

With the dedication of St. Michael's to an archangel and the many representations of angels in the church, can you guess how many angels are represented in the church? (Answer at the end of the pamphlet).

St. Michael's has within it several other shrines, locations designed to foster some Catholic devotion or belief and featuring Our Lady, the saints, or the Way of the Cross.

To the left of the chancel arch is the altar of the Mother of God. Mary is represented by a statue with the Infant Jesus.



Her posture is to offer her Son to the world.





Her expression most faithfully captured in the polished marble finish is one of great serenity and submission to the Lord.



The lower portion of the altar has a bas-relief depicting the annunciation.



This side altar contains a tabernacle with a sunburst surrounding a representation of the Host suspended over a chalice. This tabernacle serves as the altar of repose after Holy Thursday when the dark shadows of Good Friday reduce the sanctuary to an empty austerity.





To the right of the chancel arch is the altar of St. Joseph who is portrayed as the kindly foster father of our Lord.





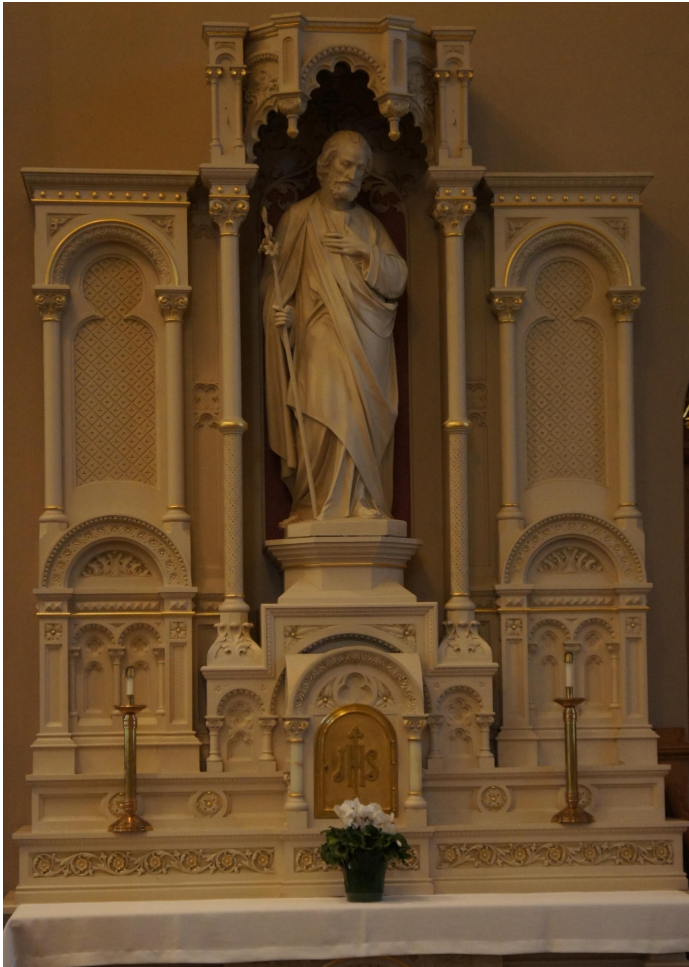
In one hand he holds a staff which spawns a blossom of lilies, a symbol of his chastity.





The lower portion of the altar has a bas-relief featuring Christ and Mary at the deathbed of Joseph. It is a symbol of the “happy death” which is promised all Christians.





The altar also has a tabernacle embossed with the letters IHS which is the graphic symbol for the name Jesus in Greek (IH SOUS).



Near the altar of St. Joseph, against the north wall is another Shrine to Our Lady along with a votive station permitting worshipers to light candles as a sign of their devotion.





The shrine features a reproduction of an icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The original icon was painted by an artist in Crete in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It was eventually found in Rome and was venerated in the church of the Redemptorist Order. The icon

portrays Mary holding her Divine son as a young child. On each side of the central figures are painted the archangels Michael and Gabriel who bear the instruments of the Lord's passion. Even as a young child, Christ is seen to look at the cross and the suffering which awaits him at the Passion.

