



# St John the Baptist Catholic Church

Zachary, LA



CHURCH TOUR



# Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our church.

We are grateful to the Diocese of Syracuse for allowing us to purchase the patrimony of the Holy Trinity Church in Syracuse, NY. We are proud to have repurposed the beautiful artifacts of this church built by German immigrants.

When you visit our church, we hope it is prayerful experience.



Fr. M. Jeffrey Bayhi  
*St John the Baptist Church Pastor*

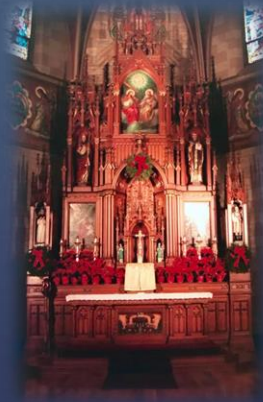




# Holy Trinity Church

## Syracuse, NY

- ▶ Founded in 1891 by a group of German Catholic families
- ▶ Last Mass: February 2010
- ▶ In 2012, a coalition from St. John's visited Syracuse to evaluate the contents of Holy Trinity Church



# New Church - Quick Facts



- ▶ **Groundbreaking:** September 20, 2015
- ▶ **Dedication:** April 30, 2017 by Bishop Robert Muench
- ▶ **Parish Roots:** Date back to 1785 when our ancestors came to Louisiana from Nova Scotia and worshipped in a little log cabin church
- ▶ **Fifth site** for St. John's Church
- ▶ **Seating:** 800 people
- ▶ **Space:** 18,000 square feet



# Entry to Church



- ▶ The fountain surrounds a statue of our patron, St. John the Baptist
- ▶ He fittingly stands in a pool of water reminiscent of the Baptism of Jesus

*As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. –Luke 3:16*





- ▶ 2 Transepts symbolize the cross
- ▶ Chandeliers light the way to the focus of every church service
- ▶ Pews from now closed Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Coaldale, Pennsylvania dating back to 1920

## THE NAVE





# Holy Water Fonts

- ▶ Catholics bless themselves with holy water making the Sign of the Cross when entering and exiting a Catholic Church
- ▶ It is a reminder of their Baptism and a gesture of purification in the presence of God
- ▶ The fonts near the doors were acquired from a Slovenian parish in Coaldale, Pennsylvania, through the Diocese of Allentown

*One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. - Ephesians 4:5-6*

# Etched Diamonds in Tiles



- ▶ **Feet:** near the main entry representing the feet of Our Lord nailed to the Cross
- ▶ **Hands:** in the east and west transepts depicting the wounds in His Hands
- ▶ **Pierced Side:** in the seventh pew on the west side of the Nave signifying the pierced side of Our Lord as He hung on the Cross

*I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. -Matthew 16:18*



# Crucifix

- ▶ Over 150 years old
- ▶ 18 feet tall
- ▶ **INRI** at the top of the Crucifix is short for a Latin phrase that translates as **Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews**
- ▶ Restored by Keith Morris, a Baton Rouge artist and missionary who grew up in Zachary



About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" -Matthew 27:46

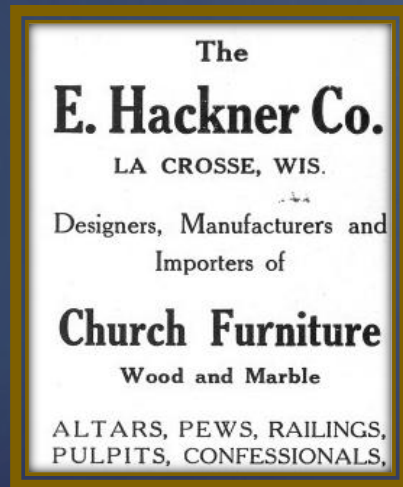


- ▶ Catholics genuflect or bow when approaching or passing in front of the altar as a sign of reverence for the Eucharist in the Tabernacle
- ▶ The altar is attributed to the talent of Egid Hackner

## MAIN ALTAR

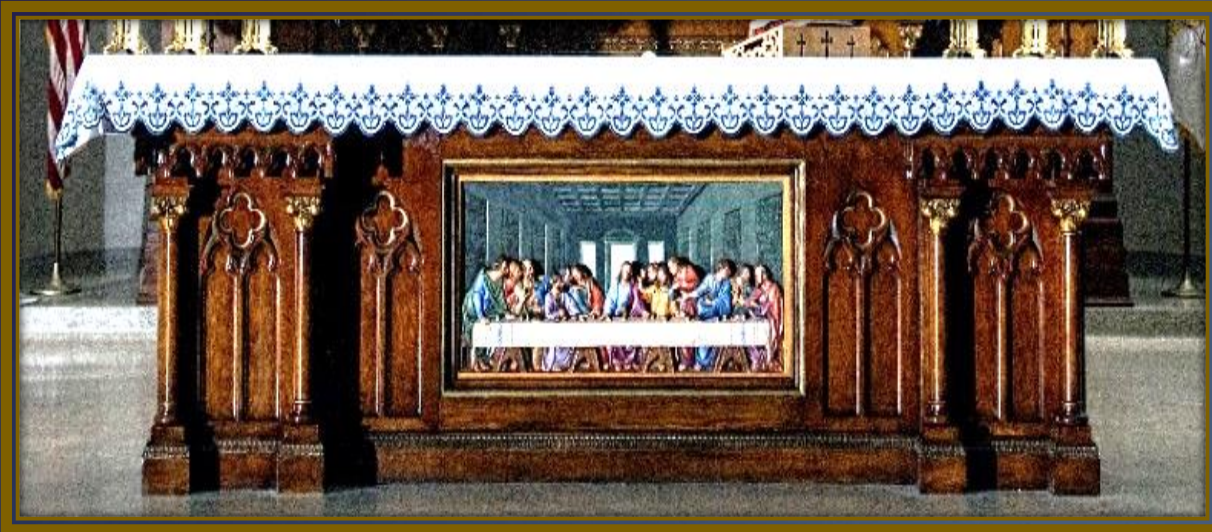


# Egid Hackner



- ▶ Born in **Forscheim, Bavaria** to a Catholic family of 15 children living on a farm; six survived to adulthood
- ▶ Served an apprenticeship with a Master of Church Art
- ▶ Traveled throughout Germany and enrolled in the **Munich School of Art**
- ▶ Emigrated to the **United States** at the urging of brother Willibald, a priest in US
- ▶ Founded the **E. Hackner Company** that produced hand carved church altars, railings, stairs, pulpits and pews
- ▶ Married in 1881, had 8 children, 2 entered religious life

# Altar of Sacrifice



- ▶ Creative design and workmanship of parishioner, Dr. Scott Buzhardt
- ▶ Incorporates two statuary pedestals, the original work of Egid Hackner
- ▶ Quartz top of the altar was anointed with the Holy Oil of Chrism when the church was dedicated

*As at the Last Supper, it is here that bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ*

*He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."  
-1 Corinthians 11:24*



# Last Supper



- ▶ The casting of the Last Supper graced the altar of previous St. John the Baptist Church in Zachary
- ▶ Restoration of the Last Supper by Keith Morris of Zachary

*He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."  
-1 Corinthians 11:24*

# Relic of St Marianne Cope



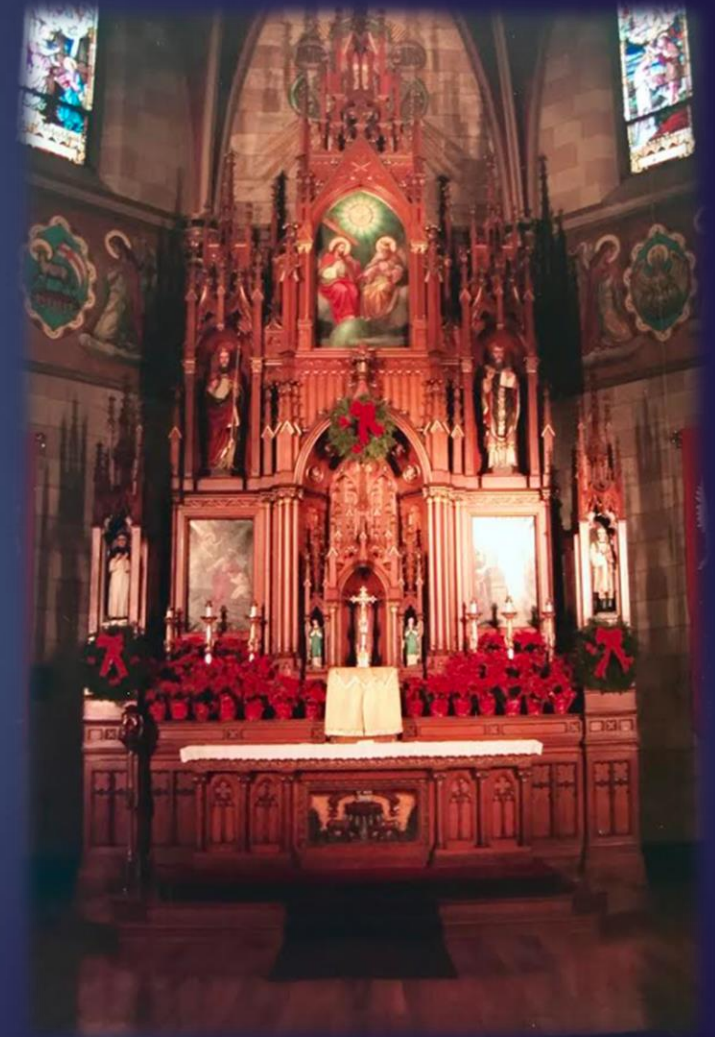
- ▶ **Relic:** Every consecrated altar has within it a relic, a part of a saint's physical remains or personal effects that has been recognized by the Catholic Church
- ▶ Relic of **St. Marianne Cope** OSF (1838-1913) located in a small wooden box under the quartz top of the Altar
- ▶ Sr. Marianne of Molokai was a Franciscan nun from Syracuse
- ▶ Worked with **Hansen's Disease** patients on the Hawaiian island of Molokai
- ▶ Beatified on May 14, 2005

*She saw in them the suffering face of Jesus. Like the Good Samaritan, she became their mother.  
– Cardinal Martins at her Beatification*



# High Altar

- ▶ 27 feet tall
- ▶ Highlights the Holy Trinity as it originally adorned Holy Trinity Church
- ▶ Above the top painting is a symbol for Christ that consists of two letters, *P* and *X*. the Greek letters: chi (looks like X) and rho (looks like P). These are the first two letters of "Christ" in Greek (Christos)





# Altar Paintings by Oswald Voekel

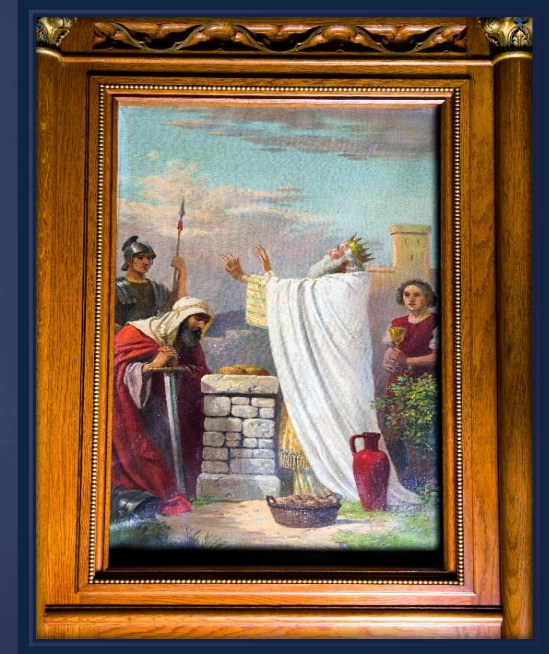
*Artwork highlights the Holy Trinity and Old Testament roots of the Eucharist.*



The Sacrifice of Abraham



The 6 ft tall canvas at top of the Altar depicts the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



The Sacrifice by the High Priest, Melchizedek, which was bread and wine



# Wood Carving

- ▶ Wood carving at the base of the altar
- ▶ Depicts a deer in a pastoral setting. We recognize our hunger and thirst to join the Lord
- ▶ Lamb of God on the Altar



*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for You, O God. -Psalm 42:1*



# Tabernacle



*The dwelling place of the reserved Eucharist held for adoration and to be taken to the sick and dying.*

- ▶ The Israelites' Ark of the Covenant foreshadowed the Tabernacle
- ▶ God fed the Israelites manna in the wilderness
- ▶ They conserved the manna in the Ark of the Covenant in a gold jar. Though the manna was not God, it came from God.
- ▶ In the Old Testament, Psalm 78:25, the manna is described as the ***Bread of Angels***



*He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread from heaven." -John 6:31-32*





# Sanctuary Light

- ▶ On the right side of the High Altar hangs a brass fixture holding a red lamp
- ▶ Burns continually to highlight the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist housed in the Tabernacle
- ▶ Previously hung in the Monastery of St. Dominic in Newark, New Jersey
- ▶ A gift from parishioner Anita Thoms, whose sibling, Sr. Mary Cecilia, was a cloistered nun at the Dominican Monastery in 1944



# Pulpit

- ▶ Where the **Word of God** is proclaimed
- ▶ The elevation of the pulpit symbolizes the elevated stature of the scriptures
- ▶ During the celebration of the Mass, **Old and New Testament scriptures** are read
- ▶ The priest reads the **Gospel** and gives a homily/sermon from the pulpit

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. – John 10:27*



# Baptimal Font

- ▶ Sculpted out of a single piece of Carrara marble from Italy
- ▶ Moveable wooden top
- ▶ The seven sides of the font symbolize the seven sacraments
- ▶ Enclosed area with a drain for pouring of water



Holy Trinity Church

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit -Matthew 28: 19-20*



# Sacristy & Vesting Rooms



Behind the High Altar is the Sacristy and Vesting Room

A large sacrament cabinet from Holy Trinity Church contains articles used in administering the sacraments

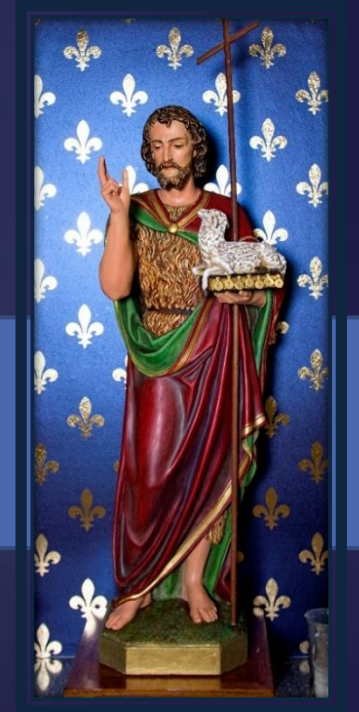
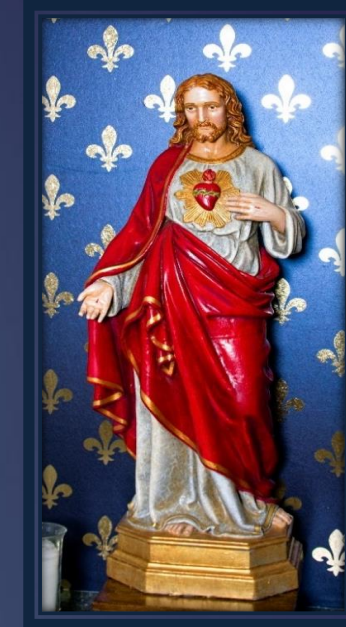
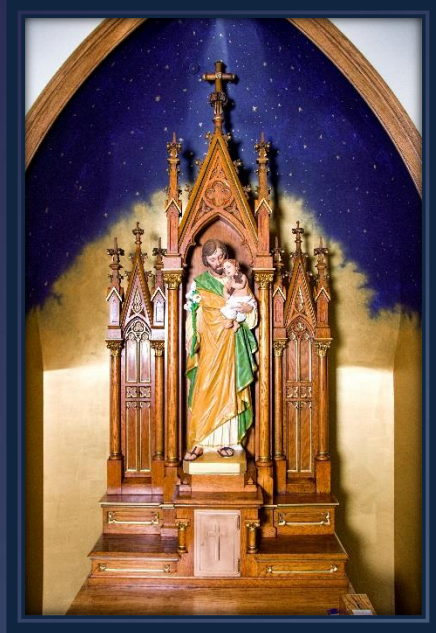
Holy oils, Baptismal garments; holy water for blessing; pix for transporting the Eucharist; altar linens; chalices and vessels; and unconsecrated hosts and wines.

Vesting Room - priests prepare for Mass by praying and donning their vestments



*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and **take up** their **cross** and follow me."*



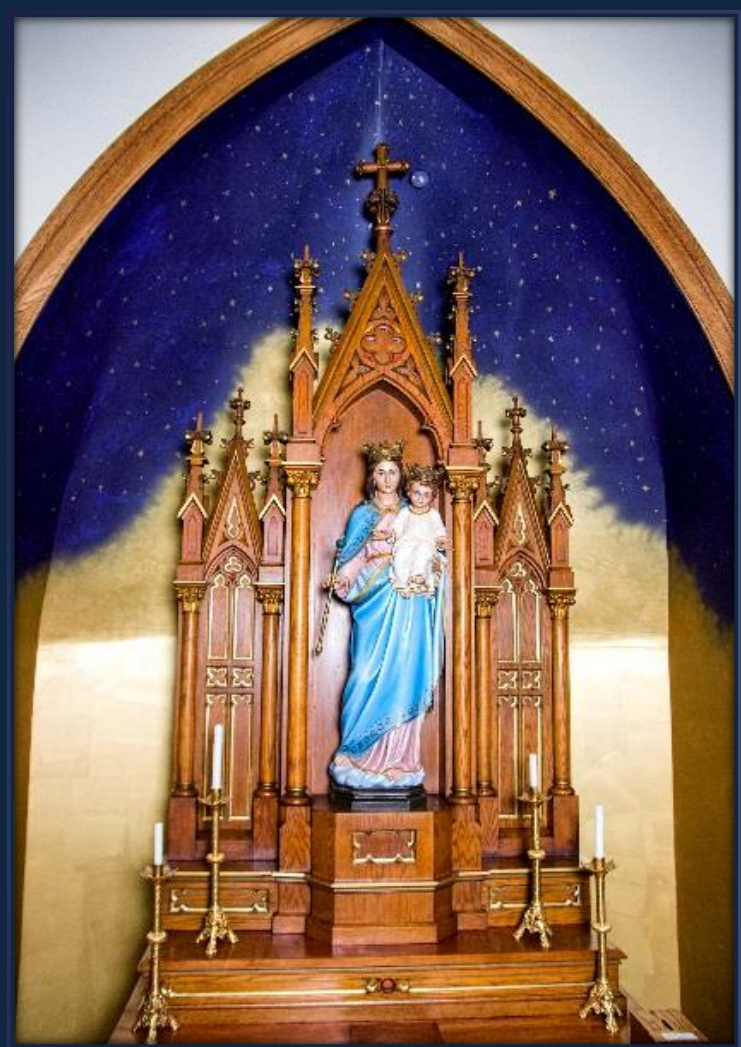


# SIDE ALTARS





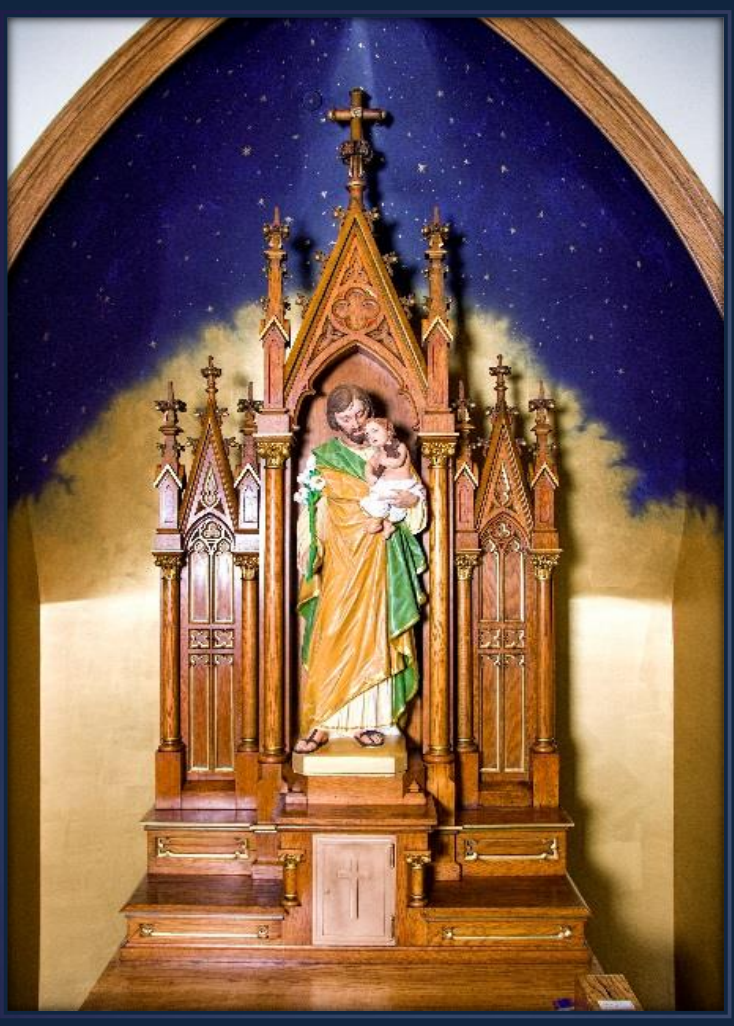
# Marian Altar



- ▶ The statue of Mary, the Mother of God, was fashioned in 1788
- ▶ The features of the Blessed Virgin are made using egg whites and sawdust
- ▶ This statue was already 100 years old when it originally graced Holy Trinity Church

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. -Luke 1:42*





# St. Joseph Altar

- ▶ Mary's spouse
- ▶ Central figure of the Holy Family as Jesus' earthly father
- ▶ He is the patron saint of workers and a model for fatherhood

*So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night and left for Egypt.  
- Matthew 2:14*

# St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Altar



- ▶ St. Mother Teresa was a wonderful example of humility and generosity
- ▶ Statue was acquired in Rome, Italy in December 2016
- ▶ Father Bayhi spent seven summers working with St. Mother Teresa in Calcutta. In 1996 he administered the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
- ▶ Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997
- ▶ Pope's sacristan later made relics from the oil and cotton
- ▶ The relic is placed in the replica of her tomb



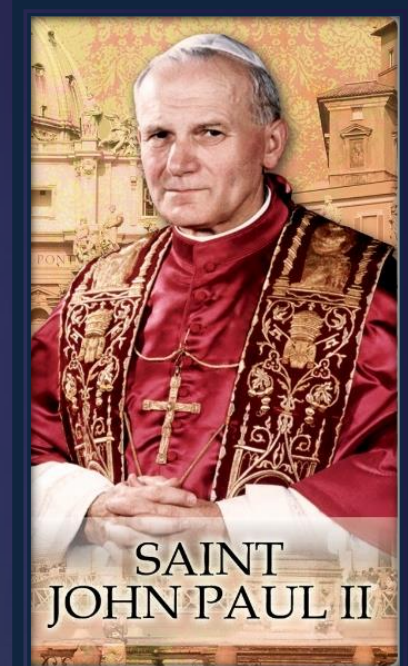
*We can do no great things – only small things with great love.*



# Pope St. John Paul II Altar

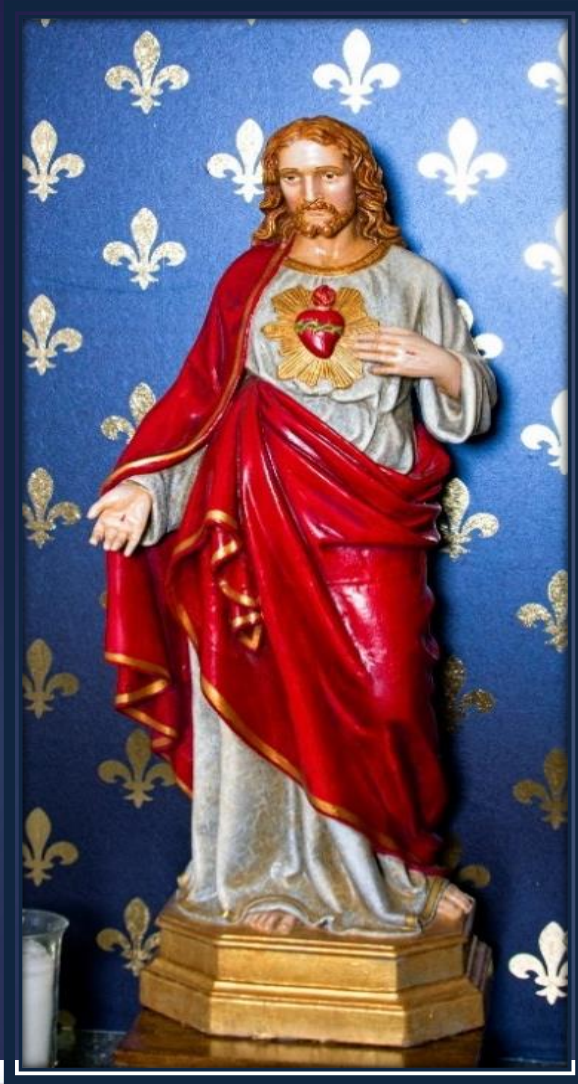


- ▶ He was the beloved Pope from Poland who led the Catholic Church from 1978-2005
- ▶ This statue was acquired in Rome, Italy in December, 2016
- ▶ Beneath the Pope's statue is a replica of the tombstone of St. John Paul II
- ▶ Pope John Paul II died in 2005
- ▶ When his remains were moved from a crypt to the main floor in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in 2010, it was discovered that his blood was still fluid
- ▶ St. John's was able to obtain a small relic that contains blood of Pope St. John Paul II that is placed in a reliquary in the altar



**Karol Józef Wojtyła**  
*Canonized a Saint - 27 April 2014*  
*Joannes Paulus II*

*I plead with you—never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid. - Pope St. John Paul II*



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Altar

- ▶ The **flaming heart** pierced by the lance-wound, encircled by the crown of thorns, represents the great passion, love, and suffering that Christ endured for all Mankind.
- ▶ Catholics practice a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His abundant and redeeming love for us

*The heart of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of God's mercy. - Pope Francis*





## St John the Baptist Altar

- ▶ Before baptizing Jesus, St John baptized many people and prophesied the coming of Christ
- ▶ St. John, the son of Elizabeth, was a cousin to Jesus
- ▶ Devoted to Jesus before birth, St. John recognized his Savior while he was still in Elizabeth's womb

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. -Luke 1:41*

# Votive Candles

- ▶ The candles near the statues are a visible reminder of our desire to bring Christ, the Light of the World, into our particular prayer and need
- ▶ Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered



*Again, Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." –John 8:12*





# PERIMETER OF THE CHURCH



# Stained Glass Windows - Nave

- ▶ **Sacred Window Rescue Project:** Joseph Beyer in Allentown Diocese in Pennsylvania relocates windows to active parishes
- ▶ Windows date back to the **late 1800's**
- ▶ Original work of **Franz Mayer Studio** in Munich, Germany
- ▶ Previously adorned the **St. John Capistrano Church** in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
- ▶ **Scott Brennan**, a third-generation stained glass artist from Syracuse, New York shipped, disassembled, cleaned, re-leaded, rebuilt, and installed in the windows in the church



*The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold. -Psalm 45:9*



# Stained Glass Windows - Transepts

- ▶ **Munich-style windows**
- ▶ Acquired by Humphrey “Bubba” Olinde and donated by the **Heck Olinde** family
- ▶ Restored by Baton Rouge artist, **Stephen Wilson**



*And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. - Luke 2:7*



# Confessionals

- ▶ **Keys to the Kingdom:** Our Lord entrusted these keys to St. Peter, the first Pope
- ▶ **Seal of the Confessional:** What is said inside the Confessional is locked away as the priest performs the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ▶ **Prodigal Son and the Good Shepherd:** The Father always guides and protects us and welcomes us when we go astray



*"I will give you the keys of the kingdom. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven." -Matthew 16:19*







# 14 Stations of the Cross

- ▶ Originally displayed in **Holy Trinity Church**
- ▶ Painted by German artist, **Oswald Voelkel** (1873-1952)
- ▶ Depicts the **Passion of Christ** in moving detail
- ▶ Mr. Voelkel created only three sets of the stations, and our church has the **only complete set in the world**
- ▶ Catholics meditate on each station's image walking with Christ to His Crucifixion saying the prayers of **The Way of the Cross**
- ▶ This devotion began in the **Middle Ages** when pilgrimage to the Holy Land was difficult

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." - Matthew 16:24*

# Giclees



- ▶ Circular portraits on upper arches of the Nave and both Transepts
- ▶ Renderings of **Apostles**
- ▶ Replicas of work done by **Peter Paul Rubens** in 1612
- ▶ Originals - **Museo del Prado** in Madrid, Spain
- ▶ **Jack Duganne** coined the term *giclee* as a unique name for his production of high quality, computer-generated art prints



*And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19*





# Questions?

*Serve one another, humbly in love. – Galatians 5:13*



# Credits

POWER POINT by Cherie Gravois

PHOTOGRAPHY by Johnny Johnson

*Serve one another, humbly in love. – Galatians 5:13*