

Data on The Chapel Interior Exhibit

Henry Miller 30 March 2022

A number of questions about the chapel interior elements were raised today. Here are some answers. Also, scale drawings of the altar and working drawings of the pulpit are attached.

The altar or communion rail will be 28 inches high and a maximum of 6 inches wide. The balusters are 21 and ½ inch high and 5 inches wide. The length is approximately 22 feet, with a two part central gate.

The altar itself is 41 inches high, 81 inches in length and approximately 39 inches deep. At the back of the altar is an attached two-part shelf that will hold the candles. The tabernacle will be placed in the niche between these shelves. The columns and pedestals are overall 14 feet 9 inches with the pedestal 18 inches square. Here are images of surviving 17th-century examples in Rome. All these are made of polished marble.



A general design of the pulpit is attached. The height of the bottom section from the floor to the top rail is 7.6 feet and the diameter of the 6-sided pulpit is 4.3 feet. Overall height with the sound board is about 13 feet. A stair with five steps will provide access. Here are some images of period pulpits that are far more ornate than proposed for the chapel. But these do show the typical form. These were made in the 1670s in Belgium and France. The one on the left has a carving of the Holy Spirit mounted on the bottom of the sounding board.



On the left below is one in Our Ladies Church in Antwerp and was made in 1675. The base of the sounding board also shows a carving of the Holy Spirit, represented as a dove, with projecting rays. A somewhat similar design of smaller size is proposed over the altar. The right specimen was made in 1667 and is in St. Michael's Church Leuven, Belgium. Pulpits in smaller churches have less ornate stairs.



Finally, a carving on the altar was noted. This symbol of the Virgin Mary, to whom we believe the Chapel was dedicated, was used in 17th-century England. It is seen on vestments made for the English Jesuits and several of these mid-17th-century vestments survive. The image consists of the letters MAR for Mary, a crown as Queen of Heaven and a pierced heart symbolizing the sorrows of Mary. All are within a sun burst. A simple version of this is proposed.



(By p4)

