



**A WALKING TOUR
OF
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC**

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

History:

Holy Family Church started as a mission Church of the Charleston, South Carolina Diocese. In the late spring of 1961, several Catholic business men invited Father John Simonin to celebrate Mass at the old William Hilton Inn. The first attendees, about forty in number, were mostly visitors to the island. As the number of worshippers grew, it became necessary to move the site for Sunday Mass to The Adventure Inn. In time, with the increase in the number of more permanent residents, better arrangements had to be made. Land was deeded for a Church by the Fraser family of the Sea Pines Company, who had given similar parcels of land to other churches in the area. The ground breaking for the new Church was on December 19, 1971 and it was dedicated on February 25, 1973. Within a few short years, the original 340 seat Church could no longer accommodate the crowds each Sunday. Plans were developed in 1985 by Father Philip A. Hamilton to construct a larger Church. Bishop Ernest Unterkoefler approved the plans and construction of the new Church was completed with a dedication Mass on October 30, 1988. The former Church was revamped for multi-purpose use and was named Seitz Hall in honor of Father Paul Seitz who led the parish during its construction. In 1977, a Religious Education Building/Parish Hall was built through the efforts of the parish's first pastor, Father David J. Schiller, for whom the building was subsequently named.

During the pastorate of Father Edmund McCaffrey (1996-2003), former Abbot of Belmont Abbey, a number of changes were made to the sanctuary with the addition of the Crucifix, a new Altar and a new Tabernacle. A beautiful shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe was also constructed in the south portion of the campus. Also, new overhead lights were installed.

The pastorate of Father Hayden Vaverek (2004-2008) also brought further changes with a new adoration chapel, removal of the glass wall which formerly separated the daily Mass chapel from the main Church to create a west wing, the relocation of the glass-etched Stations of the Cross to the interior perimeter wall and painting of the inside of the Church.

THE CAMPUS

As one approaches the campus of Holy Family Church from Pope Avenue, the copper statue of the Holy Family of Saint Joseph, the Blessed Mother and the Christ Child greets all visitors at the entrance. The statue was created by Wayne Edwards and was donated in memory of George Joseph Kyte.



THE HOLY FAMILY

The inscription on the marble tablet reads as follows:

“The everlasting symbol of love....

the model for all mankind...

Joseph...Father and protector of family, faith, truth...

Mary...the loving and sacrificing mother....

Jesus... the holy child who shared divinity and humanity
and who would offer salvation to the world. Sharing their
example will bring us happiness and eternal peace.

Let us pray for their guidance in all we do.”

SAINT FRANCIS GARDEN AND STATUE



Continuing further onto the church campus, we see on our right the garden of Saint Francis, a beautiful area for meditation.

This contemplative area was donated in memory of Oramae Dressel Knowles by her husband, a non-Catholic. The carrara marble statue was installed in 1986.

SEITZ HALL



Adjoining the Garden of Saint Francis is Seitz Hall which is the original Church. It is now a multi-purpose building used for staff offices, social functions, meetings and extra Masses on Easter Sunday, when 13 Masses have been needed to handle the thousands of visitors. The Rectory and Church business office adjoins Seitz Hall.

PIAZZA AND MOSAIC

The piazza is the large area in front of the main Church. The piazza is paved with more than 1000 granite stones which have been donated by parishioners and visitors from all over the United States. The stones are variously engraved with the names and addresses, short prayers or other notations by their donors.

Opposite the piazza is a patio of additional engraved paving stones and an outdoor altar. Serving as a backdrop is a ten foot high mosaic of the Holy Family, a gift from the Ladies Guild in 1979. The mosaic, which was



originally installed on the exterior wall of the old Church, was made in Italy. The logo depicts the Holy Family over the sea suggesting the theme of an island parish with the fishes representing the faithful. The Christ Child, the central figure, is standing with arms outstretched in an attitude of prayer and benediction. The fingers of the right hand are extended in the traditional sign of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is depicted as a dove. The Blessed Virgin is seated gazing at the Divine Son. Her tunic is embroidered with a lily, an emblem of her perpetual virginity.

On the other side, Saint Joseph also looks at Jesus holding a small boat, a toy which a carpenter might fashion to amuse a child. The boat also symbolizes the universal Church of which Saint Joseph is the protector with the Greek logo of Christ emblazoned on the sails. The peasant costumes are in earth tones in keeping with the subdued colors of the Island's structures which blend into, rather than compete with, the natural beauty of Hilton Head Island.

HOLY FAMILY SHRINE IN BRONZE

At the left of the piazza is a shrine to the Holy Family in bronze sculptures. This beautiful depiction of the Holy Family came from gifts from the estate of Helen Cantwell and the family of Marjorie C. Barreca. Both were long-time parishioners. The sculptures depict Saint Joseph as a carpenter in his workshop with Mary and a young Jesus. The sculptures are the work of Mazzollini Art Craft of Cleveland, Ohio.



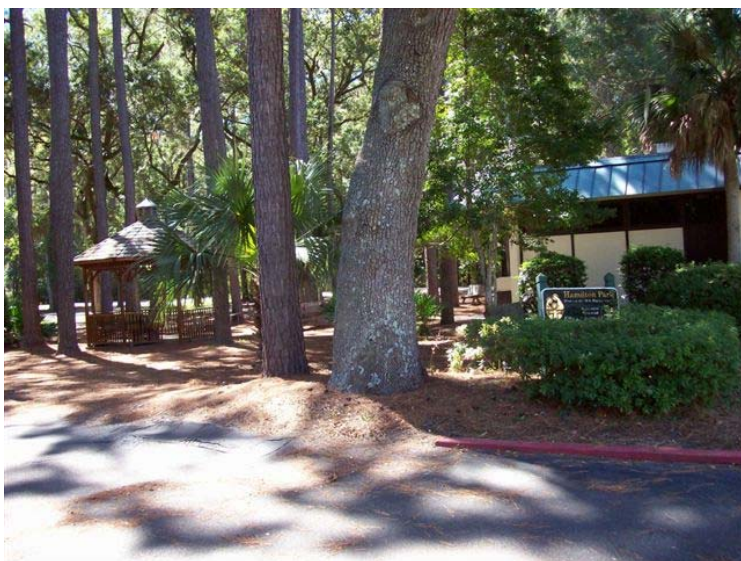
SCHILLER HALL AND MONUMENT

To the left of the Church is Schiller Hall. This multi-purpose building is equipped with accordion walls which allow it to be transformed into classrooms for Religious Education for parish youth or into a hall for large church socials. Schiller Hall is also used at Easter for additional Masses to accommodate the many visitors at that time.



On the lawn adjacent to Schiller Hall is a marble monument donated by the Knights of Columbus Council 7289 in memory of the abortion holocaust. The Guardian Angel statue overlooking this grassy area is dedicated to the memory of all the Religious Education teachers who have served Holy Family Parish.





To the left of Schiller Hall is a park and picnic area with a gazebo which is used for parish socials. This area is named Hamilton Park in honor of Father Philip A. Hamilton, the pastor who led the construction of the present Church.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SHRINE

Beyond Hamilton Park on the south end of the campus is the beautiful shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This shrine has special significance to the many Hispanic parishioners of Holy Family and is the scene of weekly rosary devotions and also a procession on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS BOARDWALK

Flanking the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Stations of the Cross Boardwalk. Note the ceramic Stations within 14 wooden shelters along the walkway. The Stations boardwalk is a 2007 addition to the campus and was an Eagle Scout project of parishioner James Rankin. More than \$20,000 was contributed by parishioners to build these outdoor stations.

Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 7289 assisted in the construction.



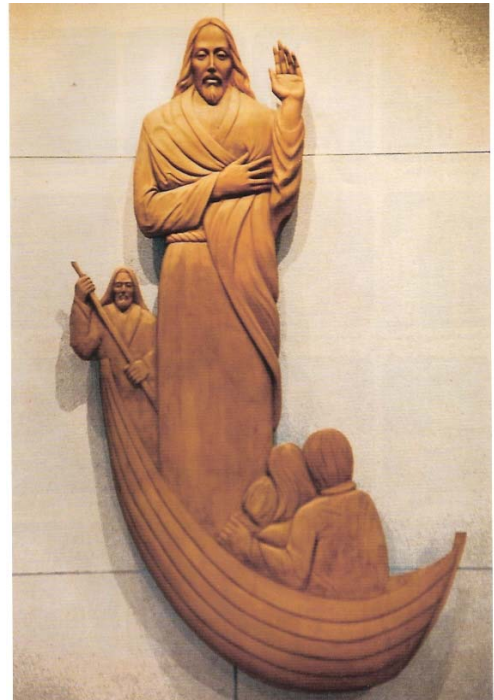
THE MAIN CHURCH



As you approach the Church, you will see the bronze corpus of Christ on a steel cross over the main entrance denoting His great sacrifice for all humankind.

Upon entering the Church, note the tabby wall which forms the backdrop behind the altar. This tabby wall is made from sea shells and lime, a type of construction material indigenous to the South since colonial days. Some will recall that when the Church was first constructed, a large wooden sculpture of Christ in a boat holding a family of three with Saint Peter at the rudder hung on the rear wall of the sanctuary. This sculpture, which is made of Honduran mahogany, is 17 feet high and 9 feet wide.

It was carved by Dwayne Edwards, a local sculptor. Several years ago during renovations directed by Father McCaffrey, this sculpture was replaced by the present crucifix. The mahogany sculpture now hangs in Seitz Hall.



CRUCIFIX



The large crucifix above the altar is 20 feet high with a 10 foot corpus. It was carved in Italy from lindenwood and carefully transported to Hilton Head Island by the Mazzolini Art Craft Company, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio.

ALTAR AND TABERNACLE

The original altar for the new Church was made from a Carolina Low Country cypress tree trunk topped by a wooden slab. In time, the cypress deteriorated somewhat and was replaced with the present altar made of terrazzo during the renovations to the sanctuary area. The cypress sedalia was replaced at the same time. The original repository for the Blessed Sacrament was in the apse to the left as you face the main altar. The renovation work also added the beautiful new tabernacle and the terrazzo table on which it rests which matches the new altar.



ORGAN

To the right of the altar is the pipe organ which is one of the largest organs in the area. The organ was built by W. Zimmer & Sons Inc. of North Carolina as their Opus 411, a two-manual keyboard and pedal organ. In 1992, Zimmer & Son enlarged the organ to a four-manual and pedal instrument with 46 ranks (sets of pipes), 56 stops with a total of 2619 pipes. One electronic stop was added, a 32 foot Bombard (pedal reed). This organ has a movable console and includes a Chamade trumpet stop set on the back wall above the Sacristy door. For the enlargement of the organ, pipes were purchased from several churches in the southeast which were eliminating pipe organs. Holy Family parishioners helped remove the pipes from these churches and then cleaned them for installation in the Zimmer organ. Organ recitals have been presented by renowned organists such as Abbot Frances Klein of Mepkin Abbey, W. Raymond Ackerman and Robert Hibble. The Low Country Chapter of The American Guild of Organists, a local organization of organists, choir directors and people interested in church music, sponsors and presents free public recitals on the second Friday of each month in the Church beginning at noon. The free programs, which sometimes include other instrumentalists from around the country, attract people from all over the world to hear a truly fine pipe organ in a Church with wonderful acoustics.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA WINDOW

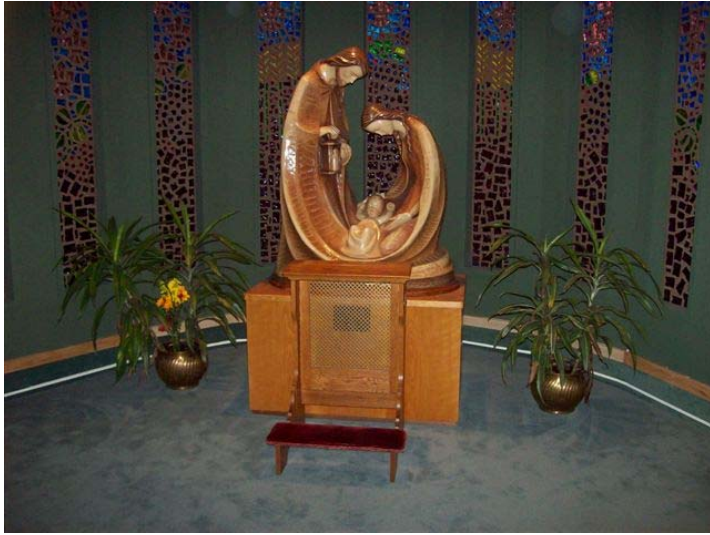
The Our Lady of Fatima stained glass window of 520 square feet is to the right of the organ. The window was designed and fabricated by Father Methodius Telnack of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, a Trappist monastery, located in Conyers, Georgia. This beautiful window, as well as several others in the rear of the Church, were donated by Deacon James Asmuth in memory of Father Philip Hamilton, pastor. It depicts the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to three Portugese children. An angel holds the Holy Eucharist. The first apparition occurred in 1917 at Fatima in Portugal. This window has a special reflective screen with spotlights to illuminate it so that it can be seen at night from Pope Avenue.



Father Methodius designed all the stained glass in the Church. An example of his work in another medium are the etched Stations of the Cross, formerly part of the glass wall that divided the once daily Mass Chapel from the main Church. These works are now located on the perimeter walls of the main Church.

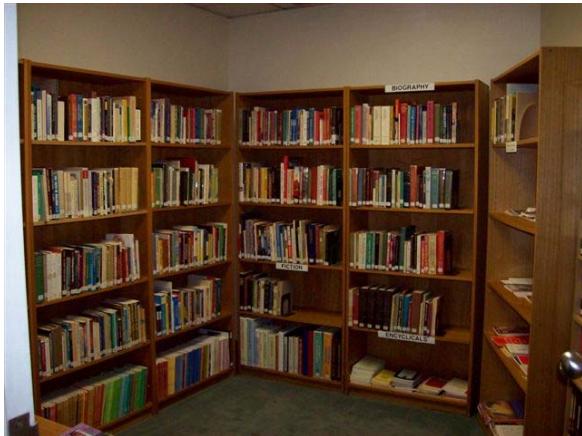


APSE/FORMER CHAPEL/WEST WING



To the left of the main altar is an apse containing a wood carved statue of the Holy Family donated by the Ladies Guild. This alcove was formerly the repository of the Blessed Sacrament before the new tabernacle was installed. The windows surrounding this alcove illustrate the olive trees and the fields of wheat and the grape arbors of the Holy Land whose products became the first Holy Eucharist.

The present Church was designed with a daily Mass chapel on the west side with seating for 150 persons using the pews from the original Church. During renovations of the Church, directed by Father Hayden Vaverek in 2007, the pews were replaced, the glass wall separating the chapel from the main Church was removed and the chapel was incorporated into the nave forming a west wing. The daily Mass chapel also served as the chapel for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament when Perpetual Adoration was begun in 2003.



The confessional and parish library are located in the west wing. The library is open for use by parishioners and visitors any time the Church is open.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

Also during the renovations of 2007, a new chapel for Eucharistic Adoration was created, adjacent to the sacristy to the left of the main entrance. Here in a quiet, peaceful and comfortable chapel, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration by parishioners and many visitors.



The Adoration Chapel contains a side window of Blenko glass mounted in an epoxy mixture portraying the three magi.

The window in the entrance door to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is a painting on glass created by four sisters of the Dominican Hilton Head Island Convent of Sisters of Mary, Mother of The Eucharist. Sister Mary Joseph Campbell, Sister Maria Rose Metzger, Sister Mary Dominic Marsh and Sister Philip John McGlynn produced this beautiful gift to Holy Family Parish.



On the rear wall of the chapel are found antique Stations of the Cross. These antique oil paintings were donated by parishioners and friends who were interested in their purchase for the Church. Before being moved to the adoration chapel, these stations hung on columns in the narthex of the Church.



BAPTISTRY



The Baptistry is located within the railing in the back of the nave. The holy water basin is mounted in the stump of a cypress tree which was taken from the campus during construction. Behind the baptismal font is the most recent stained glass window, installed in 1996. This window displays the baptism of Christ. In Blenko glass, with the rays emanating from a symbolic lighthouse, you view the outline of the figures of Christ and John the Baptist.

Close examination reveals nature in silhouettes of a dragonfly, a rabbit and a mouse. Take your time to find other symbols. Note the statue of Saint Anthony in the far right corner. This was donated by a parishioner and will be moved to a more prominent location after a proper base is constructed.

Located in the rear of the nave is a statue of Mother Teresa holding a baby. This was a gift from caring persons associated with Hilton Head Right To Life. Two of Mother Teresa's quotes are stated on plaques as follows:



*"Babies are like flowers:
you can't have too many of them"*

"The greatest evil in the world today is abortion"

HISTORIC CLERESTORY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS (NARTHEX)

“Clerestory” is a term which refers to the upper wall containing windows to illuminate the central part of a Church. In Holy Family Church, the clerestory consists of a wonderful series of stained glass windows telling the history of Christianity in the southeastern part of the United States. The background design for all the panels is ocean waves and sea creatures. The viewing is best from left to right.



Panel 1

Thirteen years after Ponce de Leon landed in Florida, Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon established the town of San Miguel in 1521 on the Carolina coast near Winyah Bay. Among the 600 colonists were two Dominican friars and one lay brother. It may be presumed that the first Mass in South Carolina occurred in this settlement. The colony existed until 1526 when its 150 survivors were transported to Hispaniola.

Panel 2

The first permanent Church in the continental United States was built at St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565. The Jesuit missionaries who were assigned there carried their work as far as Virginia. In 1573, Franciscan missionaries took over. An anti-Christian movement, with a series of raids by the Lords Proprietors (the predominant military power in the Carolinas), took place in 1704.

Panel 3

In 1561, a Spanish expedition took possession of the land surrounding St. Helena (near Parris Island). Dominicans took over religious activities. In 1566, the town of St. Helena was established. The Jesuits used this mission to work with the YeMassee Indians.

Panel 4

The first Christian Church on Hilton Head Island was the Zion Chapel of Ease, founded in 1799. A Chapel of Ease was a term used for a small, simple church that provided a convenient place of worship for locals rather than having to travel a distance into the city to worship with a larger congregation. We modern-day Catholics might call it a “mission church”.

Panel 5

Until the American Revolution it was illegal to maintain a Catholic Church in South Carolina. In 1791, the state legislature approved the incorporation of Saint Mary’s in Charleston.

Panel 6

The Diocese of Charleston was established under Bishop John England in 1820. Bishop England accomplished many things during his tenure: he founded the first Catholic newspaper in the United States, “*The Catholic Miscellany*”, started the first Catholic school for black children, sponsored the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, imported Ursuline nuns from France, and created a seminary. He once addressed the United States Congress on religious freedom.

Panel 7

The first Catholic Church on Hilton Head Island was built shortly after the Battle of Port Royal in 1861. It was located in Mitchellville (named after the commanding general of the Union forces on the island). The Church was destroyed in a hurricane in 1869.

Panel 8

After World War 1, the religious needs of the island were taken care of by the priests and nuns who visited the Pinckney Colony in Bluffton. The first Church there was Saint Mary in the Woods, built in 1915. It was later renamed Saint Andrew. It was the only Catholic Church in the area until Holy Family Church was built in 1972.

Panel 9

A drawbridge to the island was constructed in 1956. The toll for the bridge lasted only six months.

Panel 10

The first Sunday Masses were celebrated by visiting priests in the Hilton Head Inn. Later, Masses were celebrated at the Adventure Inn (named after Capt. Hilton's flagship, *The Adventurer*).

Panel 11

The Fraser family donated land on Pope Avenue and Holy Family Catholic Church was built in 1973.

Panel 12

The original Church was too small to accommodate the growing number of parishioners and the current structure was erected in 1988.

Panel 13

Catholic slaves freed after the civil war continued their Catholic faith for over 30 years without the assistance of a priest. When the group was united with the Diocese of Charleston, the parish of Saint James was formed (near Walterboro).

Panel 14

In 1987, Pope John Paul II met with Bishop Ernest Unterkoefler in Columbia, at the University of South Carolina.

Panel 15

This panel is a remembrance of important people associated with the origin of our current Church: the pastor, Father Philip A. Hamilton; the designer of the stained glass, Father Methodius Telnack; and the architectural advisor, Bob Christian.

Panel 16

This panel denotes the relationship of man to church.

Panel 17

The Holy Family, to whom this Church is dedicated, is a reminder of the continuing role of the family.

Panel 18

World peace is a goal attainable to man if we trust in God and follow His mandates.

CLERESTORY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS (WEST WING)



As noted previously, a west wing of the Church resulted from removing the former glass wall which separated the nave from the Daily Mass Chapel. The clerestory stained glass windows which were above the glass wall still remain and may be viewed from a position in the west wing.

The twelve stained glass windows were installed in October 1988. These windows center on the theme of God's love for children as expressed in both the Old and New Testaments and Church doctrines. From the center of the west wing, face the main altar, look toward the ceiling and you will see the twelve stained glass windows. Viewing from left to right:

1. Mary's mother, Saint Anne, teaches the art of spinning.
2. Daniel rescues Susanna from elders who charge adultery.
3. Jesus is greeted by children as he enters Jerusalem.
4. "Suffer the little children to come unto me..."
5. Jesus, the youthful teacher, astounds his elders.
6. Simeon, the prophet, receives the Holy Family.
7. Mary visits Elizabeth.
8. Guardian angels shield and guide each child.
9. The Savior is born.
10. Baptism of the newborn.
11. Holy Communion initiates the child in Mass participation.
12. Confession renews and enables reaffirmation of faith.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND BOOK STORE

A good way to end your walking tour (or to begin it) is to visit the Holy Family Religious Articles and Book Store. Follow the driveway and you will see the sign for the store near the garage. The store carries a nice selection of religious articles of all kinds in addition to many books. If you desire an article which is not already in stock, it can be ordered for you. The store is open after all weekend and daily Masses except Saturday morning and the 1:00pm Sunday Mass.



CLERGY ASSOCIATED WITH HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Rev. John Siminon | 1961-1966 |
| Rev. Francis X. Seitz | 1966 -1973 |
| Rev. David J. Schiller | 1973 -1979 |
| Rev. Thomas D. Timlin | 1979 -1985 |
| Rev. Philip A. Hamilton, PhD | 1985 -1996 |
| Rev. Edmund McCaffrey, PhD | 1996 -2003 |
| Msgr. Martin T. Laughlin | 2003 -2004 |
| Father Raymond J. Carlo | 1/2004 -9/2004 |
| Father Hayden J. Vavarek | 9/2004 - 1/2008 |
| Father Robert E. Morey | 2/2008 - |

The Rev. Raymond Dumouchel assisted Fathers Schiller, Timlin and Hamilton for short periods of time. The Rev. D. Anthony Droze assisted Father Hamilton from January to November, 1998.

NOTES

