

THE WINDOWS OF ST. MARY'S

Here is a quick who's-who in our stained glass windows.

The twenty-eight stained glass windows from the Mayer Studios in Munich were installed in the church in 1902. There are eighteen windows along the north and south walls: in the curve of the apse above the Sanctuary are two windows; on either side of the church front are two full scene windows, six pairs of narrow full length windows and two pairs of smaller windows (choir loft).

From the North front:

(Choir Side)

Mary, The Immaculate Heart

Christ departs from Bethany

St. Cecilia, patroness of the choir

St. Peter, holding the keys to heaven

St. Matthew

St. Simon

St. John

St. Nathaniel-Bartholomew

(in choir loft)

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

St. Margaret of Antioch

From the South front:

(Chapel Side)

Jesus, The Sacred Heart

Christ and the Children

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Jude-Thaddaeus

St. James the Less

St. Andrew

St. James the Great

St. Philip

(in choir loft)

St. Francis of Paola

St. Susanna of Rome

THE HIGH ALTAR

St. Mary's Parish is also known as Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a statue of our patron is found at the top of the High Altar (reredos). Mary's halo is made up of 12 stars. These represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Her left foot is holding down the head of a snake that has an apple in its mouth. This symbolizes Jesus' victory over original sin. The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on December 8th and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The original name of our parish was St. Sebastian Catholic Church. The statue of St. Sebastian is on the left side of crucified Jesus. He was a Roman soldier who secretly helped Christians. Emperor Diocletin ordered him to be killed by archers, but he miraculously recovered. When he later confronted the emperor for his cruelty towards Christians he was beaten to death. Before the 1977 church fire, the statue had three arrows sticking out of the body. If you look closely, you'll notice that the wounds remain. St. Sebastian was a martyr from the early church (257AD) and is the patron saint of archers, athletes and soldiers. His feast day is January 20th.

On the right side of the reredos is St. Theodore Tiro, The "Recruit". He was a Roman soldier and lived sometime during late second and early third century. He was a Christian who refused to worship idols and was burned to death. His feast day is February 17th.

The central image is the Crucifixion of Christ. Mary, his mother and the disciple he loved, John, remained with him until the end. Here Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, behold your son, and to John, "behold your mother". (John 19:27).

Below the feet of the crucified Jesus is the legendary pelican. Medieval people believed that the pelican slew her unreasonably demanding young and then restored them to life with blood taken from her own wounded breast. The pelican symbolizes our redemption from sin through the blood of Jesus.

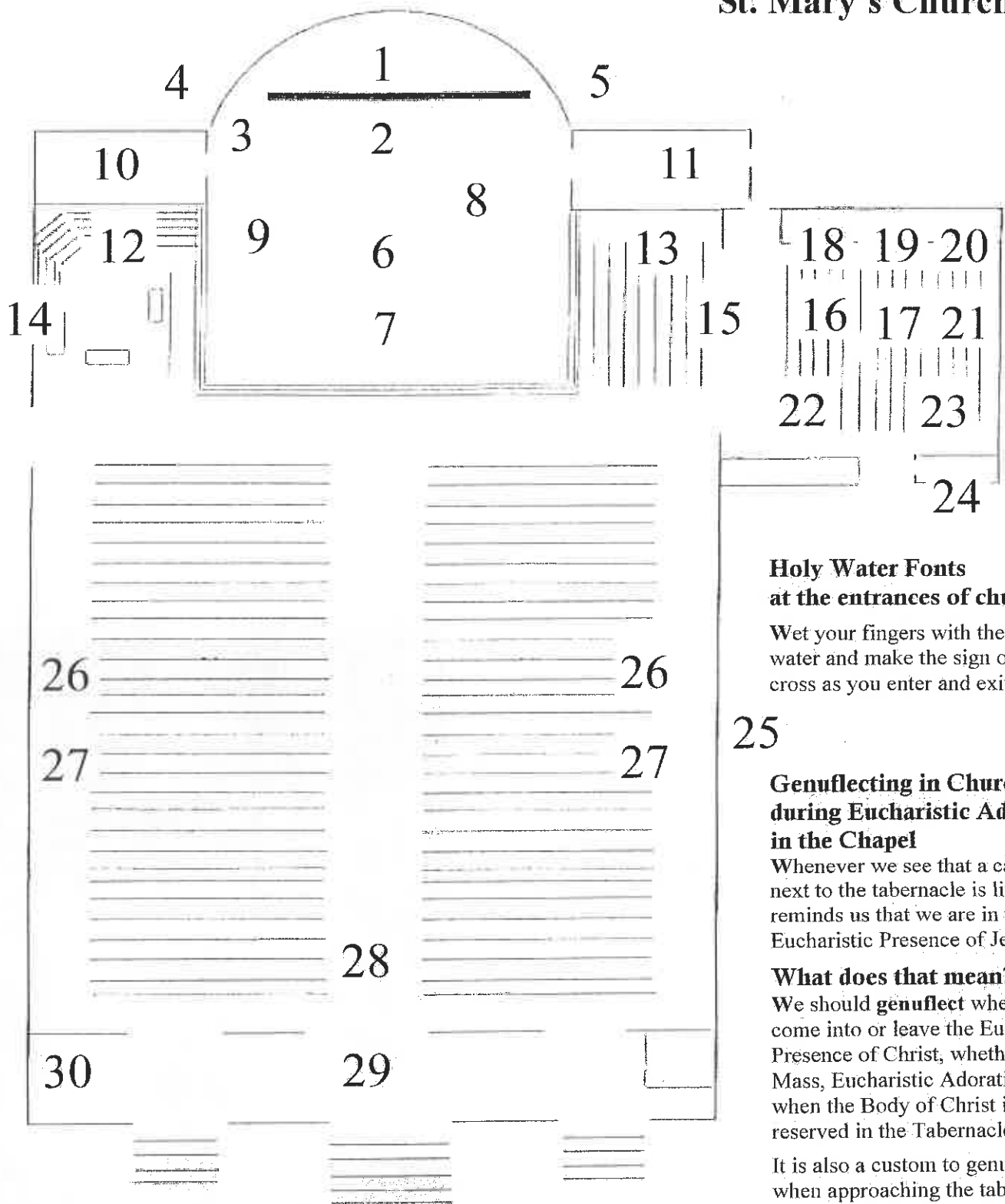
There are three scenes sculpted in the lower section of the reredos. On the left is the sacrifice of Isaac by our father in faith, Abraham. The angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham to prevent him from sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22: 1-19).

The center is a depiction of the Last Supper. The disciple with the small bag in his hand is Judas who handed Jesus over to the authorities for 30 pieces of silver (John 6 and 13/Luke 22/Mark 14/Matthew 26).

The lower right is the priest Melchizedek and Abram giving thanks for the safe return of Lot, nephew of Abram (Genesis 14/Psalm 110/Letter to the Hebrews 5-7).



St. Mary's Church



Holy Water Fonts at the entrances of church:

Wet your fingers with the holy water and make the sign of the cross as you enter and exit church.

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Genuflecting in Church and during Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel

Whenever we see that a candle next to the tabernacle is lit, it reminds us that we are in the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus.

What does that mean?

We should genuflect when we come into or leave the Eucharistic Presence of Christ, whether during Mass, Eucharistic Adoration; or when the Body of Christ is reserved in the Tabernacle.

It is also a custom to genuflect when approaching the tabernacle.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Altar (Reredos) See back of this sheet. 2. Tabernacle containing Consecrated Hosts 3. Candle burning inside Red Sanctuary Lamp 4. Immaculate Heart of Mary Window 5. Sacred Heart of Jesus Window 6. Altar 7. Sanctuary 8. Presider's Chair 9. Lectern 10. Music Room 11. Sacristy (Guided tours available) 12. Small Organ Pipes 13. Holy Family Sculpture 14. Jesus departs from Bethany for Jerusalem 15. Jesus with the Children Window 16. Easter Candle (Paschal Candle) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Good Shepherd/Adoration Chapel 18. Baptismal Font 19. Reconciliation Room 20. Good Shepherd Sculpture 21. Tabernacle/Monstrance for Eucharistic Adoration 22. Blessed Mother Sculpture 23. Holy Water Supply 24. Restroom 25. Old Bells damaged by the fire 26. Stain Glass Windows (See back of this sheet) 27. Stations of the Cross (Booklets available) 28. Choir Loft 29. Vestibule 30. Lower Level (Heim Hall) Restrooms, Bride's Room, Parish Library. |
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Please no eating, drinking, talking on your cell phone or chewing gum inside St. Mary's Church. Also note that the entire parish grounds are designated as a smoke free environment.