

# *Proposed Work to be Accomplished*

## **New Church Entrance / Gathering Space (Approx. \$1,300,000)**

The construction of the proposed new gathering space would address many practical needs. It will help build and be a place for: fellowship, outreach activities, ministry awareness, social activities, and would help during weddings and funerals. (Especially during inclement weather) The new gathering space will allow the church itself to become a more quiet and reverent place for meditation and prayer. This addition will also create a more beautiful and welcoming appearance for the entry into our church. Since the gathering space is to be “in the round,” the axis of the main doors can be aligned with the principal axis of the parking lot, thus providing a more inviting appearance to people as they walk from their cars to the main doors and thereby providing a visual reminder that, “all are welcome”. Moreover, by establishing this beautiful gathering space, parishioners will naturally tend to congregate before and after Mass, contributing directly to our collective goal of continually strengthening our parish’s social community.

Far more important than its practical functionality, however, the gathering space has deep symbolic and theological meaning for God’s people as we assemble for worship. To see this space as merely a “vestibule,” a space of passive and minimal importance does not do it justice. Probably the most important symbolic concept at work in the gathering space is that of *liminality* – *i.e.*, the gathering space as “threshold.” There is deep spiritual power in the very act of approaching and crossing a true threshold. Theologically, the gathering space and its doors is where we cross the threshold from the everyday world into the sacred space that is the dwelling place of God and the home for the *ekklesia* – the gathering of God’s people that is the Body of Christ, the Church. In that gathering space, we transition from the everyday activities of life to the supreme activity of worshipping God in the two-fold liturgy of Word and Eucharist.

Furthermore, the placement of the baptismal font at the center of the space will have it serve as the principal Holy Water font and be a constant reminder of the importance of our baptism as the entryway into the life of the sacraments and the community of God’s faithful people. Also, in its use during the funeral ritual, the font will be a hope-filled reminder that baptism is the promise and entryway into resurrection and eternal life.

## **Parking Lot Safety / Reconfiguration (Approx. \$400,000)**

The location of the lower parking lot’s main entrance is extremely close to the intersection of North Turkey Hill and Long Lots Roads, which allows cars to enter our parking lot at full speed. This is especially hazardous at times when children are on hand and likely to run toward their rides in the parking area, darting out in between other cars that are (illegally!) parked in the fire lane. Repositioning of the main entrance to the midpoint of the campus property line on Turkey Hill Road and some redesign of the layout of spaces and travel lanes will vastly improve the safety of the parking lot for all pedestrians, especially our children. The creation of additional parking spaces will provide added convenience (especially in inclement weather) so that there will be less need to use the upper parking lot. Furthermore, we will have ample room for additional “handicapped” parking spaces. Finally, the redesign of the lot will also beautify the campus property by including new lighting and (town-required) landscaping.

## **Rectory Office Renovation/Addition (Approx. \$400,000)**

Even though a modest addition to rectory office space was created when an existing sun porch was enclosed, the amount of rectory office space that is currently available is inadequate for the size and lively nature of our parish. We are in dire need of work space for the secretaries and volunteers, storage space for files and supplies, and offices for the priests of the parish. By simply building on top of the flat roof that already exists, we will be able to add some much-needed work and storage space, while avoiding creating lot coverage issues with the town’s Planning & Zoning Board. (We will also take advantage of this opportunity to remove the current in-ground oil tank and replace it with new indoor tanks in the rectory basement.)

**TOTAL NEED = \$2,100,000**