

November 17, 2021

The Liturgical Art Committee was formed to develop an “Art Master Plan” to replace all of the artwork, statuary and furnishings lost in the fire, and to determine a theme to unify all of the liturgical art in the new church. After careful discussion and prayerful reflection, the Committee identified “The Strength of our Church Family” as that unifying theme.

The Art Master Plan, as now designed, seeks to demonstrate the “strength of our parish family” by incorporating that theme across several different elements of liturgical art.

For example, “Art for Public Worship” refers to the artwork and furnishings essential to liturgical worship throughout the year. This includes not only the altar, ambo and baptismal font, but also the presider’s chair, credence table, tabernacle stand, Gospel throne, ambry, song leader’s lectern, candlesticks, etc.

“Devotional Art”, on the other hand, refers to artwork important to the devotional practices of the parishioners, for example, the Stations of the Cross, images of Mary and the tabernacle. Locations for devotional art in the new church will include the Community Engagement Wall (facing the circle), the exterior entry plaza, the Narthex, the Children’s Liturgy of the Word room, the Daily Chapel and, of course, the main worship space, among others.

“Seasonal Art” are those elements that are not always present in the church (ie the Advent wreath, nativity crèche, floral arrangements, banners, etc.). At this time, the committee’s focus is on identifying the locations for seasonal art, rather than the selection of the art itself.

Finally, “Media Arts” refers to the utilization of projected imagery during liturgy. Ultimately, a Media Arts ministry will be formed to determine how electronic and video media arts might be best used for worship, and what is needed to implement such elements.

In its meetings over the course of the summer, the Liturgical Art Committee has identified several key images to develop the theme of “The Strength of Our Church Family”; these include The Holy Family, The Trinity, The Annunciation, the Communion of Saints and Sharing the Eucharistic Meal. The committee has also completed a detailed floor plan identifying both the locations of the various liturgical art elements and describing their basic design.

The new church building will include a number of stained glass windows; as God would have it, a collection of stained glass art depicting various saints is available from the Sacred Heart Church in Jersey City. The parish is hoping to utilize that artwork in both the main worship space, the devotional niches on either side of the church, and the music rehearsal room.

Lastly, after months of discussion and planning, the Committee is actively engaged in the process of selecting artists capable of bringing the vision articulated in the Art Master Plan to life. Working with Jim Hundt of Foresight Architects, the committee reviewed the applications of fifteen different professional artists, carpenters, sculptors, painters and glass designers at its most recent meeting on November 17. From that group, the committee will conduct interviews and review

portfolios with the aim of engaging one (or more) of these artists in the creation of the artwork identified in its master plan.