St. Peter’s Catholic Church is a large scale Greco-Roman Basilica style building with an acoustic environment that did not support liturgical Catholic worship. The reverberation period was too low to enhance music or to encourage participation by the assembly in sung and spoken Mass parts. The “dead” and dull acoustic ambiance did not match the vibrant decorative style and grand visual scale of the room.

The nave’s previous interior finishes included carpeted aisle and under pew flooring, with marble flooring only in the Sanctuary. The barrel vaulted ceiling was entirely clad in sound absorbing acoustical tile. Highly decorated and detailed walls were hard plaster however.

Room acoustic re-design recommendations and specifications include:

• Use of hard surface flooring throughout the nave and sanctuary, including spaces in aisles and under pews, to increase the Reverberation Period for the benefit of traditional music styles, and to facilitate the assembly’s participation.

• Replacement of the sound absorbing acoustical ceiling tile with hard plaster coffered and sound diffusive treatments to enhance the reverberation period, and to be appropriate to the architectural heritage and style of the room.

• The placement of modest sound absorbing cloth covered fiberglass treatments at rear and side wall regions in the space to “fine tune” the reverberation period, and to prevent unwanted flutter and echo reflections. The cloth covers are dyed to match the plaster paint colors, for the purpose of blending seamlessly into the architecture of the space.