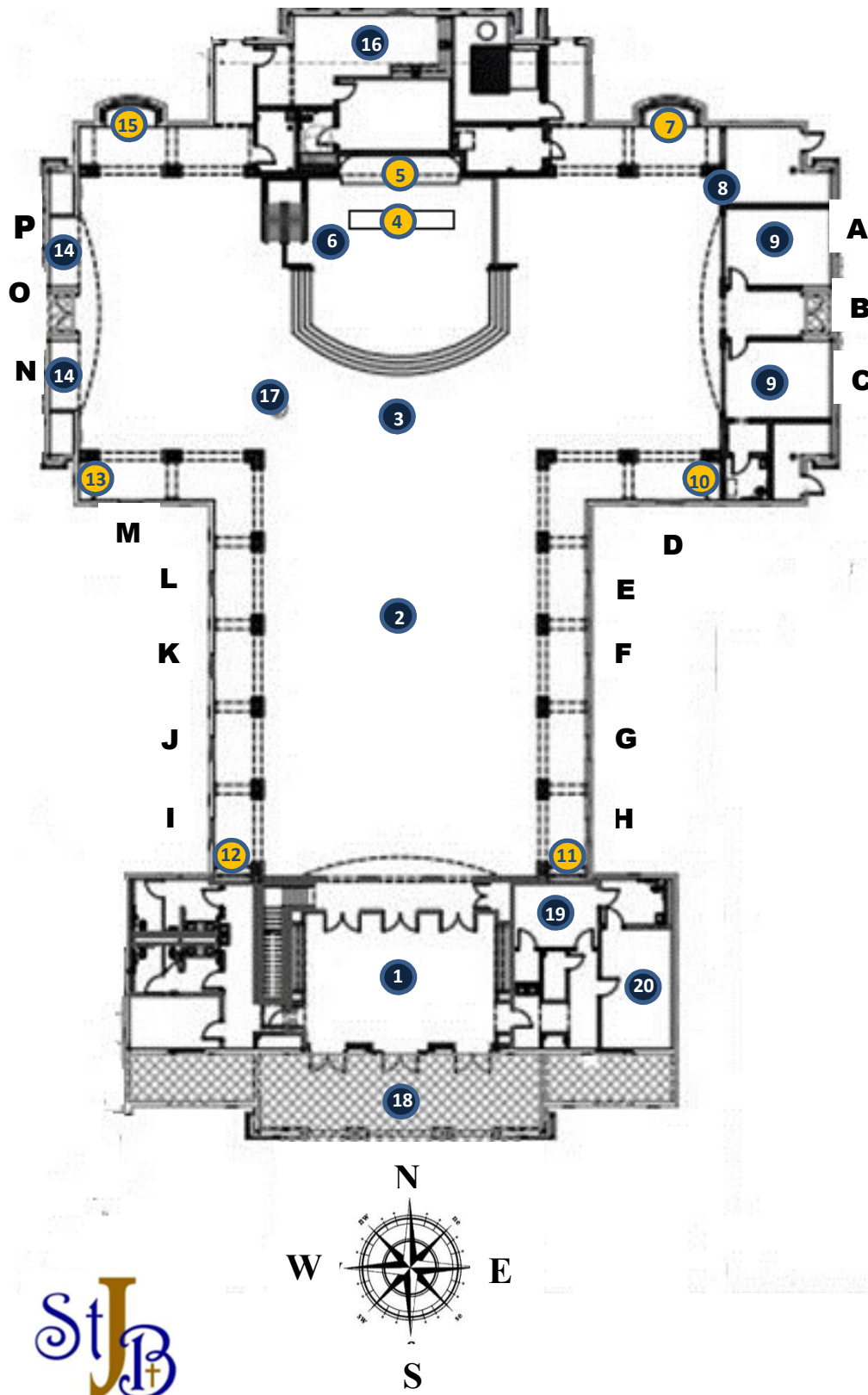




A Walking Guide to **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**

4727 McHugh Drive
Zachary, LA 70791

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church



Floor Plan

1. Entry and Vestibule
2. Nave
3. Crucifix
4. Altar of Sacrifice
5. High Altar
6. Pulpit
7. Marian Altar
8. First Station of the Cross
9. Children's Training Rooms
10. St. Teresa Altar
11. Sacred Heart of Jesus Altar
12. St. John the Baptist Altar
13. St. John Paul Altar
14. Confessionals
15. St. Joseph Altar
16. Sacristy and Vesting Room
17. Baptismal Font
18. Choir Loft
19. Bride's Room
20. Usher's Room

Stained Glass Windows

- A. St. John
- B. Garden of Gethsemane
- C. St. Luke
- D. Nativity
- E. Coronation of Mary
- F. Crucifixion of Jesus
- G. Garden of Gethsemane
- H. Finding of Jesus in the Temple
- I. Adoration of Magi
- J. Wedding Feast of Cana
- K. Jesus Meets His Mother
- L. Resurrection of Jesus
- M. St. Peter
- N. St. Mark
- O. Doubting Thomas
- P. St. Matthew





Quick Facts

Groundbreaking: September 20, 2015

Architects: Ritter Maher Architects

General contractor: Faulk & Meek, General Contractors

First Mass and Dedication: April 30, 2017

Fifth site of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Neo-gothic cruciform shaped building

18,000 square feet

Seats approximately 800 worshippers

Church Furnishings: Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Syracuse, NY

High Altar: 27 feet tall carved by E. Hackner Company

Crucifix: 18 feet tall, over 150 years old

Exterior crosses: 7 feet tall, over 300 pounds each

Statue of Mary: over 200 years old

Relics: St. Pope John Paul II, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Marianne Cope

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the new parish church of St. John the Baptist in Zachary. This new place of worship is a result of many years of planning and the hard work of many of the good people of the parish community in Zachary.

The need for the new church was first set in motion by our former pastor Fr. Kenny Laird, and after a few years of hurricanes and some pastoral changes, we finally saw this to completion with our dedication on April 30, 2017.

We are very grateful to the Diocese of Syracuse for allowing us to purchase the beautiful patrimony of Holy Trinity Church in Syracuse, New York. We are proud to have re-purposed the beautiful artifacts of this church built by German immigrants and opened in 1891.

We have built this church for the purpose of reminding ourselves of our rich Catholic heritage and making sure we had a place of prayer and devotion where people could come to pray and feel the presence of God. We welcome you to our church and hope it is a prayerful experience for you and gives you a sense of the *otherness* of God that is contained in our new Church.

Willkommen! Bienvenue! Benvenidos! Benvenuto! WELCOME.

- Fr. M. Jeffery Bayhi

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Pastor

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Walking Guide to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Welcome to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Our church was built under the guidance of Fr. Jeffrey Bayhi and was dedicated to the glory of God on April 30, 2017, by Bishop Robert Muench, Diocese of Baton Rouge. This Church has roots dating back to 1785, when many of our ancestors came to Louisiana from Nova Scotia and worshipped in a little log cabin church. This is the fifth site for St. John's Church. The present church was designed by Scott Ritter and Stephen Maher of Ritter Maher Architects and built by Faulk & Meek General Contractors, LLC, both of Baton Rouge, LA.

In 2003, a parish-wide study revealed the future needs of our growing community. It became apparent that the previous facility would no longer be adequate. Because of all those who gave of their talent, time and treasure, St. John's has realized a new beautiful worship space that can accommodate 800 people. Our church is the culmination of generous pledges, donations, prayers, sacrifice, and much hard work. We pray that this sacred space, filled with precious antiquities, provides an inspirational worship environment. We ask for quiet reverence in the church.

Entry and Vestibule



On top of the church are four large crosses. Each is seven feet tall and weighs over 300 pounds. Before entering the church, note the fountain and the commemorative brick pavers. 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.

John answered and said to them all, "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

Enter the church through one of three sets of doors that symbolize the Blessed Trinity. In the Vestibule notice the insignia on the terrazzo floor, a personal welcome for all to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. The architects who designed the church donated the floor emblem.





Above the central doors leading to the main aisle hangs a wood carving of the 12 apostles as they dine with Jesus at the Last Supper. This unique sculpture of the faces of the apostles was acquired from the Philippines. This piece emphasizes the apostolic tradition of the Church that was founded upon Peter and continues today by Pope Francis.

*"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*

Nave

Walk through the doors to enter the central section of the church, the Nave. Enjoy a panoramic view of this 18,000 square foot neo-Gothic church before you focus on the many beautiful sacred fixtures.

Looking up the center aisle, you will see two side sections (Transepts). The two Transepts crossing the Nave at right angles complete a cruciform shape. This traditional church style symbolizes the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

In the central aisle of the Nave, chandeliers light the way to the focus of every church service, our Lord. Looking up, you see Jesus on the suspended Crucifix above the Front Altar of Sacrifice. The golden Tabernacle on the High Altar houses the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.



The presence of Christ and the magnitude of His sacrifice are symbolized in the physical foundation of the building. There are two diamond shapes etched in the floor tiles of the Nave near the main entry. These represent the feet of our Lord nailed to the Cross. Two more diamonds are etched in floor tiles, one at the exit door of the west Transept and one at the east Transept, depicting the wounds in His hands. In the

seventh pew on the west side of the Nave lies a gray floor tile etched with a diamond signifying the pierced side of our Lord as He hung on the Cross. These etched tiles epitomize the foundation of our Faith and Church.

The refurbished pews in the Nave were obtained from the now closed Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Coaldale, Pennsylvania. They were original to that church and date back to 1920.

History of Acquisition of Church Treasures

Many of the furnishings in the church had a previous home in Holy Trinity Church in Syracuse, New York. Fr. Bayhi, discovering that these treasures were available while he led a retreat for priests in Rome, was instrumental in their acquisition.

Holy Trinity Church and School was founded in 1891 by a group of German Catholic families who wanted their children to have proper religious training close to home. Such was the desire of most immigrant families here in the United States, especially in the Northeast. From the location of Holy Trinity Church, one could walk to seven Catholic Churches within minutes, each serving a different immigrant population.



The congregation of Holy Trinity dwindled over the years as parishioners moved to other areas. The Diocese of Syracuse combined Holy Trinity Church with a neighboring church (coincidentally also named St. John the Baptist). When the last Mass at Holy Trinity was celebrated in February 2010, the Diocese worked to find a solution for the now empty Holy Trinity Church. This is how our paths crossed.

In 2012, a coalition from St. John's visited Syracuse to inventory and evaluate the contents of Holy Trinity Church. The emissaries were pleased to find that the beautiful altars and furnishings would work well with the style and size of our new church. However, the local preservation society in Syracuse prevented our acquisition of the Holy Trinity stained glass windows. Fortunately, our new church was blessed to find other beautiful windows.

A new search for windows led us to the Allentown Diocese in Pennsylvania where we enlisted the efforts of Joseph Beyer. Through the Sacred Window Rescue Project, Mr. Beyer painstakingly locates and photographs windows from shuttered churches and relocates them to active parishes.

The eight large stained glass windows in the Nave and the four smaller windows in the transepts date back to the late 1800's and are the original work of Franz Mayer Studio in Munich, Germany. These windows adorned the St. John Capistrano Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The windows were shipped, disassembled, cleaned, re-leaded, rebuilt, and installed in our church by Scott Brennan, a third generation stained glass artist from Syracuse, New York.

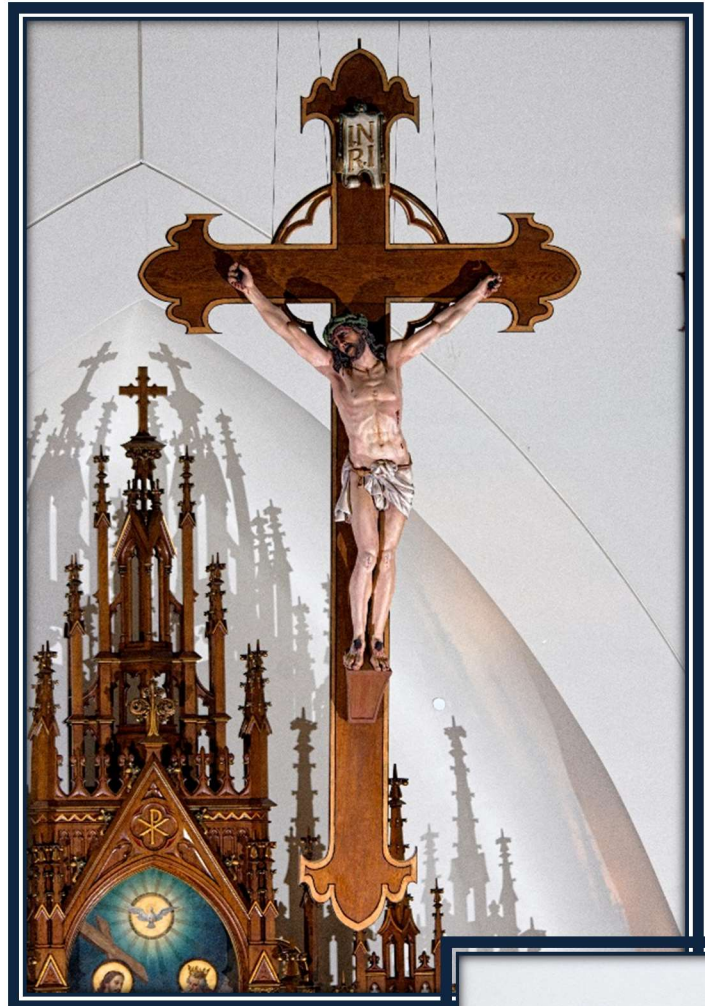
Crucifix

From the front altars, move your eyes up to the Crucifix hanging in the front of the Nave.

Over 150 years old, this Crucifix is 18 feet tall and was also relocated from Holy Trinity Church.

Catholic tradition chooses a Crucifix over a cross to constantly remind us that fidelity to the cross often involves great suffering. It illustrates the agony of our Lord as He breathed His last. Please take time to gaze upon the face of Our savior.

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



The letters **INRI** are written across the top of the Crucifix. These letters are short for a Latin phrase that translates as **Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews**. These are the words that Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, ordered to be written over the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

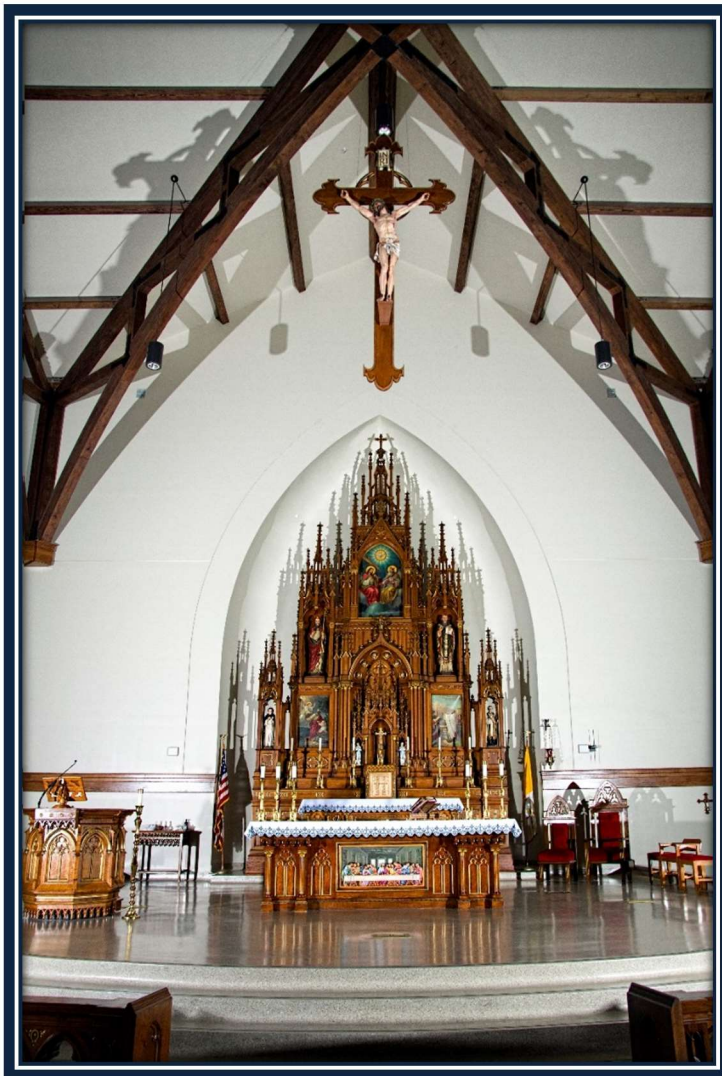
Keith Morris, a Baton Rouge artist and missionary who grew up in Zachary, meticulously restored this Crucifix.



There are four small crosses surrounding the Crucifix at floor level, located on the north and south walls of each Transept. These crosses with candles designate the locations where the walls of our church were anointed during the dedication ceremony.

Altars

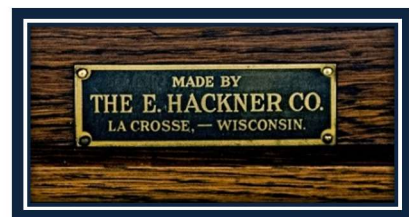
Walk toward the altars in the front of the church. Our Lord's presence is glorified in the altars, the central focus of the church, where offerings and prayers are lifted up to God. Catholics genuflect or bow when approaching or crossing in front of the altar as a sign of respect and deep reverence.



As a compass during your walking tour, when facing the front altar, please consider the main altars as north and the two side altars as east to your right and west to your left. Various small altars throughout the church are additional places of devotion where the faithful can ask for intercession from those to whom the altars are dedicated.

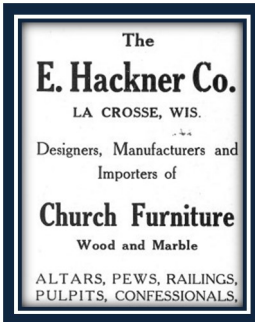
Appreciate the artistry and workmanship of the wooden High Altar within the center arch (the apse) and the side altars. These altars are attributed to the talent of a Bavarian craftsman, Egid Hackner.

Mr. Hackner was born in Forseheim, Bavaria, on December 27, 1859, into a family of 15 children.



They lived on a family farm, and unfortunately, only six of Egid's siblings survived to adulthood. Raised in a religious Catholic family, Egid spent countless hours in church. He showed an interest in religious wood working at the tender age of eight, as he watched the renovation of the altars in his village church. Egid served an apprenticeship with a master of church art before becoming a master wood carver. He traveled throughout Germany and enrolled in the Munich School of Art. He also later added stone carving to his European artistic resumé.

Encouraged by his brother Willibald, a priest in America, Egid immigrated to the United States. His first job was building an altar for his brother's church in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Fr. Willibald officiated Egid's marriage to Julianna Kracklauer on May 10, 1881. Egid spent the next several decades building a large family and a successful wood-working business. Two of his eight children devoted their lives to the Catholic Church. His son Willibald was a priest and his daughter Marietta a Franciscan nun.



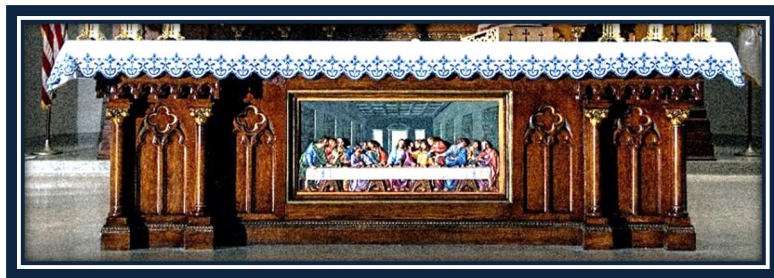
In the United States, Egid founded the E. Hackner Company that produced hand carved church altars, railings, stairs, pulpits and pews. The remaining children worked for the company and eventually took over their father's legacy. The business expanded and thrived.

One of Egid's most famous works is the Maria Angelorum Chapel at the Franciscan Mother House in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Egid Hackner was truly an accomplished artisan whose work was widely admired. St. John's is blessed to have altars and furnishings with such a rich history.

Altar of Sacrifice

Walk up the four steps leading up to the altars. Each step represents one of the four Gospels written by the apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



Observe the Altar Table directly in front of the High Altar. Here at this table, the Altar of Sacrifice, the Consecration takes place during the celebration of Mass. As at the Last Supper, it is here that bread and wine

He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

-1 Corinthians 11:24-26

are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. According to the Catholic Doctrine of transubstantiation, the substance of the bread and wine coexists with the body and blood of Christ, His real presence in the Eucharist.

Prior to the liturgical changes of Second Vatican Council (also known as Vatican II) in the early 1960's, the priest faced the High Altar during the Consecration, which was celebrated in Latin. Since Vatican II, the priest celebrates the Mass in the local language at the Altar of Sacrifice facing the congregation. Vatican II was designed to address the Church's role in a rapidly changing world in the aftermath of World War II. It called for people to have more active participation in the Mass, laying a foundation for the Church as we know it today.

This Altar of Sacrifice is the creative design and workmanship of parishioner, Dr. Scott Buzhardt. It incorporates two statuary pedestals, the original work of Egid Hackner, which frame the plaster rendering of the Last Supper.

The detailed casting of the Last Supper graced the altar of the original St. John the Baptist Church in Zachary.

Keith Morris restored it after doing extensive research to assure that this rendering of the Last Supper reflected its original beauty with garments of vivid color.



The quartz top of the altar was anointed with the Holy Oil of Chrism when the church was dedicated. Bishop Muench anointed the corners representing the four gospel writers. He also anointed the center representing Christ, the Center of our Church. The ceremony symbolizes the universality of the church and fullness of the Gospels.

Every consecrated altar has within it a relic, a tangible memorial of a holy person. A relic is a part of a saint's physical remains or personal effects that has been recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholics respect relics in a special way, realizing that our faith has survived 2000 years due to the sacrifice and martyrdom of our religious predecessors in faith. These sacred relics are reminders of the lives of the evangelists who performed the work commissioned to them by Jesus through the Apostles and the many faithful followers throughout the ages.

In recognition of the people of Syracuse, we are happy to house the relic of St. Marianne Cope, OSF (Order of Saint Francis). Her relic is located in a small wooden box under the quartz top. Also known as Sr. Marianne of Molokai, she was a Franciscan nun from Syracuse who worked with Hansen's Disease patients on the Hawaiian island of Molokai along with St. Damien De Veuster. This relic is also very significant to us as the only other place in the United States to house Hansen's Disease patients was in Carville, Louisiana, right here in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

High Altar

Now, carefully examine the many details of the High Altar. It stands 27 feet tall.

The paintings in the High Altar are the work of Oswald Voelkel and highlight the Holy Trinity as it originally adorned Holy Trinity Church. The six foot tall canvas portrait at the apex of the High Altar fittingly depicts the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Above the portrait is a symbol for Christ that consists of two letters, **P** and **X**. They are actually the Greek letters: chi (looks like X) and rho (looks like P). These are the first two letters of "Christ" in Greek (Christos).



Beneath the painting in the left alcove stands a hand carved statue of St. Augustine. In the alcove to the right stands a statue of St. Athanasius. Both of these saints wrote extensively about the doctrine of the Trinity.

St. Athanasius is noted to have written that the Son of God was consubstantial with the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Catholic Church teaches the mystery of the

Most Holy Trinity, that God reveals Himself in three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of the statues is carved from one solid piece of wood and dates to 1891.

Note a smaller statue on the left side of the altar of St. Thomas Aquinas, an Italian Dominican friar, Catholic priest, and Doctor of the Church. He combined the theological principles of faith with the philosophical principles of reason and is considered one of the Catholic Church's greatest theologians and philosophers. He is the patron saint of students and universities.

On the right, you will see a statue of St. Julian Eymard. He devoted his religious life to the adoration of the Holy Eucharist and promoted the centrality of the Eucharistic Mystery. Both men wrote extensively about how Jesus is truly present body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist.



The paintings on the lower part of the High Altar depict the Old Testament roots of the Eucharist and foreshadow the present day celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist. The painting on the lower left side of the altar illustrates the sacrifice of Abraham. The painting on the right side shows the sacrifice by the High Priest Melchizedek, which was bread and wine.

Now enjoy the wood carving at the base of the altar that depicts a deer in a pastoral setting. We recognize our hunger and thirst to join the Lord in this serene piece of art.

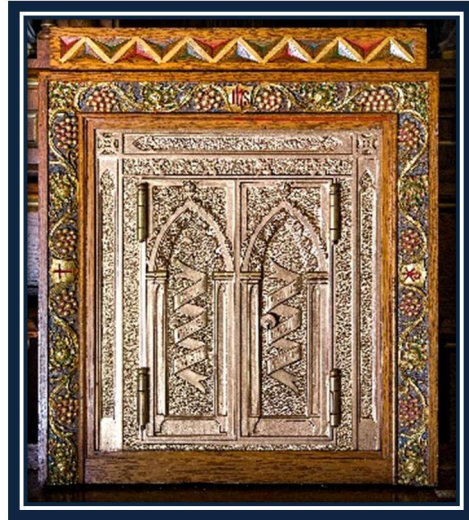
As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for You, O God. -Psalm 42:1

Tabernacle

Central to the High Altar and to the Catholic faith is the golden Tabernacle that is 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, where God's presence was adored. 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**.



Above the golden doors of the Tabernacle is an arc of carved cherubs with a beautiful angel statue on either side reminding us that the Eucharist is the true bread that came down from Heaven. Catholics genuflect or bow in reverence in front of the Tabernacle because they believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.

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. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." -John 6:31-33

The cross standing above the Tabernacle depicts the Crucifixion. The lettering behind the cross, **IHS**, is a Christogram that represents the holy name of Jesus. Early scribes abbreviated sacred names. Often these abbreviations were inscribed on Christian tombs or doorposts of Christian homes.



Sanctuary Light

On the right side of the High Altar hangs a brass fixture holding a red lamp, called the Sanctuary Light. This Sanctuary Light burns continually to highlight the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist housed in the Tabernacle. This particular candle fixture previously hung in the Monastery of St. Dominic in Newark, New Jersey. The lantern was a gift from parishioner Anita Thoms, whose sibling, Sr. Mary Cecilia, was a cloistered nun at the Dominican Monastery in 1944.



Pulpit



On the west side of the Altar of Sacrifice is the 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 then reads the Gospel and gives a homily/sermon. This elevated pulpit was built by Egid Hackner and was acquired from the Holy Trinity Church.



Communion Rails

The communion rails and kneelers are another attractive Hackner Co. creation from Holy Trinity Church. The inclusion of communion rails varies in Catholic Churches according to local preferences for receiving the Eucharist. Each parish church has its own tradition of receiving the sacrament whether standing, kneeling, or a combination. The original purpose of rails was to further ensure reverence during Mass since everyone knelt for Communion. After Vatican II, kneeling became optional.

Altars and Votive Candles

As you appreciate the side altars, it is important to note that in our Catholic tradition, we do not pray **to** saints, but rather pray **through** saints. When praying as a group, we ask many earthly voices to approach God on our behalf. Likewise, we believe that saints were people whose earthly lives exemplified holiness and we ask them to join our prayers as participants in a Heavenly prayer chain.



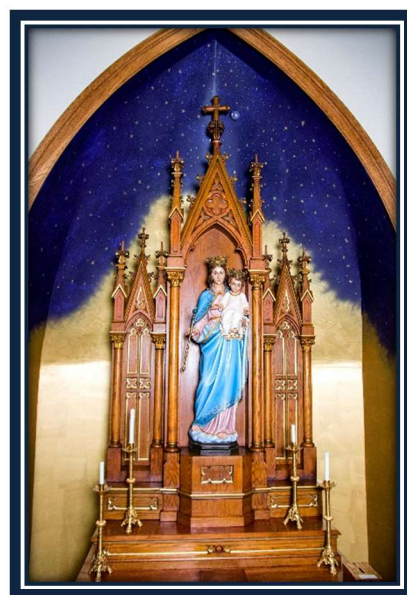
In the Church there are several altars bearing beautiful statues that encourage a prayerful state of mind. The candles near the statues are a visible reminder of our desire to bring Christ, the Light of the World, into our particular prayer and need. The sight of burning votive candles is common in Catholic churches. 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

Marian Altar

The altar on the east (right) is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord, and is also the work of Egid Hackner. The statue of Mary, the Mother of God, was fashioned in 1788 and is unique in that 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



Children's Training Rooms

There are two children's training rooms in the east Transept where parents and children can enjoy the celebration of the Mass as a family without disturbing the reverence of the main Nave.

But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -Matthew 19:14

Stations of the Cross



Next, we ask you to experience The Stations of the Cross hanging in both Transepts and between the stained glass windows on the outer walls of the Nave. These 14 Stations were originally displayed in Holy Trinity Church and were painted by German artist, Oswald Voelkel, who lived from 1873 to 1952. They depict the Passion of Christ in moving detail. Mr. Voelkel created only three sets of the stations, and our church is blessed to have the *only complete set in the world*.

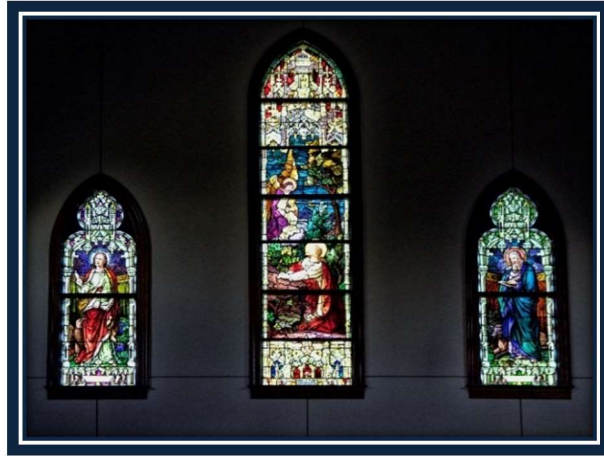
The First Station is in the east Transept near the statue of the Blessed Mother. As you walk around the perimeter of the church, view each exquisite station to appreciate the story of Our Lord's Passion.

Catholics meditate on each station's image walking with Christ to His Crucifixion saying the prayers of **The Way of the Cross**. The Passion of our Lord ends with the 14th Station in the west Transept near the altar dedicated to St. Joseph.

The devotion of the Stations of the Cross began in the Middle Ages when pilgrimage to the Holy Land was difficult. Praying the Way of the Cross still endures, especially during Lent.

Stained Glass Windows - East Transept

High above the door in the east Transept are two smaller stained glass windows depicting the Gospel writers, St John (with an eagle) on the left and St. Luke (with an ox) on the right.



These windows are from St. John Capistrano Church in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania. Between them, the larger window depicts the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The large stained glass window at floor level on the south wall of the east Transept gives us a perspective of the Nativity.

These large Munich-style windows are part of a foursome acquired by Humphrey "Bubba" Olinde and donated by the Heck Olinde family.

Baton Rouge artist, Stephen Wilson, who is known for his light-suffused images of Scripture, restored all four of these windows.



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

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Altar



A statue of St. Mother Teresa stands in the east Transept. It was acquired in Rome, Italy in December, 2016. St. Mother Teresa was a wonderful example of humility and generosity for many people in our day.

Father Bayhi spent seven summers working with St. Mother Teresa in Calcutta. On August 25, 1996 he administered to her the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Fr. Bayhi saved the oil and cotton used in the administration of the sacrament and brought the articles to Rome.

St. Teresa died on September 5, 1997, and the Pope's sacristan later made relics from the oil and cotton. Because of the time Fr. Bayhi spent with her, the relic in the altar beneath her statue is even more special.

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

*The fruit of silence is PRAYER.
The fruit of prayer is FAITH.
The fruit of faith is LOVE.
The fruit of love is SERVICE.
The fruit of service is PEACE.*

*Kind words can be short and easy to speak
but their echoes are truly endless.*

*Spread love everywhere you go.
Let no one ever come to you
without leaving happier.*

-St. Teresa of Calcutta



*Canonized a Saint on September 4, 2016
by Pope Francis*

Stained Glass Windows - East Nave

As you continue down the east aisle of the Nave take time to appreciate the beautiful stained glass windows between the Stations of the Cross. Both the windows and the Stations provide a source of prayerful reflection. As you walk the perimeter of the church, you will be able to view all of the Stations of the Cross and the Stained Glass windows.



The Coronation of Mary, Queen of Heaven

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

The Crucifixion of Jesus

*It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave
up His Spirit. -John 19:30*

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

*He knelt down and began to pray, saying,
"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from
Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."
-Luke 22:41-42*

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

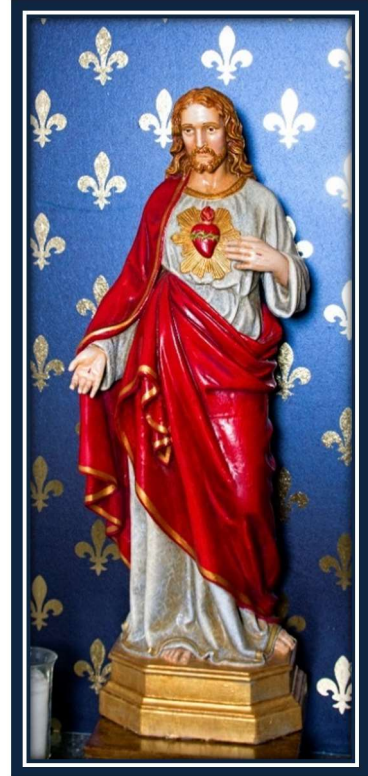
*Then, after three days they found Him in the
temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both
listening to them and asking them questions. And
all who heard Him were amazed at His
understanding and His answers. -Luke 2:46-47*

Sacred Heart of Jesus Altar

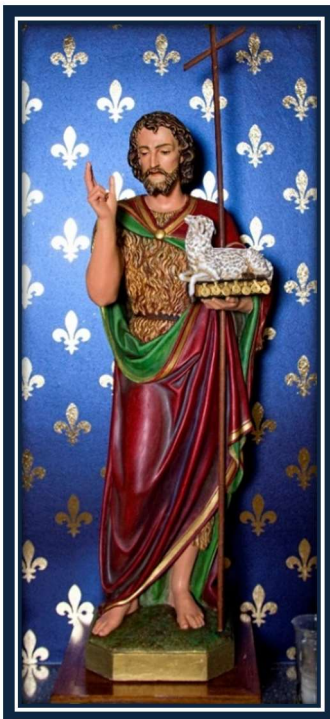
In the back of the Nave, on the east side is a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Catholics practice a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His abundant and redeeming love for us.

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.

"The heart of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of God's mercy; But it is not an imaginary symbol. It is a real symbol, which represents the center, the source from which salvation for all humanity gushed forth." -Pope Francis



St. John the Baptist Altar



At the back of the Nave, on the west side is a likeness of our patron, St. John the Baptist holding a lamb. Before baptizing Jesus, he 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*

Stained Glass Windows - West Nave

Walking up the west aisle toward the High Altar you will see the following Biblical scenes captured in glass in more beautiful windows.

Adoration of the Magi

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. -John 2:11

The Wedding Feast at Cana

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." -John 2:5

Jesus Meets His Mother

A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. -Luke 23:27

Resurrection of Jesus

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." -John 11:25



Pope St. John Paul II Altar



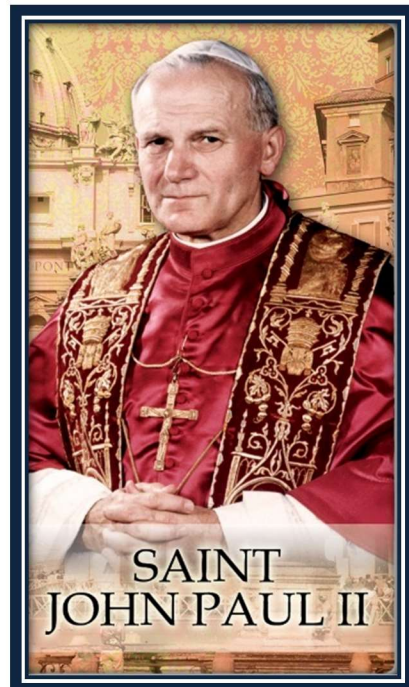
The west Transept houses a statue of Pope St. John Paul II. He was the beloved Pope from Poland who led the Catholic Church from 1978-2005.

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. Through the intercession of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, St. John's was able to obtain a small relic that contains blood of Pope St. John Paul II.



Karol Józef Wojtyła
Canonized a Saint - 27 April 2014
Joannes Paulus PP. 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

Confessionals



There are two Confessionals in the west Transept, one on each side of the entry door. They were also acquired from Holy Trinity Church. Note the carving of the Keys to the Kingdom on top of the Confessionals reminding us of Matthew's Gospel message.

Our Lord entrusted these keys to St. Peter, the first Pope. Founded in scripture, the Lord's forgiveness of our sins is given through the apostolic

tradition. This message is reinforced here by the proximity of the stained glass window to the Confessionals. These keys also remind us that what is

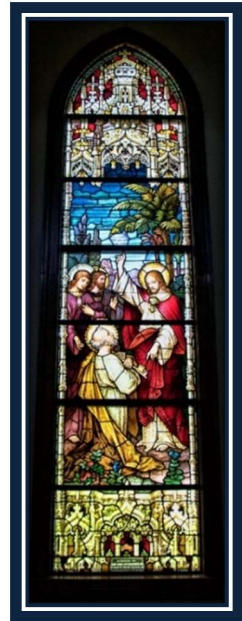
said inside the

Confessional is **locked**

away as the priest performs the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the power handed down from St. Peter. This is known as the **Seal of the Confessional**.

Also, note the carving of the Prodigal Son and the Good Shepherd over the Confessionals. These remind us that the

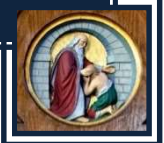
Father always guides and protects us and welcomes us when we go astray.



"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

And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.' -Luke 15: 31-32

Confessionals are where Catholics experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation through conversations with priests. Those seeking Reconciliation may talk face to face to a priest in the Confessional to the right or participate in anonymous confession through discreet screens in the Confessional to the left. These Confessionals encourage Catholics to experience God's forgiveness for sins as our loving Father.



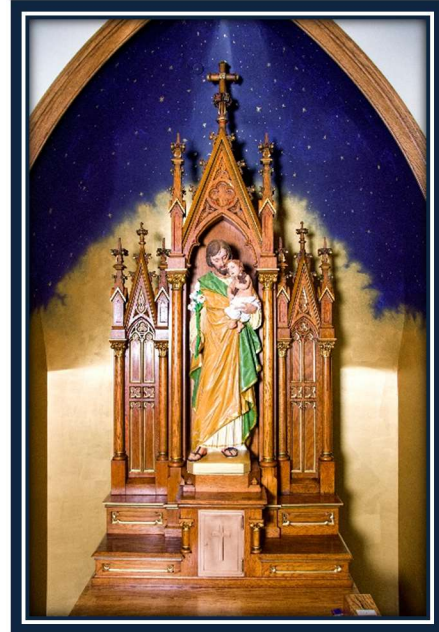
And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again." -John 8:1

St. Joseph Altar

The altar on the west side of the High Altar holds a statue honoring Mary's spouse, St. Joseph, a central figure of the Holy Family as Jesus' earthly father.

He is the patron saint of workers and a model for fatherhood. Egid Hackner also built this altar.

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



Sacristy & Vesting Room

Behind the High Altar is the Sacristy, which houses a large sacrament cabinet from Holy Trinity Church that contains articles used in administering the sacraments. Included among these articles are holy oils used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing the Sick; Baptismal garments; holy water for blessing; pix for transporting the Eucharist; altar linens; chalices and vessels; and unconsecrated hosts and wines.



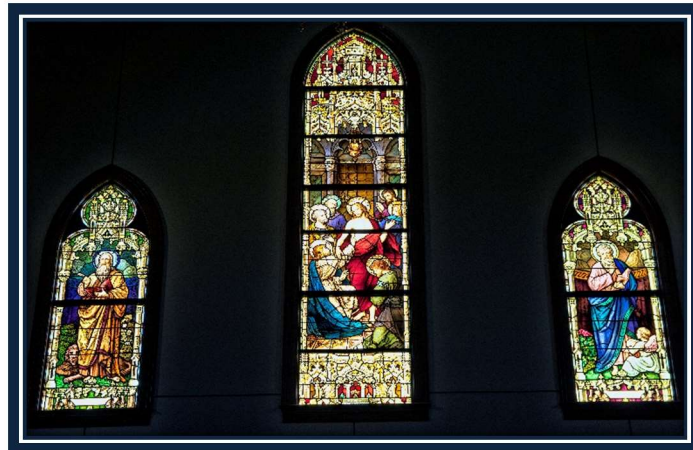
A large part of the Sacristy is devoted to Mass preparation where church members make arrangements by ***preparing the Lord's Table*** for the Consecration.

Next to the Sacristy is the Vesting Room where the priests prepare for Mass by praying and donning their vestments. Vestment color is dictated by the liturgical calendar and corresponds to the seasons of the Church, including White/Gold for Christmas, Easter, and Weddings; Red for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pentecost; Green for Ordinary Time; and Purple for Advent and Lent.



Stained Glass Windows - West Transept

Look above the entrance door in the west Transept.



The two smaller windows depict Gospel authors, St. Mark (with winged lion) on the left and St. Matthew (with angel) on the right. These windows are from the Diocese of Allentown. Between them is a larger window that shows Apostle Thomas examining the wounds of Jesus (Doubting Thomas).

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
-John 20:29*

Baptismal Font

The stone baptismal font is sculpted out of a single piece of Carrara marble from Italy. The removable wooden top is the workmanship of Egid Hackner and was originally located in Holy Trinity Church. The seven sides of the font symbolize the seven sacraments.

The font is positioned in an enclosed area with a drain that allows for Baptism by the pouring of water over the head as well as by immersion.

"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." -Matthew 28: 19-20



Giclees of the Twelve Apostles

Look up at the circular portraits that adorn the upper arches of the Nave and both Transepts. These were produced for St. John's using giclee technology. The word *giclee*, from French *gicleur*, means ink jet nozzle. Jack Duganne coined the term *giclee* as a unique name for his production of high quality, computer-generated art prints.



The giclees are renderings of Apostles and are replicas of work done by Peter Paul Rubens around 1612. The originals hang in Museo del Prado in Madrid, Spain.

From the back of the Nave, the giclees on the west side are St. Bartholomew, St. John, St. Mathias, and St. James the Greater. On the east side from the back are St. Simon the Zealot, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. Matthew, and St. Peter.

In the west Transept are St. Andrew (south side) and St. James the Lesser (north side). In the east Transept are St. Thomas (south side) and St. Philip (north side).

Choir Loft

Looking above the doors to the Vestibule, you will see our choir loft where Mass cantors and choir members raise their voices to the glory of God. It houses our grand piano, organ, and other musical accompaniments. The digital bell system, Carillion, was donated by Stella Roman Foundation, Inc. of New Orleans. It plays the Angelus at 8:00 a.m., Noon, and 6:00 p.m. and chimes on the hour.

Music is an essential part of our liturgy. In the words attributed to St. Augustine: "He who sings, prays twice."

Ushers' Room and Bride's Room

As you exit the church through the Vestibule, you will see a doorway leading to a room where the ushers and ministers gather, prepare, and pray before Mass. St. John's also has a comfortable bride's room where women can prepare before the sacred Sacrament of Marriage. This room provides a prayerful atmosphere before entering the church for the ceremony.

Holy Water Fonts

The fonts near the doors were acquired from a Slovenian parish in Coaldale, Pennsylvania, through the Diocese of Allentown.

By tradition, Catholics bless themselves with holy water making the Sign of the Cross when entering and exiting a Catholic Church. It is a reminder of Baptism and a gesture of purification in the presence of God.

Feel free to bless yourself with holy water when leaving the Church.



The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church sincerely hope this visit was a blessing to you and that you enjoyed your time here.

Please remember that you are always welcome to worship and pray in this House of God.

Walking the Church Praying the Scriptures

May you be blessed as you bring the ideas of these scriptures and quotes into your own conversation with God, letting His words speak to your heart in the silence, and using the time praying Scriptures to praise God and letting Him encourage your spirit.

St. John the Baptist Fountain: *John answered and said to them all, "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

Altar of Sacrifice: *He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."* -1 Corinthians 11:24-26

The High Altar: Wood carving of a deer in a pastoral setting. We recognize our hunger and thirst to join the Lord. *"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for You, O God."* -Psalm 42:1-6.

The Tabernacle: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And this bread, which I will give for the life of the world, is My flesh.* -John 6:51

Altars and Votive Candles: *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

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

Children's Training Rooms: *But Jesus said, "Let the Children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."* -Matthew 19:14

Stations of the Cross: *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."* -Luke 9:23

St. Teresa of Calcutta Altar: We recall her life of service and her inspirational words. In her words: *"Faith in action is love and love in action is service."* & *"We can do no great things - only small things with great love."*

St. Pope John Paul II Altar: In his words: *"I plead with you—never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."*

Confessionals: *And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."* -John 8:11

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

Sacred Heart of Jesus Altar: *For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life.* -John 3:16

St. John the Baptist Altar: *He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."* -Matthew 3:16-17

Baptismal Font: *"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."* -Matthew 28:19-20



Thanks to all who helped publish this Guide.



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Serve one another, humbly in love.

— Galatians 5:13



*In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
-Isaiah 40:3*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A GUIDED TOUR OF OUR CHURCH,
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