



THE CHRONICLE

OF SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH



“Behold, I am making
all things new.”

~Revelation 21:5

*A new sanctuary and a new tabernacle
offer new hope in a year of Eucharistic Revival.*

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Dear Parishioners & Friends...

The reason for publishing a biannual edition of *The Chronicle* is to provide all parishioners with a regular account of both the ordinary and extraordinary things that take place in Saint Paul of the Cross Parish.

While the current magazine contains our regular features such as recent parish activities, ministries and the listing of those who have received special Sacraments in recent months, this edition also focuses in on two extraordinary initiatives that we have been engaged in for some time now: the interior restoration of Saint Anne Church and dedication of our new Tabernacle; and our parish's participation in the National Eucharistic Revival, sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of the United States.

The first year of the Revival began in June, 2022 with planning on the diocesan level, and now we find ourselves in the second year. This phase is intended to foster love for the Holy Eucharist in parishes. To that end, all parishes in the country are being called upon to plan events that promote belief in and devotion to the Real Presence of Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

Therefore, this edition of *The Chronicle* is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist, its meaning in our lives, and the place where it is celebrated, namely, our parish church. It is my hope that the articles contained herein, and especially the description of the sacred symbols found in Saint Anne Church, will lead everyone to a deeper appreciation of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, Who ultimately is our reason for being.

Sincerely,



Father Mike



Fr. Michael A. Caridi
Pastor

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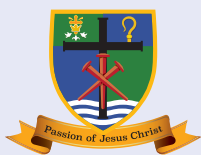
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The Chronicle of Saint Paul of the Cross Parish is designed by Ed Macko and printed at Knepper Press

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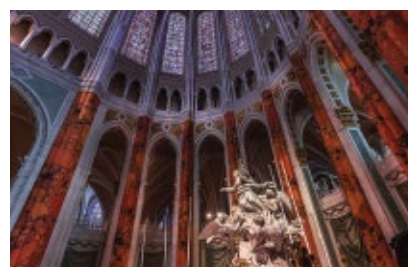
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The Life of a Saint

POPE SAINT PIUS X

THE POPE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST by Tom McNulty



If you received your First Holy Communion when you reached the age of reason – about seven years old – you can thank Pope Saint Pius X for the privilege.

Pope Saint Pius X lowered the age for First Communion from age 14 or older, typical in the 19th century, to just seven years old. He also encouraged the daily reception of the Holy Eucharist, if possible, as long as the faithful remained in a state of sanctifying grace.

For these things, and many others, Giuseppe Sarto, the future Pope Saint Pius X became the first pope in 400 years to be declared a canonized saint in 1954.

Pope Saint Pius X reigned from 1903 to 1914 and died on the very eve of the First World War – some say of a broken heart. For he saw clearly that the nations were falling away from the true faith of the Catholic Church and refused “to restore all things in Christ” – Pope Saint Pius X’s motto.



He also fought heresies emerging in the Church in the early part of the century through a series of encyclicals and exhortations. He dubbed these pernicious errors “the synthesis of all heresies.” As theologian Msgr. Joseph Fenton wrote, “Pope Saint Pius X was acutely conscious of the fact that many influential Catholics were teaching or encouraging erroneous doctrines opposed to the divinely revealed Catholic message long after those erroneous doctrines had been pointed out and condemned by the highest teaching authority within the Church.”

The “Modernist Heresy” led G.K. Chesterton to observe that “The most horrible of all religions is the religion of the god within. When Mr. Jones says that he is talking to the god within, all that Mr. Jones is doing is talking to Mr. Jones.”

In many ways, Pope Saint Pius X’s roots were always as a humble country priest. He was not at first a distinguished theologian, nor a globetrotting diplomat, but had a pastor’s heart with a deep love for the simple, devout people in his parish. Even when he was made a bishop, he would visit every parish in his diocese, traveling on a donkey. Eventually he was made a cardinal over the see of Venice and in 1903 was elected Pope. It is said he was in tears when he was elected, for in his humility he was crushed by the enormity of the responsibility and threats facing the Church from without and within.

As the Church in America seeks to rekindle a deep love for the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the most holy Eucharist in this year of Eucharistic Revival, let us invoke the intercession of this great Pope of the Holy Eucharist: Pope Saint Pius X. 🔥

Do you want to help Pittsburgh Moms?



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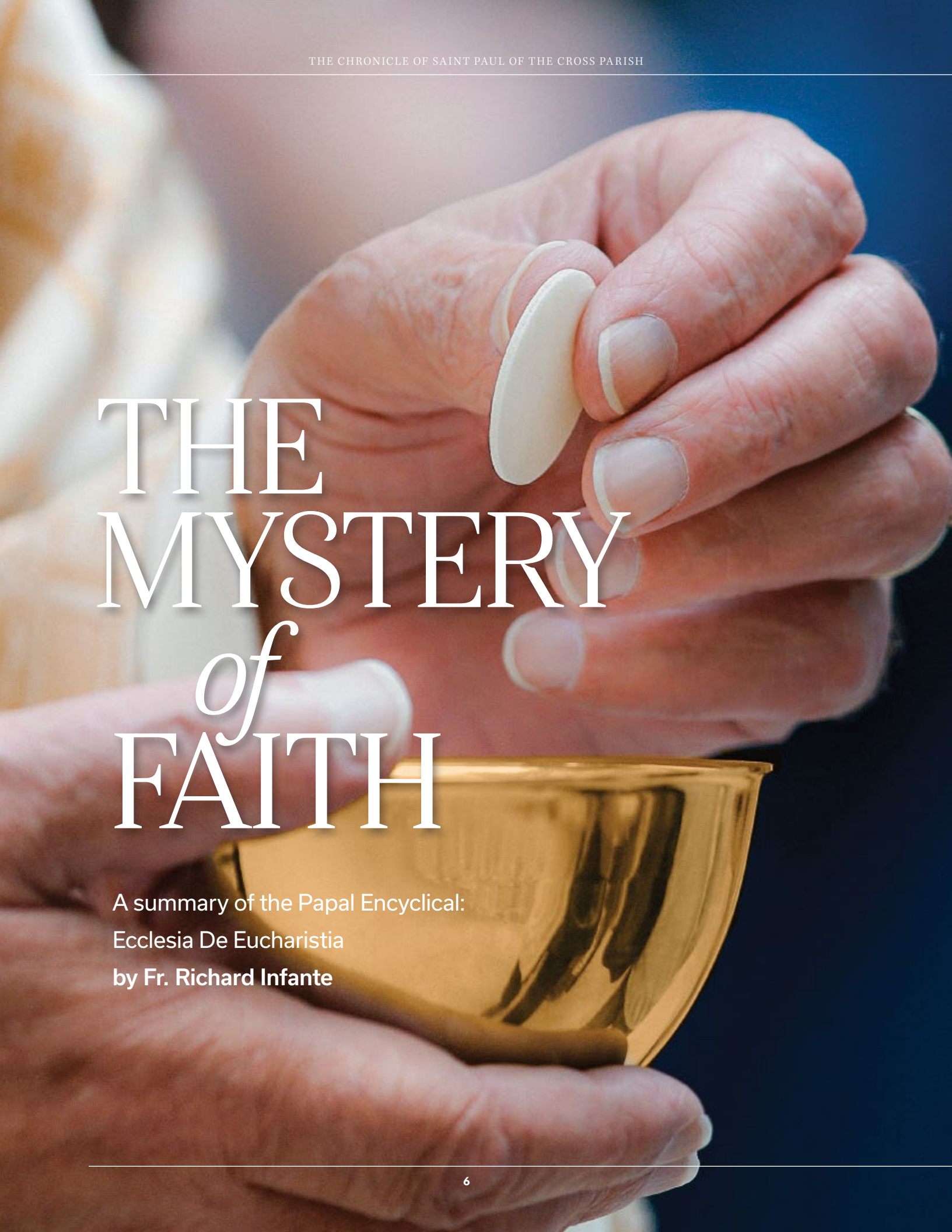
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THE MYSTERY *of* FAITH

A summary of the Papal Encyclical:
Ecclesia De Eucharistia
by Fr. Richard Infante

Ecclesia De Eucharistia

ON THE EUCHARIST IN ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

With the National Conference of Catholic Bishops calling on all Catholics to engage in a couple of years of Eucharistic Revival from June, 2022 to July, 2024, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the most recent papal teaching on the Eucharist. On Holy Thursday, April 17, 2003, Pope Saint John Paul II promulgated his encyclical letter entitled *Ecclesia De Eucharistia* (*On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church*) in preparation for the Year of the Eucharist, from 2004 to 2005. As you may know, an encyclical is the most authoritative form of papal teaching. In this encyclical, the Pope set forth concisely the received Catholic teaching on the Eucharist in relation to the



Church. Only three years after the Great Jubilee celebration in 2000 A.D., with its Eucharistic focus, Pope Saint John Paul II returned to the “mystery of faith” because this sacrament re-presents for us, today, the Paschal Mystery of Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection, i.e., the central mystery of our faith. The encyclical is divided into six chapters.

Chapter One is entitled “The Mystery of Faith,” and explains that to insure the saving effect of His death and resurrection, Jesus instituted the Eucharist as a sacramental means of our sharing in His Paschal Mystery, here and now, as if we had been present in Jerusalem at the Last Supper with the apostles. “Jesus did not simply state that what He was giving them to eat and

drink was His Body and His Blood; he also expressed its sacrificial meaning and made sacramentally present His sacrifice, which would soon be offered on the cross for the salvation of all,” (paragraph 12). Once we realize that we come together in the Eucharist to actually participate in the Lord’s death and resurrection, we begin to understand that our responsibility increases for the people and for the world.

Chapter Two, entitled “The Eucharist Builds the Church,” teaches that the Body of Christ is continually renewed and consolidated each time we celebrate and receive the Eucharist faithfully. The Pope further extols the practice of Eucharistic Adoration to deepen our respect and worship of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Chapter Three, entitled “The Apostolicity of the Eucharist and of the Church,” reminds us that the Eucharist, which builds the Church, has its foundation in the apostles to whom Jesus entrusted the sacrament, and their successors. With the Eucharist, Christ also instituted the Priesthood on Holy Thursday to perpetuate and effect the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Chapter Four is entitled “The Eucharist and Ecclesial Communion,” and demonstrates that our participation in the Eucharist is a sign of realized community. “The profound relationship between the invisible and the visible elements of ecclesial communion is constitutive of the Church as the sacrament of salvation,” (paragraph 35). Therefore, we must be spiritually disposed to receive the Eucharist worthily, and in union with the pope, the bishops, and the Church in apostolic succession.

Chapter Five, entitled “The Dignity of the Eucharistic Celebration,” reminds all Catholics of the solemn context of the Mass and warns against abuses or unlawful adaptations that minimize this great sacramental mystery entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ.

Chapter Six, entitled “At the School of Mary, ‘Woman of the Eucharist,’” teaches us that we should approach the Eucharist with the depth of faith that the Blessed Mother exhibited at the foot of the cross on Calvary.

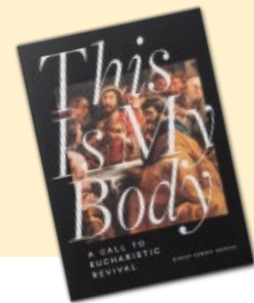
Pope Saint John Paul II concluded this encyclical letter with a personal testimony about the meaning of the Eucharist in his own life as he celebrated the paschal mystery “from the altar of the world.” 🔥

The source and summit of our Catholic faith.

A staggering 2/3 of all Catholics no longer believe that Eucharist they receive at Mass is the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of our Lord. Instead, they believe it to be merely a symbol of His sacrifice.

This Is My Body, a book from Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, explains in detail the fallacy of this false belief.

In this second Year of Eucharistic Revival, it is a book every Catholic should read.



The Catholic Men's Fellowship has a limited number of these books available at no cost. Or you may purchase directly from the Word on Fire website for just \$2.

The hope of this article summarizing the recent encyclical on the Eucharist is to inspire the reader with the Eucharistic vision and devotion of one of the greatest popes and saints of the Church in the modern era as we seek to revive the love of the Eucharist in our day. The beautiful restoration of Saint Anne Church further highlights the splendor of this house of God where we gather to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection and receive the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus.



Read the Entire Papal Encyclical
<https://tinyurl.com/4yvmkz8f>

I have loved, O Lord,
the beauty of thy house;
and the place where
thy glory dwelleth.

~Psalm 26:8

Story by Andrew Barnhart

Photo: *The stunning Chartres Cathedral, also known as the Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres, is located about 50 miles southwest of Paris, in Chartres, France.*

In the heart of every person is a yearning for the things of God, indeed, the things of Heaven. The psalmist captures the essence of who God has created us to be.

We are meant to seek and to find the living God who dwells in our midst – in the confines of our churches. From the grandest cathedrals of the world to the simplest of spaces, the Lord makes his home among his people and we encounter Him within the beauty of our places of worship.

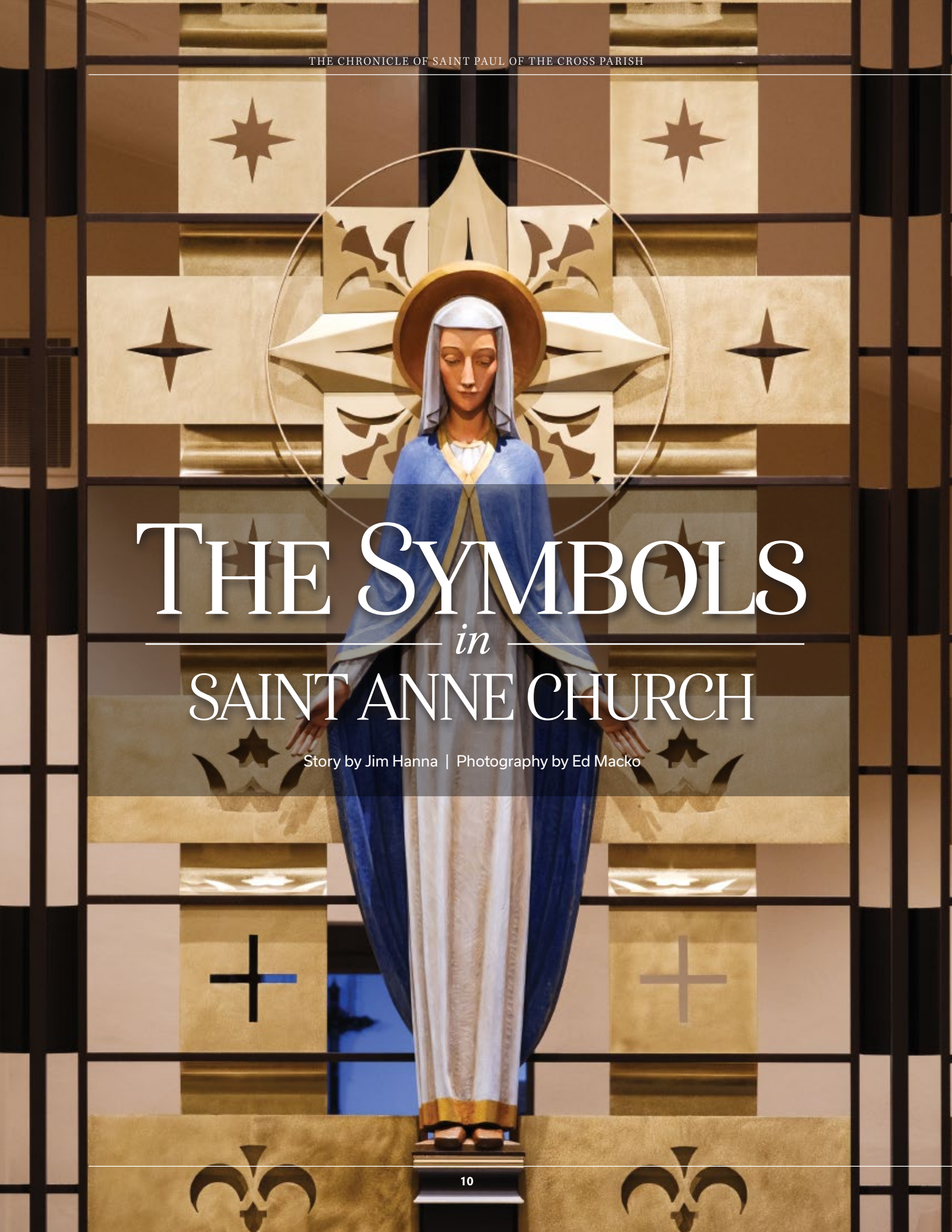
These beautiful church buildings enable us to relate to God in a tangible, human way. Just as the Holy Mass itself engages our senses, so too does the glimmering beauty of a church draw our hearts and minds to God. The Second Vatican Council echoes this sentiment, calling for sacred furnishings that “should worthily and beautifully serve the dignity of worship” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 122).

These holy temples that we call our churches are so special to us because we simply can find God within them. He is a God who is close to and journeys with His people.

Moreover, the faithful have a close relationship with the church structure because, within these walls, Christ the Divine Architect edifies His people and confirms them in the faith. Scripture affirms as much: “Come to Him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...” (*1 Peter 2:4-5*).

Each of us, as a Temple of the Holy Spirit, is called upon by God to enter His holy dwelling and receive grace and strength, so that we can go forth from our churches to advance the Kingdom of God.

Surely, Jesus summons us back often to be renewed and sent forth again, for the soul “yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord...better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere” (*Psalm 84:3, 11*). The church building, then, serves as the house of God in the present, until at last we may behold Him face to face for eternity in our heavenly homeland. 🔥



THE SYMBOLS

in

SAINT ANNE CHURCH

Story by Jim Hanna | Photography by Ed Macko

Like all churches, Saint Anne Church is a collection of symbols.

Our walls, windows and ceilings are covered with them, and our liturgies celebrate some of them. The symbols in our church come from the Bible, from prophetic figures, and from the teaching and tradition of our Roman Catholic faith.

In the words of historian Father Maurice Dilasser, “Symbols are not objects of worship, but invitations to worship. A symbol leads to an encounter with the divine.”



1 The Altar & Tabernacle

The altar is made of imported green Verde-Issorie marble with a stylized symbol of the Eucharist – *the grapes and vine* – incised on its face.

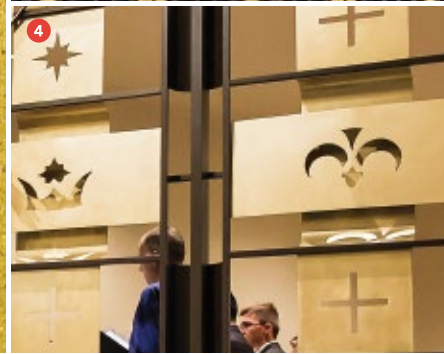
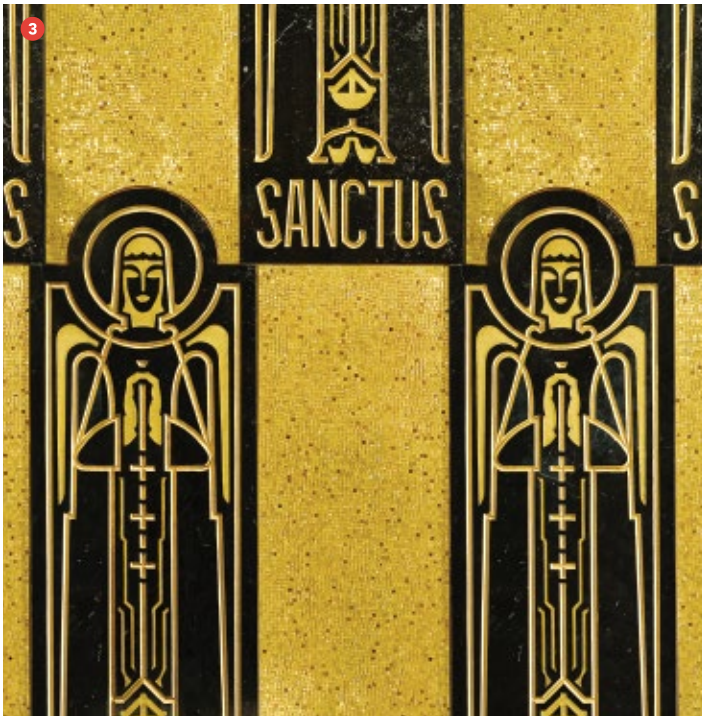
The doors of the tabernacle are adorned with a staurogram, also called a Tau-Rho, combining the Greek letters tau (T) and rho (R), one of several

Christograms, including the Chi-Rho, used by early Christians to refer to Jesus. Stauros is the Greek word for cross, and the tau of the staurogram represents the Cross of Jesus while the loop of the rho represents the head of Christ. When opened, the doors reveal two angels, one on each side, kneeling in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

2 The Altar Crucifix

The immense Crucifix suspended over the altar has symbolic fish surrounding the Crucified Christ. The twelve fish are symbols of the twelve Apostles. The ceiling above the Crucifix is emblazoned with a large staurogram (Tau-Rho).

Continued on next page



3 The Sanctuary Wall

The wall behind the altar and tabernacle is faced with alternating panels of imported gold mosaic and black marble. The marble panels have gold-leafed figures of angels holding censers in an attitude of adoration, reminding us of the heavenly host surrounding the Throne of God.

4 The Choir Screens

The bronze screen which separates the choir from the church initially served as a form of reredos (“altar piece”) for the side altar, with its carved wood figure of the Virgin. The screen bears the symbols of the starry crown and the fleur-de-lys. The choir screen facing the altar bears the symbols of the Holy Trinity.

5 The Lectern (or Ambo)

The book rest is supported by an eagle, symbolizing the flight of the Gospel throughout the world. Beneath the eagle is a large cross surrounded by four small crosses, symbolizing the inspired Word of God and the four evangelists.

6 The Sisters’ Oratory & Organ Screen

The oratory to the left of the altar served as the sisters’ oratory during the many years the Sisters of Divine Providence served the parish. The carved wood screen extends upward and encloses the organ chamber. The predominate symbol is the pomegranate – representing the Resurrection of Our Lord with the promise of our eternal life as members of the Mystical Body. Small symbols of the Virgin – the starry crown and fleur-de-lys are scattered about on the screen.





7 Nave Ceiling (The Ceiling above the Center Aisle)

The theme of the ceiling is The Mystical Body of Christ. Christ extends Himself in space and time through His Mystical Body, the Church. He continues His earthly life in that Body, in each of its members. The overall ceiling design is a symbol of that Mystical Body, the true vine, extending the full length of the nave, ending in a gigantic symbol of Christ, its Head, over the Altar.

Intertwined in the overall symbol are symbols of the seven sacraments. Beginning at the front of the church (top of the page):

Baptism. Our entry into the Mystical Body by being born again of water. Christ leads us from the darkness of sin into the light of faith.

Confirmation. The receiving of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and becoming of age as soldiers of Christ.

Holy Eucharist. The nourishment for the Mystical Body.

Penance. The restoration of our Christian life lost by sin, enables us to win the crown and palms of Heaven through the merits of Christ.

The Sacrament of the Sick. The removal the remnants of sin and scars left by past sins, which leads us from darkness to light through the merits of Christ.

Matrimony. Man and woman become are united through Christ, becoming members of the Mystical Body.

Holy Orders. Gives us ministers of Christ who act in His stead. The shepherd's crook signifies leadership of the flock; the stole represents the authority to preach the Gospel.

Growing from the vine are symbols representing members from all walks of life. These four are repeated four times along the vine.

Priesthood. The Chi-Rho, Greek letters chi (X) and rho (P), and stole, the symbol of authority to preach the Gospel.

Married State. The Tau-Rho, Christ who holds the central place in the family, with two circles representing man and woman, united in Christ.

Single State. The Tau-Rho with a single circle, representing man or woman in charity with Christ.

Religious Life (of priests, brothers, and sisters). The Tau-Rho with three intertwined circles, represents the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

8 The Transept Ceiling

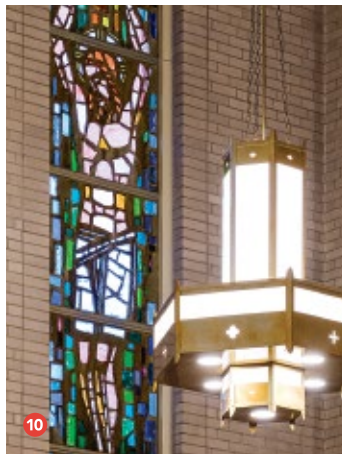
The word “transept” comes from the Latin words “trans” meaning “across” and “septum” meaning something that divides. When Saint Anne was first constructed in the 1960s a side altar dedicated to the Blessed Virgin was erected at the front of the transept. While the altar no longer exists, the symbolism does. The ceiling is decorated with alternating medallions containing two different symbols of the Blessed Mother: The Fleur-de-lys (lily), a traditional symbol of purity and the starry crown representing the Virgin Queen of Heaven.

9 Statuary

All our statues, St. Joseph, and Mary at the front of the sanctuary and St. Therese, the Sacred Heart, and St. Anne with the child Mary at the rear of the transept have been restored and painted. Our newest statue, St. Paul of the Cross, was a gift from the Passionist monastery of the same name on Pittsburgh’s Southside. In the former baptistery you’ll find Sts. Dymphna, Francis of Assisi, Patrick, Anthony of Padua, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Peregrine, the Infant of Prague, and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

10 Sanctuary Windows by Altar

Facing the altar, to the left (St. Joseph side) is a window depicting the Crucifixion as the fulfillment of the law, e.g., the first offering, the Sublime Sacrifice. To the right (Mary side) is a window depicting this Sublime Sacrifice from the “rising of the Sun to the setting” in the offering of the Mass.



11 Main Doors

The carved facade doors of the narthex (rear) of the church, depict Saints Peter, Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The north side (St. Joseph side) doors depict Saint Agnes and Saint Andrew.

12 Baptistery Entry Doors

The entry doors and surrounding windows of the former baptistery show baptism as the means given to become children of God and heirs of Heaven. The dove and burst of light, the two fish, and the fountain show the great flood of grace loosed by baptism.

13 Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross have been restored and painted. Although the Way of the Cross is commonly prayed

on Fridays during Lent, the devotion may be made privately at any time.

14 The Baptismal Font

The font is carved from a solid piece of imported black marble. The bronze lid of the font has seven entwined circles, representing completeness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and rising from the center of the lid are symbolic flames, the seven gifts out of which rises the cross.





15 16 Nave Windows

The windows are made of facet glass – a glass that is chipped at the edges. Facet glass helps to render the deep, rich colors that characterize our windows.

15 South (St. Joseph) Side

The first four of six large rectangular windows, from rear to front, are those of Old Testament figures beginning with Abraham, followed by Melchizedek, Moses, and Malachi. The fifth window depicts Christ and the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and the sixth window: the Eucharistic window showing Christ holding the chalice.

On the exterior facade of the church, above the six large rectangular windows on the southeast elevation are three symbols which are alternated: First, the anchor (steadfastness), cross (hope) and palms (victory). Second, the Sacred Monogram with palms, symbolizing our victory through Christ. Third, the Alpha and Omega with palms, symbolizing our spiritual victory in Christ, the beginning and end of all things.

16 North (Mary) Side

The windows facing north are known as the Marian windows. The Litany of Loreto was a primary source for the design as many of Mary's titles in the prayer are captured in the windows.

There are six bays of Marian windows, each having five square windows with a distinct theme. From the front of the church to the rear there are: first bay, the genealogy of Mary; second bay, words of prophecy; third bay, Mary as Virgin; fourth bay, Mary as Mother; fifth bay, Mary as Queen; and sixth bay, Marian apparitions.

The five window columns between each bay are a depiction of the Joyful Mysteries. From the front of the church to the rear, they are: The Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation, and the Finding of the Child in the Temple. 🔥





Lord and Father of Holiness, from Whom the true bread from heaven has come down to us, bless this tabernacle we have prepared for the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Through the adoration of Your Son, present in the Eucharist, lead us to a closer union with the mystery of redemption.

-DEDICATION PRAYER



A new sanctuary and a new tabernacle are dedicated in a Holy Mass.

As you know, Saint Paul of the Cross Parish embarked on an extensive renovation of the interior of Saint Anne Church this past year. Central to this project was the relocation, dedication, and blessing of a new tabernacle to house our Eucharistic Lord, which was celebrated at a special Holy Mass on October 22, 2023.

A beautiful and worthy endeavor to be sure, the project could not have proceeded without the countless sacrifices of the wonderful people who also call Saint Anne Church their home. For it is in this now beautified space that these parishioners for decades have encountered Jesus Christ to experience his grace at work among them. 🔥



Beautiful Eucharist, a book that explains the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist through 12 life-changing stories, was made available at the dedication mass at no cost. If you did not pick up a copy and would like to receive one, please contact the Parish Office.

A H O M E B O U N D M I N I S T R Y S T O R Y

A conversation with Eucharistic & Homebound Minister, Ed Boyle – by Ed Macko

*Then He said to his disciples,
“The harvest is plentiful, but
the laborers are few; therefore,
pray earnestly to the Lord of
the harvest to send out laborers
into the harvest.”*


~ Matthew 9:37-38

Ed Boyle is a life-long parishioner who serves the 8:00 am Mass every Saturday at Saint Anne’s. And every Sunday, before he does anything for himself, he takes the Holy Eucharist to five homebound parishioners – just as he has done for the past 18 years – as part of Saint Paul of the Cross’s Homebound Ministry program.

Every week, the Homebound Ministry team makes personal visits to more than 50 members of our parish who are unable to attend Mass. With them goes a small gold box called a Pyx, that holds the Eucharist – the Real Presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For Ed, 18 years of service through Homebound Ministry has created relationships that have made his life richer and better. “It’s hard to know who benefits most, them or me, but I’m pretty sure it’s me,” says Ed. “The people I visit would have no way of receiving Christ, no connection to the parish, if not for this ministry. I don’t just visit them, I *know* them.”

“They all want to talk, so I just listen. They’ve all lived full lives and I realize I’ve entered at, or near, the end of it. But they trust me, and they’ve invited me into their most prized possessions – their memories. I can tell you stories about them as easily as I can tell you stories of my grandchildren.”

Ed is the past-president of The Holy Name Society, he’s been Head of Lectors at St. Anne, and currently is a crossing guard for Mt. Lebanon School District. But it’s his 18-year role as a Minister to the Homebound that means the most to him: “It’s a labor of love for me,” he says. “Everyone is *so* grateful. They’ve invited me into their lives when they’re the most vulnerable. I wish you could see the joy on their faces when I serve them Communion,” he told me, “it’s the light of Heaven, and it’s worth everything.” 

For more information on Homebound Ministry, contact Joan Kilgore by phone at 412-531-6901 or email her at jkilgore@stpaulofthecross.com

The Pyx. “Pyx” is Greek for “box.” It’s a small container – typically of gold or silver – that holds the consecrated host that Homebound Ministers bring to homebound parishioners.





from Shaun Seydor, Building Committee Chair

FORWARD IN HOPE CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Our Forward In Hope Campaign has completed much of its work on the renovation of the Church interior throughout the past year, including:

- *installation of a new tabernacle,*
- *creation of the new Marian Shrine and baptismal area,*
- *revitalization of the church space (brick cleaning, new ceiling painting, refinished columns),*
- *refurbished Stations of the Cross and Statues,*
- *installation of a new acoustical sound system,*
- *new chandeliers and lighting throughout.*

We hope you agree that the work has enhanced our sacred space.

On October 22nd, a special Mass was offered to celebrate and bless the restored church and to dedicate its new tabernacle.

Apart from some acoustical tile installation to perfect the new sound system and a few other minor details, the church interior, as well as organ restoration projects are essentially complete.

The next phase of our multi-year master plan for the Saint Anne campus calls for the installation of an elevator leading down to Harkins Hall, and the Hall's complete

renovation into three meeting rooms, a kitchenette, and new adjacent bathrooms. We hope to begin this phase by springtime.

Also being considered is a new HVAC system and a security system with cameras for Harkins Hall and Church building, in conjunction with this next phase.

McLean Architects has been retained for this next phase and has completed the final design.

After securing three bids, the parish has chosen the **Massaro Construction Group** to be the General Contractor. The project is expected to take 5-6 months to complete once construction begins.

Assuming we continue as planned, we will begin planning for the design and construction of a new Parish Center with commercial kitchen and other exterior enhancements, after completion of the Harkins Hall renovation phase.

This exciting part of our master plan is still likely a few years down the road. Its scope is dependent upon the successful collection of campaign pledge balances, and other macroeconomic variables. Please continue your support and prayers for our master plan as we move on to the next phase! 🔥



Brendan Lowery, Music Director

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Saint Anne Organ Renovation is officially complete! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this massive undertaking possible, and for everyone's patience with the disruptions inside the church that the renovations created.

As you may know, our pipe organ was built over 100 years ago (1906) for the Cathedral of St. Paul in Oakland and was heard there for over 50 years. It came to us in 1962. When I arrived in February of 2016, the organ was literally held together with glue and duct tape and was overdue for a once-in-a-generation renovation.

The first phase of the project was completed as the Covid-19 lock downs began in 2020, and the entire renovation was completed on November 6, 2023.

As with most large renovation projects, there were certainly many moments where I wondered if I would ever see this project come to an end. I reflected on these moments as I excitedly pulled the tuba stop that crowns the instrument at its first Mass on Christ the King Sunday.

If you haven't heard, the organ is already helping make our Parish liturgies sound more beautiful. It is now in demand as a practice instrument for students in the area, and will ultimately be used as a recital instrument as well. 🔥



The completed organ is a 3-manual, 42-rank instrument built by the Luley Organ Company and incorporates much of the Kimball Pipework that was long a part of the original organ. It also includes pipework from several other sources such as the former organ at Saint Paul of the Cross Monastery on the Southside of Pittsburgh.



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from Don Fontana, Safe Environment and Adult Faith Formation Coordinator

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Discover the power of praying before the cross

The Cross is the principal symbol of the Catholic faith and the instrument of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. The power of praying before a Crucifix was a lesson learned by Saint Francis of Assisi, perhaps our most known and loved saint.

As a young man, Francis began to sense that God was calling him to a special work of faith, but at first he was unclear of what God desired of him. And so he prayed for guidance and clarity.

One day, while Francis was praying before the Crucifix in the dilapidated church of San Damiano in Assisi, Christ miraculously spoke these words to him: *"Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is falling completely to ruin."*

At first, Francis thought that Jesus was asking him to make physical repairs to the actual building of San Damiano, and so he divested himself of every earthly possession and set out to fix the church. However, as time passed, he realized that Christ was calling him to become a source of renewal for the entire Catholic Church which at that time was suffering spiritually.

Beginning in February, you will be given the opportunity receive this "traveling crucifix" into your own home to pray before. It is a replica of the very cross from which Jesus spoke to Saint Francis in the church at San Damiano.

May the Lord speak to your hearts as you pray before it in the days ahead.



Recent Events



NEWLY MARRIED IN 2022-23

- 3/25/2023** Alexander Angelo Norelli married Ashley Nicole Bookser
- 4/22/2023** Daniel Francis Gilloon married Emily Nicole Galli
- 5/6/2023** Colin Joseph Schmidt married Leanne Elizabeth Opferman
- 6/2/2023** Matthew James Spicuzza married Christina Juliette Courtney
- 6/23/2023** Justin Nicholas Toner married Nicolina Elizabeth Ricci
- 6/30/2023** Brendan Thomas Lowery married Rachel Marie Wanovich
- 7/29/2023** Leonard Benson Fechter married Isabella Grace Martino
- 9/8/2023** James Marek married Marie Fe Navata
- 9/9/2023** Joseph Geronimo married Veronica Lukach
- 9/15/2023** Patrick Francis Reeves married Meredith Lauren Cain
- 10/7/2023** William Blaine Helmick, II married Alyson Keck Pajak



NEWLY BAPTIZED IN 2023

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1/8 Giovanna Ada Strangis | 7/1 Monica Clare Elkin |
| 2/5 Henry Nelson Cupp | 7/20 Hana Ihuoma Killang |
| 2/17 Morgan Knox Pattison | 8/13 Bodie Ferraco Moog |
| 2/17 Remi June Pattison | 8/20 Veronica Noelle Totin |
| 2/17 Millie Kay Pattison | 8/27 Liam Mark Alexander Shisler |
| 2/19 Madelyn Joie Kania | 9/9 Gabriel John Hudock |
| 3/5 Jameson Jude Rafalowski | 9/24 Caden Matthew Rehak |
| 3/12 Anne James Smee | 10/8 Declan Kevin Bunnell |
| 3/13 Saylor Sky DiRenna | 10/15 Logan Nicole McNeal |
| 3/26 Annabella Marie Plopi | 11/4 Lagwi Peter |
| 4/16 Hallie Paige Davis | 11/4 Clelia Changmyan Lagwi |
| 5/14 Charlotte Elizabeth Hans | 11/5 Lourdes Rose Stark |
| 5/21 Mackenzie Stella Lippert | 11/12 Wyatt Martic Shepard |
| 5/21 Casey Benjamin Guth | 11/19 Ian Raymond Immekus |
| 6/4 Zivana Latisha Wabe Salazar | 11/26 Charles Warren McClure |
| 6/11 Kassidee Grace Krappweis | 12/10 Logan Lee Ehrman |
| 7/1 Cecilia Rose Elkin | 12/17 Michael John Chiodo |

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

- April 8, 2023** Ashley Nicole Norelli
- April 8, 2023** Karl John Schmidt



*Eternal rest grant
unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.*



IN PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE – 2023

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Patricia Pallan | Ann Ridge |
| Virginia "Ginny" Griffin | Philip A. Mitchell |
| Ann D. Kay | Patricia Conroy |
| R. Drew Kistler | Jean Coffey |
| Eileen S. Wagner | Laura Barry Anderson |
| Frank "Rusty" Marmion | Barbara Ehland |
| Eileen Shields | Joan Squiller |
| Richard G. Dunn | Gloria Boden |
| Mary Duffy | Marian Tate |
| Dorothy J. Shelbaugh | Susan Morris |
| Mary Groman | Angelo DiRenna |
| Ann DeAngelis | Mary Alice Opferman |
| Mary Walsh | Edward J. Roth Sr. |
| Ruth Bonelli | Virginia Goldaine |
| David Kuzel | Constance Hickey |
| Garbis Tchakarian | Lucille Kobosky |
| Robert Feth | Marie Burner |
| Aileen Lyons | Judy Gerben |
| Joseph Carnovale | Stanley Mikulski |
| Mary Ellin | Margaret Mulgrave |
| John T. Kennedy | Helen McGervey |
| Thomas F. Buettner | William S. Partyka |
| Gayle Kohut | John J. Doyle |
| Thomas Bandi | Henry Braun |
| Babette "Betty" Boyle | Joan Schonbak |
| Darlene Coholic | Phyllis Ott |
| Kathleen C. Eggerton | John Guthrie |
| Mildred P. Martino | Richard Fenlock |
| John M. Koempel | |

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – 2023

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| March 29 | Angelo DiRenna | Joseph Pearson |
| Aaron Diggs, Jr. | Jonna DiRenna | Reno Perella |
| Santana Diggs, Jr. | Kinsley Fechter | Orianna Perry |
| Jersey DiRenna | Charles Ferris | Christopher Prince |
| James Lynn | Vanessa Geier | Josephine Robbins |
| Keaton Moore | Edward Hurley, Jr. | Philomena Steele |
| Anthony Phillips | Noah Kiefer | Jude Talarico |
| April 30 | Genevieve Kokkinos | Julia Tatel |
| Braxton Blane | Josephine Lockwood | Gemma Tittmann |
| Madelyn Bodrie | Serafina Malepati | David Vesely |
| Robert Boxwell | Margaret Maloney | Margaret Worthy |
| Augustid Buwee | Joseph Mastrangioli | Gabriella Zamaris |
| Abigail Chung | Teagan McKernan | September 17 |
| Ariana Collins | Maggie Meade | Heath Zabkar |
| Hillary Dejinou | April Palcho | |
| Aviana DeStefano | Morgan Pattison | |

CONFIRMATION CLASS – 2023

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Samuel Anthony Anania | Benedict Alexander Maleski |
| Francesca Faith Balkovec | Owen Edward Masilunas |
| Ryland Alexander DeStefano | Vivian Audrey McMahon |
| Alice Jane Elphinstone | Shane Andrew Miller |
| Dominic Rosario Emiliani | Sebastian Josef Norkevicius |
| Brady Michael Evans | Richard Walter O'Brien |
| Grace Ann Fechter | Julia Rose Obara |
| Parker Brenden Gebben | Ethan Cole Paolicelli |
| Ava Dae Hindmarch | Anthony Michael Phillips |
| Ryder Vincent Jackson | Max Domenic Pirain |
| Mark Joseph Jacobson | Aiden Lee Renziehausen |
| Cayden Paul Johnson | Vivienne Catherine Rigby |
| Benjamin William Lockwood | Amber Nicole Rodgers |
| Margretta Kathleen Luke | Carys Evelyn Rowles |
| John Walter Madl | Paolo Ethan Scolieri |
| Gabriel Peter Mago | Lily Katherine Walker |

Upcoming Events



CHURCH-SPONSORED EVENTS	
February 3	Five First Saturday's Devotion
February 6	The Victory of Our Lady Over Evil & The Brown Scapular Investiture Presented by Dave VanVickle and Bishop Waltersheid 7:00 pm @ St. Anne Church
February 14	Ash Wednesday Masses: 8:00 am @ St. Anne 8:45 am @ St. Winifred Prayer Service w/washes @ St. Anne Church 12:00 Noon, 4:00 pm; 6:30 pm
March 9	Women's Guild Lenten Retreat
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 28	Holy Thursday
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday
May 9	Ascension Thursday
June 2	40-Hours Devotion
July 18-26	Saint Anne Novena

KID'S & YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS	
January 29	Holy Communion Parent Meeting
January 29	Confirmation Parent Meeting
May 2	Holy Communion Practice
May 5	First Holy Communion

OCIA EVENTS (DIPALMA ROOM 6:30 - 8:00 PM)	
February 7, 14, 21, 28	
March 6, 13, 20, 27	
April 3, 10, 17, 24	
May 1, 8, 15, 22	

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS	
1st / 3rd Thursdays every month	Catholic Men's Fellowship Meeting
February 10	World Marriage Day Dinner
February 14, 16, 23	Parish Fish Fry
February 20	Parish Movie Night: The Ten Commandments Pt. 1
February 27	Parish Movie Night: The Ten Commandments Pt. 2
March 5	Parish Movie Night: Purgatory: The Forgotten Church
March 6	Book Club: Scandal of Scandals: The Secret History of Christianity by Manfred Lutz
March 1, 8, 15, 23	Parish Fish Fry
March 12	Parish Movie Night: The Miracle Box: The Door to the Heart of God: The Catholic Sacrament of Confession
March 23	Easter Egg Hunt
May 1	Book Club: Two Patients: My Conversion from Abortion to Life Affirming Medicine by John Bruchalski, M.D.
May 18-19	Women's Guild Hoagie Sale
June 10-15	Parish Fair

ADULT FORMATION EVENTS	
February 6	Bible Study: The Eucharist in the New Testament
March 1-2	Pre-Cana Class
March 12	Safe Environment Workshop
March 12	Baptism Class
May 7	Safe Environment Workshop
May 7	Baptism Class

JOIN A PILGRIMAGE

Learn more and book at: www.APilgrimsJourney.com



GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE: MARCH 18 - 23, 2024

- Travel to Mexico City to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Shrine of Blessed Miguel Pro and more on a 6-day pilgrimage led by Bishop William Waltersheid.
- Cost: \$2,599. To book, visit: ww.bit.ly/Mexico2024.



WALK THE CAMINO: APRIL 17 - 27, 2024

- Walk 100K from Sarria to the Tomb of Saint James in Santiago de Compostela. Led by Fr. D.J. Egan. Luggage transported by bus, plus daily packed lunch included.
- Cost: \$4,299. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/Camino2024.



GREECE AND TURKEY- OCTOBER 11-21, 2024

- Join **Bishop William Waltersheid** and follow in the footsteps of Saint Paul on this pilgrimage, which begins in Thessaloniki and includes Kalaba, Corinth, and Athens.
- From there, cruise to the islands, stopping at Patmos, Santorini, Mykonos, and Crete, going on to Ephesus in Turkey.
- Cost is \$5,199. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/paul2024.



JUBILEE ITALY PILGRIMAGE: MARCH 10-20, 2025

- Walk through the Holy Doors in Rome during the 2025 Jubilee Holy Year of Hope on a pilgrimage led by **Bishop Mark Eckman**.
- Visit Rome, Assisi, Loreto, Lanciano, Subiaco, Cascia, San Giovanni Rotondo, and more.
- Cost is \$4,999. To book, visit: www.bit.ly/holy2025.

Mark your calendar: 2025 pilgrimages

Camino Pilgrimage: April 30 - May 10, 2025
Central Europe (Prague, Vienna, Krakow): 2025

More information coming soon.

For reservations or information, contact Belinda Held: Belinda@APilgrimsJourney.com; 724-679-7450 or 724-481-1700.

For additional information, contact: email.Groups@PerilloTours.com or call 1 855 784 7687.
Find brochures for all pilgrimages: www.APilgrimsJourney.com or scan the QR code.

Pilgrimages include: flights from Pittsburgh; taxes and current fuel surcharges; hotels; private bus; full-time tour guide; breakfast and dinner per itinerary; entry fees; daily Mass, and more.

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These pilgrimages are not sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh or Pittsburgh Catholic magazine.






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*“Holy Communion is the
most efficacious means of uniting
the soul to God.”*

~Saint Paul of the Cross