

A CHURCH BUILDING IS...

LITURGICAL - IT IS A BUILDING THAT PROVIDES APPROPRIATE AND ENNOBLING PLACES FOR THE LITURGICAL RITES.

SACRAMENTAL - IT IS A BUILDING SET ASIDE FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS.

HOME FOR THE LITURGICAL ELEMENTS - THE ALTAR, AMBO, BAPTISTRY, AND TABERNACLE.

DEVOTIONAL - IT IS A PLACE FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRAYER.

ICONOGRAPHIC AND SYMBOLIC - IT INCORPORATES IMAGERY THAT INSPIRES US AND TEACHES US ABOUT THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS AND SALVATION HISTORY.

SACRED - IT IS A HOLY PLACE IN WHICH WE COME IN CONTACT WITH THE DIVINE.

*QUOTED FROM "THE CHURCH BUILDING AS A SACRED PLACE" BY DUNCAN G. STROIK

OUR PARISH CHURCH IN BRIEF

THE CHURCH IS LOCATED IN LANCASTER'S HISTORIC DISTRICT, IS OF GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE, AND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST OF THIS TYPE IN THE REGION.

THE CHURCH IS APPOINTED WITH FINE WHITE OAK LITURGICAL FURNISHINGS AND WOOD GOTHIC WAINSCOTING PANELS IN THE NAVE SIDE AISLES WITH CONFESSIONAL FRONTISPIECES.

THE CEILING INCLUDES DECORATIVE PAINTING IN A GERMAN GOTHIC AESTHETIC WITH MARIAN FLORAL EMBELLISHMENTS AT THE VAULTING BOSSES AND COLUMN SPANDRELS.

THE SANCTUARY VAULTING IS DONE WITH TRADITIONAL STARS ON A BLUE BACKGROUND WITH THE APSE WALL ORNAMENTED IN A GOLD-PAINTED OUR LADY OF SORROWS AND FLEUR-DE-LIS PATTERN.

9) STATIONS OF THE CROSS: THE STATIONS WERE CRAFTED OF WOOD IN A MODERN STYLE IN OBERAMMERGAU AND ARE DISPLAYED IN GOTHIC FRAMES.

10) BAPTISTRY: THE AREA IMMEDIATELY INSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH CONTAINS A LARGE BAPTISMAL FONT THAT ALLOWS FOR THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS OVER THE BASIC AND FOR ADULTS, KNEELING IN THE POOL. THE FONT IS FLANKED BY THE PASCHAL CANDLE AND THE AMBRY CONTAINING THE HOLY OILS.

11) PIPE ORGAN: OUR PIPE ORGAN (OPUS 2714) BUILT BY AUSTIN ORGANS INC. OF HARTFORD CT., IS A 3 MANUAL INSTRUMENT WITH 35 RANKS OF PIPES, A TOTAL OF 2,093 PIPES.

12) MAIN ENTRANCE: ABOVE THE DOORS OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE ARE FOUND THE JUBILEE PORTAL AND MEMORIAL TO THE DOMINICAN SISTERS. DESCRIPTIONS CAN BE FOUND AROUND THE DOORWAY FOR THESE PIECES CREATED BY ANDREW WILSON SMITH.

13) QUIETING ROOM: CAN BE USED TO HELP QUIET A CHILD DURING MASS

14) VESTRY: WHERE THE CLERGY AND MINISTERS GATHER BEFORE LORD'S DAY MASSES TO PRAY AND PREPARE FOR THE SACRED MYSTERIES.

15) CENTENNIAL MONUMENT: IN THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH, OUTSIDE, THIS 20-TON MONUMENT, CRAFTED OF RARE BARRE GRANITE WAS DONATED BY MR. & MRS. CHRIS THIMMES FOR THE PARISH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN MEMORY OF THEIR TWO CHILDREN WHO DIED DURING THE SPANISH FLU.

CURIOUS ABOUT CATHOLICISM?

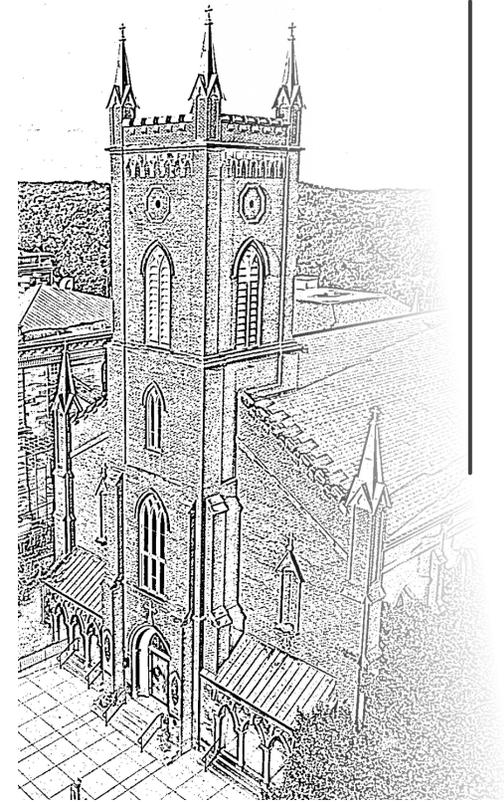
IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC FAITH OF THE CHURCH, AND PERHAPS DISCERN BECOMING CATHOLIC YOURSELF, PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN MCCAULEY AT THE PARISH OFFICE OR EMAIL BMCCAULEY@STMARYLANCASTER.ORG



SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

132 S. HIGH ST. | LANCASTER, OHIO

STMARYLANCASTER.ORG



VISITORS GUIDE

A BRIEF GUIDE TO ST. MARY CHURCH

*For the praise of God and the growth
of Christians in the life of grace*

MASS SCHEDULE

THE LORD'S DAY

SATURDAY 5.30 PM, SUNDAY 8.45 AND 11.15 AM

DAILY MASS

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 7 AM

TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 9 AM

CONFESSION - THE SACRAMENT OF MERCY

SATURDAY 4 - 5 PM AND BY APPOINTMENT

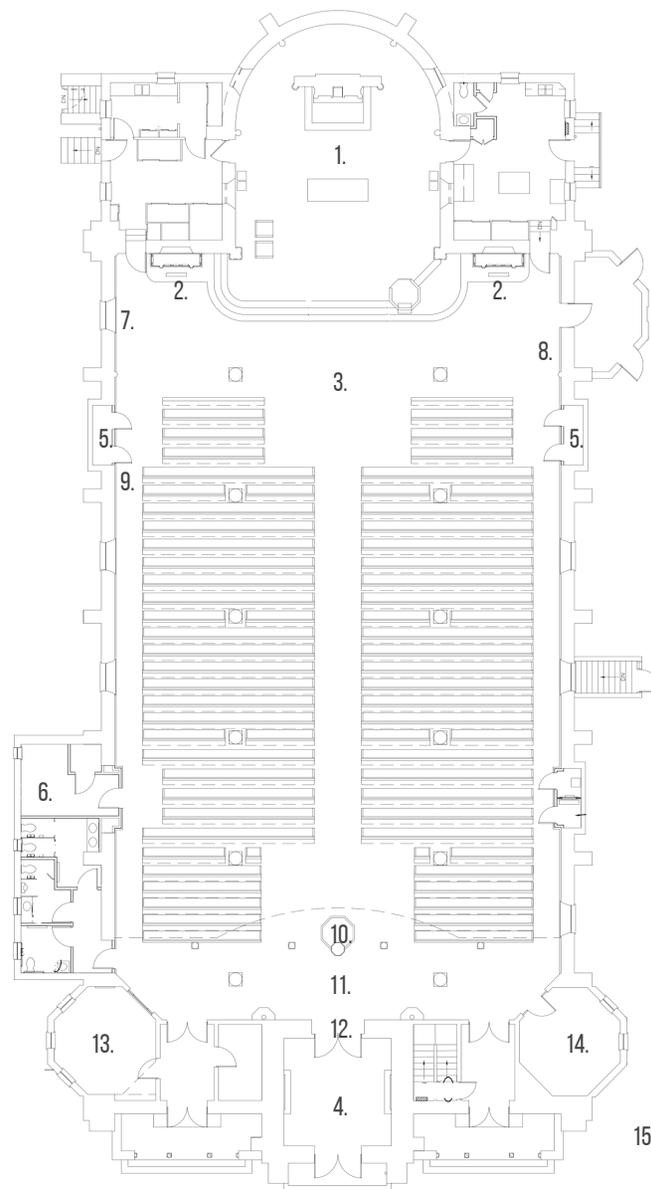
BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

CATHOLICISM GOES BACK TO 1800 WITH SOME OF THE EARLIEST FAMILIES SETTLING IN LANCASTER BEING CATHOLIC. THE FIRST MASS WAS OFFERED ACROSS FROM THE CHURCH AT THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOUNDATION OFFICE IN 1817 BY FR. EDWARD D. FENWICK, O.P, THE "APOSTLE OF OHIO". SOON AFTER, ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION WAS FOUNDED IN THE DIOCESE OF BARDSTOWN AND THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WAS DEDICATED IN 1819 BY FR. NICHOLAS D. YOUNG, O.P.. THE PARISH QUICKLY OUTGREW THE SMALL FRAME BUILDING BY THE CANAL AND SO PROPERLY WAS PURCHASED ATOP MAIN HILL FOR EXPANSION WHERE A SUBSTANTIAL BRICK CHURCH WAS BUILT AND DEDICATED IN 1840. THIS BUILDING SERVED THE PARISH WELL FOR WORSHIP AND FOR A SCHOOL THAT WAS BEGUN IN 1847.

FR. HENRY LANGE BECAME PASTOR IN 1854 AND FOUND THE CHURCH OF THAT DAY INADEQUATE FOR THE STILL RAPIDLY INCREASING CONGREGATION AND SOON HAD WORK BEGUN ON THE 3RD AND PRESENT CHURCH. ON AUGUST 15, 1859, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CINCINNATI, JOHN PURCELL, LAID THE CORNERSTONE. SOON AFTER, THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR BROUGHT DIMINISHED RESOURCES AND HARDSHIPS, BUT WITH THE PERSEVERANCE OF FR. LANGE AND THE PEOPLE OF SAINT MARY, CONSTRUCTION WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED FOR THE ARCHBISHOP TO RETURN AND SOLEMNLY CONSECRATE THE NEW CHURCH ON 5 JUNE 1864.

155 YEARS SINCE HER CONSECRATION, AN EXTENSIVE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS CARRIED OUT IN TIME TO INAUGURATE THE PARISH'S BICENTENNIAL YEAR IN 2019.

TO COMMEMORATE THE PARISH'S BICENTENNIAL, A YEAR OF SPECIAL SACRED LITURGIES, GATHERINGS, AND SOCIAL EVENTS WERE HELD AT BETWEEN AUGUST 2019 - AUGUST 2020.



1) REREDOS AND ALTAR: THE REREDOS HOUSES THE TABERNACLE WHERE JESUS CHRIST IS SACRAMENTALLY PRESENT. ALL THE ARCHITECTURAL LINES OF THE CHURCH DIRECT YOU TO THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE AND CHRIST'S REAL PRESENCE IN THE TABERNACLE. PERHAPS THE GREATEST IMAGE OF OUR PARISH IS THAT OF MARY BEING ASSUMED INTO HEAVENLY GLORY. THE IMAGE WAS PAINTED IN THE RAPHAEL STYLE BY MARY MCCABE DANNER, A DAUGHTER OF THE PARISH, AND INSTALLED IN THE SANCTUARY REREDOS SOON AFTER THE CHURCH'S CONSTRUCTION. BELOW OUR LADY IN CONTEMPLATION, ARE SAINTS AMBROSE, AUGUSTINE, JEROME, AND EPHREM, EARLY CHURCH TEACHERS OF THE MARIAN PRIVLEDGES.

THE SIDE PAINTINGS, BY ARTIST PAUL WYSE OF CLEVELAND, TOGETHER DEPICT THE ANNUNCIATION EVENT BETWEEN GABRIEL AND THE VIRGIN MARY (L.K. 1:26FF), THE MOMENT JESUS TAKES FLESH IN THE INCARNATION.

THE MARBLE ALTAR BELOW, WHICH WEIGHS 2700 LBS, IS WHERE JESUS CONTINUES TO INCARNATE HIMSELF DURING THE MASS UNDER THE APPEARANCE OF BREAD AND WINE. THE ALTAR CONTAINS A RELIC OF JOHN OF THE CROSS.

2) SIDE SHRINES: THE SHRINE TO OUR LADY CONTAINS STATUES OF STS. ROSE OF LIMA AND TERESA OF AVILA AND JOSEPH'S SHRINE CONTAINS THE STATUES OF STS. BONIFACE AND PATRICK, PATRONS OF GERMANY AND IRELAND, THE ETHNICITIES OF THE EARLY PEOPLE OF SAINT MARY PARISH. NOTE THE VAULTING SPANDRELS ABOVE THE FOUR SAINTS WITH THEIR UNIQUE ROSES, FUR BRANCHES AND CLOVERS.

IN THE BASES OF THE SHRINES ARE FOUND ILLUMINATION PIECES PAINTED BY JED GIBBONS OF CHICAGO. VISIT THE SOUTHSIDE CHURCH ENTRANCE TO READ DESCRIPTIONS THAT EXPLAIN THESE SACRED PIECES.

3) CEILING FLORAL EMBELLISHMENTS: AT THE VAULTING BOSSES AND COLUMN SPANDRELS THERE ARE FOUND MARIAN FLOWERS PAINTED. EACH OF THE FLOWERS SPEAKS OF MARY IN SOME WAY. THE FLOWERS ARE ROSES, LILIES, MYRTLE, MARIGOLDS, JACOB'S LADDER, AND IRISES.

4) BELL TOWER: THE CHURCH'S BELL TOWER STANDS 104 FEET TALL AND CONTAINS THREE BELLS NAMED AFTER THE SOCIETIES THAT DONATED THEM: ST. JOSEPH, ST. GEORGE, AND ST. JOHN. THE BELLS RING 10 MINUTES BEFORE LORD'S DAY MASSES TO CALL PEOPLE TO WORSHIP, A TOLLER STRIKES A BELL FOR FUNERALS, AND ALL 3 BELLS ARE PEALD AFTER SPECIAL MASSES.

5, 6) CONFESSIONALS: THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION IS OFFERED EACH SATURDAY FROM 4-5 PM IN NO. 6 WHICH PROVIDES ANONYMOUS OR FACE-TO-FACE CELEBRATION. WHEN SEVERAL PRIESTS ARE HEARING CONFESSIONS, THE FRONT TWO TRADITIONAL CONFESSIONS ARE USED (SEE NO. 5).

7) STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS: THE 12 MAIN WINDOWS WERE CRAFTED IN GERMANY AND INSTALLED IN 1916. THEY DEPICT THE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF MARY AND JESUS. TO FOLLOW THE WINDOWS IN ORDER, BEGIN AT THE FRONT LEFT SIDE WITH THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ALTERNATE SIDES MOVING TOWARD THE BACK OF THE CHURCH TO END AT THE REAR RIGHT WITH THE CORONATION OF MARY AS QUEEN.

8) CONSECRATION CANDLES: THESE 12 CANDLES AROUND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH REPRESENT THE 12 PLACES THE WALLS WERE ANOINTED WITH SACRED CHRISM WHEN THE CHURCH WAS CONSECRATED.