

All Saints Parish ~ St. Paul Campus

A Guided Tour

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

1832-	Property for St. Paul Parish is obtained.
1833-	Under the guidance of Rev. Joseph Ferneding, the Congregation of St. Paul is formally established and begins to build a wood church.
1835-	Bishop Simon Brute arrives, and blesses the wooden church building, and gives \$500 towards the erection of a new brick church building.
1837-	The construction of the brick church is completed.
1838-	Bishop Simon Brute blesses the brick church and gives the sacrament of Confirmation to 100 of the faithful.
1851-	Fr. Martin Stahl enlarged the sanctuary. He is buried under the main altar of the church. His grave is accessible from the basement, and a grave rubbing is found in the sacristy. The Latin grave stone inscription reads as follows: Here lies Reverend Martin Stahl Pastor of this church, died on April 3, 1853, Rest in peace, <i>For his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.</i> Wisdom 4
1869-	Rev. Peter Siebman has an addition added to the church, the steeple is erected, and three bells are placed in the tower.
1886-	Under the guidance of Rev. Frances Torbeck, the interior sanctuary is enlarged, confessional installed, and communion rail crafted.
1890-	Rev. Joseph Merkl, the longest serving pastor of St. Paul, obtains a new high altar, pews, pulpit, Stations of the Cross, six statues, and new flooring.
1911-	The Lourdes grotto is added to the back of the church.
1915-	Rev. George Pohl has the gothic/wall pulpit removed, the choir loft shortened and the church redecorated.
1960-	The church is repainted under the direction of Rev. Bloemke and Severino (Rino) Mumfrey.
1983-	Rev. William Engbers has the church tuck-pointed and sealed, installs wall to wall carpeting and obtains new pews for the parish's 150 th anniversary.
1990-	Under the direction of Fr. Bill Turner and Sr. Sandra, the altars are simplified, murals painted over and the church is repainted.
2005-	Under Rev. Harold Rightor, new stained glass windows are installed.
2008-	For the 175 th anniversary Rev. Brian Esarey has the entryway to the church refurbished.
2016-	The church receives new paint, hard wood flooring, a Holy Spirit mural, eight medallion paintings, the statues repainted, and a new altar and ambo are constructed from the historic communion rail.

A brief explanation of the 2016 restoration follows:

Color Scheme-The colors are deeply symbolic. The red symbolizes two martyrs: St. Stephen, the first martyr of the Church who St. Paul, prior to his own conversion, was responsible for killing (Acts 7), and St. Paul, who was beheaded by the sword. The color red that was chosen is named “*fired brick*.” This color also reminds us of the early settlers who made the bricks for this church building onsite in 1836. The three colors of blue on the ceiling are symbolic of the three legendary bounces of St. Paul’s head after he was martyred. There is a church in Rome called *Tre Fontaine* (the three fountains) which marks the historical spot of St. Paul’s death. The three springs/fountains, now housed inside a church building, came into being when St. Paul was martyred; water still flows from them. The tans and browns flesh out the red and blue tones and remind us of the early American pioneer days and the American Civil War that struck this land and formed the early history of this local community.

Altar and Reredos-This large main altar, dating back to 1890, is a beautiful piece incorporating several biblical images from the book of Revelation. The four living winged creatures (ox, eagle, lion, man), the Lamb that is slain on the book with seven seals, and the harvesting angels all point us to this last book in the bible which portrays heavenly worship. Our worship here on earth is a participation in this eternal offering. At the center of the altar is the tabernacle, the golden receptacle that holds within 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.

St. Paul Tryptic- The three paintings in the middle of the sanctuary tell the life of St. Paul. From left to right we have St. Paul’s Conversion (Acts 9), St. Paul preaching & healing in Lystra (Acts 14), and lastly, his martyrdom. The center image is the oldest, dating from 1871 and painted by an artist with the last name of Lamprecht. The two outer images are from 1894 and were painted by an artist named Beyrer.

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 during this restoration by dedicated parishioners from the original communion rail that once was in this church.

Baptismal Font-This font constructed of metal, 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 it received new paint, carpet and kneeler.

Sacred and Immaculate Heart Statues- On either side of the historic altar are the Sacred and Immaculate Heart statues. 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, for her purity, and is inflamed with love.

Ceiling Medallion- Newly commissioned for this restoration is the Holy Spirit image hovering over the sanctuary. The seven rays and the tongues of fire represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. The rays of light and the fire are bursting out of the frame as a reminder to us that God cannot be contained; He is beyond all of our expectations and limits. May we always pray- Come Holy Spirit!

Painted medallions above each window

The stained glass colors represent the liturgical life of the church. The painted medallions that have been installed above them bring out the beauty of these colors and reinforce the seasons. Blue ~ Blue is not a liturgical color, but it is used in the liturgical life of the church to represent the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. The first image is of Mary’s sorrowful heart- The heart with the crown of roses and the sword pierced through it is found in Luke 2:34-36 as it makes reference to her heart being pierced with a sword of sorrow due to the sufferings of her Son. The lily and T-square are the symbols of St. Joseph who was known for his purity and work. Green ~ The liturgical color green is associated with Ordinary Time and growing in faith! We grow in faith, most clearly, when we eat the Body and Blood of Jesus and when we meditate on his living Word in Sacred Scripture. The two images chosen for this are the Pelican and the Bible. The Pelican is a Eucharistic image. 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. The bible is the very word of God given to us in the Old and New Testaments. Gold ~ The liturgical color gold or white is associated with celebration. The two great celebrations of the Church are the Resurrection and the Incarnation. The images are of these two great feasts: three crowns and a star for the Epiphany and a Resurrection styled cross for the empty tomb remind us to always have hope! Red ~ The liturgical color red is associated with Pentecost, Martyrs and our Lord’s passion, so, the two images chosen are of the Holy Spirit and our Lord’s crown of thorns and three nails. Violet - the color purple is for the two season of preparation: Advent and Lent. For the season of Advent we have the traditional image of the Advent wreath and for the season of Lent we have ashes.
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Statues- Each statue during this restoration was repainted by a team of parishioners. The faces and the clothing of each statue was refreshed and brought to a softer and more traditional rendering.

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. Note that both side altars have been repainted and have had additional ornamentation added.

Left Side Shrine- The center statue on the left is of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This statue of the Blessed Mother is an image of her as the Immaculate Conception- her hands are folded in prayer and she is standing on the world with the moon at her feet. You also see wrapped around the world, the serpent, with an apple in his mouth, who in the book of Genesis met a different woman, Eve. Mary has been chosen to undo the wrong that Eve and Adam began after being tricked by the serpent. 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.

St. Francis and St. Therese- On the right of the sanctuary is a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226), an Italian friar and preacher. After a conversion, Francis heard the voice of Christ, who told him to “rebuild” the Church and live a life of poverty. This he did-he abandoned his life of luxury and became a radical follower of our Lord. Francis received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ—the wounds Jesus suffered when he was crucified—making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. Our statue shows St. Francis holding a cross with no corpus, because his body with the stigmata is the image of our Lord on the cross, and holding a book of the Gospels, after which he patterned his life. On the left is 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.

St. Anthony Shrine- 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. His shrine is located in the back of the church.

Stations of the Cross- These traditional 14 Stations of the Cross, dating back to 1890, had their frames repainted during this most recent restoration.

Lourdes Grotto- The Lourdes grotto in the back of the church, which was installed in 1911, had the statues repainted.

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. At the St. Paul Campus, the clothing on this statue changes with the liturgical seasons.

Mission Cross- This wooden cross dates to the early days of the parish. The Parish Missions marked on it read: 1994, 1900, 1907, 1913, 1927, 1934, 1944, 1958, 1962, 1979 and 1983. It also reads in German- *Rette Denie Selle* which translates “Save your soul.” This is the purpose of a Parish Mission, to have your soul saved by the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

Flooring- The hardwood floors are red oak and the insert wood is Maple and Brazilian Cherry. The Brazilian Cherry, and its red hues, was chosen to honor St. Paul and his glorious martyrdom.

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, sealing of exterior bricks, removal of interior plaster and sealing of bricks from the inside, installation of a new gutter on the apse of church, new roof on apse of church, additional electrical receptacles added to the interior of the church, new PA system, floor joists in sanctuary strengthened/replaced and a new piano has been obtained.

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 1931



Circa 1990



2016 Restoration

Several of the dedicated volunteers- John & Lori Kuebel, Slugger & Teresa Kuebel, Mike & Deloris Schwebach, Greg & Tina Connolly, Zach Hoffman, Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer, Ray Johnson, Joan Brewer, Dan Morris, Pat Hoffbauer, Kim Zimmerman, John Gaynor, Dave Schuman, Brad Gaynor, Jim Fox, Cyndi Voegele, Maria Knueven, Jerry Graf, Larry and Beth Joerger, Brian Henehold, Emily Alig, Cheryl McCann, Janna Stonebraker, Dick Moorman, Paul and Mary Horner, Mark & Leah Schmidl, Anna Block, Millie Kraus, Mary Bittner Gary Eckstein, ...and many others not mentioned here.