



The Liturgy of the Hours

Paragraph 115

The **Liturgy of the Hours** is the public, daily prayer of the Church. Many parishes are rediscovering the spiritual beauty of the Hours and are including Morning or Evening Prayer in their daily liturgical life. Because the emphasis of the Hours is on the word of God and the assembly, flexible seating – arranged to provide alternating choirs – may be considered. Because music is an important part of the Hours, the designated place for their celebration should provide access to necessary equipment for the musicians, especially for cantors and instrumentalists.



Liturgy of the Hours—Breviary

Reflection Questions:

1. Consider the outdoor area near our church building and grounds in light of welcoming, signage, and indications of sacred ground. In what ways does our campus prepare believers for sacred activity as they enter the church? How does the exterior announce the mystery of Christ?
2. How does the environment for the Sacrament of Penance invite the penitent to warmly encounter God’s forgiveness? What could be improved?
3. Regarding the spaces provided for the casket (or cremated remains), what is your experience of the Rites of Christian Funerals during a vigil and during the actual Mass?

AUGUST DISCUSSION

Please join us for another Group Discussion on August 30th at 6:00pm in the church (after the 5:30pm Mass). We also look forward in the fall to a three-part series on Catholic Art, Architecture, and Worship for the Fall of 2023.



St. Patrick Parish

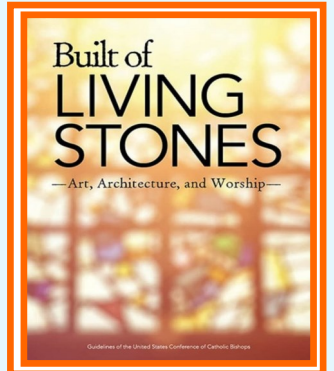
Built of Living Stones (BOLS)

A Year-Long Reflection on Our Sacred Space - 2023



Each month our parish is invited to continue reading and reflecting on the US Catholic Bishops’ document, *Built of Living Stones – Art, Architecture, and Worship*. This year-long reflection invites us to increase our understanding of how our beautiful church building and 21st Century Catholic worship intersect as we continue to learn about the sacred liturgy and use of sacred space.

Included you will find a summary of the readings for this month as well as key points for each of the topics discussed.



Wednesday, August 30th—6:00pm

After the 5:30pm Mass, we will meet in the church for a second group discussion for parishioner feedback and thoughts.

Chapter Two: The Church Building and the Sacred Rites Celebrated There (Part 4 - pages 36-40, paragraphs 98-115)

This month we are invited to reflect on the following topics:

- The Area Surrounding the Church Building
 - Role of the Church Building in Other Liturgical Rites
 - Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation
 - Rite of Marriage
 - Rite of the Anointing and Pastoral Care of the Sick
 - Order of Christian Funerals
- Liturgy of the Hours



Front entrance steps on Bridge Avenue

- SCAN the QR code to read a digital version of *Built of Living Stones* online. (Note: paragraph numbers are consistent, but page numbers differ between online version and the hard copy of the book).
- For the 5 previous Summary pages visit our parish website, specifically: www.stpatrickbridge.org/book-study-to-begin/



The Area Surrounding the Church Building

Paragraphs 98-99

- When constructed and maintained well, the outside of a church can proclaim the Gospel to the city or town in which it is located.
- Even before the members of the worshipping community enter through the doors of the building, the external environment with its landscaping, artwork, and lighting can contribute to a gracious approach to the place of worship.



Outdoor Altar and Portico



Bell Tower

- Appropriate signage can provide information and can offer hospitality and an invitation to enter the space for worship. Walkways with well-designed patterns of stone or other materials subtly contribute to the awareness that believers are about to enter holy ground.
- It is an ancient practice to summon the Christian people to the liturgical assembly or to alert them to important happenings in the local community by means of bells. The peal of bells is an expression of the sentiments of the People of God as they rejoice or grieve, offer thanks or petition, gather together and show outwardly the mystery of their oneness in Christ.

The Role of the Church Building in Other Liturgical Rites

Paragraphs 100 -105

- The church building is the space for celebrating sacraments in addition to the Eucharist. While preserving the primary focus upon the Eucharistic assembly and the unity and integrity of the building as a whole, church design must also accommodate the needs of these rites.
- In the **Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation**, God forgives sins and restores broken relationships through the ministry of the Church. While the Rite of Penance does not describe the specific place for the celebration of the sacrament, the Code of Canon Law designates a church or oratory as “the proper place” for the celebration of the sacrament. A screen is required (or fixed grille) between the penitent and confessor to ensure anonymity for those who wish it. The bishops of the US have directed that the confessional space be visible and accessible, contains a fixed grille, and allows for face-to-face confession for those who wish to do so. By its design, the place for reconciliation can assist penitents on the path to contrition and sorrow for sin and to proclaim their reconciliation with God and the faithful. The space should be sound-proof with a kneeler and chair for the penitent. A bible, crucifix, and appropriate artwork can also assist the penitent.



Confessional Room

The Role of the Church Building in Other Liturgical Rites (continued)

Paragraphs 106 - 114

Rite of Marriage - The options within this rite provide for a procession of the priest and ministers to the door of the church to greet the wedding party, followed by an entrance procession, or the entrance of the wedding party and movement down the aisle to meet the priest celebrant at the altar. If it is the custom to have the bride and groom seated in the sanctuary, then the design of the sanctuary should be spacious enough to allow an arrangement of chairs and kneelers that does not impinge upon the primary furniture.



Chairs for the bride & groom at weddings

Rite of the Anointing and Pastoral Care of the Sick - This rite provides for the communal celebration of the sacrament in a parish church or chapel. The church building must be accessible to those with disabilities, including those with wheelchairs and those who must travel with a breathing apparatus. The priest needs to access those with disabilities with ease and grace. A section of flexible seating may make this possible.

Order of Christian Funerals

- The funeral rites mark the final stage of the journey begun by the Christian in baptism. The current structure includes two processions. The first is from the home of the deceased to the church; the second is from the church to the place of burial.
- Because the faith journey of the deceased began with baptism, it is appropriate that there be a physical association between the baptismal font and the space for the funeral ritual. The baptismal symbols connect us to the funeral liturgy. Both rites use water, light (Paschal Candle), and white cloth (funeral pall & baptismal garment).
- The mourning community prepares for the liturgy in which it asks for the a share in the heavenly banquet promised to the deceased and to all who have been baptized in Christ.
- Seating for the assembly needs to consider the size and placement of the casket and the Paschal Candle during funerals.
- To accommodate cremated remains, parishes may wish to obtain a well-designed urn or ceremonial vessel and stand for the remains during the vigil and funeral.
- The vigil for the deceased is permitted in the church; however, it is important to wake the body in the baptistry or gathering area or in another dignified area of the church that will not interfere with the normal liturgical life of the parish.



Mock casket for display purposes

