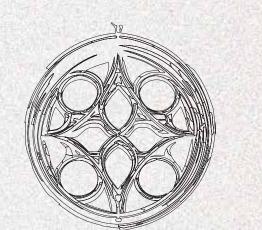


CREATING A BEAUTIFUL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AN ATTAINABLE WAY



They are to make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell in their midst. According to all that I show you regarding the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of its furnishings, so you are to make

- Exodus 25:8-9



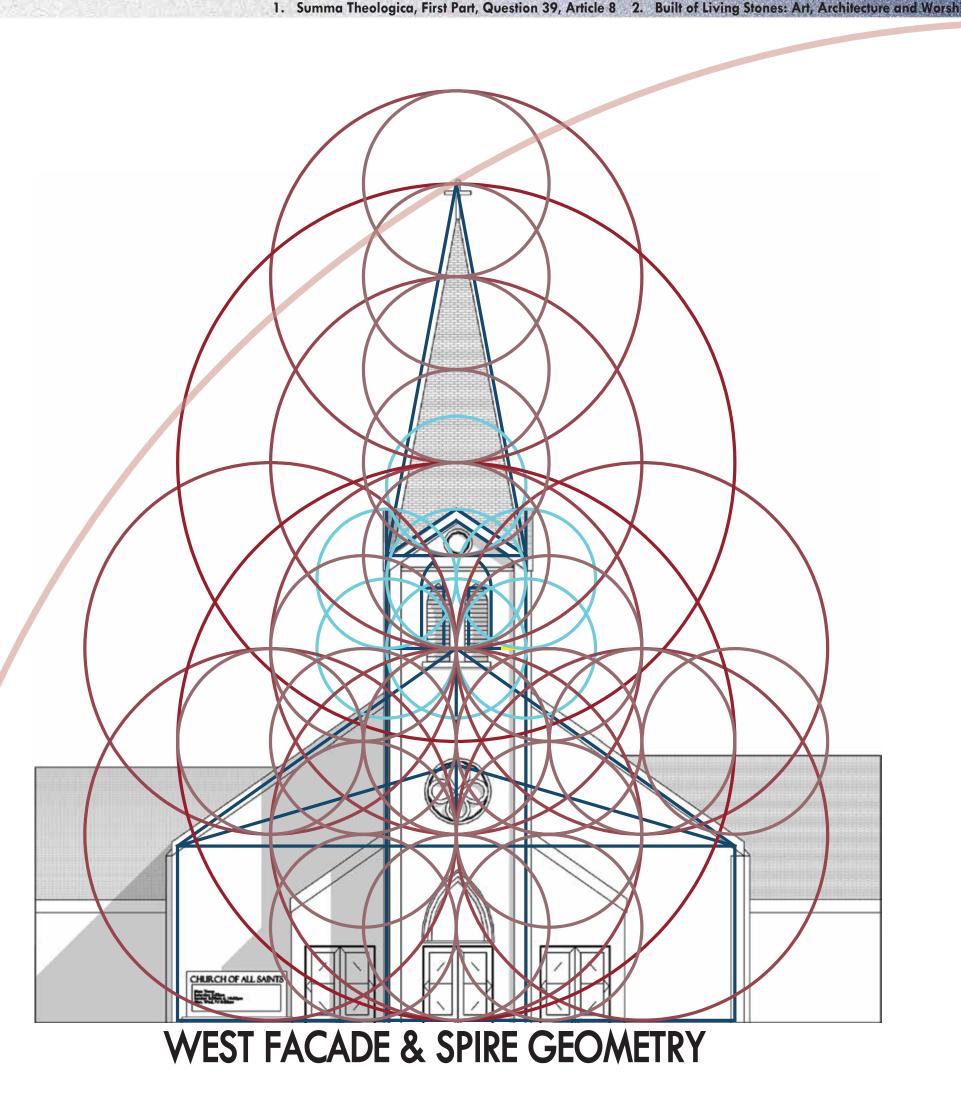
Beauty is one of four transcendentals of the Catholic tradition, along with truth, goodness, and unity. All four of these ideals are intrinsically connected. Beauty raises our senses beyond ourselves to something greater and serves as a visible manifestation of the goodness of God. St. Thomas Aquinas lists integrity, proportion, and clarity as the three essential conditions for beauty.1

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops, writes: "Because the church is a house of prayer in which the Eucharist is celebrated and the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, a place when the faithful assemble, and a setting where Christ is worshiped, should be worthy of prayer and sacred celebration, built in conformity with the laws of the Church, and dignified with noble beauty and intrinsically excellent art."2

There is an unbreakable bond between houses of worship and symbolism expressed through the built form, particularly in ordered forms and proportion. The ordered rhythms of geometrical proportion represent the unchanging truths of the Church and provide the basis for symmetry and aesthetic beauty.

The construction methods and materials of a building hold the CONSTRUCTION key to its affordability. Choosing simple, attainable methods and materials that are durable and structurally honest allow for the church to be constructed in an economical way without compromising on the potential of the space to facilitate an encounter with God.

> The word 'Catholic' means universal, and just so the Catholic church should echo this title by being accessible to all people of all abilities. Building the new church with the main floor at grade and providing an ADA elevator, ramp, and restroom allow for all congregants to come worship.



FLOORPLAN FORM & COST RESEARCH

FLOORPLAN 1

7203 sq ft

The research phase of this project consisted of

estimating the material costs of three distinct church

found in contemporary American Catholic churches.

Costs for 5 main groups of materials were estimated

- In the first floorplan, the Latin cross shape creates a

representing the journey from the outer world into

architecture is on the sanctuary, emphasizing the

The second plan is a rectilinear plan, with 4 columns

Each plan was designed to seat 250 congregants.

long nave leading forward to the sanctuary,

the holiness of house of God. The focus of the

of pews and multiple aisles; the altar is placed

along one of the long walls defining the central

space. Ultimately, this form is largely devoid of

The third plan is a radial plan, with the pews

forming a semicircle around the altar. While this

allows the people to be closer physically to the

liturgy, it also shifts the focus of the space from

emphasizing the sacredness of the sanctuary to

creating a more theatrical approach to liturgy.

spiritual symbolism and lacks potential to enhance

importance of the altar and the tabernacle.

using the RSMeans cost database

the liturgy.

Section A

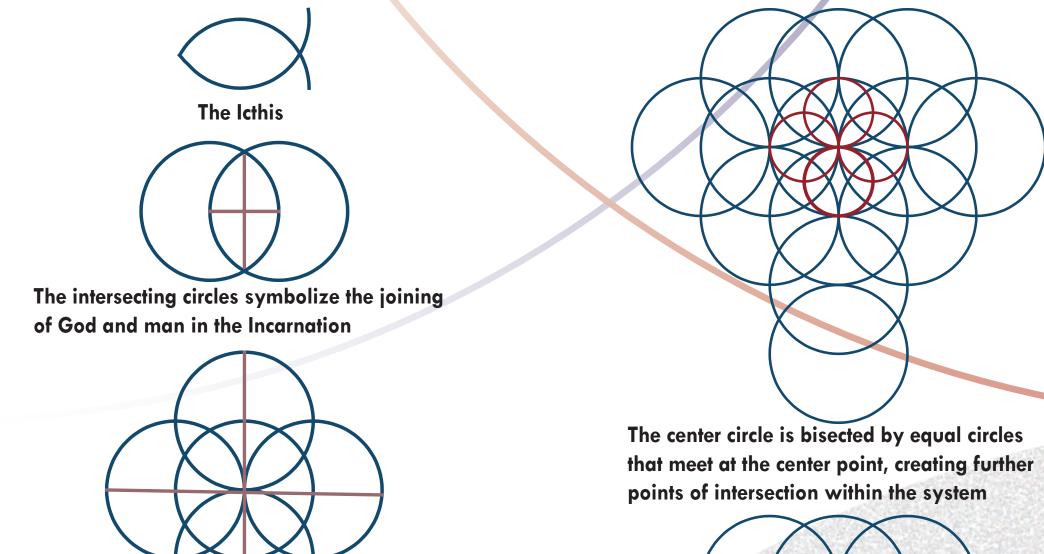
buildings, each typifying a floorplan shape commonly

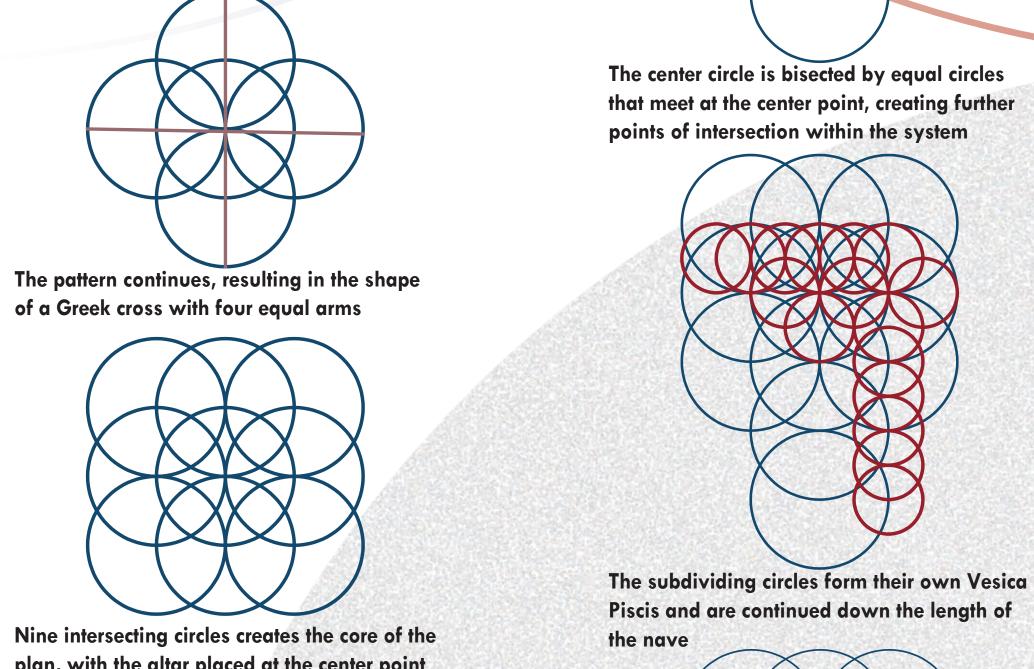


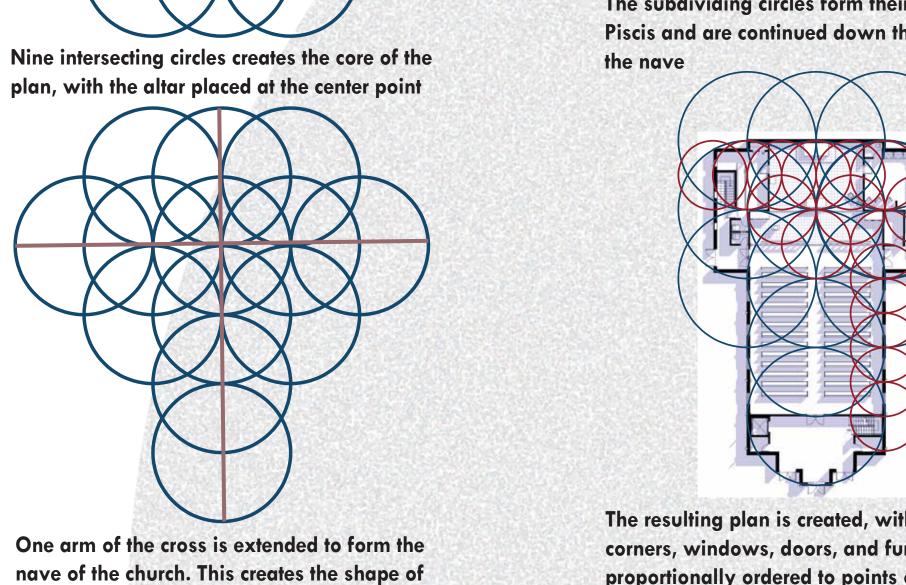
VESICA PISCIS

a Latin cross

Vesica Piscis translates from Latin to "Vessel of the Fish" and refers to the shape of two equally sized circles arranged so that the edge of one intersects with the center point of the other. This shape symbolizes many important teachings of Christianity, and is the basis of the fish shape, or Icthis, that early Christians used to identify their churches and homes. The recurring presence of fish in the Gospels and Jesus' call to become "Fishers of Men" (Mk 1:17) give the shape symbolic importance in the mission of the church building to lead people to Christ.





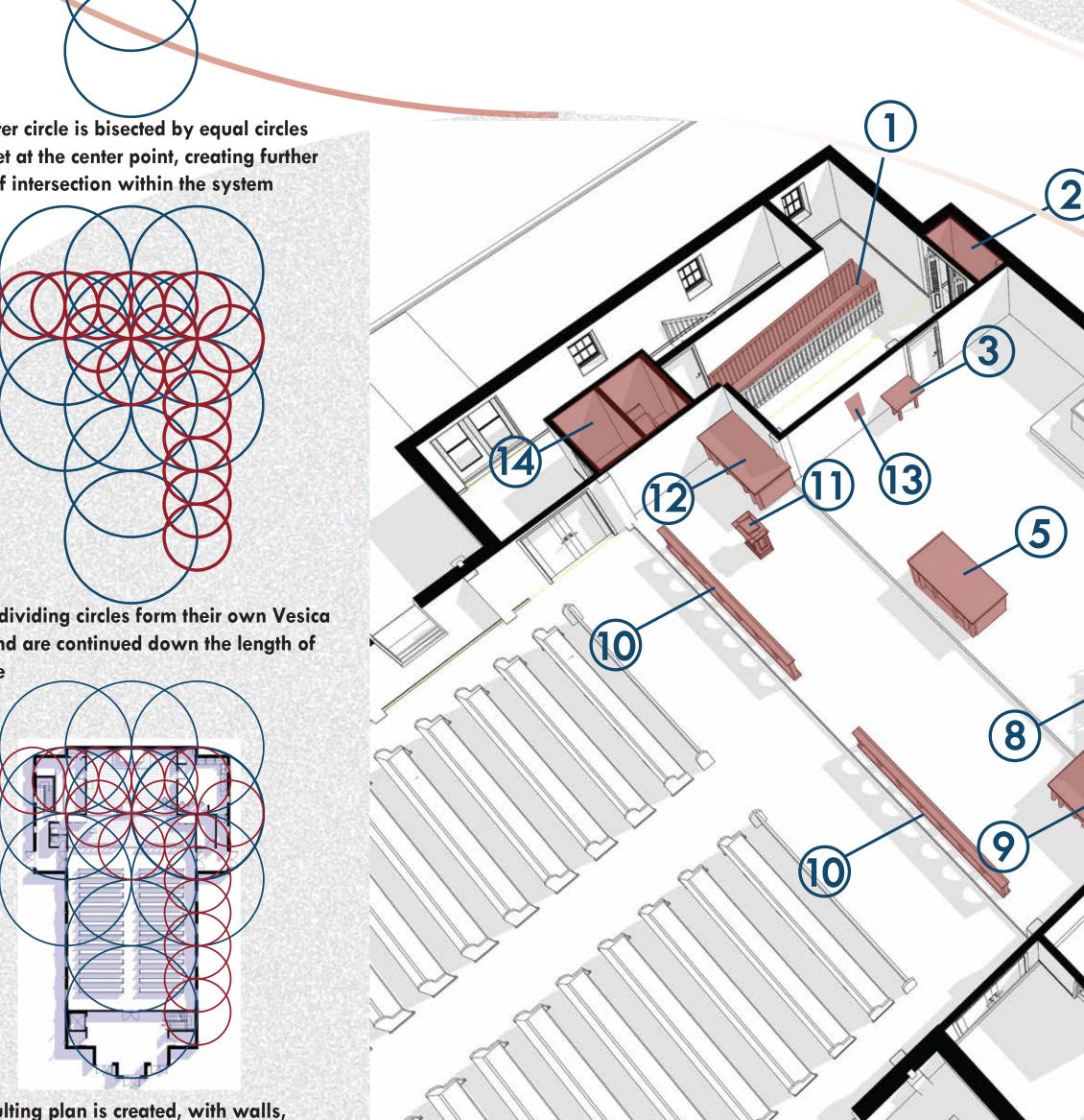


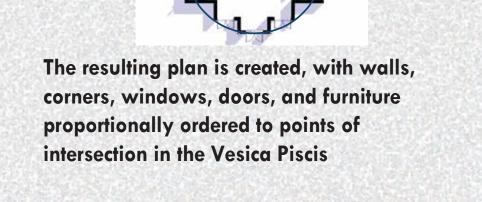
\$500,000

\$200,000

FLOORPLAN 3

6291 sq ft



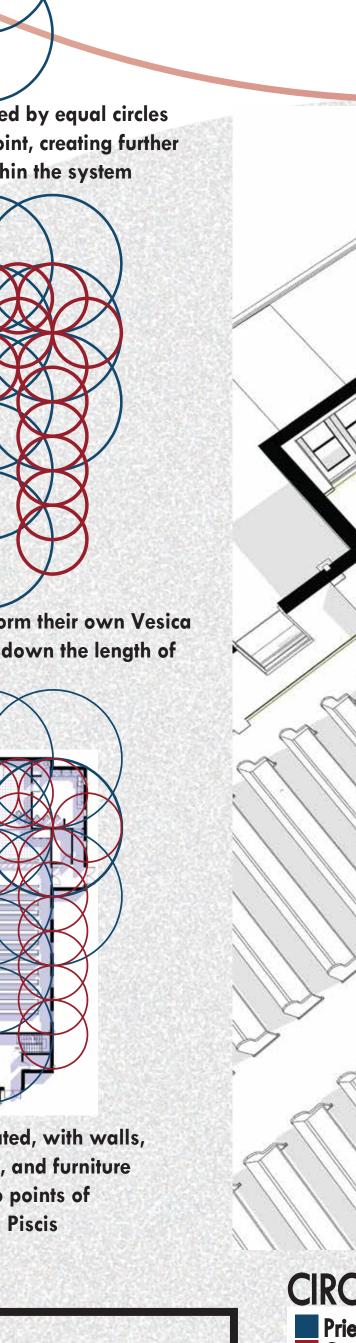


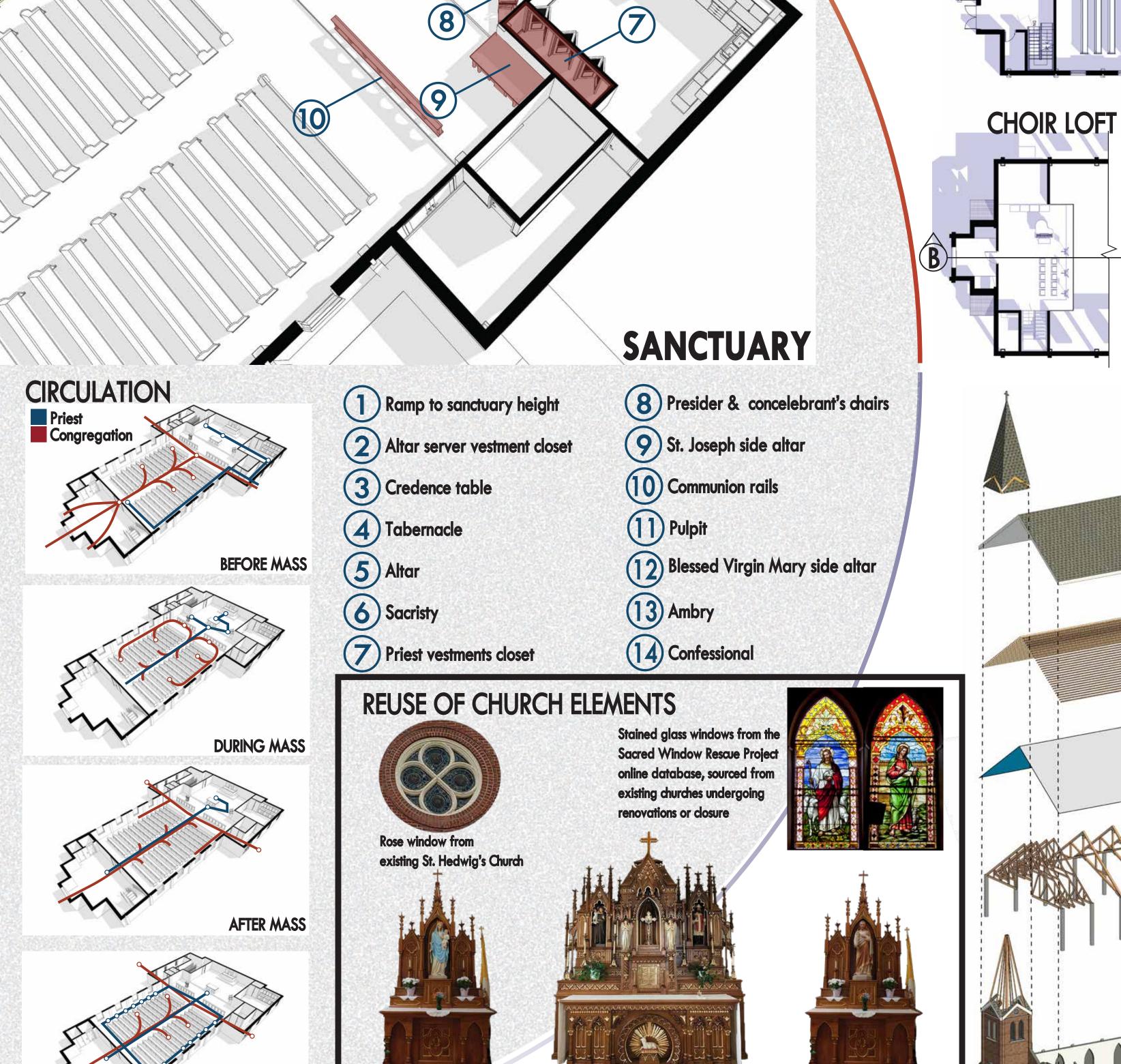
Floorplan 1 Floorplan 2 Floorplan 3 ESTIMATED MATERIAL COSTS

Structural timber trusses Walls

Floor Roof Structural columns

Section B





Marian side altar from



BASEMENT

MAIN FLOOR

Architectural shingles on OSB

roof sheathing

Gypsum board ceiling

Timber main span roof trusses

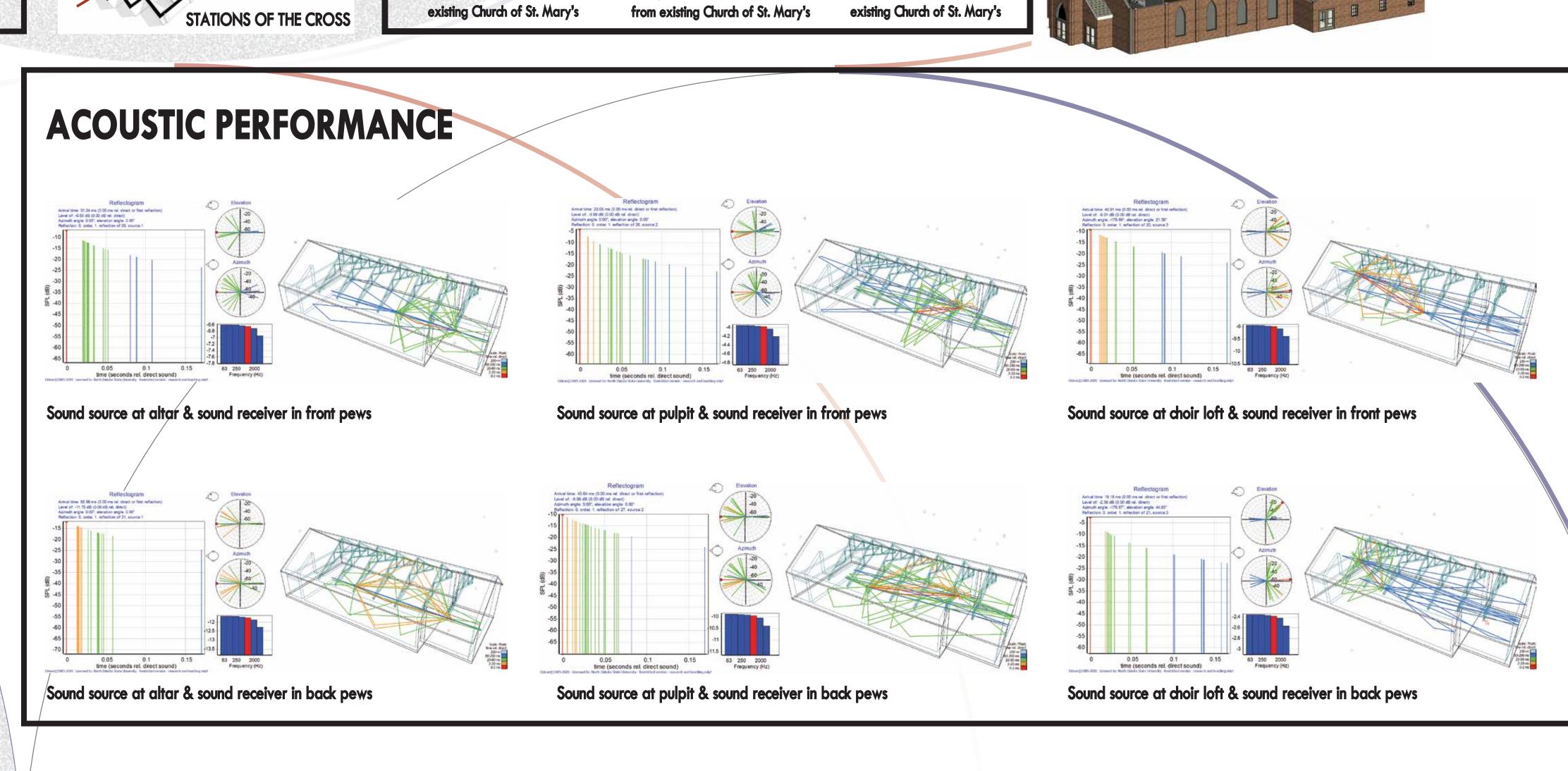
Hollow steel structural columns

Lightweight wood secondary trusses



FLOORPLAN 2

6503 sq ft



Altarpiece and tabernacle

St. Joseph side altar from

