

# How Was Accessibility For All Addressed In The New Church?

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In this insert we will address the concerns, questions, and suggestions raised by Parishioners with regard to accessibility in the proposed New Church. As with all the inserts that we prepare, this will be placed on our website ([www.stedwardsny.org](http://www.stedwardsny.org)) in the Master Planning area. Please feel free to review this and all past inserts as well as other information about our Master Plan there and forward any additional comments, questions, and suggestions.

As a result of your questions and suggestions, we have made some modifications and clarifications to the New Church design. When we presented the original plans to the Parish Community in January and February a number of questions and concerns were raised including:

- The accessibility and visibility of the tabernacle during worship services
- The location and accessibility of the restrooms from the Worship Space for the elderly and handicapped
- The need for “family” restrooms which would allow more privacy for young children and their parents
- The need for a comfortable, private “Parlor” for wedding parties, grieving families, and others
- The location and proximity of handicapped parking

As a result of your feedback we have moved the Reservation Chapel inside the Worship Space. It has a place of prominence within the New Church. Seating will be available in the Reservation Chapel for approximately 10-15 people. Further, it will be a reverential and beautiful addition to the outside of the New Church, clearly visible as you approach the parking lot from the entrance driveway.

By moving the Reservation Chapel inside the Worship Space we have freed the room immediately adjacent to the entrance of the New Church for new Family, handicapped accessible restrooms. The restrooms will be immediately outside the entrance to the New Church, off of the Gathering Area. These will be in very close proximity to the New Church and available for use during Mass. We will also keep and expand our existing restrooms and improve their handicapped accessibility.

The remaining space originally set aside for the Reservation Chapel will be used as our “Parlor”. The Parlor will seat 10-15 people, have its own, private Family restroom, and be adjacent to the south end of the Gathering Area.

Handicapped accessible parking will be located in 2 areas. Spaces will be located near the ramp to the existing north entrance to the Church. This will provide handicapped parking for access to the north entrance to the Gathering Area and the Parish Office. Spaces will also be located along the east side of the existing facility. These will have access to both the north and south entrances to the Gathering Area. The south entrance to the Gathering Area will be adjacent to the entrance to the New Church. Those who park in the new east handicapped parking spaces should experience a shorter walk into church than they experience today.

If you have any further questions regarding any of these topics or would like to review any aspects of our Master Plan, the information is located in the Master Planning area on the parish website ([www.stedwardsny.org](http://www.stedwardsny.org)). Alternatively, please feel free to contact any member of the Master Planning Committee. Names and contact information for committee members are also located in the Master Planning area on the parish website.