

# St. Charles Church Renovation

## The Five Murals

The five murals above the sanctuary were part of the Church before the 1982 renovation at which time they were removed. As an attempt to recapture some of our parish history, the Renovation Committee decided to have them put back. The murals consist of the Four Evangelists with Jesus in the middle.

Each of the Evangelists have a symbol or creature assigned to them. We read about these four creatures in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Revelation: “the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle.”

(Starting on the left side of the sanctuary)

**Matthew's** symbol is a man because he begins his Gospel with Christ's human genealogy, focusing on Christ the Man.

**Mark** is represented by a lion because his Gospel starts off with a roar. Right away in the first chapter, we are confronted with the fiery words of St. John the Baptist, the “voice of one crying in the wilderness.”

**Luke** is accompanied by an ox, an animal of sacrifice. This is because the first event he recounts is the apparition of the Angel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father of St. John the Baptist. Zechariah, a priest, is offering sacrifice to God in the temple when St. Gabriel appears to announce the impending birth of St. John.

**St. John's** symbol is an eagle because his Gospel, St. John “soars” above earthly events to contemplate the Divinity of Christ. His narrative begins with these sublime words: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

The murals were painted by a local artist, Daniel Gerhartz of Kewaskum. They are painted on canvas and attached to the ceiling.

## Medallions above the statues

The medallion above the statues of St. Joseph with Jesus and the Blessed Mother, is a combination of the symbols of the Holy Family. On the top is the Crown of Thorns representing our Lord, in the middle is a rose depicting Mary and on the sides the lilies representing St. Joseph.

The medallion above the statue of St. Charles consists of the symbols of his office as a priest: the chalice and host, the holy scriptures and priestly stole. Both of these medallions were completed by Conrad Schmidt Studios.

The **stenciling** in the Sanctuary consists of the letters HIS which is a monogram of the name of Jesus. HIS is an abbreviation of the Greek translation for Jesus.