

Vatican II Ecumenical Council, 1962-1965

Pope John XXII convened a council that met at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City four times over four years with a mission to update the Church and better meet the needs of Catholics in a secularized world. As a result of the many changes, Fr. Robert Schubert oversaw the redecorating of the interior of the church. The altar was turned around so the priest could face the people while presiding at Mass and English replaced Latin during the services. The Council recommended that the laity take more responsibility for decisions made in their parishes, and so in 1971, St. Theresa's Church established its first Parish Council. Lay people became Lectors and Ministers of Communion. Saturday evening Masses were added to the weekend schedule. In 1972, Fr. Lawrence Leack remodeled the church again, removing the short pews that had lined the sides of the church and installed longer pews to increase seating capacity. New flooring was also installed.