

Confessionals

Other sacramental features of St. Michael's are the confessionals and reconciliation rooms. Confessionals date back to the 16th century and the first were reported to be constructed by St. Charles Borromeo in Milan to provide secrecy for confessions. Until the end of the middle ages, it was customary to confess in the open before a priest,

usually before an altar. The confessionals are customarily unadorned; they represent both a simple judgment seat and a secluded place for quiet encouragement and guidance. They are marked with the word, "Pax" representing the peace of Christ which comes from the sacrament. Two of the older style confessionals in St. Michael's were remodeled into reconciliation rooms which permit face to face confession and personal counseling as well as anonymous confessions. The reconciliation rooms were designed and constructed from woodwork taken from the original St. Michael's confessionals. The present location of the confessionals at the back of the nave represents the intention of the penitent to be properly disposed before approaching Christ in the Eucharist.

