of what was. The "music area" was often cluttered with extension cords, extra music stands, etc. - it would be good to minimize this somehow in the new structure. People have wider behinds now and many of us are taller so seating taking this into account would be good.
25. It is important to have a steeple so the building can be easily identified as a Church.
26. It is important to me that: the church be filled with natural light; the church have an expanded indoor area of welcome as well as a larger outside area of welcome, if possible; the church be visible as a church not for steeple but for a Cross; the old bell tower ... at this point I am not sure. I am not sure of the point about remembering the tragedy. It is more important to me that the new design reflect the Church mission with

recognition of resilience, rebirth and strength of purpose. I am not sure that the bell tower is essential. As to the Baptismal font area, it is important to me that this be very similar to the old design. Focused and no need for bath etc. I do not think a large bath aligns with the general character of the community. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

27. Try to keep the bell tower. Very important to remind all about what happened.
28. I am one of the oldies, and have been here since the designing our previous church, have always been proud of it and loved the comfortable feeling when entering. Now, to accommodate our fast growing community we must make changes. The need for a spacious welcoming/ gathering area in the entrance of the church is important! Needed areas such as: conversational /coffee/food pantry would be more appropriate in a location other than in the entrance area. I would like to see the bell tower remain, if possible. It symbolizes what we had and how easily we lost it.
29. I love our bell tower, it would be nice to see it somewhere as a reminder of what we had as well as what we went through as a community.
30. I always love a good steeple. I am definitely more drawn to some older elements of a church like a steeple and cross large windows etc. If the bell tower can be kept I know everyone in my family especially my kids would love to see it still stand.
31. I agree it is important in my opinion for the building to be identified as a church. The bell tower could be enhanced with a crucifix to add to its identification as a church. Certainly a raised altar area enhances viewing of the Mass by the congregation and allows for voice projection by the clergy, with the exception of the chapel and garden area. Openness of design adds to more interaction among parishioners and community spirit.
32. I would love for the new church to have a steeple but I would also hope for the bell tower to stay. It is a bittersweet reminder of the church that stood before. Perhaps we can bridge the past, present and future in one design. I feel more spiritual in churches that have traditional rather than modern designs so I would prefer a design that is not as modern looking as the previous building. I love the high ceilings and stained glass windows of traditional churches. I want our parish home to look like a Christian church. Some walk-in Baptismal Fonts are beautiful but I don't think there is enough space for one and wouldn't get enough use. I would rather see the space used for gathering places and a separate Chapel for quiet worship.
33. Survey questions were excellent. Obviously, looking for a more traditional, updated feel and bringing our church community together as a family while worshiping the Good Lord above. Good luck. Thank you for your time. Video excellent. Baptismal Font - beautiful as you enter the Church. Not too interested in large "dipping" pool.
34. If the original bell tower is decided not to be part of the design, it would be important for the bells to be refurbished and used in the new bell tower. Preferable to not use old tower, rather a bell tower that corresponds better with the new design of the church. The design should not be based of the pre-existing bell tower alone. Bricks are not a comfortable and adequate material for the church to resemble the parish.
35. Traditional look rather than modern.
36. A center aisle is important for the ceremonial uses of a church. A more sacred space for the sacrament of baptism -- in our old church it felt like an afterthought. I often had visitors at our church and the first question they always asked was "where is the Tabernacle"? As the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Tabernacle should

- have a place of obvious prominence. I would like to see a more prominent place for Mary.
37. It is important to me that the new church building incorporate elements, e.g., bell tower, or re-purposed materials salvaged from the old church building.
 38. If at all possible the bell tower should be preserved as a connection to the original church and the many families connected with our parish since 1981. Also, I personally like a "fan-shaped" layout to preserve the closeness to the altar and parish community. Lastly, strong Audio/Visual capabilities are important for periodic presentations without having to have about 1/3 of those in the pews relocate so they can see the screen(s). Our prayers are with Father John, the Committee and all involved in this tremendously difficult undertaking. I am sure there will be many opinions and suggestions, but I am even more sure that when all is completed and we celebrate our new church everyone will truly appreciate the efforts and decisions made.
 39. Our worship space needs to be more visible and welcoming. I like the idea of big glass doors and lots of windows. A big vestibule with lots of natural light and a garden-like space would provide a comfortable welcoming feeling. High ceilings provide a worship space that seems reverent and holy. I like feeling a part of a close community during Mass so I like fan-shaped seating so I can see fellow parishioners, not just the backs of heads. Although baptisms are clearly important, we do not need a swimming pool-like feature in our church. That's just wasteful! I liked the size, placement and proportions of our old baptismal font. It's important for people to know that we are a church and a steeple is a good way to show that. If we can keep all or part of the bell tower, that would be a great way to tie the old with the new and also serve as a reminder of what we've gone through. We need to remember the past while moving forward. We don't have to keep the bell tower as it is, but perhaps we could keep the bells and incorporate them in our new style.
 40. There were unexpected artistic elements about the Church that one "discovered" as part of the faith journey being in the space. One aspect in particular with this regard were the Stations of the Cross. They were highly understated and organically grew out of the brick wall. Their natural beauty did not stand out of their own accord, but rather invited one in to the mystery of contemplation. Other Stations in many Churches are very pictorial in nature. These were true vehicles of contemplation. With regard to the Stations, I think this was a distinct gift of the artist who created them. The message of each was very deep, personal, and unique. I think there is a need for artistic work in the new Church--not just the "traditional" statues that can be ordered and placed as in any other Church--rather something unique to our new space. I also loved our ambry. It was simple, beautiful, and graceful with the tree of life. It, too, grew organically out of the brick wall. You had to discover where it was.
 41. I answered the survey last night but forgot to mention the need for security, whether there is a post for a security guard or some other electronic means. Also, in light of the fire, we should incorporate fire sprinklers into the design.
 42. We feel strongly about integrating the existing bell tower in the new design which would easily identify a church.
 43. If possible retain the bell tower because it will link our past to the new church.
 44. It is important to me that I know why the church was named Most Blessed Sacrament. I would like a visual representation of those words. Something impactful that would set our church apart from others. I liked the idea someone suggested RE using the old bells

as a bridge between the old and the new. When I said the church wasn't welcoming, I meant the church itself wasn't very welcoming. The people, priests, and nuns are: just not the building. The church looked most welcoming when it was decorated for holidays. It seemed alive and you wanted to go there. Also, each week I am in awe of the music and the singers. Use the gathering space to hold monthly bridge, canasta, and board games.

45. Would like a return to a more classic, traditional structure that is readily identifiable as a Catholic church to make a statement of our parish's presence in the community. Classic and timeless never go out of "style." Beautiful, realistic stained glass and statuary as well as materials such as marble & stone connect us to our Catholic architectural heritage.
46. Need to incorporate the bell tower in memory of old church - perhaps as a memorial space. Also would like to see steeple to announce presence in community. Possibly change entrance to face the community on the traffic circle - and open entrance with views through glass into church.
47. Would like to, if possible, bring in some of the old wood or bell tower, so that we're not starting fresh but have a sense of continuation. We aren't starting over but continuing - need the connection to our prior home. We need to be inviting & provide fellowship, where people will want to stay after Mass for a meet & greet for a bit not just run in and then leave. To provide more of a community feeling. Offer more services.
48. We should have comfortable seating - pews with cushions (not chairs where people always feel compelled to leave one chair open in between families and different parties.) We should have a functional baptismal font, not a pool as we rarely baptize by immersion. We should look like a CATHOLIC church - not a protestant church - which means statuary and stained glass and high arches and ceilings, with a gorgeous tabernacle and central altar and crucifix and chapel, not a sanitized auditorium-like worship space. Look up St. Clare in Daniel Island, SC. They are building a new church building and it is beautiful. Let's try to make this church a classic - befitting our community. Let's not make it too contemporary, too much wood, too much brick, something that will feel post-Vatican II dated by the time it's built. Let's aim for traditional with a modern twist for accessibility, light, and additional communal spaces.
49. A steeple or large cross structure, viewable from a distance would signify the church's location, especially for visitors.
50. I have lived in Franklin Lakes for forty years and have been a parishioner at MBS for as long. We first went to Mass in the gym. After the fire, we all laughed and said we had come full circle. Surprisingly, many of my friends actually don't mind the gym. Call us old school, but the set up seems to keep everyone focused. It's important to me that a church feels like a spiritual home and looks like a Catholic Church. ...they should be vertical. With the numbers of practicing Catholics decreasing, I'm not sure the designs of the 60s through the 90s did anything to enhance the "community". The circular church was awkward at times with the premier seats in the center two aisles. The old church had a "spaceship" feel to it. It is important to me that the entire property be taken into consideration. The old rectory, now the parish center, as well as the school needs to be integrated into the entire scheme. There was always a serious disconnect between the three structures, thus lending to a very separated feeling. I would hope the church bells could be incorporated in the design. They were from an old church in

- Manhattan and we need a reference to the first MBS. Franklin Lakes is a very traditional town and please don't try to match it to the shopping center across the street.
51. The connection with the bell tower of the destroyed church is important as it serves the continuity of MBS from when that church was built in the formative years of our parish. It could represent our remembrance of those who have passed on, as well as a link to the future of the parish. Perhaps it could be linked to a memorial chapel. Some traditional elements in the design would foster an appreciation of the roots of the MBS community, and the historic role of the Catholic Church through centuries of adversity and success. A blend of traditional elements in the new church would help remind people of the roots of our Christian heritage.
 52. The typical "symbols" of a church (bells, steeple) are good because feels like you're coming to a church (part of tradition).
 53. I thought a memorial wall for bricks/items to remember the old church. I have a massive pair of Celtic marble rosary beads from Fr. Carl to remember our former pastor. Also I want Fr. John to know that it's ok if things start out rocky as a pastor, it's the journey and how you finish that matters!!! This cross from the past will only strengthen you and allow you to start anew!!!
 54. It is important to me that the building can be easily identified as a "church". Also important is a longer main aisle so that the altar becomes more of focal point. Aspects of a more traditional church should be woven into new design.
 55. I believe the new church would benefit from a more traditional style. Every church that comes to mind that has made me feel reverent, ready to worship, and was remarkable to look at were traditional churches. I believe the traditional feel will help the community to know the building is a church and invited to come worship. I also believe the new church needs a more traditional crucifix. I always thought the very modern art crucifix that the previous church had was more distracting than comforting. I know many Catholics find comfort in looking at the crucifix to pray, as I do, so I believe this is a very important need of the church to have a welcoming feel.
 56. It is important to me that the bell tower remain as a part of our church. I feel that it is not only a reminder of what we once were but a sign of what we have built from a tragedy. The tower represents a stronghold through a tragic situation. As previously mentioned, I would like to see the tabernacle on the altar, as a sign of reverence for bowing or genuflecting upon entering the church. The circular formation of the church, I feel, was an extremely welcoming design for parishioners and visitors. With having a few visitors attend our Masses, there was always a comment on how great the design of the church was and how comfortable they felt in the space.
 57. It is important to me that the building be easily identified as a Catholic church. I think it is necessary that the building present a welcoming feeling from the street as well as from the parking lot. I think the new church design should stand on its own merits rather than let design elements from the old church limit major design elements that may be possible in the new. This would present a new life with hope and promise.
 58. The new church should marry the great aspects of the old while improving and building for the future. Many of the themes mentioned on the webcast make sense to me including welcoming, spiritual, family oriented, etc. While my personal preference is a more traditional design, the former church was more modern (as was OLM) and we will likely need to carry on that style as it is likely part of the fabric of this parish community.

59. It is VERY important to me that the building can be easily identified as a church. When I walk in, I want to feel that I am in a sacred space. It is also important that it be classic and traditional enough to last the test of time. As I said above, the last church was clearly built in the late 70s/early 80s.
60. I feel, if possible, the bell tower or part of it should be incorporated into the new building to preserve history and emphasize the community's ability to overcome adversity and come back stronger. Thank you for the excellent webinar!
61. Assuming the bell tower has maintained its structural integrity post-fire, I think it is important to retain in the design of the new church. If that is not possible I am in favor of a steeple. The current church property is a focal point from many angles of the busy Urban Farms intersection. The church should be aesthetically pleasing without being too overbearing in stature or too understated in design. I am partial to the generous use of widows in the entry allowing for transparency to the inside of the church from the outside. Should make a better use of the amount of property in order to have some generous outside gathering space without overflowing into the parking area. Need to retain ample parking for church services and other gatherings.
62. The new church should be round so parishioners aren't far from the altar. We think the bell tower should be incorporated into the new design in some way to retain something from the original church. The examples of visible entry areas were nice. Given what happened, an open, airy, not closed-in concept is important.
63. The bells are a huge aspect for me personally for my family as well as a parishioner. My husband's late grandfather donated the bells to MBS; therefore, there is a huge personal aspect to the bells being kept in the new design. Our hearts were hit very hard when we saw them still standing after the fire. As a parishioner, the bells show a significance of strength as they are the only aspect we still have from before the fire. It would be nice to have at least something from our past included in the new design.
64. I strongly oppose a round church. The idea that we are coming together for community is very Protestant in my opinion. Community is awesome, and I have been part of the MBS community since I was a small child, but Mass is Calvary. The altar should be elevated— unambiguously vertical worship. It is confusing to have the horizontal (community) goal mixed with the vertical (worship) purpose of Mass. We are a Eucharistic Faith — we relive Calvary. It's not supposed to be a coffee clutch. (The last Mass I attended at our parish included four women drinking Starbucks as they joined the Communion line that's real and heartbreaking.) I beg for a church that reminds us that we believe in Christ and Him crucified... we are not at Mass for social gathering. So I also hope we have a true crucifix and not an exaggerated "resurrected" Jesus above the altar of sacrifice. Finally, I hope we have a cruciform church, a separate baptistery, and a sanctuary that draws us upward to worship, not sideways to our neighbors Also, an Adoration chapel and a special place for the Blessed Mother would be important in a church named for the Most Blessed Sacrament.
65. It is not important to me that we mimic or rebuild the prior church, and I say that as a parishioner of 20+ years. It would be nice to incorporate the bells from the bell tower into the new design so that we do carry a piece of our history forward into the new church. THANK YOU very much for asking us for our thoughts and input!
66. No steeple, it is unnecessary. Our church is easily identified because of the property which it sets, on the corner.

CHURCH OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

67. I think our church should definitely have a steeple that identifies it as a Catholic church. I think the musical instruments should be of the highest quality in order to worship in song.
68. I would like the new exterior design of the church to be something all Catholics in our parish will be proud of. It should be recognized as more of a landmark than the Market Basket. A stunning and elegant presence that will make people want to reconnect with the community. Transparent, steeple, and tasteful are my requests, with some way to salvage the bell tower too.
69. I think a modern traditional church structure such as St. Gabriel's in Saddle River and definitely a steeple. And why not a basement level if for no other reason than we have space down the road should we be so lucky to have a strong youth group or senior group for gatherings. I think it is important that the space have natural light and a large altar area.
70. I think a glass entry is inviting; however, in 2020, this can be somewhat of a security risk unfortunately.
71. I am hoping that the old bells in the current tower are used or given a place in the new church as a reminder of our continued faith in God and strength as a community. I feel though that the tower itself would be a sad reminder looming over the new church. The building should be easily identified as a church. As the wish lists pour into the committee, the solutions need to be sustainable (as size increases so does the utilities, cleaning, maintenance etc.) It is hard to answer whether a building is welcoming. It's the parish community that gives a welcoming environment. I feel the new energy that arose to come together and rebuild in the physical sense as well as in faith and support for the parish will make the new church welcoming. Our mission statement is too complicated for parishioners to embrace or remember. Our mission is to worship The Most Blessed Sacrament and, in so doing, teach, support, serve and encourage those within and beyond our parish community.
72. It's important to meet to have the building look like a CATHOLIC Church inside and out. The presentation given to us by Father Dente showing ways to embrace our sacraments in our space, I believe, all are needed.
73. It is important to me that the church keeps the bell tower and has a tall steeple. We need to stand out as a place of worship! Keeping the bell tower is critical to our parish so we can remember all that has happened to our church, while also 'ringing' in God's blessing for the newness of our spiritual lives at MBS.
74. I feel that the bell tower should be integrated into the new Church. It's symbolic of our past and should be part of our future MBS home. It's important to me to have some traditional elements included in the new church, such as statues of Virgin Mary, Joseph and Jesus, stained glass and a more traditional Crucifix.
75. It is important to me that a meeting place be incorporated into our church.
76. I think it is important for our parish to preserve the bell tower if possible. It will stand as a reminder of where we came from and what we endured. I also think it is important for our church to be as inviting and welcoming as possible, and a transparent or glass entry facilitates this.
77. Stained glass windows and a new steeple incorporated into the church plan like traditional churches. It is important to me that the building can easily be identified as a RC church. The tabernacle facing the front doors emphasizing we are also the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Flameless vigil lights in front of our statues create a

prayerful state. No small rooms that become unsightly catchalls & visible to all coming into the church. A special place out of view for cleaning supplies etc. No carpeting so the church would look clean. I agreed with Father Dente and his guidelines. I would prefer to see the old bell tower removed. It has been leaching for years. It is especially a reminder of the tragedy and must be hurtful to the family of that young man. We are followers of Christ. Let us all start afresh. Thank you for your presentation. The doors of Guardian Angels are beautiful and so apropos.

78. I think somehow we need to incorporate the bell tower into the new construction if it is found that it wasn't damaged. It was part of the original structure and it is all we have left. It can be a reminder for the original Parishioners of what we used to have. Kind of a past present future type of symbol. Or will never be forgotten type of symbol. I understand if it is not safe it must come down but I think it would be wonderful if it could stay. And if possible to connect the bells to the organ. That way when the last song is sung the bells can be heard playing the song in the parking lot as parishioners are leaving. Thank you for this presentation. I think it was a great explanation and wish you luck going forward and will be praying for the entire committee and this massive undertaking. God Bless You All.
79. I would like to see the bell tower restored. I would like a less contemporary crucifix over the altar. I would like a traditional baptismal font, but do not think a pool for adult baptism would be appealing to many.
80. I would like our church to be welcoming for all and incorporate many of the ideas that were discussed when we were planning the church addition in the past.
81. I think it's important to keep the church similar in design to the old church, while "upgrading" it. The fire was devastating to parishioners, as the church is like a second home to most of us. I think something that still feels like the home we knew, while embracing the new, is very important. People want to feel like they are coming back home and not to a completely different church. Also, I'd like to see the bell tower remain as an important memory of the church's history.
82. It is very important to me that our church is welcoming and a destination for others that may want to be parishioners or just occasional visiting churchgoers. Something so traditional but so grand in scale that completely attracts you such as a big stone steeple or a tall classic bell tower that may be seen but definitely heard from a distance.
83. Retaining the existing bell tower is not important, but letting the community know where and who we are is important. This could be done thru many of the images presented including a large steeple, new bell tower or other design features of both the building and site design.
84. Perhaps a sprinkler system if it is unobtrusive. The plain brick walls were not distracting!
85. Consider that the church be a completely new design but pay homage and honor to the old church- maybe keep 1 bell with a beautiful candle lit with flowers etc. Let the new church move forward- let the new church glow- and be a beacon of hope and love- for everyone. Great job everyone- keep up this tremendous effort and thank you.
86. Please keep the bell tower if at all possible.
87. It is important to preserve the bell tower in some manner at least as a tribute to our past. Our church went from a barn to a school to a church to a school somehow that should be memorialized.
88. The old church appears to have incorporated many of the elements shown in the presentation in February. I would hope that as many of the design elements of the old

- church could be incorporated in the new church. The old church was familiar for the parishioners and deviating significantly from the design I believe would not make it a comfortable space. I would keep the bell tower if possible as a link to the church's past and perhaps incorporate the beams from the old church, if they have been saved, and re-purpose them in some way, perhaps as a cross.
89. It's important that the church blend in with the community. While there are modern homes in town, the modern design of the old church did not fit. The church sits on a prominent property in town. The new church needs to have a significant presence on the property.
 90. Mostly I think it is very important to re-build - whatever shape it is fine. We need a gathering/worship together space sooner than later.
 91. Access points should face the main road not parking lot so that it will be more secure in future to give more visibility to people entering the church.
 92. It is important to me that we open the design of the new church be more open and inviting than the previous. Although we came to love the old church, the feeling of walking into a cave never left my family. It is also important that the building be recognized as a church, reflecting the tone of welcome. We do not believe it is necessary to keep the bell tower. We believe it is time to set a brand new tone for the next foreseeable generations to enjoy and worship.
 93. My family have been parishioners at this parish almost since it was founded. Five generations of my family have attended Mass there. We remember when we had only Mass in the school gym and when the Church was built. Members of my family have had ceremonies there from Baptisms to Funerals Masses and everything in between. It is extremely important to me, and other members of my family, that the bell tower be retained. It is the last monument to a worship space that was a dream in itself, something that our parish was not given, but that we fought, and strived to build for ourselves and for those who came after us. I do not know what sacrifices or influences or struggles specifically built our old church, but it would be a shame if we threw away the last remaining remnant of that building and completed the work of the arsonist. For this reason, I believe that it should stand, not only as a way of bridging the gap between our old building and our new one, but also to stand as a monument to those that helped build our community through that church and as a memorial to the fire. I would not see it torn down, and, even if it were found to be necessary, to do so should be an unhappy task. Additionally, I would say that, while I feel things can be improved up, maintaining the original themes found in our old church, namely the Brick and Wood construction, would be preferred. I also recognize those are costlier options, but this is our church and should have a warm, venerable and stately feel.
 94. Like stained glass windows and the separate Jesus praying area that was on the left side of the old church.
 95. Prominent, inviting, bright. An overall welcoming feeling.
 96. Can church be set back (closer to Franklin Lake Rd.) thus allowing for larger welcoming area and sanctuary? Multi-purpose area connected to church.
 97. Like the idea of lighter doors with glass surrounding them in the entrance. Would like a steeple and high ceilings.
 98. I DO think the building should be easily identifiable as a church. Not necessarily with a tall steeple, but certainly a cross atop it. It should have bells that can ring out to the community (but doesn't need to be the current tower - though maybe could reuse the

- bells in the new structure). A bit of modern is ok, but would prefer more classic style. With maybe gothic curves in ceiling. I do think it needs to blend nicely with the environment, yet be less visually hidden from the main roads - more a welcoming symbol in its structure, yet still softly blend with the space.
99. The main thing is that our church feels welcoming to all who enter. It would be nice, if possible, to use the bell tower as a way to connect to our first church.
 100. The steeple is a fond remembrance of the old church and signifies continuity with the old. The baptismal font has to work. Make the effort to have the proper plumbing from the beginning. We love the sound of bells on a Sunday morning. If you cannot save the steeple you must consider a way to have bells toll. Thank you for your presentation and the solicitation of our input.
 101. The design needs a large covered outer area and large gathering area. We do not need a separate baptism area. The lighting, both electric and natural, needs to be spiritually inspirational. It is important to me that the building can be easily identified as a church. Our bell tower should remain as a remembrance of our past.
 102. I loved our old church. It was simple but felt very comfortable. But I always felt it lacked warmth and just a touch of elegance to reflect our parish and surrounding community.
 103. Church should be equipped with Access Control System, to allow parishioners to get in when church is locked; cameras to watch the entrances ways, entry/exit to sacristy; digital Signage outside the church in vestibule and community center; Confession Rooms. I do like that smart lighting system; definitely should employ a Lutron smart lighting scene system to scenes for the church lighting but add more, so there is flexibility for other types of services: Daily Mass, Weekend, Funerals, etc. Pews and kneelers with comfortable cushions; separated parking for Church and chapel. While we are doing this, a people counter at the door to track attendance. Outdoor memorial and or leave a legacy stone, include a few different packages for 3 or four different sizes. Also you can use mobile tokens in addition to activating smart door release. Install a digital Safe with simple bag drop needing no key or code; thus money stays safe in vault till later.
 104. It is important to me that the building is transparent and welcoming. It is important to me that with this new beginning, we start fresh without any reminders of the old church building.
 105. Would like Stations of the Cross with deep relief and good lighting- wood if possible, and not an afterthought.
 106. While the mission statement does not include "worship" as one of our goals, the new space must be conducive to and enhance our worship experience. Gathering spaces (such as the vestibule and outdoor gardens and attractive walkways/piazzas) and a community center would enhance our community's identity as being welcoming. Inclusion of some transparency: the brick of the former church shut others out. Emphasis on "teaching": through the doors, some stained glass, and tastefully placed statues (in the church's plan to renovate, parishioners did make contributions for this). The interior of the structure should be "light": through colors and tones as well as natural and electric lighting. Greater storage areas to accommodate needs of social concerns as well as for storage of "bulky" liturgical furnishings and decorations. As a way to increase our witness to the community, the church building should be more visible either in location or through the presence of a steeple or large cross. Rather than keeping the bell tower, perhaps retain the bells and place them in a memorial

- garden. The bells could be memorialized and they would be accessible to touch. Consideration should be given to the structure and how it lends itself to the annual liturgical seasons/rites (e.g. Triduum, weddings, funerals, etc.).
107. I think it would be nice to keep one of the bells from the bell tower, in a display case, in the new narthex of the church, as a reminder of how strong we are as a community. We will overcome this tragedy and it's important to remember where we care from.
108. A separate space for the baptismal font so that the ceremony would feel more intimate. I like the idea of glass so that you can see the inside of the church. I think it gives a welcoming feeling. I also like the idea of large columns like an earlier church (St. Patrick's). I like the idea of stained glass windows that depict something in the church history (Mary, Christ, Saints, etc.) to give a light bright uplifting feeling. A larger entrance area that would lead to a longer aisle when the priest was entering the church for Mass or there was a wedding. I prefer an arch type entrance. I think it would give us more natural light and a more traditional feeling of church.
109. The Stations of the Cross should be more 'traditional' in depicting the 14 stations. The artful depiction really didn't elicit a strong sense of Our Lord's Passion and Death. The lighting should be better.....giving the Church a more inviting feeling. The interior brick / stone should be lighter in color. The former Church had a very dark (cold) feeling. The Church should be equipped with live streaming capability for both audio and video. There should be a 'devotional' area with the Divine Mercy image. There should be "electric" candles for people to 'light' in front of the Divine Mercy image as well as in front of the statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph. A more traditional Baptismal font (we don't need the waterfall design – which often leaked). Front doors should depict the MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT. More stained glass windows to let the sunlight shine into the Church. It would be wonderful (if affordable) to have a dramatic stained glass window depicting the Most Blessed Sacrament, perhaps upon entering the Church proper. The Church should witness...by having a large exterior Cross....with a steeple....and the name of the Church proclaiming our Roman Catholic heritage. If possible, it would be nice to keep the bell tower....in memory (and with love) of our past.....but the bells should work.
110. Provided the bell tower can remain, I think this would serve the MBS community well as it represents the past and present coming together. Not so much as a reminder of the horrible tragedy, but a way that we have come together to put the pieces back together for us to be able to gather and worship in the new church.
111. I think a larger outdoor entry area would be good as an extension of the indoor gathering space. It could, in a way, serve as a witness to the community. The building should be recognizable as a Christian church. To repeat myself, it needs to be brighter inside.
112. Bell tower should stay if at all possible. Bathrooms. Include a simple changing area for a baby. Simplicity is the best way.....church is a place where we gather as family to deepen our relationship with one another....gathering space. Important. Chapel for daily Mass and small funeral, weddings, baptisms. 60 to 70 people.
113. It is important to me that we have a welcoming area BUT I don't feel it would be conducive to our mission to make it have tables, chairs and sofas. It's not a restaurant. It is important to keep the bell tower if possible. It is a reminder of our past. It is important to have security; we need a burglar system and I'm not sure if total glass in the foyer is good for security purposes.

114. I believe the new church should have the semi-circle fan-shaped pews. That was very special to MBS and provided us with a community feel. I would absolutely love for MBS to still have that same "shape". I would love if the bell tower can be saved and therefore incorporated into the new design. That bell tower was our way of identifying our church. It was "our" bell tower and I would love to still have it be part of our church as we move forward.
115. I feel it is important to me that the building be easily recognized as a Catholic church, from Franklin Lake Road and High Mountain Rd. I think it is important to incorporate the bell tower, as a memory of the original church, a reminder of the event, and having it blend in well with the new structure, so that if you didn't know or have a memory of the past structure the bell tower was intended to be built with the new structure.
116. We prefer a lighter church as opposed to a darker one. Also prefer significant vertical space. We want the bell tower to remain as a link to the previous structure as well as the parish's past, and because it has special significance to one parishioner because they came from the church associated with the high school I went to.
117. As much as I loved our old church, it could be so amazing to have a more traditional church and in the video I really liked the glass windows as you approach.
118. It would be nice to hear church bells on Sundays, Holy Days & after weddings. A bell tolling after a funeral or memorial Mass would be very meaningful. A building that clearly looks like a church from the road could inspire more people to come in. VERY IMPORTANT: Avoid iconography with things that look like New Age symbols because they lead away from true worship of Christ. New Age-based practices have extended into the nursing profession & wellness programs in Englewood Hospital & others. I had to discourage a parishioner from going to an "angel card reader" & I warned others about New Age practices which masquerade as "wellness". An article by Peter Kwasniewski posted on One Peter Five on August 21, 2019 shows examples of odd church architectural elements, art & liturgical objects that can be seen as non-Christian & New Age. Please see www.onepeterfive.com/dark-symbolism-christ-cathedral. The author's tone is a bit overstated but he makes an important point. Sculptures should inspire holiness.
119. New church should be visible and identified as a church, either with steeple or bell tower. Also, the side chapel very inviting for people to stop in to visit other times than Sunday Mass. These times especially very important. The space was cozy and inviting.
120. I would like to see the church more prominently from the outside as it sits on the main intersection in our town. Additionally, I think we can develop a much better gathering space that's welcoming and a sanctuary with better lighting and a bit more modern for our parish. To me, preserving the bells from the bell tower would be a good idea although I think preserving the bell tower itself is probably unnecessary.
121. It is important for the building to be identified as a church either by preserving the bell tower or adding a steeple or cross. If the bell tower is not usable in its original form perhaps part of it could somehow be included in the new design since it's a symbol of bringing the past into the present. A private prayer space or chapel for the adoration of Mary would be a welcomed addition as to avoid interruption when other parishioners need to enter the church. If space allows, a memorial garden would be a chance for the parish to remember all who have come before us and were an integral part of Most Blessed Sacrament.

122. It's important to me that the building is easily identified as a Catholic church; that the interior where Mass is celebrated is reverent. I like the beauty of traditional churches with modern amenities. Also liked the images during webinar of large transparent glass entrance, then have secondary doors into the church that would reflect The Most Blessed Sacrament.
123. The tower of bells are very important, very meaningful to my family. It should be less modern, more traditional, will be more appealing that it is a church!
124. Keep the bells or bell tower as a solid legacy of the old church to the new future. A prominent cross or steeple can be seen as a church.
125. It think it is important for the front of the church to face the road. It always felt like we were turning our back on the community.
126. The bell tower should stay to show and have the parish community remember the devastation of the fire and to acknowledge that we came together to rebuild. The candles are important to every Christian church so that the congregation can reflect and light a candle in reflection, prayer and offering. Statues should stand above each candle section. The church felt very cold and unwelcoming in that respect. The Blessed Mother found in the remains should be kept in the church as a memorial. The steeple should remain to show the town that it is a church and that we are resilient as a parish community.
127. It is important to me that the building can be easily defined as a Catholic church. It is important to me that the warmth and security is maintained. Most important to me is that all phases of the project move expeditiously. We need a church!
128. If there is any way the old bell tower can be saved and the new structure built around that as a remembrance of the tragedy, I think that would be great for all parishioners. I truly would love to see stained glass windows throughout as well. With the morning sun shining through during the Mass I think it would be a welcome sight for the parish community.
129. We should ensure our church looks Catholic - in stained glass and statues and style. We should leverage our rich history of liturgical majesty and also of Catholic architecture by acquiring legacy pieces from now-closed churches that we can incorporate into our new church - stained glass, pews, an altar and reredos, statues, columns, stations of the cross, baptismal fonts - which can become centerpieces for our new church. We should leverage the inherent generosity of our parishioners and community by coming out early with naming opportunities for the various needs of the church: Stations of the Cross (each), Sanctuary Chairs, Adoration Chapel, Narthex, Organ, Priest Sacristy, Work Sacristy, Confessionals, Stained Glass Windows, Pews, Easter Candle Stand, etc. We should aspire to build something more traditional and more beautiful. We are at the center of town and our church should be a centerpiece - lifting heavenward the eyes of all who enter and inspiring all with the awesome wonder for God's majesty.
130. If we can keep the bell tower it would be a good reminder that in creating a new church we would maintain the recognition that this is the MBS church.
131. Definitely needs a steeple; needs stained glass; needs statues; needs marble and columns; needs candles; needs very little wood so this disaster doesn't happen again; needs glass entrance like one of the drawings; might even need huge doors, possibly automatic. Give us a church like the ones that we grew up with - a cathedral, not a bingo hall.
132. Possibly more visible to the street.

133. I believe that the new church should have natural light coming in from behind the altar. A large stained glass window with a chalice/host, etc. to reflect the church's name would be meaningful and spiritually uplifting. I believe that a steeple would be important in defining the worship area of the building. Perhaps the original bells (but not the tower) could be implemented in some way to honor the past but not draw one's thoughts to what was left of the devastation. More glass, not walls.
134. A church to me means stained glass windows, very large cathedral ceilings and warm soothing tones with respect to building materials. I love Most Blessed Sacrament but I have always said when I walked in it felt very cold to me. It almost gave off a Northern Pacific area type vibe. Kind of felt like we were in the woods somewhere. I realize the large cathedrals are expensive but if I could design it myself it would have a very old world feel (i.e. Italy). I would also love to see the bell tower remain. I feel like it looms over us as a protector and keeper of our memories of Most Blessed Church.
135. Radiant heat in floor for more uniform heating.
136. The baptismal font should be closer to the altar. I would like to see more saints, maybe a place for electric candles and a more traditional overall design. Either keep the bell tower or something to let everyone know this is a church.
137. I loved our previous church as so many of us did. The existing bell tower has been a defining symbol of MBS and to keep our thoughts connected it should always be there. If structurally impossible then a similar replacement with the bells would be good too with a Cross on top to show that this is a house of worship. I did like the natural brick and wood of the church but it made it quite dark and I could see that it would be uninviting to others to enter. So in the new church I would keep in mind the use of natural lighting as much as possible and natural materials to enhance our worship space. Keeping in mind the ease of keeping the space clean is very important too. Thank you.
138. I think the church should have a tall steeple so that it is clearly visible at the crossroads where our parish is located - as a beacon for evangelization. I would prefer not to keep the existing bells and bell tower. I would NOT like to be reminded of the tragedy - a plaque is fine. Perhaps the bells (if in working order) can be used in a new tower (still calling the faithful to prayer but not depressing us with a dark reminder of our past or someone else's transgression). I would like the new space to address the entrance and egress to the church. The old building had its back turned (literally) to the street. There must be a way, if not to turn the building around, then to provide a welcoming facade for the beautiful crossroads (intersection of Franklin Lake Road & High Mountain Road) of Franklin Lakes where everyone passes - what a lovely way to bless our town and welcome people to our community and our faith. For example, stained glass windows visible from the street. Other welcoming ideas for the exterior: a sidewalk that runs along the street side of the church; benches for sitting and reflecting; a special handicapped/families-with-babies driveway for pick-up and drop off; a walking path.
139. I do not think it is crucial to retain the bell tower- the bells could be used in the new structure, not the tower. The kitchen/gathering area for Breakfast Club could be placed in a lower level, but an elevator would be needed for older/handicapped individuals.
140. It is important to keep the bell tower from the original church as a memorial and reminder of the original structure and resilience of our community. The three bells remind me of the trilogy and have significance. We need to keep the tall vaulted ceiling of the church and the theater in the round seating. The placement of the altar should

remain the same. Keeping features of the original church for familiarity is important as it was a warm and inviting space. Use the area where the chapel was for pews. Adding a steeple would be an enhancement to the vaulted ceiling to proclaim our faith. I do not feel we need to have a separate chapel for the devotion of Mary. All worship should be in the main church. We do not want a separate cry room for children as they are valuable members of our church and families should feel welcome and not separated by a glass enclosure. Spend any extra money on a warm inviting multi-purpose community center with retractable interior walls to be used for various meeting rooms or ministry space.

141. I think it would be nice to keep the bell tower as a way to tie the old to the new. When the bells toll I think that welcomes people. I do not like the idea of a crying room because I feel the children are a part of the worship community. If a chapel is part of the new plan I feel it should accommodate at least 75 people, so it can be used for daily Mass, small weddings and small funerals. Fellowship and hospitality are so important. Anything that creates warmth, togetherness and creates community I would see as a positive. The outside and inside doors should be welcoming and have some detail to them so people want to enter, and think that some thought was put into them. I also like the idea of a softened triangle for an altar because to me it would represent the Trinity.
142. Please avoid a factory like, ultra-modern, building, particularly with marquee or covered walkway. Any chance of using the bell tower (symbol of MBS) for a new entrance facing High Mt. Road or moving the Blessed Virgin Mary statue to the front? It was the only religious item surviving the fire and a lasting sign of devotion. For the past five years, I've personally placed silk flowers at the foot of the statue on a year round basis, but the statue was hidden behind the church. More people might want to "Pause and Pray" at the statue before or after Mass or a visit to MBS.
143. I feel strongly that a church should "soar" as a sort of funnel of prayers to heaven. The old church crouched. I think it should be visible to the community and its doors visible to all and welcoming, not open to a screened parking lot. I would prefer to see the bell tower removed. Its presence restricts flexibility in design, serves as a needlessly painful reminder, particularly to the family of the poor soul who set the fire, and is frankly unsightly with the white efflorescence dribbling down the sides. I was proud to have raised money for, and donated to, the construction of the former church, and was thrilled when it opened. But its limitations are far clearer than they were in the early 80s. The "new broom" should sweep clean - let's start with an empty canvas. The tabernacle should be a focus of attention and should be elaborate, as befits the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The doors should be easier to open and close. I thought the doors were beautiful, but as I got older they got heavier. I'm sure other "mature" parishioners feel the same way. Wide aisles would help socializing.
144. I feel it is important to have a warm welcoming entrance plaza because it will give parishioners a place to gather and get to know each other better. As we get to know each other better our community will be stronger.
145. Design should not be constrained by the bell tower, although I like the sound of bells and find that sound to be "inviting"
146. Building should be identified as a church. Entrance that would be more welcoming than the previous church whose entrance did not say welcome. Effort to incorporate the bell tower into the new structure should be made. Kitchen being included would encourage

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more involvement in church activities. A building more open in appearance that would bring the outdoors inside. Circle seating brings a greater feeling of being a member of the church family.

147. It's important to me that the building is bright and airy and welcoming, I think it's important to have a steeple or cross to indicate our religion
148. If possible, keep bell tower...only if it fits into the new design, as a reminder of our former church. Incorporate lighted stained glass windows in design. Some windows should be able to open...also have sunscreen.
149. Since we are building: I would like a traditional look, the Tabernacle on the altar, an adoration space, bridal/funeral room, casual meeting space that refreshments could be served in, but not directly outside the sanctuary, seating for parents with young children. I like circle or fan seating because I am more comfortable when I can have my eyes on the exits sadly in this day and age. No fireplace or kitchen
150. It would be good for a church to have a carillon. A church without a bell tower?
151. I think a glance at the building should make clear it is a Christian church.

8. Please indicate your current age group.

- 14-17: 2%
- 18-30: 2%
- 31-40: 5%
- 41-55: 27%
- 56-75: 52%
- 76 or older: 10%
- Prefer not to answer: 2%

Total number of survey respondents: 166

On February 6, 2020, the parish hosted a workshop for all parishioners. Directed by Reverend Thomas Dente, the Director of the RCAN Office of Divine Worship, the purpose of that presentation was to review the basic tenets of *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* and *Built of Living Stones*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document outlining fundamental considerations in church construction. Following the presentation, Father Dente, Father John and Committee Chair Frank Bivona responded to questions about the evening's program and rebuilding plans. At the end of the presentation each attendee was given a questionnaire with 2 simple questions:

1. Please identify 1-2 things that, for you, were important "takeaways" from tonight's presentation.
2. Please identify 1-2 things that you are hoping to see in the parish's plans for rebuilding our church.

Ninety-one parishioners handed in the questionnaire. Of that number, 54 subsequently attended the virtual parish-wide workshop and completed the survey associated with that workshop. Their input is reflected in the information above. To make sure that the voices of the 37 attendees who did not attend the parish-wide workshop are heard, their responses to the second question are listed below. (Only 27 of those 37 actually filled out the questionnaire.)

1. No carpets please; entrance for quiet room as opposed to a rumpus room; a light, bright, sacred space; a brighter look – please some stained glass – a place for the choir – not that

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- dark, thin bricks that chip & peel; a baptismal font that is easily maintained; no quiet room – kids are great.
2. Communion flow pattern to avoid traffic overlaps; gathering space at entry; baptismal area should precede most row of pews.
 3. Stained glass windows/love the church remain built in “round” formation.
 4. I would like a design with more natural light (windows, glass doors?), light ceiling, light [illegible] (marble).
 5. Size of space; large aisles, open seating.
 6. Something resembling a “part” of the original church; bright flexible space; altar should be made of stone; baptismal font should be toward the entrance; liturgical designer leads the rebuild; space is very important – shouldn’t be crowded or overdone.
 7. An inviting, welcoming and warm church interior in which to worship.
 8. What about the confessional?
 9. Devotional candles.
 10. Baptismal font.
 11. Not hyper modern; warm & inviting; welcoming.
 12. The closeness of the seating to the altar; seating going around the altar.
 13. Include the remaining portion of the church that withstood the fire in the new church; board to take “road trips” to other churches.
 14. Include more stained glass throughout each side of the church.
 15. Keep the feeling of warmth and closeness from our old church, and not be too cold/modern.
 16. Put the tabernacle in the center; separate the choir area from the congregation.
 17. The design is the most important part of the rebuild.
 18. A Marian space Our Mother.
 19. Having the altar as main focus; a place to reflect on Jesus and asking for intentions.
 20. Beautiful crucifix & stained glass. Keep circular design inside church. The church should be suitable for carrying out sacred actions & the faithful’s participation. The altar, ambo and baptismal font should be of a complimentary style. The altar is the most important place in the church. The altar should be fixed, apart from the wall and facing the people. There should only be one dedicated altar, with candles & a crucifix. The Presider’s chair should face the people. The arrangement of the pews should allow everyone to see & hear. The aisles should be wide enough. Sacred images should be considered: where are they going, how will they be received by the people; how will they fit into the scope & scale of the space.
 21. Longer aisle, not a dark church.
 22. A crucifix of the Risen Christ – ours was so unique & beautiful! Circular and intimate as our previous layout was; warm and inviting. I would love candles to light for prayer too!
 23. Balance of tradition and an eye to the future of our church; consideration of accommodating the needs of our community.
 24. A privacy section for young children is needed.
 25. I liked our church as it was, especially the placement of the altar in relation to the semi-circle placement of the pews facing the altar. I would hope to see a different style of crucifix behind or above the altar - different from the former crucifix, which was unattractive in its strange appearance. A special place for the choir would also be nice.
 26. I would like to see a more traditional-looking church vs. the modern design of our former church.
 27. A special area for parents who have crying, screaming babies & toddlers, so the church service is not interrupted by crying (An enclosed, air-conditioned area for parents & young

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children); a large lobby or Narthex; would like to have a style that is Neo-Gothic but no ultramodern please.

Other comments submitted in writing have also been included in the Appendix, in the appropriate locations.

Note: Editing of parishioner input has been kept to a minimum. A few redundant comments were deleted and some wording has been slightly changed for improved readability. The order of responses is random.