

Why was the main entrance kept on the North Side of the Church?

Over the past several years we obtained input from the parish community to assist us in developing our master plan. From that input a list of needs and expectations was developed and shared with the Kerns Group, the architectural firm who assisted us in the developing our master plan. The architect developed several plans for our review. One of the key needs listed by our parishioners was proximity to parking for the Gathering Area and Worship Space.

Based on this key need, the architect recommended that the main entrance to the church be kept on the north side. This was because the majority of our parking is on the north and east sides of the church, adjacent to the current entrances to the Gathering Area and Worship Space. Moving the main entrance to the south side of the church would require a new parking lot on the south side to continue to have parking close to the entrance of the Worship Space. Creating a new parking lot would have significantly increased the cost of the entire project.

In addition, a new south entrance would have also required building a new Gathering Area south of the new Worship Space, again at a significant increase in cost. Our proposed plan uses a portion of the current Worship Space for a new Gathering Area. The committee felt that we did not want to incur the additional cost of a new parking lot and Gathering Area.

In the final plans, an improved traffic pattern is created that brings people naturally around the right side of the church to the north entrance. The circle currently on the south side of the church is removed. This provides space for the new Worship Area and prayer garden, and removes the impression of an entrance on the south side.

As with all the inserts that we prepare, this insert will be placed on our website (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.