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Brookline church beauty

By Paul Restuccia

The Saint Aidan is a 59-unit development in Brookline anchored by the conversion of a Tudor-style church that's on the National Register of Historic Places and is where both John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy were baptized.

The Coolidge Corner-area project, completed last year, features nine high-end units carved out of the church, 36 affordable condos in a new brick building on the site of a former rectory and 14 units in two new townhouse buildings - all set around a common courtyard.

Only five condos remain for sale in the complex anchored by the church and the front yard's 150-year-old copper beech tree. St. Aidan's Church, designed by renowned church architecture firm Maginnis and Walsh in 1910, holds three of the remaining units for sale, ranging from a 3,281-square-foot, three-bedroom triplex for \$1.25 million to a 3,431-square-foot, four-bedroom triplex for \$1.625 million. There are two townhouses left, a 1,872-square-foot, three-bedroom unit for \$899,000 and a 2,010-square-foot, three-bedroom unit for \$959,000.

We took a look at Unit 4, a 3,281-square-foot, three-bedroom triplex in the former church with maple floors throughout, marble baths and a large third-floor master bedroom suite that's available for \$1.25 million.

The church's exterior is fieldstone on the lower level with Tudor-style stucco above. You enter through mahogany doors into a ceramic-tile foyer and then onto a gray-and-white ceramic tile lobby with sconce lighting.

Unit 4 opens into an 18-by-7-foot foyer with wide-plank maple floors that has two coat closets. Off the foyer also sits a 6-by-6-foot half bath with beige marble flooring.

Straight ahead is the unit's 12-by-7-foot kitchen that features brown granite counters, with a thin-ceramic tile backsplash, that opens out to a three-seat breakfast bar. The recessed-lit space has maple floors and 16 antique-styled wood cabinets, a number of which are pantry sized. Stainless-steel General Electric Monogram appliances include a double-door refrigerator, a dishwasher and a four-burner gas stove with a stainless-steel backsplash and elaborate hood.

Across from the kitchen sits a pantry closet and a second closet holding one of the unit's three forced-hot water gas heating and cooling systems.

Straight ahead from the kitchen is the 24-by-22 foot living/dining great room which has recessed lighting, maple floors and coffered ceilings. Against one wall sits a slateenclosed gas fireplace. The recessed-lit room has five windows plus a glass door leading out to a 16-by-9-foot private concrete patio.

From the foyer, a maple staircase leads up to two bedrooms and a media room on the second floor, all off an 18-by-6-foot maple hallway. One hallway closet holds the unit's second heating/cooling unit and a second has space for a full-size washer and dryer hookup.

Straight ahead sits a double-height 16-by-16-foot media room with recessed light and a balcony from a third-floor sitting room.

Two guest bedrooms are on the other side of the hallway. An 18-by-10-foot bedroom features maple floors, four windows and a 7-by-6-foot walk-in closet. Next door, a 17-by-11 bedroom boasts coffered ceilings, maple floors, two windows and a 6-by-6-foot walk-in closet.

These rooms are served by an 8-by-6-foot bath with beige marble tile floors and surround for a combination tub/shower. There's also a marble counter over a dark-wood vanity.

The unit's entire third floor boasts a master suite, with its own heating/cooling system, that consists of a 26-by-15-foot bedroom, a 23-by-11-foot sitting room/office, an 11-by-8-foot bath and two walk-in closets.

The master bedroom features part of the church's original truss and a large curved window. The en-suite 11-by-8-foot master bath has beige marble floor and surround for a whirlpool tub. There's also a separate marble-surround glass-doored shower. And there's also a double-marble-topped dark-wood vanity.

Through a set of French doors, the 22-by-11-foot, recessed-lit sitting room has a balcony that overlooks the second-floor media room.

Unit 4 comes with two deeded parking spaces in the project's underground garage, reachable through a tunnel from the church's basement. The unit also has its own storage cage in the basement.

As for location, the Saint Aidan is a quarter-mile from the shops and eateries in Brookline's Coolidge Corner retail district.

For more information or a chance to see this property, please call Dan Lyons, Eileen Strong O'Boy and Mona Wiener of Hammond Residential GMAC Real Estate at 617-731-4644, ext. 407.