

STOP --I-- IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHURCHA) ARCHITECTURE:

1. This is Romanesque style. The arches are half circle.
2. All the lines of the arches throughout the church have a way of directing your attention to the high altar, the center of worship.

B) STAINED GLASS WINDOWS:

1. Windows in the nave of the church are of the same style as the architecture.
 - a) Up above on the clearstory you find, to the north, the pictures of St. Boniface, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Theresa.
 - b) On the south side there are pictures of St. Patrick, St. Agatha, and St. Agnes.
2. The windows on the outside walls explain the seven sacraments of the church. These will be explained at (Stop- 4) on your tour.
3. The small windows above the four confessionals express the themes of love, mercy, and forgiveness.
4. Another small window, the rose window, behind the organ, pictures of St. Cecelia, the Patroness of Music.
5. Up to the front on the north side is the Holy Family, - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. On the south side you see Christ blessing the little children.
6. The windows by the High Altar will be explained at (Stop- 3)

C) PAINTINGS:

1. Up on the ceiling, above the communion rail, you see a painting of Christ, the Alpha and Omega, with Mary and St. John the Baptist.
2. On the wall to the north above the exit is a painting of St. Francis of Assisi receiving the "stigmata" - five wounds impressed on his hands, feet, and side.
3. Opposite this on the south wall above the exit, is the painting of St. Francis and the two Third Order Patrons, namely -- St. Louis of France and St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

D) ORGAN:

Looking back, you will see the choir loft. Also is the Wick organ, a large powerful pipe - organ.

STOP --II-- AT THE COMMUNION RAILA) VESTMENTS:

- 1) The priest wears the following vestments at Holy Mass: Amice, alb, cincture, maniple, stole, and chasuble.
 - a) The amice is made of white linen, almost square in form, with two strings at the ends.
 - b) The alb is the long white garment worn underneath the chasuble.
 - c) The cincture or cord is used as a belt.
 - d) The maniple is a small arm band with strips of material hanging down.
 - e) The stole is worn around the neck, crossed in front of the priest.

f) The chasuble is worn as the outer garment.

2) ----- COLORS OF VESTMENTS:

- a) The white is for feasts of our Lord, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Confessors, and Virgins.
 - b) The red colors are for the Holy Spirit, the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Martyrs.
 - c) The green is used for the season of hope, Pentecost season, and after Epiphany.
 - d) The purple color is used to express sorrow and penance. It is used during Advent and Lent.
 - e) The black color is used for the funerals and other Masses of the dead.
 - f) The gold and silver vestments are used on festive occasions.
- 3) At some functions the priest uses a surplice and stole only. At other times he wears a cope as an outer garment. The colors correspond to those of the Mass vestments.

B)1- CHALICE:

- a) It is the gold plated cup which contains the Blood of Christ.
 - b) The - purificator - is draped over it.
 - c) Over the chalice is the golden paten. On it rests the large host or wafer of bread to become the Body of Christ.
 - d) Covering the paten is a pall or stiff linen cloth. The pall covers the chalice during the sacred part of the Mass.
 - e) The chalice veil drapes over all of this. It is of the same material and color as the Mass vestments.
 - f) The burse is a pocket or purse which contains the corporal.
 - g) The corporal is a white linen cloth, square in form, which is spread on the altar, and on which the chalice and other things stand during the Mass.
- 2- CIBORIUM:
This is the golden vessel which contains the small communion hosts or wafers.
- 3- MONSTRANCE:
This is the big show- piece which contains the consecrated Host for public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

STOP - III - IN THE SANCTUARY

a) - ALTARS:

- 1) We have an altar of sacrifice on which the Liturgy of the Eucharist or the Holy Mass is offered.
- 2) It's furnishings are simple, namely:

a)	altar stone	d)	candles
b)	linen cloths	e)	the missal
c)	crucifix	f)	the water and wine cruetts.
- 3) The high altar, which has the tabernacle is used for reserving the Blessed Sacrament.
 - a) It is hand carved.
 - b) On it are several statues of Saints, and mounted above is the Crucifixion Scene.

4) The two side altars can also serve as altars of sacrifice.

B) LECTURNS OR PULPITS:

- 1) The one to the north is used by the deacon and priest at Mass.
- 2) The one to the south is used by the commentator and lector at Mass.

C) OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 1) To the north we see the Oratory, used by the Fathers for chanting their Divine Office.
- 2) To the south we see the Sacristy, where the priests vest for the sacred functions.
- 3) Glance up and you will see stained glass windows.
 - a) To the north and your left, is St. Elizabeth and the beggar; - to the north and your right is St. Clare of Assisi, receiving her habit.
 - b) To the south and your left you see St. Pashal Baylon worshipping before the Blessed Eucharist. To the south, and your right, you see St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas conversing.

STOP --IV-- AT THE SOUTH EXIT:

A) SEVEN SACRAMENTS:

- 1) The first window demonstrates the sacrament of Baptism. The method of Baptism used now, is pouring. More of this will be explained at the Baptistry-(Stop-7)
- 2) The second window is concerned with the Sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament is given by the Bishop when he imposes his hand, anoints the forehead with Holy Chrism.
- 3) The third window shows someone receiving Holy Communion. It shows the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. The symbol below shows the grapes and chalice of wine with the wheat and bread.
- 4) The fourth window gives an idea of the Sacrament of Penance or Confession. There you see a priest hearing confession of a sinner. At (Stop-5) you will view the confessional.
- 5) The fifth window shows a dying person receiving the Sacrament of Extreme Unction or now known as the Anointing of the Sick. Through the anointing with oil and the prayer of the priest, the sick person can get well.
- 6) The sixth window, shows the young man receiving the powers of the Catholic Priesthood from the Bishop, who imposes hands on his head. This sacrament is called -- Holy Orders. - There are various steps to the priesthood and hence the plural name Holy Orders.
- 7) The seventh window shows the beautiful and sacred wedding ceremony, called the --Sacrament of Matrimony-- It is performed before the altar in the presence of the priest and two witnesses.
- 8) There are only seven sacraments and so this last window shows the stain of Lamb of God, -Christ- from whom gushes forth the seven streams of divine life. The seven streams of divine life are the seven sacraments. These sacraments have been entrusted by Christ to his church; and this is indicated by the two persons, the Pope, and the Bishop.

STOP - V - AT THE CONFSSIONAL:

a) --- CONFSSIONAL:

1) This confessional is hand carved and constructed with three compartments. The two side compartments for the penitents. The penitents kneel and confess their sins in a whisper to the priest, through this grill-work or grating.

2) The middle compartment is for the priest or confessor. He sits and leans toward the penitent confessing his sins, and answers him in a whisper. The priest may act as an instructor, advisor, or counsellor, and as a judge. In the final role of judge, he pronounces the sinner forgiven when he says -- "I ABSOLVE YOU OF YOUR SINS, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. AMEN."

b) --- HEARING AID:

Some confessionals are equipped with various kinds of hearing aids. This is done so that the penitent, who is hard of hearing, need not make his confession so loud that it would actually be heard by those standing nearby. Remember this is a private and secret confession.

c) --- POWER TO FORGIVE SINS:

The priest has received this power to forgive sins when he was ordained a priest. This power was given first to the Apostles on Easter evening as related in the GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN -- 20, 19 to 23 -- "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." The Apostles handed this power down to their successors, who in turn have handed it down to the present day priests.

STOP VI SOUTH OF THE VESTIBULE:

VARIOUS THINGS USED IN SACRED FUNCTIONS--

a) Processional Cross.

b) Censer and incense.

1) The censer contains the live charcoal for the fire.

2) The incense is made of aromatic herbs, residues, gums and resins that is burned in the censer as an act of worship to God.

3) Holy Water and the sprinkler or aspergile are used in various blessings, both private and public. The familiar public blessing of the people, is the "Asperges Me" or the "Vidi Aquam" - before the main Mass on Sundays. People use holy water with which to bless themselves. They also use it in their homes.

4) Canopy:

This is the umbrella carried over the priest in public procession with the Blessed Sacrament. This one has four poles or shafts and is carried by four men or boys.

5) Holy Oils:

a) The Oil of the infirm or sick, marked as "O. I." It is used in the Last Rites in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick.

b) The Oil of Catechumens is marked as "O. C" or "O. S." It is used in the Sacrament of Baptism.

c) The Oil of Christm or Holy Christm is marked as "S. Ch." It is used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

STOP --VII-- THE BAPTISTRY:

BAPTISTRY:

A) This is the place where the Sacrament of Baptism is solemnly administered by the priest.

1) The font is simply a divided basin. The one for the Baptismal water, and the other for catching the water as it flows from the child, or person baptized.

2) In the solemn baptism, the priest will use two kinds of sacred oils, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Holy Chrism.

a) --The oil of catechumens is used before the actual baptism. The child is anointed on the breast and between the shoulders in the form of a cross.

b) --The Holy Chrism is used after the actual Baptism. The child is anointed with Holy Chrism over the crown of the head in the form of a cross.

3) Blessed salt- is used as a symbol of wisdom. Reference is made to the christians who were to be the "salt of the earth".

4) A white garment- is used as a symbol of the wedding garment of grace.

5) The lighted candle is used as a symbol, also of the new life of grace, which should be in the soul at the time of death when the bridegroom calls us to heaven to His heavenly banquet.

B) - THREE WAYS TO BAPTIZE:

1) By the method of pouring - we generally use this method.

2) By the method of immersing the person. This method has been used in various churches in times past, in Europe.

3) By the method of sprinkling -- This way is not used by catholics.

C) Private Baptism is and can be given by anyone in an emergency, because we believe in the necessity of Baptism for all, infants, and adults. This power to Baptize rests with everyone.

STOP - VIII - - AT THE FIFTH STATION

A) WAY OF THE CROSS - OR STATIONS :

The fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross, is a devotion that christians have practiced for many centuries. It is their way of recalling the sufferings and death of Christ on the cross.

B) THE STATION --V-- We have before us, is called - "Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross". This station, and many others have a basis in Holy Scripture itself. Others are more or less traditional stops along the Way to Mount Calvary, outside of Jerusalem.

C) The stations are arranged here, starting at your right and run along the north wall, then continue along the south wall.

D) Similar in nature to the fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross - are the seven Sorrowful Mother Stations.

- 1) The pictures for these, hang on the pillars on the inside of the church starting on the north side with four stations and ending with three on the south side.
- 2) These - SEVEN STATIONS - recall the seven most sorrowful events in Mary's life.
- 3) We have the Sorrowful Mother Novena in the church each Friday.

STOP -- IX -- AT THE NORTH EXIT;

RELICS AND STATUES:

a) RELICS OF SAINTS:

- 1) Relics are things that have been closely connected with the Saints, for example -- clothing.
- 2) Many of the good relics are actually chips of the bones of their bodies. Looking at some of these, you can see the piece of bone. This is verified by official documents accompanying the relic. One of these says "ex ossibus", which means from the - bones of that Saint.

b) STATUES:

- 1) The main ones here, are the Blessed Mother Statue on the side altar to the north. The St. Joseph Statue on the south side altar - The statue of St. Francis of Assisi on the north niche, and the statue of St. Anthony of Padua on the south niche.
- 2) Other statues, are the Infant Jesus of Prague, in this glass encasement. The replica of the Pieta, on the south side in the church, and those on the high altar or main altar.
 - a) To the north side of the tabernacle is St. Boniface, and to the south of the tabernacle, is St. Patrick.
 - b) Above the high altar is the Crucifixion scene with Christ on the Cross, Mary, His mother to the north, and John, the beloved Apostle on the south.
- 3) Like statues and pictures of famous persons and heroes, these statues, give us inspiration and help us think of the great religious heroes and heroines.

4) NOT IDOLATRY:

We do not worship these statues or relics, nor do we worship the saints, they recall to mind. We simply honor these saints and ask them to plead our case with God.

NOTE WELL

There are many questions that must be left unanswered on this tour, because of the lack of time needed to answer these. May we suggest that you ask them, down in the hall, of one of the Fathers or Priests.
 Maybe you have so many questions, that you would wish a complete explanation. For this, we would suggest bringing your questions to our weekly Inquiry Class, held on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 P.M. - in our inquiry room.

The tour continues:--

NEXT STOP - IS THE SISTERS CONVENT

THEN--OUR SCHOOL

FINALLY - DOWN TO THE PARISH HALL FOR REFRESHMENTS.

We hope you have enjoyed this tour -- MAY GOD BLESS YOU.