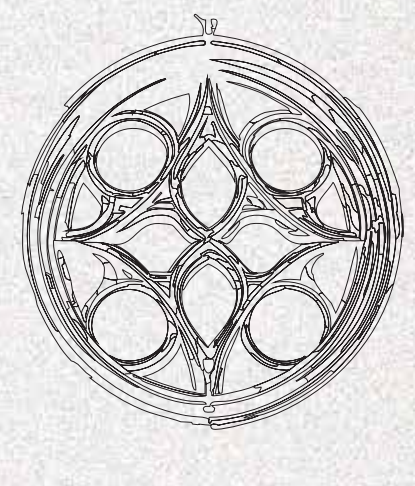


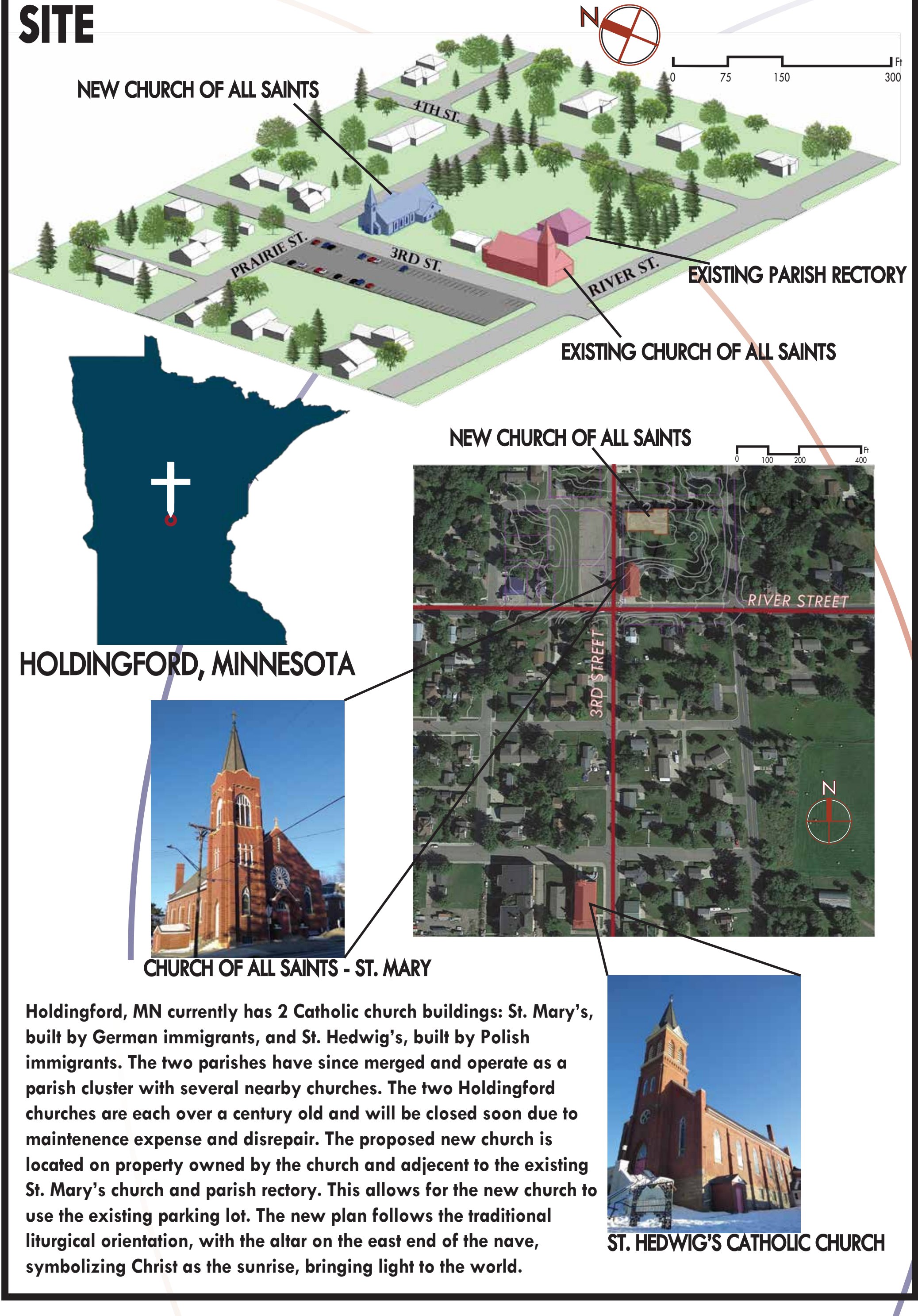
DOMUS DEI: THE HOUSE OF GOD

CREATING A BEAUTIFUL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AN ATTAINABLE WAY

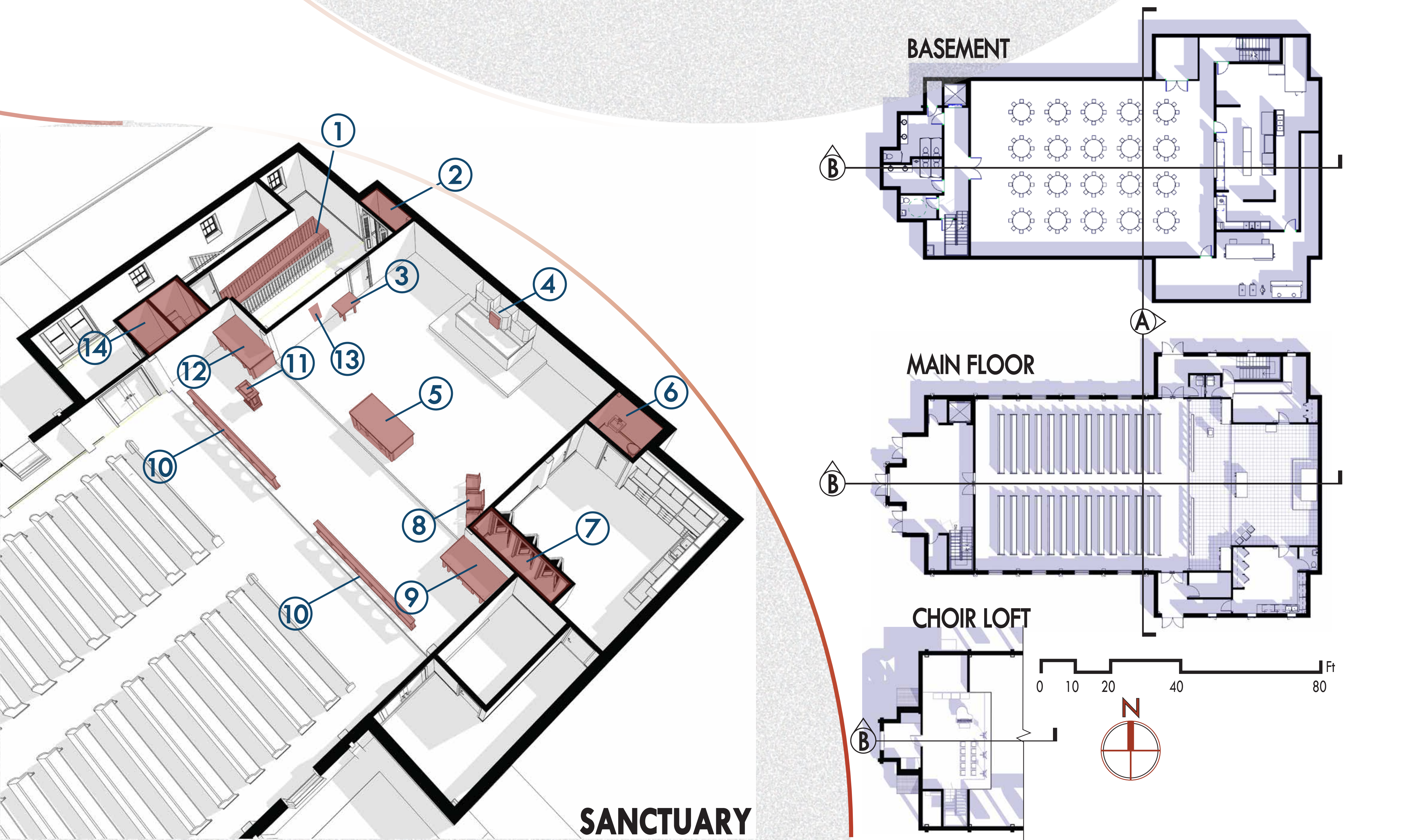
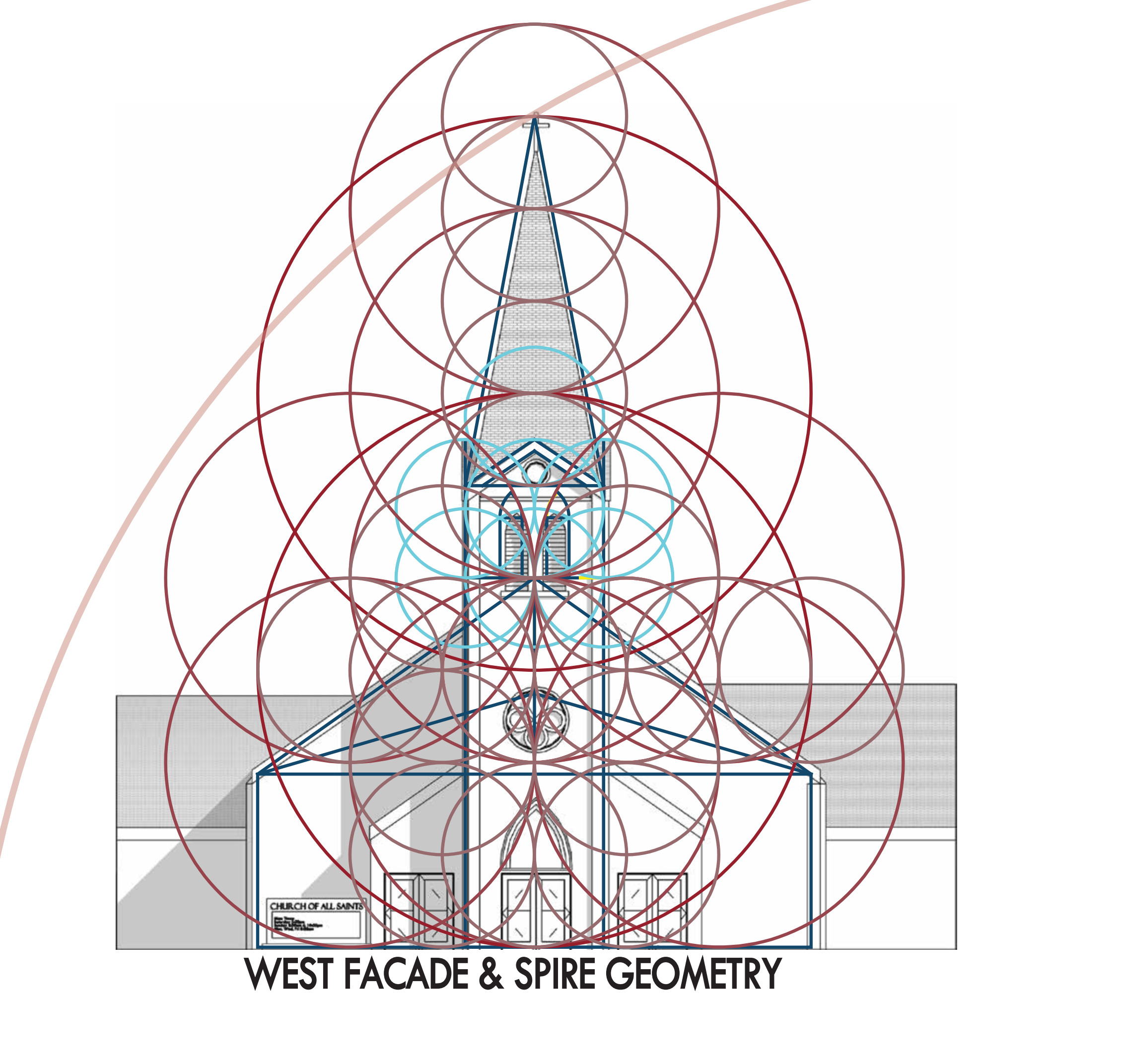
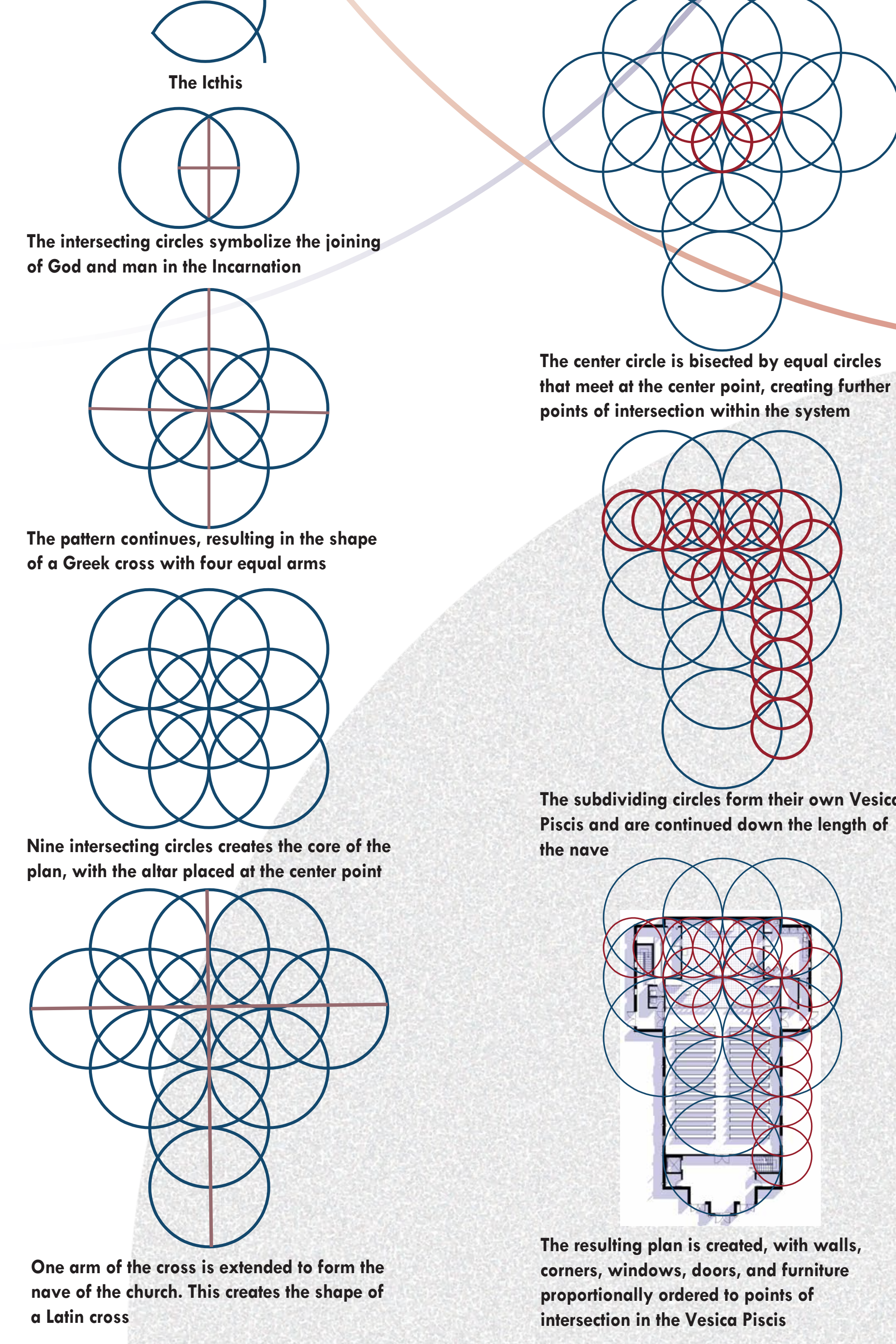


They are to make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell in their midst. According to all that I show you regarding the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of its furnishings, so you are to make it.
- Exodus 25:8-9

- BEAUTY**
Beauty is one of four transcendental 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.
- LITURGY**
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 where the faithful assemble, and a setting where Christ is worshiped, it 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."
- GEOMETRY**
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.
- CONSTRUCTION**
The construction methods and materials of a building hold the 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.
- ACCESSIBILITY**
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.



VESICA PISCIS
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 Ichthys, 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" (Mt. 1:17) give the shape symbolic importance in the mission of the church building to lead people to Christ.



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