

WHAT IS A BASILICA?

THE WORD BASILICA IS DERIVED FROM A GREEK TERM MEANING "ROYAL HOUSE." IN THE CATHOLIC WORLD, A BASILICA IS A CHURCH BUILDING THAT HAS BEEN ACCORDED SPECIAL PRIVILEGES BY THE PONTIFF. THERE ARE 4 MAJOR BASILICAS LOCATED AROUND ROME. MINOR BASILICAS ARE TRADITIONALLY NAMED BECAUSE OF THEIR ANTIQUITY, DIGNITY, HISTORICAL VALUE, ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC WORTH, AND/OR SIGNIFICANCE AS CENTERS OF WORSHIP.

SINCE DESIGNATION AS A BASILICA INDICATES A SPECIAL BOND WITH THE POPE, THE PARISH MUST CELEBRATE "WITH PARTICULAR CARE" A NUMBER OF FEAST DAYS CONNECTED WITH ST. PETER, STS. PETER AND PAUL, AND THE REIGNING POPE. THREE SIGNS INDICATE A CHURCH TO BE A BASILICA: THE CONOPAEUM, THE TINTINNABULUM, AND A RIGHT TO DISPLAY THE PAPAL SYMBOL - CROSSED KEYS - ON THE PARISH SEAL AND FURNISHINGS.

OUR BASILICA IN BRIEF

THE BASILICA 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) AUSTIN PIPE ORGAN: OUR ORGAN (OPUS 2714), BUILT BY AUSTIN ORGANS INC. OF HARTFORD CT., IS A 3 MANUAL INSTRUMENT WITH 35 RANKS OF 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?

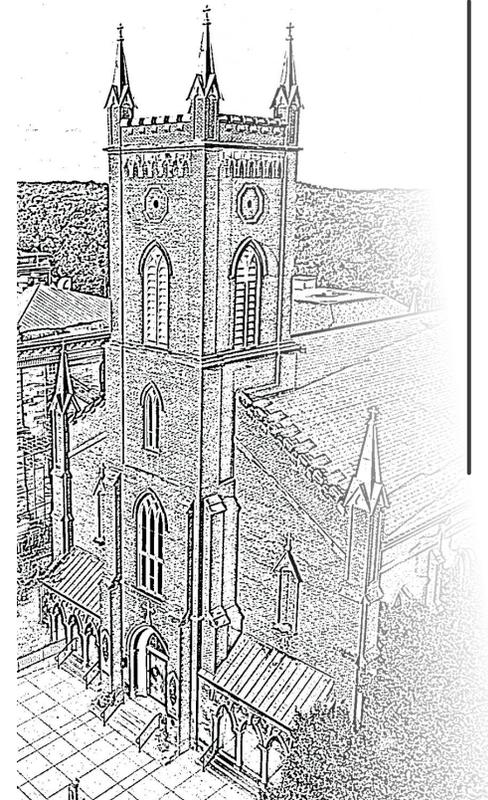
IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC FAITH OF THE CHURCH, AND PERHAPS DISCERN BECOMING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN YOURSELF, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 740.653.0997.



THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

132 S. HIGH ST. | LANCASTER, OHIO

STMARYLANCASTER.ORG



VISITORS GUIDE

A BRIEF & SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE BASILICA

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

MASS SCHEDULE

THE LORD'S DAY

SAT 4.30 PM AND SUNDAY 8.00 AM AND 10.00 AM

DAILY MASS

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 7 AM

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 9 AM

CONFESSION - SACRAMENT OF MERCY

SATURDAY 3-4 PM | BY APPOINTMENT

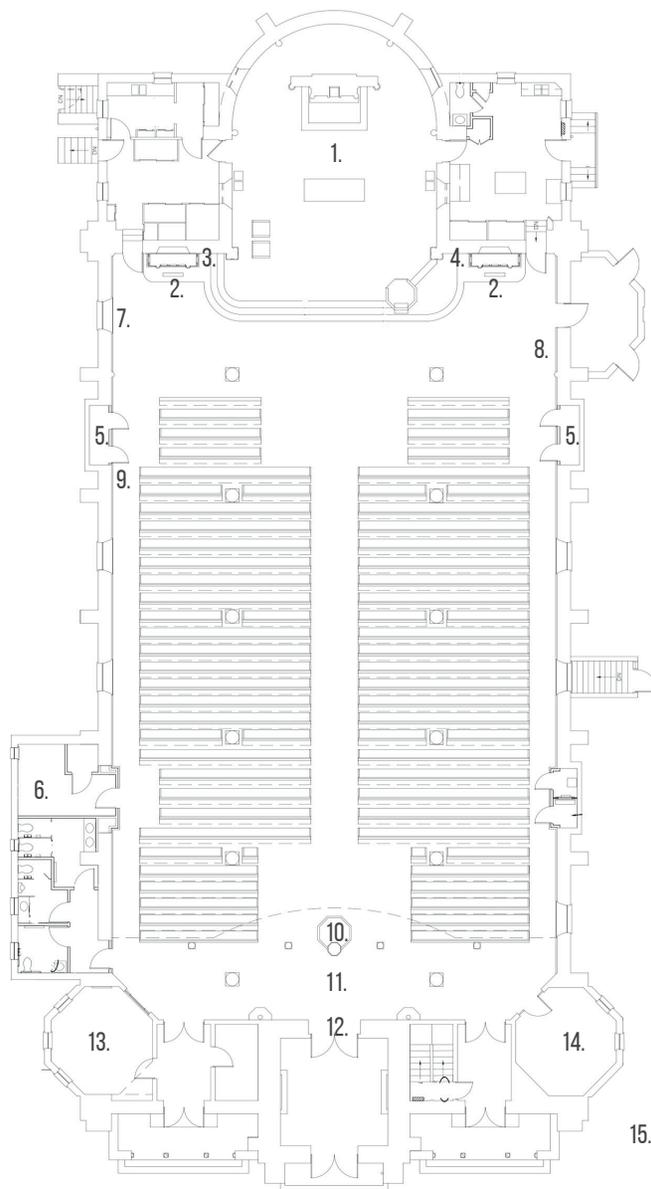
BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

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.

ON 7 JULY 2022, HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, NAMED OUR PARISH CHURCH A MINOR BASILICA, STRENGTHENING THE LANDMARK CHURCH'S TIES TO THE SUPREME PONTIFF AND RECOGNIZING IT AS A PLACE OF LITURGICAL AND ARTISTIC BEAUTY.



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 PRIVILEGES.

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 CATHARINE OF SIENA 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) TINTINNABULUM: A BELL MOUNTED ON A POLE IS PLACED IN A BASILICA TO SIGNIFY THE CHURCH'S LINK WITH THE POPE. DURING THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE, THE TINTINNABULUM WAS USED TO ALERT THE PEOPLE OF ROME OF THE APPROACH OF THE HOLY FATHER DURING PAPAL PROCESSIONS.

4) OMBRELLINO "LITTLE UMBRELLA": IS ANOTHER DISTINCTIVE SYMBOL USED IN BASILICAS. DESIGNED WITH STRIPES OF YELLOW AND RED (TRADITIONAL PAPAL COLORS), THE SILK CANOPY IS A SYMBOL OF THE POPE'S AUTHORITY. DURING THE MIDDLE AGES, THE OMBRELLINO WOULD BE CARRIED ABOVE THE HOLY FATHER DURING PROCESSIONS. ONCE PLACED, THE OMBRELLINO REMAINS PARTIALLY OPEN AS A SYMBOL OF READINESS TO WELCOME THE HOLY FATHER.

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 OIL WHEN THE CHURCH WAS CONSECRATED.