

All Saints Parish ~ St. John the Baptist Campus

A Guided Tour

A brief history of the second oldest Catholic Church in Indiana.

1824-A parish community was established and log church was constructed under the direction of Rev. Fenwick for the celebration of Mass and gatherings.

1840-A more spacious frame structure was built under the direction of Rev. Schniederjans.

1847-The erection of the first brick church took place under the guidance of Fr. Andrew Bennett.

1874- The present brick church building was constructed under the direction of Rev. Seibertz.

1879- Rev. Brueggemann finished the interior of the 1874 brick church structure with plaster, stained glass windows, statues, new altars and the current pipe organ.

1930 (circa)-The wooden high altar and pulpit were removed and a metal structure supporting the statues of Jesus and St. John was erected under the direction of Rev. Feller.

1990-Rev. Burwinkle coordinated a modern renovation of the church interior removing the metal structure supporting Jesus and St. John and installing a large arch over the tabernacle, updating paint colors and creating a baptismal font with the statues of Jesus and St. John.

2016- The St. John Campus, now part of All Saints Parish, went through a major restoration striving to recapture the original architectural elements of the 1879 beautification.

A brief explanation of the 2016 restoration follows:

Color Scheme-The colors of blue and several shades of brown were used to symbolize the life of St. John the Baptist the patron of this church building and campus. The browns are a reminder of the desert life that St. John lived (Matthew 3:1). The blue is a reminder of the waters of repentance that St. John called all of Judea to enter into, including our Lord Jesus Christ.

Altar and Reredos-This large altar and reredos, reaching 27 feet in height, were originally in a historic Polish church in Pittsburgh, PA. The word “reredos” is the term for the beautiful backdrop/woodwork that is directly behind the altar. It was purchased and transported to Indiana in 2009. In the fall of 2015, it was gifted to All Saints parish, and Matthew Kuebel took up the task of coordinating efforts for its sanding, priming, painting, gilding, and assembly. The altar arrived in 24 component pieces. Thousands of volunteer hours by countless parishioners have been put into the altar’s refinishing and construction. Literally crowning the reredos is a shield with the founding date of the parish (1824), the consecration date of the current brick building (1879) and the restoration date (2016) of the new reredos and altar. New LED lighting was installed into the reredos and side shrines for illumination.

Tabernacle-The golden receptacle that houses the very Flesh and Blood of our Lord is from the original historic high altar of this church building, dating back to 1874. The tabernacle was incorporated into the new altar as the dwelling place of God and center of our lives - Jesus Christ. The inside of the tabernacle was refurbished during the 2016 restoration, uncovering the date of 1895 and the name of Sister Mary Cleophas, from the last time the interior had been relined.

The Tabernacle Veil and Sanctuary Candle-The church documents on the liturgy read as follows “*The presence of the Eucharist is to be indicated by a tabernacle veil or some other suitable means...and a lamp must perpetually burn before it, as a sign of honor paid to the Lord.*” In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant, God’s presence among his people, was veiled originally in a tent (Exodus 26:31-37) and then behind a curtain in the Temple (Matthew 27:51). The burning red sanctuary light reminds us to stop, genuflect and adore the living presence of God.

Jesus and St. John the Baptist Statues- The life-sized statues of our Lord Jesus Christ and St. John the Baptist are in the center of the reredos (high altar). These beautifully crafted statues remind us that Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan and why He was baptized: 1~to set an example for us to be baptized, 2~to sanctify the waters of baptism, 3~to allow for God the Father and the Holy Spirit to be revealed. You will notice a NEW statue of the Holy Spirit that has been added to the scene. It was at Jesus’ baptism that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in bodily form (Luke 3:22). May we never forget to call upon the Holy Spirit to bring us life, zeal and conviction.

Ambo and freestanding Altar- Commonly referred to as the pulpit or lectern, it is from this podium that God’s very Word is proclaimed. The Altar is the place that the representation of Calvary takes place, heaven meets earth and we are feed with the Body and Blood if our Lord. Both the Ambo and the Altar table that are in front of the high altar were constructed during the renovation in the 1990’s from former parts of the church’s original altars and furnishings.

Baptismal Font-This font, where Christians are born anew, is made of plaster and was recently repainted. The Paschal Candle, an Easter symbol, is a reminder of the light of Christ that scatters the darkness of sin.

Confessional-The sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance is a vital part of our life in the Christ. Christ ordained that through the vocal confession of sins that we would be forgiven (John 20:21-23). This modern confessional, allowing for face to face confessions, was constructed from the original confessional that sat on the front left side of the church.

Sacred and Immaculate Heart- The Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart statues are now housed in the reredos of the high altar. They are reminders to us of the compassion and passionate love that Jesus and Mary have for us. They are literally giving their hearts to us. Notice how our Lord’s heart is always encircled with a crown of thorns, bursting with flames and has been pierced by the sword. Take notice of our Lady’s heart that is encircled with flowers and inflamed with love.

Plaster Altar Reliefs- New to St. John’s are the three plaster reliefs that are embedded in the high altar. In the center is our Lord and the apostles at the Last Supper; this is when our Lord instituted the Most Blessed Sacrament and the gift of Holy Mass. On the left and right are two foreshadowing’s of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: the offering of Melchizedek (Genesis 13:18) and the Sacrifice of Abraham (Genesis 22). Melchizedek offers a sacrifice of bread and wine, and Abraham offers his only begotten son; both of these are powerfully fulfilled in our Lord’s sacrifice on Calvary and our participation in that sacrifice at Holy Mass.

Right Side Shrine- In the center of the shrine is a statue of **St. Joseph** the patron saint of the Universal Church, husbands, fathers, workers and the dying; he is a man of God, family, faithfulness and purity. The lily staff reminds us of his purity that won him the honor of espousing the Blessed Virgin Mary. On either side of St. Joseph are the two princes of the apostles: **St. Peter** and **St. Paul**. Both are shown holding a book because they both have writings in the bible: 1&2 Peter and then Paul’s numerous letters (Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, Philemon and Hebrews). Paul has the most writings in the bible. Paul is also holding a sword; he was beheaded by the Roman Emperor in the year 67A.D. Peter is holding keys from Matthew 16:19, “I will give you keys to the kingdom of heaven.” The book in St. Peter’s hands is open and reads from Peter chapter 2:4-6 as follows: “*Come to Him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*”

Left Side Shrine- The center statue on the left is of the **Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son, Jesus**, offering us the rosary as a way to meditate on the life of Jesus. Around Mary’s neck is a locket with the names of all the parishioners of All Saints Parish. Our parish was consecrated to the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 2015. On either side of the Blessed Mother are two **angel statues**. They hold scrolls with script from the 1st Chapter of St. Luke 1:28, “Hail Mary, Full of Grace the Lord is with you,” in Latin, “*Ave Maria, gratia plena...*” And from John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” in Latin “*Verbo caro Factum est..*”

St. Rita and St. Anthony- These two statues are on the left and right pedestals attached to the walls. **St. Anthony** is no stranger to us; he was one of the first followers of St. Francis of Assisi. He was a tremendous preacher and brought many people back to the faith. He is known as the patron saint of lost things/objects - not because he was good at finding things but because he brought back so many lost souls to the Lord. St. Anthony died in 1231. **St. Rita** lived just about every vocation possible to a woman: she was single, eventually a wife, mother, widow, religious sister and she knew the pain of having both of her sons murdered. St. Rita is the patron saint of the impossible. She was gifted with the stigmata, a thorn that was embedded on her forehead, and had special graces that were granted to her with roses. St. Rita died in 1457.

Stations of the Cross- The traditional 14 Stations of the Cross had their frames repainted during this most recent restoration. They have also been placed higher on the walls of the church for better visibility.

Lourdes Grotto- Originally placed in the church in 1915, the shrine has had major improvements in recent years, including reviving the running water and lit candle and the repainting of the statues.

Infant of Prague Shrine- This little statue is a replica of an actual statue that is in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. The devotion of the little infant is this~ if while Jesus was a baby we understood who He was (King of the Universe, Prince of Peace, Savior, Lord, etc.) how would we treat Him? So, you see a little statue dressed up like a king. Those who follow this devotion strive to honor Jesus at all times.

Mission Cross- This wooden crucifix dates to the early days of the parish. The Parish Missions marked on it read: 1901, 1914, 1921, 1937, 1943 and 1959. Parish Missions are several days of preaching, prayer and devotion that are offered at a parish with the intent of revival and renewal. Most recently this cross was stored in the choir loft. During the restoration, it was sanded, primed, painted and remounted in the entryway of the church. Take note of the inscription above our Lord’s head that reads - “*This is Jesus the King of the Jews*” in Hebrew, Latin and Greek, just as is told in Matthew 27:37.

Stained Glass Windows

On the bottom of the twelve windows are found the names of original members of this parish who had the windows fabricated in 1879. On the tops of the windows are eight symbols:

From the front left going back:

Sorrowful Heart- The heart with the crown of roses and the sword pierced through it is a symbol of Mary’s heart. The Gospel of Luke 2:34-36 makes reference to her heart being pierced with a sword of sorrow due to the sufferings of her Son.

Pelican-There is a legend that pelicans would feed their young their own flesh and blood by pecking into their own body. This ancient image reminds us of the Eucharist, where our Lord feeds us, His children, His flesh and blood.

Intertwined A.M. – This window is in honor of the Blessed Mother and contains the first two letters of the Angel Gabriel’s greeting to the Blessed Virgin (Luke 1:28) in Latin “Ave Maria,” in English “Hail Mary.”

Chalice and Host- A reminder to us of our Lord’s abiding presence in the Most Holy Eucharist.

From the front right going back:

Sacred Heart- This is the heart of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who loves us with an infinite love. The heart is pierced from the lance and crowned with thorns.

The Lamb- The lamb is a symbol of our Lord, prefigured in the Old Testament (Exodus 12) and fulfilled in the New Testament (Revelation 5). The seven seals are spoken of in the Book of Revelation as only being able to be opened by the Lamb Himself.

I.H.S.- A monogram of the name of Jesus Christ. From the third century the titles of our Savior were sometimes shortened, particularly in Christian inscriptions. This particular monogram became more popular after the twelfth century when St. Bernard insisted on devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. The saying can also be translated as Iesus Homo Salvatore - Jesus the Savior of Mankind.

Cross and Crown- A reminder to all of us that through the passion of our Lord upon the Cross, He gained the Crown of glory.

Flooring- The hardwood floors are red oak and the insert wood is walnut. The radius in the front of the sanctuary is modeled after the original sanctuary and communion railing which had a curved entry into the sanctuary.

Flags- The two flags are of the United States of America and the Vatican. St. Paul asks of us to pray for our governmental leaders. The Vatican is the smallest nation in land mass but one of the most influential in the world.

Tower Bells- The three tower bells had their ropes lengthened stretching to the main entryway. A beautifully handcrafted holder for each rope was made by a parishioner from wood taken from the old steps in the sanctuary.

All of this work was made possible by the grace of the Most Holy Trinity. The desire of the restoration was to bring greater glory to Almighty God and to use the gifts and blessings we have to show Him the greatest honor possible. We hope and pray that our celebration of the sacraments, particularly the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, prayers of devotion, moments of silence and opportunities for community will bring us closer to our end goal as Christians- eternal life with the Most Blessed Trinity. The financial support for this project came from the many generous parishioners of All Saints Parish. May our sacrifices and gifts to God sanctify us and bring Him true glory. The countless people who have worked on this project are appreciated beyond belief. May Jesus Christ be praised!



Late 1800’s- Early 1900’s



1990’s



2016 Restoration

Several of the dedicated volunteers- Matthew Kuebel, John & Lori Kuebel, Dalton Kuebel, Laura Kuebel, Matthew Fuehne, Scott Carpenter, Nancy & Oliver Carpenter, Martina & Russell Kuebel, Roger Kuebel, Richard Kuebel, Slugger & Teresa Kuebel, Jeffrey Kuebel, Tony Kuebel, AJ Roe, Chris & Abe Bittner,Ray and Pat Brichler, Bob and Marlene Graf, Paul & Carla Bischoff, Nick Bischoff, Mike & Deloris Schwebach, Michael Schwebach, Roger & Donna Lake, John Lake, Greg & Tina Connolly, Zach Hoffman, Brandon Hoffman, Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer, Ray Johnson, Logan Sieg, Emily Burkhart, Cathy Martini, Nick Martini, Theo Martini, Chuck Hartman, Joey Hartman, John Crawley, Colton Colegate, Josh Wilson, Mark Bertke, Donna Gaynor, Joan Brewer, Dan Morris, Jim Hountz, Ed Graf, Larry & Dee Andres, John Gaynor, Dave Schuman , Brad Gaynor, Jim Hartman, Al Hoffbauer, Tom Orshell, Abby Wilgenbusch, Bob and Mary Gaynor, Donna Gaynor, Darla Betz, Jerry Knue, Jim Fox, Dan Baddinghaus...and many others not mentioned here.