

GUIDE TO THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

HISTORY: In 1838, several years before the establishment of the city of St. Joseph, Fr. Pierre DeSmet visited the fur trading post of Joseph Robidoux, the founding father of the city, and offered Mass in his log cabin. In 1845 Fr. Thomas Scanlan arrived in St. Joseph to establish the first Catholic parish, St. Joseph's Church at 5th and Felix Streets. In 1868 the Diocese of St. Joseph was created, and work began on a cathedral. The cornerstone was laid in 1869, and the first Mass was celebrated on St. Patrick's Day in 1871. The towers were erected in 1900 and rebuilt in 1959. Side altars were added in 1921 and removed in 1970. In 1956 the dioceses of St. Joseph and Kansas City were merged. There was no longer a resident bishop in St. Joseph, and the church was designated a Co-Cathedral. The street-level west entrance was added in 1959, replacing outside steps. A ramp at the northeast entrance was added in 1969. In 1970, following the Second Vatican Council, the sanctuary was brought forward, transept seating was added, and a chapel for weekday Mass was added at the east end, where the high altar had been. In 1995 the interior was completely redecorated, adding marble in the center aisle, a low wall separating the sanctuary from the daily chapel, and stained glass windows in the upper vestibule. In 2014, the Tabernacle and the marble statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph were moved to their present locations.

OUTSIDE: *St. Joseph Grotto:* At the southwest corner, facing Tenth Street. The statue is from the former St. Joseph's Hospital. *Mary's Garden:* Near the southeast entrance. *Towers:* Original towers were replaced with pyramids in 1959. The south tower houses a bell, named "Joseph", cast in 1877 by the Buckeye Bell Foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its inscription reads: "Joseph thou shalt be over my house and at the commandments of thy mouth all the people shall obey" (Genesis 41)

TENTH STREET ENTRANCE: *Art Glass Insets* in the wooden doors illustrate the life of St. Joseph.

UPPER VESTIBULE: *Ten Stained Glass Windows:* Installed in 1995. Seven of the windows were originally in the chapel of the Benedictine Sisters' convent, south of the Cathedral School. Plaques on the west wall explain the symbols and list the donors. *Icons* of St. Joseph, St. Anne, (outer vestibule) and the archangels Gabriel and Michael (inner vestibule) are hung on the east walls.

NORTH ALCOVE: A crucifix from Immaculate Conception Church, Montrose, Missouri, and a *Pietà*,+ a wood carving of Mary holding the body of Jesus after his death.

A stairway leads to the choir loft.

CHOIR LOFT: The *McKenny Memorial Organ* was installed in 1929 by the Kilgen Organ Company of St. Louis, and expanded several times since. It contains 24 ranks of pipes, distributed over two manuals and pedals.

WEST NAVE: SOUTHWEST CORNER: *Baptismal Font* with the *Paschal Candle*, symbolic of Christ, and the *Ambry*, the repository for the holy oils consecrated by the bishop each year at the Chrism Mass. A statue of St. Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower). *Reconciliation Room*, used for celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. Formerly used as the baptistery (notice the baptismal symbols on the west wall).

NORTHWEST CORNER: *Sacred Heart Shrine.* A statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague is nearby.

CENTRAL NAVE: *Aisle and Columns:* As one enters the nave, one's attention is immediately drawn to the beautiful *Oberammergau crucifix* which hangs over the tabernacle. It accentuates the *Altar*, the Christ symbol around which we gather.

The red background of the cross has been repeated on the blocks above the *Twelve Columns* which support the roof. Red is the royal color; it is the liturgical color of Christ's Passion and martyrs and Pentecost. The twelve columns crowned with red symbolize the twelve apostles.

The columns stand on blocks which have been marbleized to repeat the marble top (mensa) of the altar. This same marble has been repeated in the

Pulpit (ambo), the *Base* for the tabernacle, and the *Basin* for the baptismal font.

There are *Six Crosses* proceeding up the marble *Processional Aisle*. The first five crosses are each surrounded by four white rectangles, repeating the Christ with Evangelists motif. The sixth cross immediately in front of the sanctuary platform is surrounded by twelve squares, repeating the symbolism of the Oberammergau crucifix and the twelve columns. The crucifix is the seventh cross in a line of crosses bisecting the Cathedral. Seven and twelve are the numbers of fulfillment.

The overall color scheme is meant to be of more than just decorative significance. *Blue Ceilings* and fields of *Gold Stars* were used in many churches throughout history to symbolize the spiritual realm. This device has been revived here with the stars clustering over the altar platform. Gold, which was used for the stars and as accents around the Cathedral, is considered the Divine color.

Stations of the Cross: Painted copper plates from the Daprato studio, Paris, in 1933. They are copies from the original of the Redemptorist Brother Schmalzl, cleaned in 1995 to restore the original colors. *Wall Crosses:* Twelve crosses with candle holders, found in consecrated churches (bearing the date 1869, when the cornerstone was laid). Installed after the solemn dedication (consecration) of the church on February 9, 1975.

Stained Glass Windows: Installed around 1912. The symbols at the top of the north transept window (l-r): Palms, Cross, and Crown—Host and Chalice—Pelican (symbol of the Eucharist)—Miter and Crossed Keys (Papal authority)—Tablets with the Ten Commandments. The symbols at the top of the south transept window (l-r): Cross, Anchor, and Heart (Faith, Hope, and Charity)—Dove (Holy Spirit)—Book with Alpha and Omega (Jesus, the Beginning and the End)—Lamb, Banner and Seven Seals (from Revelation 5)—Hammer, nails, Spear, and Sponge (Instruments of the Passion).

SANCTUARY: The *Altar* was installed in 1940 against the east wall, shortened and brought

forward in 1970. The *Altar Stone* contains a relic of St. Theophane Venard (1829-1861), a French missionary priest who was martyred in Annam (present-day Vietnam) and canonized in 1988. The *Tabernacle* is placed behind the Altar. The A (*Alpha*) and \Omega (*Omega*) are found on blocks along its base, and on its door. These first and last letters of the Greek alphabet are frequently used as a symbol for the eternal God. On either side of the Tabernacle are marble *Angels* in attitudes of adoration. These suggest the Ark of the Covenant and signify the special nature of this holy space.

A bronze *Vigil Lamp* stands nearby, whose burning candle alerts us to the sacramental presence of Christ. Centered under the burning candle are the Greek letters X P superimposed (*Chi Rho*), another symbol for Christ. Flanking the Christ symbol are two peacocks, an ancient Christian symbol of resurrection and immortality.

The *Cathedra* (Bishop's chair) and *Presider's Chair* flanking the Altar, north and south respectively, were installed in 2014. The *Coat of Arms* of the Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is displayed on the back of the *Cathedra*.

Marian Shrine (southeast corner): On the wall behind is a *Mural* depicting a bit of the western Missouri landscape. The *Sunflower*, so much a part of the late summer and fall landscapes in this part of the country, is said to follow the sun as it moves across the sky, just as the faithful Christian follows Christ through life. At the top of the scene a white *Dove* hovers, symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

St. Joseph Shrine (northeast corner): Using an altar from the former Convent of the Sacred Heart, with the Latin inscription *Ite Ad Joseph* (Go to Joseph).

The *Ambo* was installed in 1970. Its front wood carving features the Four Living Creatures (man, lion, ox, and eagle, from Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4), traditionally associated with the four Evangelists. These symbols are also at the four corners of the suspended crucifix.

A six-foot Baldwin *Grand Piano* in the south transept was donated in 1998.

MASS SCHEDULE

For the Sunday Obligation:

Saturday—4:00 p.m.

Sunday—8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.—8:00 a.m.

Wednesday—6:00 p.m.



Cathedral of St. Joseph

519 North 10th Street

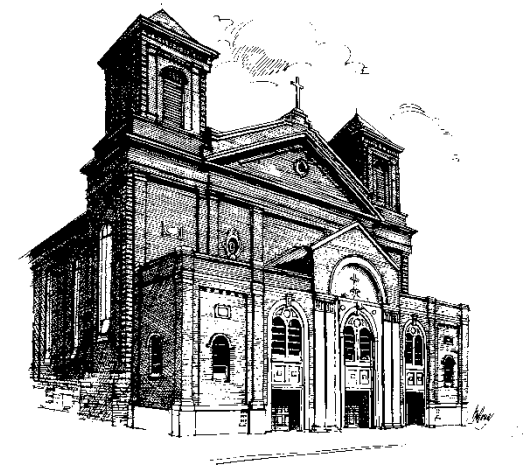
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-1896

(816) 232-7763

www.cathedralsj.org

6/2017

GUIDE TO THE CATHEDRAL OF



SAINT JOSEPH