



## RENOVATION CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALBANY, NY

The Church of St. Vincent de Paul, a 1908 classical Roman Catholic Church, had seen two large scale architectural renovations and a fire in its history. In 2014, thirty years after the last major renovation, the parish decided that it was time to arrange the worship space of the church to reflect their current model of prayer.

The renovation included a new central altar platform, baptismal font, finishes, lighting, rest room, the installation of air conditioning and a "wall of saints". New lighting incorporated LED fixtures, specialized focus lighting scenes and a dimming panel that allows the scenes to smoothly segue from one to another. The central altar platform places the sacrament of the Eucharist in the center of the congregation, physically demonstrating the unification of the laity and the clergy. The platform was also designed to include an integrated ramp to make participation by all seamless.

Although the arrangement of the sanctuary elements was very different than previous layouts, some historical elements were woven back into the new design. The thousands of stars that grace the ceiling that remind worshipers their place in God's creation also recall the central runner of stars that ran the length of the sanctuary prior to a 1985 renovation. The innovative baptismal font that allows graceful baptism of adults incorporates decorative handmade ceramic tiles that were salvaged from the church's old elementary school.

*The renovation of St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church won an award for Liturgical & Interior Design in the 2015 Faith & Form / IFRAA International Awards Program.*

