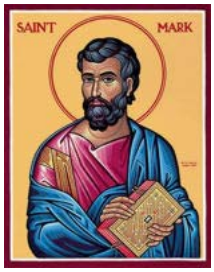

Liturgical Environs
Integrated Ecclesial Designs

St. Mark's Catholic Church
Denton TX
Building Questionnaire Results and Summary Report

The Building Committee of Saint Mark's undertook a parish wide survey to consider the type of church that might best reflect the needs, wants, communal sensibilities, spirituality, aesthetic preferences, etc. of the parish. The surveys were distributed at all Masses on the weekends of 8-9 November and 15-16 November 2003, and were also available through the parish office. The completed surveys were due by 23 November 2003, although this was a soft date, and surveys returned after that date were not eliminated. However, surveys returned after the initial batch was sent to Liturgical Environs in mid-December 2003 were not tabulated. A total of 230 surveys were returned and tabulated.

The following report gives a summary accounting of the question responses, and some initial recommendations based on our experiences. Please note that this is not a scientific study. It is meant to take a "snap shot" of parish consensus at a particular time in response to particular questions. As such, the data is open to interpretation. In general, when respondents listed "traditional" or similar in the answer, the assumption was for a typical church built prior to the Second Vatican Council – basilican, pews, altar rails, depictive stained glass, statuary, stone altars and durable materials, etc. Any interpretative comments are the sole opinion of mine, and are open to discussion and adjustment.

Please note that many of the responses contained several comments, and many respondents did not answer all the questions, or everything within a particular section. However to the best of our ability all the relevant, legible, and understandable comments are included and tabulated.

Thank you all greatly for your participation in this survey. It is a very important step in deciding what we should design and build so that St. Mark's Catholic Church continues to be a place worship, service, community, and growth for the people of God in the City of Denton.

Respectfully submitted,

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LITURGICAL ENVIRONS

5 February 2004

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Question 1: Below are some words that may describe the atmosphere that you would like to see developed in your church. Please identify the five most important considerations (the first representing your greatest priority). Please feel free to use words of your own description as well:

The first question is an effort to measure quantitatively those "atmospheric" or intuitional preferences of the community for what the "feeling" of the new church should be.

The results are tabulated both as raw total responses, and as weighted responses. Those words that were ranked as number 1 were weighted with a multiplier of **5**; those as number 2 with a multiplier of **4**; those as number 3 with a multiplier of **3**; those as number 4 with a multiplier of **2**; and those as number 5 with a multiplier of **1**. A number of surveys did not rank order the words, but rather circled the preferences; these are tabulated and included with a weighted multiplier of **1**. The top twenty preferences are:

Rank	Total Responses	Number	%
1	Sacred	129	56.09%
2	Traditional	101	43.91%
3	Beautiful	93	40.43%
4	Peaceful	92	40.00%
5	Reverent	74	32.17%
6	Prayerful	69	30.00%
7	Inviting	57	24.78%
8	Uplifting	56	24.35%
9	Warm	56	24.35%
10	Quiet	41	17.83%
11	Comforting	35	15.22%
12	Friendly	35	15.22%
13	Functional	29	12.61%
14	Dignified	25	10.87%
15	Bright	24	10.43%
16	Humbling	22	9.57%
17	Joyful	18	7.83%
18	Contemplative	16	6.96%
19	Simple	15	6.52%
20	Ornate	14	6.09%

Rank	Weighted Scores	Score
1	Sacred	516
2	Traditional	354
3	Peaceful	278
4	Beautiful	228
5	Reverent	219
6	Prayerful	198
7	Warm	182
8	Inviting	158
9	Quiet	114
10	Uplifting	113
11	Bright	75
12	Friendly	74
13	Comforting	69
14	Functional	62
15	Dignified	61
16	Simple	47
17	Contemplative	43
18	Humbling	43
19	Joyful	41
20	Ornate	39

Interpretation:
The community consensus according to this measure is for a more "traditional" church, one that expresses the senses of the sacred, of tradition, of beauty, of peace, of reverence, and of prayer. At least 30% of the respondents indicated these preferences.

NOTE: The complete tabulated results are attached as Appendix at the end of this survey.

Q2: What things remind you most of a "Catholic Church" (circle all that apply)

The second question is an effort to identify the "sensate" aspects of a Catholic church, and is useful for identifying the signifiers for personal and cultural memory, devotional life, and what items should be emphasized in the new church design:

Rank	Items	Number	%
1	Crucifix	208	90.43%
2	Stations of the cross	199	86.52%
3	Altar	197	85.65%
4	Candles	185	80.43%
5	Pews	184	80.00%
6	Kneelers	183	79.57%
7	Statues	182	79.13%
8	Stained glass	182	79.13%
9	Organ	172	74.78%
10	Tabernacle	168	73.04%
11	Holy water stoups	154	66.96%
12	Confessionals	153	66.52%
13	Saints and angels	129	56.09%
14	Pulpit	100	43.48%
15	Baptistery	97	42.17%
16	Bell tower	76	33.04%
17	Spire Dome	72	31.30%
18	Stone	70	30.43%
19	Arches	69	30.00%
20	Wood	65	28.26%
21	Shrines	65	28.26%
22	Choir loft	63	27.39%
23	Columns	57	24.78%
24	Communion rail	47	20.43%
25	Holy oils	45	19.57%
26	Social hall	23	10.00%
27	Simplicity	10	4.35%
28	Chairs	4	1.74%

Other Items mentioned once (alpha

atmosphere of reverence
baptistery
basketball court
bells, incense, chants
bingo
burning candles, Eucharist
chapel
consecration bell
courtyard
east coast style church
educational room
high ceilings
icons
icons
incense music
long homilies
Mary, Sacred Heart
murals, faux painting
plants, flowers
robes of priest
second collection
Sense of God
stained glass
stairs
stone
sun roofs
tabernacle
white

Interpretation:
The survey indicates the importance of both communal liturgical features (Altar – 85.65%; Confessionals – 66.53%; Baptistery - 42.17%) and personal devotional signifiers (Crucifix – 90.43%; Stations – 86.52%, Statues – 79.13%; Tabernacle – 73.04%; Images of saints and angels – 56.09%; Shrines – 28.26%). The clear preference for seating is pews (80%) with kneelers (79.57%) as compared to chairs (1.74%). The various places of the sacraments should be well defined and clearly visible (Altar – 85.65%; Tabernacle – 73.04%; Confessionals – 66.53%; Baptistery - 42.17%). We recommend a significant budget for sacred art (Crucifix, Stations, Statues, Stained Glass, etc.)

Q3: In a few words, describe how you think the following things should be expressed:

The third question is intentionally open-ended to give the respondents the opportunity to express what is most important about the particular item.

Some of the responses can help to excavate important issues and considerations in the previous question concerning signifiers of what remind us of a Catholic church building.

Seating: (201 responses)

175	pews / kneelers / traditional seating	87%
9	chairs/ semi-fixed seating	4.5%
7	comfortable / padded	3.5%
6	straight / forward facing / "not seeing each other"	3%
3	theater-style / semi circular / circular	1.4%
1	unimportant	.5%

Interpretation:
In general, if straight rows of pews with kneeler are considered "traditional", as opposed to curved and sloping arrangement of "theatre style" seats which are considered "contemporary", then 90% favor a traditional arrangement and 6% favor a contemporary arrangement.

Ceiling height: (183 responses)

137	high / tall / cathedral / gothic / soaring / majestic / >30'	75%
18	moderate / not too high / <30'	10%
14	acoustically optimal/ energy efficient / ventilation / practical	7.5%
10	vaulted / arched/ domed	5.5%
5	varied / multilevel	3%

Floors: (174 responses)

113	hard / stone / tile / wood	65%
76	carpet / quiet / carpet aisles	42.5%
17	some combination of mixed materials	10%
13	easy to clean / low maintenance / acoustics	7.5%

Windows: (175 responses)

136	Pictorial / stained glass / stories / etc.	77.5%
24	Clear / frosted / pain / for lighting	13.5%
7	high / no view outside	4%

Walls: (129 comments)

26	Stone	20%
2	Brick	1.5%
20	Plaster/ Stucco	15.5%
9	Wood	7%
2	high	1.5%
25	Art / Murals or Frescos / Stations	19.5%
33	Plain / Simple / Neutral / Light	21. %
9	Paint	7%
8	Warm / Soft / Soothing colors	6%
5	White	4%

3	Not white	2%
3	Easy to maintain	2%
2	Less wall and more window	1.5%
3	Energy / Sound considerations	2%
1	Flowered wallpaper	<1%

Interpretation:
If we assume that taller walls and more durable materials and art work are indicators of a more "traditional" church; and simpler, plainer, white, wood or painted walls with more windows that are primarily designed for energy or sound can be considered as more contemporary, then the church community prefers a more traditional design (55%) to a more contemporary design (45%).

Statuary: (129 comments)

26	St. Mary / Immaculate Conception, etc.	20%
19	St. Joseph	14.5%
14	Holy Family	11%
8	Crucifix / Jesus / Sacred Heart	6%
8	St. Mark	6%
2	Angels	1.5%
4	Stations	3%
33	Many / Abundant / Traditional / Yes / Saints	21.5%
22	Few / Simple / <5	17%
9	Realistic / Life Size / Colorful / Bold	7%
6	Moderate / Some / Tasteful / Not too many	6%
3	Stone / Marble	2%
1	More abstract	<1%
1	Multicultural	<1%
1	Reuse existing	<1%

Interpretation:
If we assume that those who listed specifically "few", "more abstract", "not too many" prefer a less crowded atmosphere, and those who listed specific images or "many" and "realistic" would prefer a more traditional environment, then approximately 76% prefer a more "traditional" church and about 24% prefer a simpler, contemporary church. Note that many responses listed several subjects for statuary.

Entrance: (157 comments)

25	Large / Grand / Impressive / Tall / Massive	16%
21	Open / Inviting / Welcoming / Wide	13.5%
19	Vestibule	12%
16	Wood	10%
11	Arched	7%
10	Double doors or more	6.5%
5	Comforting / Warm	3%
4	Simple / Not important	2.5%
4	Sound / Energy efficient	2.5%
4	With steps in front	2.5%
4	Separate / closed off	2.5%
3	Symbolic / distinguishable / identifiable	2%
2	Glass	1.5%

2	East facing	1.5%
2	Eastward facing	1.5%
1	Stone	<1%

Note:
The comments "separable" and "closed off" were interpreted as referring to a vestibule and added to that category, but also included as a separate category for other interpretations.

Stained Glass: (156 comments)

123	Many / traditional/ scenes / yes	7879%
22	Moderate / contemporary / abstract / like we have now	14%
9	Not important / plain / simple / none	6%
3	Other comments : "high up", beauty or beautiful,	2%

Altar: (163 comments)

107	Stone / Permanent / Ornate / Massive / Raised / Traditional, etc	655%
52	Wood / Plain or Simple / Like Current / Off center / functional	32%
17	Central / Formal / Prominent / Main Focus	10%
3	Accessible / Open	2%
1	Symbolic	<1%

Tabernacle: (137 comments)

87	Centered / Sanctuary / Traditional / Visible	63.5%
13	In separate chapel / To the side / As current	9.5%%
6	Other: "where the Vatican stipulates", "able to be found", etc.	4.5%
16	Elaborate / Ornate / Gold / Metal / Stone	11.5%
7	Simple / Modest / Wood	5%

Interpretation:
Of the 106 comments that stated preferences for tabernacle location, 83% preferred that the tabernacle be visible behind the altar in the sanctuary; and 13% preferred it being in a separate chapel.

Music: (150 comments)

59	Traditional / Choir / Organ	39.5%
26	As present / Variety	17.5%
24	Designated Special Areas / Not distracting / Choir Loft	16%
8	Youth / LifeTeen / Modern	5.5%
7	Good Acoustics	4.5%
5	At front on the side	3.5%

Crucifix: (160 comments)

61	Large / Visible / Illuminated	38%
56	Above Altar or tabernacle / centered	35%
29	Traditional / Life like / Realistic	18%
14	Yes or other positive comment	9%
14	Wood	9%
6	Simple / Modern / Plain / Changeable	4%
6	Resurrection / Risen Lord	4%
6	Stone	4%

Confessionals: (138 comments)

72	Private / Face to face / Optional	52%
25	Location: At back/ on sides / at entrance	18%
15	Reconciliation room / warm / inviting / dark / quiet / reverent	1%
9	Need several / need more	6.5%
9	Not necessary	6.5%
3	Visible	2%
4	Other comments: Built in / soundproof / architect's decision	3%

Note:
Since Canon Law gives the penitent the right to both anonymity and face-to-face confession, the comments that identified either / or and both options are grouped together.

Pulpit: (93 comments)

37	Elevated / Big / Prominent / Visible	40%
16	Not too big / Simple	17%
16	Wood	17%
10	To the side of the altar / not centered	11%
7	Stone	7.5%
6	Use existing	6.5%
6	Match altar	6.5%
5	Not necessary	5.5%

Chapels: (118 comments)

66	Daily Mass / at least one / yes	56%
25	Quiet / Peaceful / Prayerful / Devotions / St Mary	21%
6	No need / optional / plan for future	5%
6	Tabernacle	5%
4	In separate building / nearby	3.5%
2	Accessible from outside or entrance	1.5%

Baptistery: (115 comments)

22	In front / visible / near altar	19%
21	Traditional / small font / not a tub or fountain	18.5%
14	At the entrance	12%
6	Large pool / immersion or submersion	5%
3	In the middle or central	2.5%
7	A special area or chapel	6%
7	Permanent / Stone	6%
18	Simple / Movable / Wood / like at present	15.5%
17	Other comments / Yes	15%

Interpretation:
Of those who specified a location, 56% prefer toward the front of the church near the altar; 36% prefer it at the entrance; and 8% prefer it in the center. Of those who specified permanent or movable, 72% prefer movable or like the present arrangement; and 28% prefer a permanent font. Of those who specified a shape, 78% prefer a traditional taller font for pouring, and 22 % prefer a pool or immersion font.

Day Lighting: (120 comments)

63	A lot / natural / well lit / as much as possible, etc	52.5%
23	Yes / Some / A little / Enough for reading	19%
10	Lighting through stained glass	8.5%
10	Reduce glare / energy efficient / flexible / curtains or blinds	8.5%
8	High windows / skylights	6.5%
10	Other / no preference	8.5%

Artificial Lighting: (109 comments)

40	Adequate / Adjustable / No preference	36.5%
23	Subdued / Soft / Subtle / Darker	21%
17	Indirect / Recessed / Architectural / Design / Spotlights	15.5%
11	Hanging / Chandeliers	10%
10	Bright	9 %
5	Energy efficient / with fans	4.5%
5	No florescent lights	4.5%

Saints and Angels: (110 comments)

36	Traditional / a lot / yes / everywhere, etc.	32.5%
18	Few / Some / Limited	16.5%
17	Stained Glass	15.5%
16	Statuary	14.5%
16	Paintings / Mosaics	14.5%
13	Saint Mark	12%
9	Saint Mary	8 %
6	Saint Joseph	5.5%
7	Saint Michael / Angels / Archangels	6.5%
2	Sacred Heart	1%
1	No angels	<1%

Interpretation:
Out of 110 comments, 92 (84%) were strongly positive or mentioned types or subjects. 18 (16%) thought that images should be limited or only a few.

Courtyard: (125 comments)

114	Positive	91%
45	Flowers / garden / landscape	36%
15	Fountain	12%
13	Communal gatherings	10.5%
11	Not important / no / not necessary	9%
8	Protected / secluded / Covered or trellises	6.5%

Building Relationships: (73 comments)

23	Connected / linked with covered walkways, etc	31.5%
12	Architecturally unified / similar to existing / should blend together	16.5%
11	Separate buildings with courtyard	15%
8	Church building is most important	11%
8	Plan for meeting rooms / social hall / gym / classrooms	11%
3	Site efficiency / parking access / solar efficiency / basement	4%
2	Not to match existing	2.5%
3	Big / plan for many functions	4%
7	Other comments: “prayerful”, “friendly”, “from the heart”, etc	9.5%

Landscaping: (116 comments)

48	Simple / Basic / Grass / Low Maintenance / As is now	41.5%
22	Formal / Gardens / Flowers / Colorful / Beautiful	19%
16	Shade Trees / Bushes or Shrubs / Very Green	14%
15	Native Texan / Natural / Xeriscape	13%
14	Other comments	12%
1	All blacktop	<1%

Eucharistic Chapel: (82 comments)

25	Not needed / not necessary / tabernacle in sanctuary	30.5%
14	Reverent / Contemplative / Prayerful / Peaceful / Ornate	17%
9	Good for daily mass / perpetual adoration	11%
8	Near altar or main worship space	10%
8	Should have one	10%
4	Simple	5%
12	Other comments	14.5%

Other: (52 comments)

10	Needs for Social / Restrooms / Youth / Separate offices, etc
3	Need for Cry room
7	Need for better acoustics
2	Need for Pews with book holders

Other comments

Energy efficient conditioning
If tabernacle is not placed in main sanctuary the eucharistic chapel would be mandatory
have a repository for cremated remains
We don't need ornate statues just simple focus on sacraments
courtyard should be covered against weather, or at least covered walkways between buildings
all furniture should match in new church
a large smoking area
stations of the cross should be classic not stylized
church should be built straight up in its structure
St. Mark's should have a bell tower
fans, lots of them
I would like a quiet place to light candles and pray
quiet in the sanctuary and parents should take restless children out
use a lot of wood
Would it be possible for the priest to consecrate the gifts for God instead of facing the congregation?
wood furniture in a dark color
I hope some parishioners visit other churches and send in feedback from what they saw
I have a brother who is an archbishop in Iowa. He won't allow anything smaller than 1200. I agree with him
elegant Porte-cochere larger than current to accommodate wedding parties funerals etc.
It would be nice to have projector screen built into display woods to music during life teen mass.
Should have a beautiful outdoor area with seating for quiet personal reflection
statuary should add to formation and understanding of faith
limit the pictures and announcements at the entrance of the church
create an intimate feeling while still being able to seat 1200-1500 people
must express community and warmth
interior shape to be fan shaped or possibly cross shaped
St. Joseph's in Richardson is a good example of modern meets traditional
choir loft would be great

Q4: Please rate the following for the new church (0 as not important to 5 as most important)

This question is intended to gauge what concerns are most pressing for the new building. The results are presented in five rankings for comparison:

1) Ranked by Weighted Average takes each category multiplied by the rank of importance, then multiplied by a ratio of the number of times mentioned divided by the total number of surveys (230). With this method, items that received more comments are given more weight in the tabulation.
2) Ranked as 5 – Most Important
3) Ranked as Top Two
4) Ranked as Top Three
5) Average Ranking among the first four methods to determine which is most pressing.

The complete results are tabulated in the Appendix.

Ranked by Weighted Average

acoustics/sound system	4.435
visibility	4.178
stations of the cross	4.17
quality of light	4.152
kneelers	3.983
quality of Materials	3.926
beauty	3.674
ventilation	3.648
placement of tabernacle	3.622
symbolism	3.617
images of saints and angels	3.596
our lady shrine	3.561
candles	3.478
cry room	3.465
shrines and statues	3.387
quality of workmanship	3.313
additional meeting rooms	3.152
parish office	3.139
landscaping	2.996
placement of baptistery	2.874
courtyard/outdoor area	2.839
bride's room	2.691
seeing each other	2.648
communion rail	1.696

Ranked as "5" or "Most Important"

acoustics/sound system	151
stations of the cross	124
kneelers	120
quality of Materials	117
quality of light	116
quality of workmanship	112
placement of tabernacle	102
visibility	98
ventilation	97
beauty	90
our lady shrine	84
symbolism	78
images of saints and angels	76
cry room	74
candles	54
shrines and statues	53
additional meeting rooms	48
parish office	43
placement of baptistery	35
courtyard/outdoor area	28
landscaping	26
seeing each other	23
communion rail	19
bride's room	12

Top Two	
acoustics/sound system	206
quality of light	190
visibility	187
quality of Materials	182
stations of the cross	182
kneelers	176
ventilation	166
beauty	162
quality of workmanship	158
symbolism	153
placement of tabernacle	147
our lady shrine	145
images of saints and angels	140
cry room	128
shrines and statues	126
candles	121
parish office	107
additional meeting rooms	104
landscaping	103
courtyard/outdoor area	90
placement of baptistery	89
seeing each other	78
bride's room	44
communion rail	33

Top Three	
visibility	222
acoustics/sound system	220
quality of light	214
stations of the cross	211
kneelers	202
quality of Materials	199
beauty	194
symbolism	194
candles	194
ventilation	188
images of saints and angels	187
shrines and statues	185
placement of tabernacle	182
our lady shrine	182
cry room	180
additional meeting rooms	171
landscaping	170
parish office	165
quality of workmanship	162
placement of baptistery	158
courtyard/outdoor area	156
bride's room	148
seeing each other	147
communion rail	78

	Average Ranking	Ave.
1	acoustics/sound system	1.25
2	quality of light	3.5
3	stations of the cross	3.5
4	visibility	3.5
5	kneelers	4.75
6	quality of Materials	5
7	beauty	8
8	ventilation	8.5
9	placement of tabernacle	10
10	symbolism	10
11	images of saints and angels	12
12	our lady shrine	12.25
13	quality of workmanship	12.5
14	additional meeting rooms	13
15	candles	13.25
16	cry room	14.25
17	shrines and statues	14.5
18	parish office	17.75
19	landscaping	19
20	placement of baptistery	20
21	courtyard/outdoor area	20.5
22	seeing each other	22.5
23	bride's room	22.75
24	communion rail	23.75

Interpretation:
According to this measure, the single most important consideration is acoustics – understandable given the poor acoustical qualities of the present multifunctional building. This section also provided additional information on the placement of the tabernacle and the baptistery:

Tabernacle Placement Notes

Near or behind main altar / in sanctuary	65	83%
Side of altar / sanctuary	6	8%
In a separate chapel	2	3%
In a prominent place of respect	1	1%
Visible / easy access	4	5%
Total comments	**78**	**100%**

Baptistery Placement Notes

In the front / near altar	17	26%
In a side chapel or side at front	17	26%
At the entrance	19	29%
Central / Middle	2	3%
Like at present	3	5%
Portable / flexible	3	5%
Unsure / not important / either	4	6%
In corridor	1	2%
Total comments	**66**	**100%**

Q5: What in particular do you like about the existing St. Mark's church building?

Tall Ceilings / Natural Light / Openness	36	16.5%
Nothing / Very Little	32	14.7%
Sense of community / People / Atmosphere	28	12.8%
Arrangement -- Seating / Flexibility/ Functional	28	12.8%
Art -- Stations, Stained Glass, Crucifix	18	8.3%
Simplicity / Size	14	6.4%
Locations	13	6.0%
OK as a Parish Hall	12	5.5%
Covered Entry / Drive	7	3.2%
Lights and Fans	6	2.8%
Chapel	6	2.8%
Grateful for the building / its paid for	6	2.8%
Materials	4	1.8%
Pastors / Masses	4	1.8%
Curb Appeal	1	0.5%
Everything	1	0.5%
Organist	1	0.5%
Sacristy	1	0.5%
Total Comments	**218**	**100%**

Q6: What in particular do you dislike, or would you like to change about the building, or should be done differently in the new building?

Atmosphere / Doesn't look or feel like a church / not traditional / multiuse	82	27.6%
Needs pews / kneelers / no chairs	70	23.6%
Poor Acoustics / Sound system	46	15.5%
Too small	15	5.1%
Improve parking flow and amount / circulation	12	4.0%
Needs educational and social areas	11	3.7%
Needs cry room	10	3.4%
Needs better / more traditional sacred art	9	3.0%
Too bright / Needs solar control / Poor lighting	8	2.7%
Larger restrooms	7	2.4%
Improve ventilation system	6	2.0%
Needs new kitchen	5	1.7%
Needs confessionals	5	1.7%
Move choir	5	1.7%
Move the tabernacle to a central place	4	1.3%
Altar should be elevated / more permanent	2	0.7%
Total comments	**297**	**100.0%**

Q7: The parish serves more than just Sunday Mass, it is a week-round place for ministry, meeting, education, service, and community building. What other needs, services, or ministries would you like the new building to provide for?

Education/ Meeting / Multipurpose	44	31.2%
Reuse existing building for everything else	21	14.9%
Youth / LifeTeen / Gymnasium	20	14.2%
Cafeteria / Auditorium / Social Hall	12	8.5%
Preschool / Mother's day out	7	5.0%
Playground / Basketball	6	4.3%
Social area outside of nave	5	3.5%
Confessionals	4	2.8%
Bride's room	4	2.8%
Library	3	2.1%
Area for Children's liturgy	3	2.1%
Knight's Hall	3	2.1%
Cry room	2	1.4%
Offices	2	1.4%
Music Practice	1	0.7%
More Storage	1	0.7%
Saint Vincent de Paul Room	1	0.7%
Enlarged Kitchen	1	0.7%
Adoration Chapel	1	0.7%
Total Comments	**141**	**100.0%**

Q8: What are your favorite images of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary or the saints or special devotions that you would like to be included in the artwork of the new church, in a window or statue or painting or other work of art?

Jesus Christ

Sacred Heart	29
With Mother (Madonna and Child)	14
Crucifixion	13
With children	7
Resurrection / Risen Christ	7
Divine Mercy	7
Unspecified	5
With Saints or people	4
Nativity	4
Teaching	3
Good Shepherd	3
Last Supper	3
Life / works	3
Infant of Prague	2
Total	

Blessed Virgin Mary

Unspecified	13
Immaculate Heart	5
Our Lady of Grace	4
Our Lady of Fatima	2
Our Lady of Lourdes	1
Our Lady of Guadalupe	2
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	4
Queen of Heaven / Coronation	3
Our Lady of the Angels	1
Our Lady of the Rosary	2
Annunciation	1
Pieta / At the cross / Mater Dolorosa	6

St. Mark	13
St Joseph	11
Holy Family	10
Little Flower / St Therese	6
St Francis of Assisi	5
Stations of the Cross	5
Saints	4
Saint Michael	4
Angels	2

The following were mentioned once:

- St. Anne
- Mother Theresa
- St Matthew
- St Blaise
- St Anthony
- Trinity
- Creation
- Bible Stories
- Apostles
- Eastern Icons
- Immaculate Conception
- Resurrection Cross
- Assumption

Reuse Existing	2
Contemporary Styles	3
Traditional Styles	5
Prefer Statutes	5
Prefer Stained Glass	6
Prefer Painting / Murals	2

Q9: Where should the Tabernacle be located, in the sanctuary, behind the main altar, to the side, or in a separate chapel?

Near or behind main altar / in sanctuary	152	78%
Side of altar / sanctuary	16	8%
In a separate chapel	15	8%
Either / Whatever Rome says / Liturgical directives	9	5%
Visible	2	1%
Total responses	**194**	**100%**

Q10: Should the basic design of the church be theater-style or fan –shape with people in a semi circle like how St. Mark's Church is today, or in the round, or more traditional such as a cross-shaped church?

Fan shaped / semi circle / As it is now	110	49.77%
Traditional / Cross / Not round	109	49.32%
Architect's decision	1	0.45%
Best for Visibility	1	0.45%
Total responses	**221**	**100%**

Q11: Do you prefer pews and kneelers or movable chairs?

pews and kneelers	203	93.12%
movable or connected chairs	6	2.75%
chairs w/ kneeler	3	1.38%
kneelers no preference	2	0.92%
either / both	2	0.92%
pews no kneelers	1	0.46%
neither	1	0.46%
Total responses	**218**	**100.00%**

Q12: Should the interior of the church be fairly plain and simple, or should there be many statues and paintings and works of art?

Many works of art / Ornate	73	33.5%
Fairly plain and simple / Clean	50	22.9%
Moderate / Not many / Not plain / Simple but not bare	81	37.2%
Not like present	1	0.5%
Other	2	0.9%
Total responses	**207**	**95.0%**

Q13: How do you feel about a cry room?

Yes / Encourage people to use it	184	92.5%
No	14	7.0%
Chapel can be used	1	0.5%
Total Responses	**199**	**1**

Q14: How do you feel about a "Columbarium"? (a consecrated area reserved for the interment of cremated remains)

No	79	43.6%
Yes	66	36.5%
Neutral / Either	23	12.7%
No opinion / Don't know	13	7.2%
Total Responses	**181**	**100.0%**

Q14: Please use this space to expand upon any of the above items, or to express your thoughts on other issues that you feel are important in this new building: Feel free to use additional paper.

A beautiful church can be a strong and compelling evangelization tool. The parish will support a beautiful and more traditional structure. However, I've noticed the more attendance seem to be off and the bulletin reports that contributions are below what is needed. Is anyone addressing the cause for this?
A church should be elegant is its simplicity reflect God's purpose and give a peaceful holy place for all to come.
A simple modern church, where every Catholic would feel comfortable. The traditional ornate church of my youth is not warm and comfortable. People should be able to see each other and come together.
A traditional style which will stay in style.
Above all, this new church should fulfill the community needs at St. Mark's. I think its very important to me and my fellow worshippers.
Chapel easy access to area for booklets other religious literature library area, restroom in convenient space.
Church should be reverent and reserved for celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments. Visiting should be limited to narthex and courtyard. Good traditional design can foster reverence, prayer, and growth in holiness. Modern fads do not.
Cost efficient, energy efficient with some symbolic needs but not over kill. Back to some tradition.
Cry room should be called crying/feeding room to help breast feeders off the front the row in church.
Do not do what Lewisville did.
Easy in and out entrances and exists from parking lots.

educational facilities, dedicated youth group room
Ensure that the entire space is handicap accessible. I know churches don't have to abide by ADA regulations, but the aged population is supposed to be rapidly increasing.
External architecture must be compatible with existing structure in appearance though hopefully much more impressive and inviting.
Fountain in the courtyard.
Getting back to the look of the old Catholic churches, ornate.
good luck!
Have enough classroom space for growth. This is a very young parish and young families need to feel connected not only at Sundays but throughout the week. We need to have space available for young families and teens, mother's day out, recreation center, fellowship hall, adequate kitchen and dining. We also must have a thought of how can we use the facility for weddings, retreats, reunions, etc.. bigger offices with lots of storage.
I am hoping for a beautiful traditional church to pray in. I don't want it to be modern or cold.
I believe that it is absolutely essential to have a church that is very traditional. I'm talking about the cross shaped design, high ceilings, wood and stone, pews and kneelers. It should look and feel like a church. There is nothing reverent about a multipurpose church.
I believe that our new church should be modeled after our old traditional churches like in Rome and the old Gothic style is the most beautiful way to go.
I can on only relate to churches that I am familiar with do not want something like St. Phillips in Lewisville. It is like going in a theater. Its cold and formal. A good example of a warm welcoming feeling is Holy Trinity in San Antonio.
I don't know how it will be possible to build a space for 1500 persons and retain the intimacy that we have now at St. Mark's. View new church in Drapery, Utah and it only seats 800 and its simple, beautiful, and very Catholic. It was dedicate in 2003.
I feel that a communion rail is very important to stress respect of our Lord truly present in the Eucharist.
I hope the exterior looks like a Catholic church rather than a modern gallery or center of some type. A drive up portico is important for letting out the elderly who can't walk far. I think a brick and stone exterior is preferable to stucco, and a metal or tile roof would minimize maintenance and storm damage.
I know that how the church looks is not as important as the people that come to worship and the people that work there. However, being a Catholic since childhood I miss the traditional thing pews, chapel, confessionals, stain etc…
I like the beautiful decorated churches, ones with many stained glass windows art. Beautiful crucifix in the background, Mary and St. Joseph close to the sides of it.
I like the traditional basilica style church with pillars, many arches and a beautiful altar with much emphasis on detail on wall.
I live in Rockport, TX. But am a former parishioner at St. Mark's Immaculate Conception. Grew up in late 1800's church in Galveston so have more traditional viewpoint. I also lived in St. Pius X Dallas parish for 10 years and loved that church. It's wonderful you are inviting recommendations, thanks.
I love the missions in CA. I've visited them all 3 times and the awe you feel with the lofty ceilings yet closeness because it isn't fan shaped or semi circle. The focus is in the altar. Gathering is done outside with covered walkways. Trees, flowers and benches. It would be nice to have a Mary altar in the church, with pews or chairs.

I never felt like I was going to a church because of the existing building. This church St. Mark's is losing to other churches aground Dallas/Ft. Worth because of the lack of more Sunday services and the building being too small. I also like Christ the Kind in Dallas and Holy Trinity.
I prefer a design such as St. Joan's church Utah.
I really think that statues and windows should not portray all Caucasians. Catholic Christians come in all shapes and sizes and colors and I don't feel it is fair to portray people on only as white. I think it excludes certain people.
I think a gathering space would be nice at the entrance of the church and the entrance into in to the Lord's house.
I think it will be a major mistake to build at the existing location. It is way too small and access to streets are way too limited.
I think it would be good to create a blend of modern and traditional elements. From the modern side I like the brighter natural lighting and more square shaped than ling building. It should include many shrines, statues, images of saints and angels, crucifix, and candles.
I want a church that feels like a church not an auditorium. I love what St. Mark's is but the building doesn't reflect that.
I want a church were my kids can learn. I feel we need improvement in this area.
I want a place to worship God in calm and quiet with less difficulties. Maybe people will sit still if they sense this around them during mass.
I want my ashes in a columbarium at St. Marks. The ideal would be in an outside structural wall, but a separate area close to the church would be acceptable. The should system should be controlled from the rear of the church, in a booth, a video screen for the music to be projected upon thereby eliminating the need for song books.
I want to submit to Rome in wherever and however the tabernacle should be placed. Please don’t build us a church in the round, let's go with a cross shaped church.
I would like a building built for worship of our Lord so people would do their visiting and talking outside of the sanctuary. St. Mark's is very relaxed and disrespectful while in the Lord's house.
I would like our church to be large with marble columns and marble throughout. Bright, quiet, colorful, peaceful, and very beautiful, statues. Put a large painting by hand of the risen Christ on the ceiling.
I would like the church building to be a significant statement of glorifying God.
I would like to have a chapel that would be open 24 hrs. if needed. This would be in addition to the main sanctuary peaceful, holy, reflective.
I would like to have a traditional feel, yet not ornate, simple, some modern influences, a space for all church family to be.
I would like to see a chapel attached where eucharistic adoration can be instituted.
I would like to see all portable buildings including the garage removed from the premises. Building and landscape maintenance should have private space to stand all tools and equipment. It should include space for work bench and room to store supplies. Must have opening to outside.
I'd like the church to be a quiet, peaceful place with traditional images. I would love it if it were a place you could visit 24 hrs. a day to light a candle and pray or just go for a quiet time.
If it is to look like a Catholic church the natural of the mass as sacrifice.
If parish wishes OLG to share in classroom gym costs we need to be contacted soon. We could have offsite athletic fields if sign a big term lease if incorporated into plan.

I'm a new Catholic and I would love for us to have something that doesn't look like a protestant church. On the other hand, I don't associate baptisteries with modernism. I would love for us to have a baptistery where immersion can be practiced.
In the twenty-first century, the church is more open in its worship. The church building should not intimidate visitors who are not Catholic, but invite them. Our focus on worship should be on Christ and not on the pomp and circumstance of the past. Your faith is what makes you Catholic not statues and rituals.
It is God's house not a gym.
It is important to remember where the Catholic faith came from and stay as close to the traditional church as possible modernized is not the way to go.
Its important to have plenty of space for other ministries, especially for high school. The life teen program continues to grow and there is not adequate space to put the young adults. We've outgrown the portables so we are forced to have programs in the sanctuary.
Just like the altar space accessible to children and adults, don't want guard or sign saying "don't walk on or touch this altar space."
Keep it beautiful but of natural materials. Design the acoustics from the beginning. No carpet.
Keep it simple, but still look like a church. It should be a place where we want to come to pray and feel close to God.
Keep our church sacred and meaningful. Never settle for less. This is for Jesus. He deserves the best. And in addition our church's community needs to keep the tradition.
Large enough for growth.
Let the church be the church, no office space, have the area for mass and prayer only. Use the present building divide into large classroom space. Very important to have courtyard for parish functions.
Let's make this God's house, not his theater, or gym, or multi-purpose room. In traditional Catholic churches, there is an over whelming, immediate sense that you are in the presence of God. People automatically lower their voices and behave with respect. It engenders introspection and puts the focus on God and our relationship with him and with each other on that level. In churches without that presence people tend to act like they are at a sports venue. Loud chit chat and a self important attitude.
Let's not make this a memorial to anyone. We got of to an unfortunate start when the architect spent over one hour lecturing as a Berkeley professor. We apologize for walking out and misunderstanding the meeting purpose. We can't afford a repeated occurrence. We also don't need to set a record. If this being included as one of the most expensive churches in the diocese.
Lots of parking
Make it look and feel like a traditional Catholic church not St. Mark's Baptist church of Denton.
Mark stresses the kingdom of God.
May it be a place our children's children will find a source of blessing.
Most importantly to me is to have a church with great acoustics. Presently, it is very difficult to hear the messages from the sound system.
My preference is toward a more traditionally designed church. No more modern structures such as the round structure seem less reverent to me.
No more chairs.
Not a church in the round.

Perhaps an adult cry/chat room could be included so people could do their visiting before mass in there. The noise level before the Saturday evening mass is terrible. No way can you pray before this mass. I've never belonged to a parish where this problem has been so bad. Its sad and very rude to those people who are trying prepare for participation in the mass.
Pews should be set in such a way as to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.
Place more handicapped stalls in bathrooms. People tend to gravitate toward the larger stalls. I'm in a wheelchair and would like to see that.
Please be sure and provide an area for the life teen music.
Please do not do what was don't at St. Phillip's in Lewisville. More traditional church .
Please don't build a church in the round.
Please don't build us a church in the round. I want to focus on my Lord and savior at mass, not my brothers and sisters. I'll have fellowship with them at other times.
Please try to renovate our music program. This is not a reflection on the present musicians as it is on the music and instruments. Almost no good Christian hymns are sung and I am sick of the modern Marty Haugen stuff. There is so much inspiring music Christian music going back even as far as the 7th century. Let's use it. Please read Cardinal Ratzinger's "A New Song for the Lord" chapters 6, 7 and 8. Also his "Feast of Faith," pp. 97-126. Please call me if you would like to discuss these comments. 940-272-2003
Please use professionals to design and create our new facility not volunteers from our parish.
Spend the money needed to get the building we need but wait to purchase things that are not part of construction until we can afford them later. Everything doesn't have to be done at once.
Sufficient fire exits.
Take a look at St. Peter's in Cincinnati
That it is functional and meets future needs.
The budget for new construction should also include money to change or replace current old classrooms. I don't like the use of a multipurpose building for mass.
The church is all about love. St. Mark's doesn't show this. Whatever is built I will support.
The piano in the current church is barely adequate for rehearsal purposes. I think the whole church will benefit from a grand piano in the new church.
This should feel like a church traditional with a contemporary flair. If you design a community with several different structures all connected with walkways etc.. We need a church with a sense of community. Its very important to provide functions that are appealing to the younger generation. Contemporary music really gets the children motivated. A community gym as a multiuse arena would be highly beneficial.
TO have a clean look, traditional but very grand and peaceful with darkness but with low to mid lighting.
To have a welcoming encouragement for children, a place they look forward to going.
Traditional bell tower, improve parking, add more exists, add children's area for playground, basketball, after school activities
Want it to look like a Catholic church from curbside.
Wanted a kitchen with donuts each week.
We don't want to lose the friendliness and fellowship of our community but somehow we want to convey that when we enter our worship space, the atmosphere becomes one of prayerful quiet and respectful reverence of where we arena realizing that not everyone is there with family members to visit with. I just think our existing church space is too casual and loud.

We have a beautiful tradition of Catholic art in our churches throughout history. I feel that filling our worship space with beautiful images of our faith in no way hinders our way to God, but in fact uplifts our hearts through the sense of sight we fill our senses with the presence and history of God.
We have a good involved parish. I have been impressed at how friendly people have been. A more holy looking structure would help us all grow in the faith, and would evangelize our neighbors. Something our current building doesn't do.
We just want an atmosphere of peace and reference that our Lord deserves. A place of respect and honor. Right now its just too casual.
We must keep in mind that we may not be able to afford everything we want at first; therefore careful consideration to potentially build the church with very few interior finishes at first, such as flooring and walls, other than paint, until at some later date funds can be raised to add these things.
We need a much bigger sanctuary maybe two side by side.
We need a place for our youth, apparently, knights of Columbus has a neat youth room, we need something so they feel welcome.
We need a traditional church which will accommodate the expected growth of our parish. It should be built for cost efficient operations.
We should buy the land on the hill.
We think that a gathering room at the church building entrance much larger than the present one, would provide more opportunity for community building, something the parish really needs.
We want a church that is holy, spiritual and we can pray in peace with statues arches and stained glass with a socializing place and meeting rooms in a separate place.
We would like to have a cathedral type traditional church with beautiful artwork like the one we visited in Europe. Also, it would be nice to have traditional music that everyone knows, no horns.
Well, this may sound bad, but the music at St. Mark's is not singable and is very irreverent. It's hard to sit through mass. I would rather not have any music. The Sunday night mass is done very well. The music is so well done. Why can't we have better music at our mass? God have mercy on me for being blunt, but we are losing people because of someone's blindness.
Whatever the design and details the entire space should be cohesive and acoustically sound. All things cooperating, and not competing with each other simple, elegant, reverent and inviting.
With all due respect, we are funning and following each other building larger and less intimate churches with more debt. If we can't figure out a way to encourage the clergy, we'll have real large churches with no priests.
Worship space should be majestic and inspire a spirit of worship. God's presence should be visible. Other facilities should facilitate the growth of our community, inviting people of all ages to participate in ministry and develop personal relationships. Dedicated facilities for teens, children, parents of all ages should invite everyone to spend time at the church.
Would be nice to have engraved bricks, tiles or other parts of walls or walkway to reflect the names of parish folks, especially those who contribute to bldg. of church.

Appendix : Tabulated results of Question 1.

Q1: Please Identify the five most important considerations (#1 as most important)

Description	1	2	3	4	5	Listed	Total	Weighted
Sacred	71	21	15	10	6	6	129	516
Traditional	26	28	31	3	10	3	101	354
Beautiful	12	13	11	26	26	5	93	228
Peaceful	10	31	20	13	15	3	92	278
Reverent	14	14	12	23	8	3	74	219
Prayerful	7	18	17	13	11	3	69	198
Inviting	7	9	16	14	10	1	57	158
Uplifting	5	3	11	6	28	3	56	113
Warm	21	7	7	7	11	3	56	182
Quiet	6	5	12	10	4	4	41	114
Comforting	0	2	5	18	9	1	35	69
Friendly	1	5	8	4	13	4	35	74
Functional	2	1	5	12	8	1	29	62
Dignified	3	4	2	8	6	2	25	61
Bright	3	11	1	4	4	1	24	75
Humbling	1	3	2	4	11	1	22	43
Joyful	1	3	2	6	5	1	18	41
Contemplative	2	4	3	1	5	1	16	43
Simple	2	6	2	2	1	2	15	47
Ornate	0	5	4	2	2	1	14	39
Cheerful	4	0	3	1	1	2	11	34
Open	2	2	1	2	3	1	11	29
Formal	2	1	2	0	3	2	10	25
Intimate	0	1	1	4	0	4	10	19
Modern	1	1	3	1	2	1	9	23
Mysterious	1	2	1	2	2	0	8	22
Soaring	0	1	2	2	1	2	8	17
Catholic						5	5	5
Dark	1	2	1	1	0	0	5	18
Dramatic	0	1	1	1	2	0	5	11
Expansive	0	1	0	4	0	0	5	12
Holy						3	3	3
Awe inspiring						2	2	2
Bold	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	7
Exciting	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	5
Holy						2	2	2
Informal	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	5
Loving						2	2	2
Pragmatic	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	5
Accommodating						1	1	1
Community						1	1	1
Deep colors						1	1	1

Family Oriented	I	I	I
Gothic	I	I	I
Inspiring	I	I	I
Practical	I	I	I
Praise invoking	I	I	I
Refuge	I	I	I
Solemn	I	I	I
Spacious	I	I	I
Symbolic	I	I	I
Tall ceilings	I	I	I
Welcoming	I	I	I

END

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