

St. Mary of the Hill Parish – Dedicated Worship Space Information

Archbishop ListECKI has requested parish leadership work towards creating a dedicated worship space at St. Mary of the Hill parish. We are the only parish in the Milwaukee Archdiocese with a multi-purpose worship space; this means we are using our parish center for other uses besides Mass. Examples are the Antique & Flea Market, Arts and Crafts Fair, Daytimers, and coffee and doughnuts after Mass.

Parish Leadership dialoged with Mark Kemmetter, the Director of Planning and Councils, as well as Kim Mandelkow, the Director of the Office of Worship, for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to gain an understanding of the specific dedicated worship space requirements.

The weekend of December 15 & 16, Kim Mandelkow gave a presentation after each of the Masses to explain these specific requirements.

Kim referenced in her presentation the document “Built of Living Stones”, created by the USCCB (United State Conference of Catholic Bishops). This document provides the detailed requirements of a parish building and the celebration of the sacred liturgy.

The requirements St. Mary of the Hill Parish needs to address are as follows:

- 1) Raised Sanctuary to enable the altar, ambo and presiders chair to be seen clearly by all attending Mass.
- 2) The Tabernacle is to be placed behind the altar.
- 3) Chairs with kneelers or pews with kneelers. We need to provide an opportunity to kneel during portions of the sacred liturgy. Pews are not a requirement, but kneelers are.
- 4) A baptistery (baptismal font) to accommodate both children and adults must be clearly seen by all attending Mass.
- 5) A narthex or gathering space separate from the worship area.

Our unique parish history and relationship with the Carmelite community at Holy Hill has led us to our current situation and will also provide opportunities to work together with the Carmelites to meet the requirements from our Archbishop.

A strategic planning committee has been formed to further investigate these requirements. The members are Jack Mooney, Wendy Newburg, Sarah Breunig, Art Noe, Rita Pruski, Janine Prusow, Chuck Thimm, Laurie Hilger, Fr. Don Brick and Fr. Bonaventure. If you have questions, please contact one of the Trustees – Laurie Hilger (262) 224-8513 or Chuck Thimm (262) 424-3384.

We will continue to update parishioners as more information becomes available.