



# RENOVATION AND RENEWAL

“LET US GO REJOICING INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”

## THE SANCTUARY

*(Third of six inserts)*

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* explains “The sanctuary is the place where the altar stands, the Word of God is proclaimed, and the Priest, the Deacon, and the other ministers exercise their functions”. In our church, the altar platform defines the sanctuary space; on it stand the altar, the ambo, and the presider’s chair.

A major project in this summer’s renovation has been the replacement of the temporary, wooden platform with a *permanent and more spacious* platform. The design enhances the special character of the **sanctuary** while maintaining the relationship between the sacred rituals taking place there with the prayer and actions of the entire assembly.

Specifically:

- The new platform is permanent, constructed of polished concrete, defining our sanctuary space with noble simplicity and beauty
- The platform is slightly larger in size and the top level is more spacious, fully accommodating the celebration of the various rituals of Word and Eucharist, as well as those of the other sacraments celebrated there
- The **altar**, the **ambo**, and the **presider’s chair** are all on the same level emphasizing their distinct but related roles in our one Eucharistic celebration while allowing for ease of movement and providing greater safety for the ministers
- The steps of the platform are designed to code to ensure their safe use
- A ramp at the back of the platform provides persons with limited mobility the opportunity to participate as liturgical ministers (i.e. lector, Eucharistic Minister, and cantor)
- The **sanctuary** is further defined by a curved wall at the back of the platform, creating a visual sense of connectedness to the **nave** where the assembly gathers and beautifully framing the altar

**NEXT WEEK: THE ALTAR**