



Answering Your
Parish Life & Ministry Center (PLMC) Questions

How many *legal* parking spaces will we have when Phase I (parking expansion and site development) is complete?

Currently	379
Paved spaces in new lots	+ 154 *
Spaces on the inside of the new oval	+ 20
Spaces on new bypass lane in front of the Church	+ 12
	565
Paved spaces lost by construction	-34
TOTAL Spaces Available After Construction	531
40% MORE PARKING WHEN PHASE I IS COMPLETED	

* The Parish Life & Ministry Center, by code, requires 154 spaces

Will we have more handicap parking?

The Americans with Disabilities Act dictates guidelines for handicap parking. A facility our size requires that 2% (minimum) of the total number of spaces--531 upon completion--be handicap parking and "shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking to an accessible entrance....In buildings with multiple accessible entrances with adjacent parking, accessible parking spaces shall be dispersed and located closest to the accessible entrances".

Why doesn't the new site plan include a second egress?

The new site plan does not include a second entrance/exit onto our property because of a decision made by James City County and VDOT. We have no control over VDOT's decision; prior efforts to change their mind have been unsuccessful, and the potential cost would be formidable. There is simply insufficient frontage on Ironbound Rd. for a second exit.

What happened to the idea of two "wings" extending from the front of the building which were in the original sketches for the church?

After conducting ministry needs' assessments, touring similar-sized houses of worship and taking into account what was reported in "We Walk By Faith", the AOT Committee quickly determined that the original design would not fulfill our space needs. The growth of the parish since then had simply exceeded expectations.

The size of the Parish Life & Ministry Center appears quite large. Does St. Bede really need to add +/37,000 sq. ft.?

To help put the overall size into perspective, a comparative of our campus' *physical size* and *individual membership* was cross-referenced with three other churches. The data was gathered through City and County property information websites, church websites, and phone calls to the individual houses of worship.

<i>Church</i>	<i>Number of Individuals in Church Database</i>	<i>Square Footage (finished & above grade)</i>	<i>Square Feet per Member</i>
Williamsburg Presbyterian Church	1,448	56,505 sq. ft.	39 sq. ft.
Williamsburg United Methodist Church	(approximate) 2,250	60,000 sq. ft.	27 sq. ft.
St. Bede Catholic Church	9,796	(when PLMC is completed) 70,216 sq.ft.	7.2 sq. ft.
Williamsburg Community Chapel	(approximate) 13,000	106,186 sq. ft.	8.2 sq. ft.

Although we have 8,344 more members, our finished size would be less than 15,000 sq. ft. larger than our covenant church, Williamsburg Presbyterian.

What was the rationale in designing a flat roof for the Parish Life & Ministry Center?

The cupola, rotunda and cross extending skyward above our sanctuary were designed to be the focal point of the exterior of the church; great attention was given to this detail when the church was designed. The Around One Table Committee felt very strongly about respecting this architectural detail. From a budgetary standpoint, it is less expensive to build a building with a flat roof as opposed to a pitched roof.

Why is the Parish Life & Ministry Center (PLMC) adjacent to the west side of the church?

The Around One Table Committee unanimously concurred that the PLMC be attached to the church. The most compelling arguments for situating it on the right of the church upon approach are:

1. the east (or left) side has a frequently used and defined drop-off;
2. there would be more lost parking spaces if located on the left;
3. placing the building so close to the Columbarium would be inappropriate for maintaining the sacredness of that area.

What environmental impact will the building and its construction have?

The Parish Life & Ministry Center (PLMC) will be constructed with LEED certification in mind. LEED is the acronym that stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is the Green Building Rating System developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. Projects attain LEED certification by:

- Building on a site that minimizes impact on ecosystems and waterways
- Utilizing environmentally friendly building practices during construction. Examples include use of recycled and/or sustainable building material, renewable and clean sources of energy, having water-wise and regionally appropriate landscaping, and using low-emitting materials



Will there be an elevator in the new building?

In a word, yes. The elevator is located adjacent to the youth room and near the social hall. If, say, there was a large lecture in the social hall followed by smaller, break-out sessions in the 2nd floor multipurpose rooms, the elevator is ideally situated. Likewise, musicians who use the basement level rehearsal room will have quick access to the Nave after warm-ups and before mass.

How can twelve classrooms accommodate over 400 children in the K-8 religious ed. program and over 170 teens in the high school program?

Many churches stagger class times and/or days. For example, grades 1 – 4 meet Mondays from 4:30pm – 5:30pm while grades 5 – 8 meet from 6:45pm – 8:00pm. High school youth (not being confirmed) could meet Wednesday evenings from 6:15pm – 7:30pm. Confirmation classes could follow Sunday evening Masses, much as they do, but in an appropriate learning environment as opposed to the youth room in the basement.

For what will the multi-purpose rooms be used when classes aren't in session?

Anything! There are over 50 active ministries at St. Bede which meet on a regular basis—Deepening Our Faith and Life In Christ prayer groups, JOY Ministry, Knitting Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Mom's Morning Fellowship, Boy Scout Troop 1932, Young Adult Ministry, Family Ministry, just to name a few.

Is there sufficient storage for ministries, musical instruments, tables and chairs, etc?

In addition to office spaces and multi-purpose rooms being outfitted with built-in storage units, there are dedicated areas for general storage, music storage and archived office files in the basement. The social hall has storage for tables, chairs, paper goods, cooking supplies, etc.

Why would we consider taking on more debt?

The Around One Table Committee and Fr. Abe have asserted since “day one” that any expansion project—even if built in phases--will need to be constructed entirely with donated monies.

Questions were received from you and your fellow parishioners when given an opportunity to comment on the architect drawings for the Parish Life & Ministry Center during October and November, 2009.

The drawings will again be on display, beginning next week and throughout February, in the Commons.

Comment cards will be available. You are encouraged to continue sharing your thoughts and asking your questions!