

Join our Young Parents Ministry

Join the Young Families “BAND” app by logging on to:

<https://band.us/h/a0af2b6334W85> and be part of the conversation;

or e-mail Brittney Ajalat at: blajalat@gmail.com



Mark 10 : 14 (NIV)

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.
He said to them,

**"Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**

As in Mark chapter 10 verse 14.



Thought of the Day:
Feb 29, 2020 03:00 am

**When children make noise in the Church we must forgive.
The more we focus our attention on the prayer, the more the noise
becomes for us a blessing.
The Church is not only for us, but for the children.
They are 'the future' of the Church.
+ Archbishop JOSEPH**

Answers to Questions: [Remember: Children are not adults]

What should children be doing in church? 100% attention is not possible; however, we must identify times of special focus. For example, the epistle and Gospel readings; the processions and entrances; also the Consecration of the Gifts. Children should also be up-front and present at the Children's Sermons and participate in Church School after receiving Holy Communion.

How do parents and teachers help to guide them in worship? By being good examples; doing in the church what we expect our children to also do.

What common sense rules might be considered? Excessive noise and disruptive outbursts should be minimized. Children must be supervised, especially when handling lighted candles, like in processions. Also, picking up items or cleaning any used space of the church is expected.

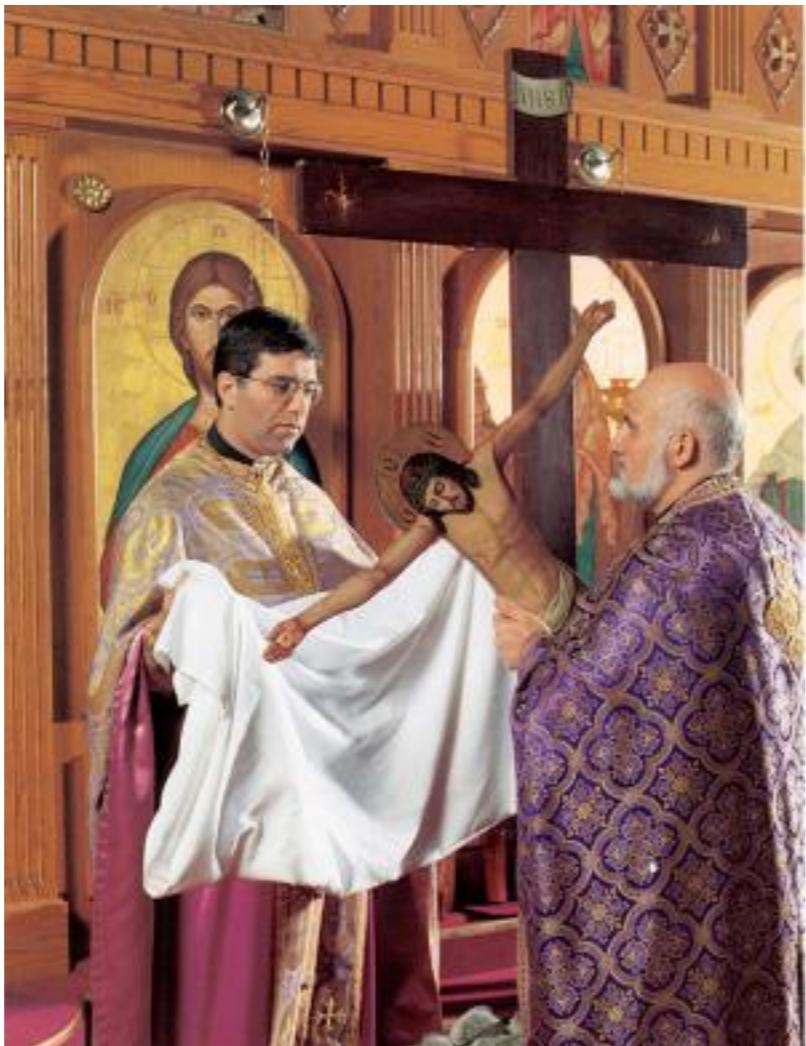
What about fasting? Children should have a sense and understand that preparation for Liturgy and church attendance involves a change in their regular morning routine. Some kind of reasonable preparation is helpful. This may also include making good use of the time while driving to church; perhaps previewing the daily readings, or learning songs sung in the Liturgy with a CD.

Building a Worshipping Community

Part One: Children in the Church

I. Learning with audio visuals

A. Icons [images]; knowing their order of placement in the church and the use of incense; also the prayers that accompany their veneration.



Samples of prayers accompanying icons and their veneration:

“Look down, O Lord, from heaven and bless this vineyard, which Thou has established with Thy right hand.”



“O ye foremost the the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee
though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed
shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry
endlessly: Deliver us from oppression, since ye are the prince
of the highest power.”



B. Singing the Church's (easy and simple) melodies helps a child to focus on prayer.

When I go to Liturgy, what can I do?



I can sing to God. How about you?



C. Lighting candles and making prayer offerings: remembering persons (living and departed)*

When I go to Liturgy, what can I do?



1. I make the sign of the Cross.



2. I light the candle and pray.



3. I put the candle in the sand.



4. I make the sign of the Cross again.

I can light a candle. How about you?



*Examples: “Remember, O Lord, your servant/mom/dad etc., keep him/her safe from all harm.” “Grant eternal rest, O Lord, to your servant (name) with the spirits of the righteous.”

D. Offering Holy Bread remembrances and Memorial Commemorations for family members at the Liturgy; [on special occasions, and participating at the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy Preparation of the Gifts before Palm Sunday]



II. Learning by being consistent and repetitive

A. Making the sign of the Cross reverently saying: “In the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...”

Children making the sign of the cross are depicted as a mirror image, so that young children can copy the actions using the proper hand.



B. Receiving Holy Communion Properly [Note: We do not make the sign of the cross after receiving Holy Communion, keeping our hands away from accidentally hitting the chalice.]



C. Sharing with others and being faithful in making all kinds of thankful offerings in service with our time, talent and treasure.

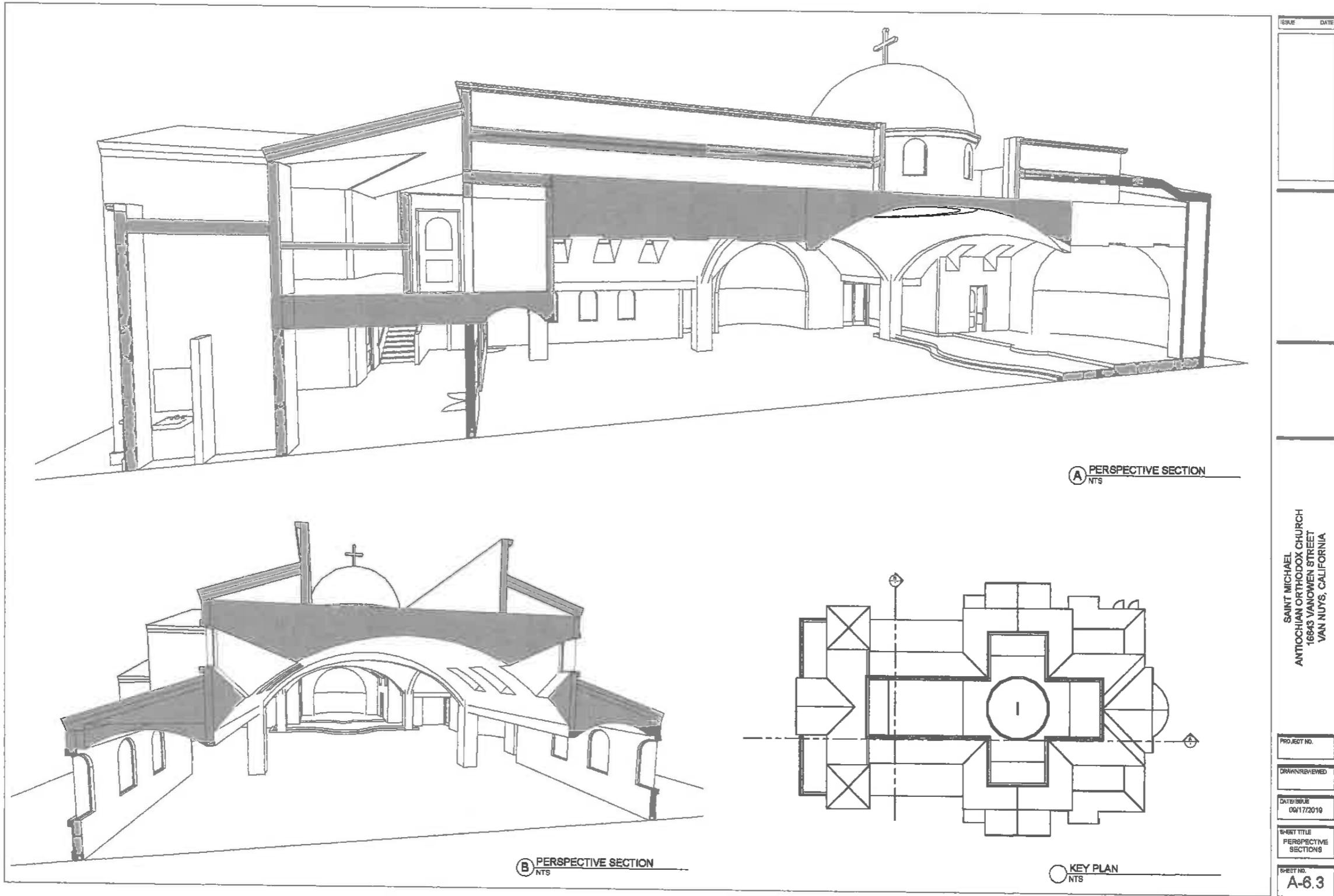


III. Learning when observing and by participating

- A. Seeing the movements of entrances, the censing; understanding their purpose; participating in processions**
- B. Saying the prayers of the service and knowing the meaning of the words**



The balcony of the new church will provide visibility to young children to learn about the sections, movements and prayers of the Liturgy and other services.

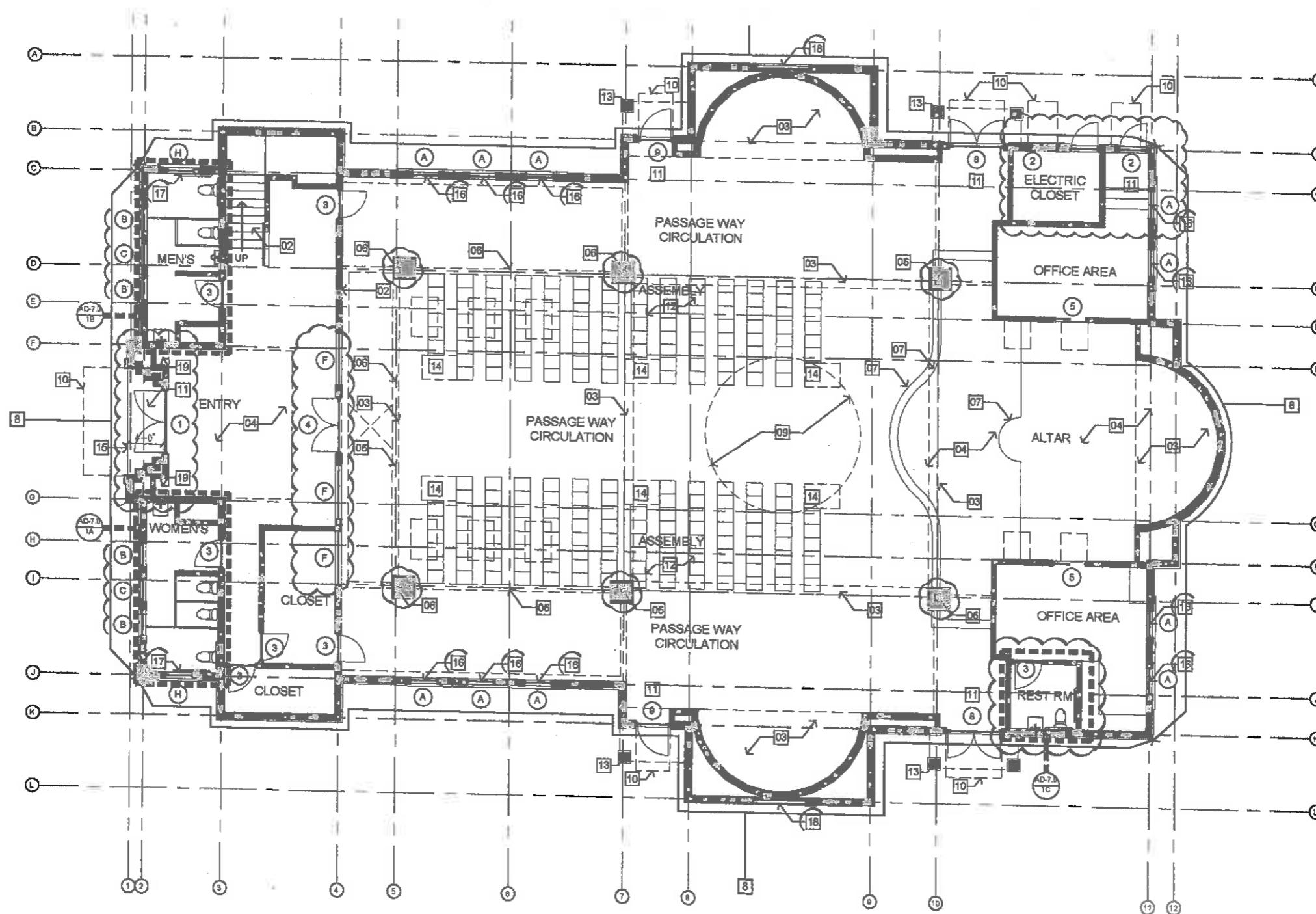


The Purpose of the Church Balcony*

- a. **It is not intended to be a permanent place for children.** The goal is to provide a space to instruct a younger child during services; who at an older age, will be able to attend the service on the main floor of the church.
- b. **To provide more visibility and observation with instruction** about the movements of the censing, the processions and entrances and to be responsive to the Priest's blessings: "Peace to all!" (Response: "And to thy spirit!"). "Let us lift up our hearts!" (Response: "We lift them up to the Lord.")
- c. **To participate in saying the prayers**, i.e., The Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and to sing the responses to the prayers led by the priest or deacon.
- c. In recognizing that each child may not have the same attention span, the balcony **allows for appropriate alternative, but not disruptive children's activities at proper times during the service.**

* *The place of the balcony was, at one time, the place of catechumens, or those who were learning how to be participant in the services.*

The main floor of the new church will provide for a mother's nursing room for infants (lower left) with a sound system and one-way glass to view the interior of the church. The room will be directly across from the women's restroom.



① 1ST FLOOR NOTATION PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

NOTE: REFER TO SHEET A-2.1.1 FOR DIMENSIONS

IV. Learning from the good examples of those who are older

A. Being focused and attentive, especially at specific times of the services

B. Listening to respond in the service and attending the children's sermons

