

All Saints Parish ~ St. Joseph Campus ***A Guided Tour***

A brief history of the church building in St. Leon~

1842- A log cabin style chapel is built, the large cross in the cemetery marks the original location of the church building.
1848- A novena to St. Joseph is prayed sparing the town from cholera.
1859- Under the direction of Rev. Koering the construction of a new church building begins.
1861- The present church building is blessed by Bishop Bischof.
1862-1868- Under the direction of Rev. Scheidler:
The St. Anne side altar is installed and blessed
The Log Chapel is dismantled and sold
A new organ installed in the choir loft and a confessional is obtained
Four bells are installed and blessed
A new main altar with oil painting of St. Joseph is installed and blessed
The current Stations of the Cross are erected and blessed
1897- The church is formally consecrated by Bishop Chatard.
1909- With the leadership of Rev. Andres a new organ is put into the loft.
1931- New hardwood floors are installed.
1944- Steeple is taken down and the interior is re-plastered and decorated with Rev. Ebnet's leadership.
1967- Rev. Wright has the communion rail is removed and red carpet put in main aisle.
1977- The confessional is removed and replaced by a reconciliation room by Rev. Grogan.
1989- The church ceiling is re-plastered under the guidance of Rev. Ripperger.
1993- The stained glass windows are re-leaded and the church is tuck-pointed and sealed under the direction of Rev. Harpenau.
1996- With the leadership of Rev. Louis Manna, the walls of the church are re-plastered and expansion joints are used to prevent from future damage.
2016- A restoration project takes place including: a new paint and stencil scheme, statues repainted, altars repainted, new flooring, angels added to church walls, a new PA system, cement entryway exposed, tiled added to the bathroom, gothic/wall pulpit enhanced, lighting updated, organ pipes painted and other minor projects.

A brief explanation of the 2016 restoration follows:

Color Scheme-The color and design scheme were created with great intention. The shades of brown represent the life of St. Joseph. He was a carpenter and is the patron saint of laborers. The browns call to mind both the working of the ground, of which we came from, remember you are dust and to dust you shall return, and of wood, which is used not only as a building material but has been used again and again in our salvation. Wood has saved us countless times: Noah's Ark, the wooden staff of Moses that parted the Red Sea and the Wood of the Cross, just to mention a few. The blues on the ceiling are a reminder of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Man was created first and gave foundation to humanity, but woman perfect creation and has been called the crowning glory of humanity, thus the blues crown the browns. St. Joseph, and in fact any man, makes no sense by himself. God made us male and female in His likeness, to grow in love, service and number. The color design was also carefully designed to make many of the expansion joints from the 1996 re-plastering fade away. As you look at the placement of the color the expansion joint were used as breaking points.

Stencil work- Due to a lack of ornamental plaster work in the church (columns, molding, vaults, ribbing, capitals, medallions etc.), there was a desire to add stencil work to create a sense of detail, softness and ornamentation. The stencils have great symbolic value. In the sanctuary, there are countless stars on the dark blue ceiling. There are four sizes of stars in the design. The stars are reminders of the important decisions Joseph made. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Joseph is described as having three dreams: to take Mary, his wife, into his home and to trust that the child is God's son; after Jesus is born, to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to protect them from Herod; and lastly, to bring Mary and Jesus back from Egypt to Nazareth. Because Joseph is the patron saint of workers/laborers, it is hard to think that he was a day dreamer, so the stars remind us of the night and the time of sleep, when Joseph heard God speaking to him. The starry night also reminds us of Christmas night, the eve when Joseph led his bride from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and aided her in bringing the Son of God into this world.

The stencil in the main body of the church, duplicated 38 times in the faux coffered ceiling, was designed just for this church building. In the center of the ceiling medallion, you will find an eight pointed star. The star was chosen for the explanation given above. In the center of the star is a lily representing the purity of St. Joseph. In each arm of the medallion, you will see another lily, but this time is it intertwined around a fleur-de-lis, which is a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary and Joseph, and their marital union, was part of God's plan for the coming of the Messiah. God desires, blesses and uplifts marriage. It is from family and the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony that life is brought forth. The medallion is thus in the shape of a cross, a symbol of Jesus Christ. Mary and Joseph, according to God's grace, brought forth life in a mystical way, and that life is the salvation of the World.

Flooring- What a blessing to have wood floors in a church consecrated to St. Joseph the carpenter. The original wood flooring under the pews was preserved during the restoration. The flooring in the side and main aisles and sanctuary is new. Please

note that the three wood cut medallions, with eight pointed stars, in the center aisle continue to emphasize the three important dreams of St. Joseph and celebrate the sacred birth of our Lord on Christmas Night. The entryway cement flooring was discovered during this recent restoration. The colored cement work is beautifully detailed, complete with the name of our patron saint. Also note that the angular lines of the entryway cement work coordinate quite well with the angular lines of the expansion joints, faux coffered ceiling and the shape of the medallions in the center aisle.

Adoring Angels- On either side of the sanctuary, on the two arches, are new angel paintings. These two hand painted angels remind us of the presence of God. Angels were present at almost every crucial point in salvation history (annunciation, nativity, agony of the garden, resurrection, ascension...and this is just the New Testament). Angels are still among us every day and at every moment of our lives. We believe that angels are very active and present at every celebration of Holy Mass.

Main Altar and Reredos~ In the center of the main altar is an oil painting of St. Joseph holding both the infant Christ Child and a lily. At his feet are tools of his carpentry trade. **St. Joseph** is the patron saint of the Universal Church, husbands, fathers, workers, the dying and good dreams; 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.

To the left of the oil painting is a hand carved wooden statue of St. **Michael the Archangel**. People often ask why angels are sometimes called "saints," (St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael etc.)? The word saint comes from the Latin word, sanctus, which means "holy." Placing the title saint prior to a "beings" name means they are holy (sanctus), not that they are human. Both human beings and angelic beings can be holy, but we know from the devils and Satan that angelic beings can also chose to not be holy (sanctus). St. Michael is most famously known for his battle against Satan in the book of Revelation. In this particular statue, there is an image of Satan being slain by the spear in St. Michael's hand. You will note that there has been an addition to this statue- wings! This statue has never had wings, until now. Many people confused him for St. George the dragon slayer, but he is St. Michael the Archangel, so I obtained some wings for him.

To the right of the painting of St. Joseph is another hand carved statue, it is of **St. Philip the Apostle**. St. Philip is the apostle who finds the young boy who has the few loaves and fishes that our Lord then multiplies and feeds to the hungry crowds. He is a great reminder to all of us that God can and will work miracles in our lives and in the lives of others when we present our little offerings to Him.

At the center of the altar is the tabernacle, the golden receptacle that holds within it the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Lamb of God.

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.

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 fed with the Body and Blood of our Lord. Both the Ambo and the Altar were constructed by a parishioners in a previous restoration from wood donated by another parishioner.

Baptismal Font-This wooden font, where Christians are born anew, 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 Christ. Christ ordained that through the vocal confession of sins, we would be forgiven (John 20:21-23). This modern confessional allows for face to face confessions. During the restoration, the confessional received new carpeting.

Marian Side Altar~ On the left side of the church is a shrine with a beautiful statue of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**. This statue happens to be from the same mold as the statue at the St. John Campus in Dover. It is our Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child and presenting us with a rosary for our reflection upon His life. As a reminder, 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. To the left of Mary is an oil painting of St. Rita of Cassia. **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. On her right is an oil painting of **St. Aloysius Gonzaga**. St. Aloysius was a Jesuit (a religious order founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola), who lived in Rome during the plague and died serving the sick. He rejected the wealth and nobility that was intended for him and strove to live a radical life of prayer, purity and poverty. He is the patron saint of purity, youth and altar servers. At the base of the altar is an intertwined "A" and "M." They represent *Ave Maria (Hail Mary)*, the greeting of the angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Gospel of Luke.

St. Anne Side Altar~ The right side shrine has a wood carved statue of St. Anne. St. Anne is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and thus the grandmother of our Lord Jesus Christ. She is a powerful intercessor and a great reminder of the importance of fertility, family and faith. To the left of the St. Anne statue is an oil painting of **St. Anthony**; 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. To the right of St. Anne is an oil painting of **St. Joachim** the husband of St. Anne, the natural father of the Blessed Mother and the grandfather of Jesus Christ. At the base of this altar is a monogram intertwining the letters “A,” “V,” “N,” & “E.” It represents- Ave Anna (Hail Anna).

Sacred Heart Shrine- On the left side, in the front of the church, is a shrine to our Lord’s Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart is a reminder to us of the compassion and passionate love that Jesus has for all of us. Jesus is literally giving His heart to us. Our Lord’s heart is always encircled with a crown of thorns, bursting with flames and has been pierced by the sword. At the base of the pedestal is an intertwined “I,” “H” and “S.” These letters are and abbreviation for the Holy Name of Jesus and the Latin phrase *In Hoc Signum* (in this sign you will conquer). It is in the sign of the Cross and the Sacred Heart of our Lord that we will conquer sin and death.

St. Anthony Shrine- On the right side, in the front of the church, is a shrine to St. Anthony. He is no stranger to us, there is an oil painting of him in this church as well. The statue that you see had been put away in storage, but has recently been rediscovered, cleaned, scraped, sanded, repainted and is once again put out for prayer and devotion. At the base of this shrine is a monogram for St. Anthony incorporating a “S,” “T” and “A

Shrines in the entryway of the church~

St. Therese Shrine- St. Therese (1873-1897), known as the Little Flower. At the age of 14, she had a conversion that transformed her life. At 15, she entered the cloistered Carmelite convent in Lisieux. Living a hidden, simple life of prayer, she was gifted with great intimacy with God. The world came to know Therese through her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*. “What matters in life,” she wrote, “is not great deeds, but great love.” “My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death,” she said. “I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses.” Roses have been described and experienced as Saint Therese’s gift to answered prayers. In 1997, Saint Pope John Paul II declared St. Therese a Doctor of the Church. Our statue shows her in the traditional Carmelite religious habit holding flowers and a crucifix.

Our Lady of Fatima- Our Blessed Mother appeared to three young children in Fatima, Portugal in the early 1900’s. The message of prayer, penance and conversion for the salvation of souls was preached far and wide due to this apparition. The Miracle of the Sun, that was seen by thousands, proved the authenticity of the visions.

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 Christ 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, because He is King! Those who follow this devotion strive to honor Jesus at all times.

St. Joseph Shrine- This lovely statue is the same image that is in the oil painting in the main altar; St. Joseph holding a lily for his purity and his adopted child, Jesus the Christ.

Statues- Each statue during this restoration was repainted by a team of parishioners. The faces and the clothing of each statue were refreshed and brought to a softer and more traditional rendering.

Stations of the Cross- The beautiful oil paintings, dating back to 1868, which depict the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross had their frames repainted during this most recent restoration.

Mission Cross- The large wooden crucifix, once located on the right wall, has been placed in the entryway of the Church. It is a reminder to all who enter that Christ is the center of our lives, worship and mission.

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.

Other Capital Improvements- tuck-pointing and replacement of damaged bricks, a new PA system, electrical updating, tile in bathroom, cement entryway exposed, gothic/wall pulpit enhanced, organ pipes painted and other minor projects.

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!



Circa 1950



Circa 1990



2016

Several of the dedicated volunteers- *Samantha Hensley, Linda and Buck Hoog, Marlene Hoog, Susan Schmelling, Michelle Deddens, Mark Eisele, Brandy and Chris Bittner, Bill Martini, Nick Martini, Brendan Miller, Ingrid Miller, Abe Bittner, Trey Werner, Dan and Jeni Werner, Debbie Yeager, Scott and Julie Becker, Sara Yunger, Marilyn White, Paul Graf, Mike & Deloris Schwebach, Zach Hoffman, Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer, Ray Johnson, Joan Brewer, Dan Morris, John Gaynor, Dave Schuman, Brad Gaynor, Jim Fox, Cyndi Voegele, Jerry Graf, Larry Joeger, Emily Alig, Paul and Mary Horner, Gary Eckstein, Missy Andres, Chloe and Erin Wilhelm, Tim & Sue Wilhelm, Lauren Deddens, Kathleen Tenhover, Maureen and Jeremy Stenger, Anna and John Block, Missy Andres, Shobey Day Kramer, Mary Bittner, Judy Leonard, Suzanne Ludwig, Kathy Martini, Teresa Kuebel, Joyce and Irvin Bittner, Seth Bittner, Mary Lou Jonas, Debbie Stenger, Darin Wilhelm, Mary Lou Hilbert, Teresa Horstman, Darlene Fox, Lori Hartman, David Wuestefeld, Joan Erhart, Pat Hoffbauer, Cheryl Wilhelm, Harold Hartman, Julie Baker, Judy Kraus. ...and many other helpful hands!*