



Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

Report on June 23, 2025 FULL PARISH MEETING

Seventy-five parish members participated in this gathering

with Pastoral Staff, Strategic Planning Team, Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Capital Campaign Team.

Welcome: Fr. Ed welcomed the group. He reminded all of us that the renovation of the Church is always about the building up of the assembly as well. If the renovation is done well, it is also a way to evangelize and to serve the community.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Ed led the group in prayer.

Introductions: Marissa Kramer, lead architect for our project at Paradigm Architecture; Ken Greisemer, Liturgical Consultant; and Elizabeth Devereaux, Glass Artist were introduced.

Overview of Program: Sr. Mary Jo reviewed the work done thus far (the Heat and Air Conditioning updates, the Lighting and Sound Systems improvements, and the Organ Installation, and the start of the Architectural and Liturgical plans for Phase I).

Phase I includes the Worship Space: the replacement of the Baptismal Font, the remodeling of the Sacristy, the updating of the Reconciliation Chapel, Construction of a new Blessed Sacrament Chapel to the south of the west side windows; remodeling and updating the Bathrooms, replacing the flooring and painting the entire worship space.

Phase II includes the improvements that are needed for the Parking Lot including: landscaping to bring the Parking Lot up to current City standards; repaving the existing lot as appropriate, restriping, and paving the new areas of the Parking Lot as outlined in the Architect's plan.

Phase III includes the renovation of the Entrance and Gathering Spaces, renovation of the Offices, the updating of the Kitchen, the design and construction of the Mary Shrine, the renovation of the Social Center (which will need to include lighting).

Fr. Ed interjected that the **Land Sale** is anticipated to be final by the end of the year. The City is finalizing the Boundary Change. When these are complete, we will need to develop the Parking Lot since the Land Sale includes a portion of the Parking Lot.

Financial Facts: Jim McDonald presented financial facts: the cost of the project to date is \$491,987. The amount of funds available for Phase I is \$713,420. We expect to receive \$775,000 for the land sale. We have as of this date received \$88,000 from the **Because He First Loved Us**, the Diocese of Helena Capital Campaign (Blessed Trinity GOAL for that campaign was \$342,602. We pledged **\$520,290! We will received back 50% of that amount, totaling \$260,145**, as the pledges are paid). As we begin Phase 1, the altar, ambo and other furnishings are not yet funded..

Marissa Kramer, Paradigm Project Architect, outlined her participation in the renovation project: for Phase I, she has coordinated the discussions on painting and flooring in the Worship Space, the remodeling of the Bathrooms, the work that needs to be done to improve our Storage Spaces, replacing heavy doors (entry, etc.), the remodeling of the Sacristy, the creation of the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

The Bathrooms are to be gutted and completely renovated. The priorities are access and safety as well as improvement of function. The tiles, sinks and toilets will be replaced. The leadership has decided on certain accessories and fixtures. The Bathroom Doors on the Office Hallway side will be replaced with lighter doors. The Bathroom Doors on the Social Hall Hallway side will be eliminated.

The Sacristy will also be gutted and renovated. The doors, cabinets and sinks will be removed. A Sacarium (a drain that bypasses the sewer and flows directly into the ground—this type of sink is required by Church law) will be added to the sink in the Sacristy. The arrangement of the Sacristy will be updated to be more functional. The albs and vestments are to be moved to the closet near the Social Hall. The table cloths, decorations and banners stored in the closet currently will be moved to a closet to be built in the room off the Social Hall where other decorations are stored.

The Reconciliation Chapel will receive new flooring and perhaps some Art Glass. Art Glass is not a part of the Project Budget.

The new Baptismal Font will be octagonal in shape (located in the same space as the current font). Liturgically, the octagon, an ancient traditional shape for fonts, represents the eighth day: the day of the “new creation,” the day of the Church. The new Font will be surrounded by stone tile to denote the significance of the space. and its connection to the Altar.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be an addition to the Worship Space similar to the organ addition. This is another possibility for art glass (not part of the Project Budget). The art glass could be created to minimize glare, light and sound.

Ken Griesmer, Liturgical Design Consultant, discussed his vision for our project: The goal of the furniture and art in the Liturgical Spaces is to help parishioners to experience the Divine. He will advise on the Altar, the Ambo, the Baptismal Font, the Tabernacle, assembly seating, and the Processional Cross. The Font, Altar, Ambo and Tabernacle will coordinate in shape and materials used with the Font.

The Font will have an “infinity edge: “ an edge that will decrease the sound of moving water. The interior of the Font is proposed to be black granite (the “black” granite creates a sense of mystery). Inlaid, at the bottom of the font, will be a tiled ancient symbol of the Blessed Trinity.

The Ambo will be height adjustable to allow for wheelchair access. It will also be wider in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It will be related in design with the Altar.

The Sanctuary Crucifix could: be a processional Crucifix that fits into a fixed Cross Surround. A variety of materials and concept were presented..

The Tabernacle Tower (of medieval origin) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be the same on all four sides. The Tabernacle will be placed in the center of the Chapel.

Further investigation will need to be done on the price of the chairs, and the other furnishings proposed.

TABLE DISCUSSION:

Sr. Mary Jo took comments from each of the table groups:

- ♦ We like the Tabernacle Tower
- ♦ We like the idea of a removable crucifix (Processional Crucifix)
- ♦ Chairs!! (need to be replaced)
- ♦ What opportunities will there be to get involved?
- ♦ We should illuminate any artwork
- ♦ We like the idea of an accessible Ambo, etc.
- ♦ We like the excitement of the experts
- ♦ We only have so much money (budget)
- ♦ We don't want to lose seating space...
- ♦ Wider seats could stagger seating
- ♦ The team ties everything together: there are serious impediments to accessibility, it's great to want to take it further
- ♦ Could we use local products in construction?
- ♦ The Tabernacle in the center of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel: there will be something on the back side
- ♦ Like the idea of the water coming over the inner circle of the Font. It makes it easier to reach the water.

Any questions can be directed to Fr. Ed, Sr. Mary Jo, Joe Licitra, Carolina Bridges, Strategic Planning Team, or Pastoral Council.



Elizabeth Devereaux, Architectural Glass Artist

Elizabeth has over 50 years' experience as a glass artist.

The creation of Art Glass is a collaborative project. The glass is hand blown to match the colors in the design at Fremont Antique Glass in Seattle. The glass has a water color effect. Different techniques can be used to make the window (glass) come alive at night or have a prism effect on walls or on the floor. This is not traditional stained glass. The glass may be transparent in part or opaque in part depending on the desire for the exterior view. Elizabeth was asked how the window would be protected: The Art Glass is set inside the external glass.

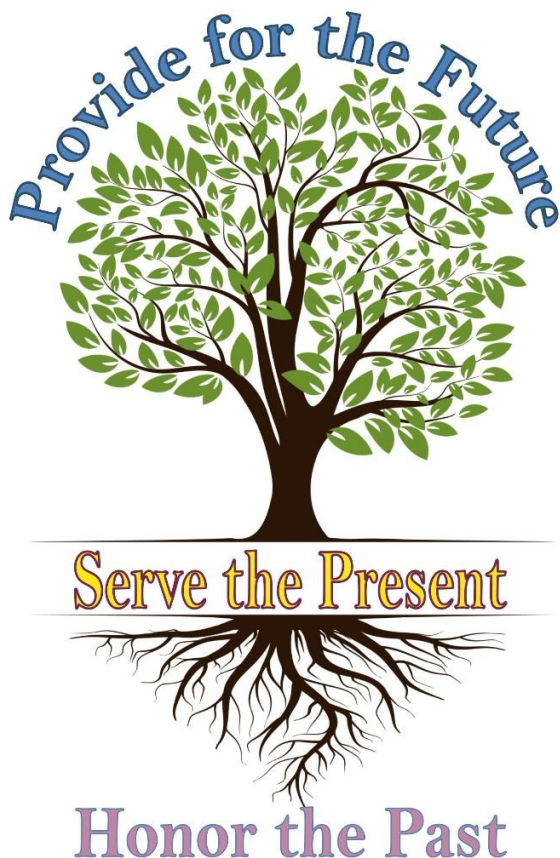
Elizabeth was also asked about the cost: she replied that was up to us.

To view Elizabeth's glass artistry go to Devglas.com

Notes by Ruth Licitra

**To view the PowerPoint Presentation of the June 23 Full Parish Meeting
go to your parish website: blessedtrinitymissoula.org**

**Also, take some time to view the opening slide show:
[The House itself must proclaim the Gospel.](#)**



**"The Lord
stirred up
the people,
so they set
to work
on God's
House."**

The Prophet Haggai 1:14



Bulletin Insert July 20-27, 2025