





THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT THOMAS MORE  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In November 2021, we inaugurated a three-year celebration for the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Arlington with prayer and thanksgiving. We remembered the foundational truth of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, rejoiced with Mary as she proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and renewed our commitment to share our Catholic faith with others through the work of evangelization.

The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More is the mother Church of the Diocese of Arlington where diocesan parishioners gather to participate in the sacred liturgies. Our diocese has grown in both faith and number over the last five decades. We have renewed this sacred space by enhancing its beauty, encouraging a deeper awareness of God's presence in our midst. I am profoundly grateful to our generous benefactors and to all whose prayers have led to the transformation of this Cathedral.

Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Joseph, may Our Lord Jesus bless us as we persevere to be good stewards of his many gifts and steadfast instruments of evangelization.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT THOMAS MORE



As the Diocese of Richmond grew in Northern Virginia, new parishes flourished. In 1938, Richmond Bishop Andrew Brennan sent Father Edwin Lee to build a house of God in Arlington. Imbued with energy, determination, and faith, Father Lee led a growing population through its earliest days as

a parish. Initially, Masses were held in buildings that were destined to become the nucleus of a school.

From its inception, Saint Thomas More Church was a spiritual home to military and diplomatic personnel as well as government employees. With the retirement of Father Lee due to ill health (he died in 1945), Monsignor Arthur Taylor was installed as the parish's second pastor in 1944.

It was Monsignor Taylor who oversaw the opening of Saint Thomas More School in 1944. Until 1998, the Cathedral School was staffed by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The school grew rapidly and by 1945, a second story was added; by 1947, it had 17 classrooms. In 1952, a new convent was constructed to house the additional sisters who came to teach the expanding student population.

Construction began in 1949 for a separate church building. Until 1961 this "basement" or "crypt" church was the main church for the parish. In 1961, the cruciform shape we know today rose along Arlington Boulevard and was dedicated by Richmond Bishop John Russell on December 9, 1961.



*(Continued on following page)*

In the late 1950s, Saint Thomas More joined five other parishes in contributing to the construction of a new diocesan high school, Bishop Denis J. O'Connell. Located just a few miles away in Arlington, the school opened in 1961.

In 1969, Monsignor Richard J. Burke became pastor. Under his leadership and guidance, the major portion of the former "first-floor" church was transformed into a parish activities hall with kitchen facilities. The hall was eventually named in Monsignor Burke's honor, after his transfer to Holy Spirit parish.

With the creation of the Diocese of Arlington in 1974, Saint Thomas More was designated as a Cathedral and became the new diocese's official "Mother Church." Four bishops have shepherded the diocese since then, with the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge serving as our current bishop.

The Cathedral School was awarded the Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence in 2010 and continues to educate young women and men to be servant leaders.

Today, the Cathedral is home to more than 1,400 families who partake in a wide variety of spiritual and social activities. It is also the site of important diocesan events such as ordinations and other major liturgical rites.



*"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*

*Psalm 118:22*

Our Catholic faith is built upon the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, and we, "though many," are held together by the truth and tradition which has guided us for millennia. Walls joined together with mortar, stone, brick, or wood cannot stand without a solid foundation. The original cornerstone for Saint Thomas More parish was laid in 1960, with its dedication occurring on December 9, 1961. An additional cornerstone was laid on the south façade of the Cathedral. Inscribed in Latin, it reads: "*Renovatio, A.D. MMXXIV*," or "Renovation, 2024." This stone serves as a reminder to all that our faith is ever new, yet constant in its foundation.







**SAINT THOMAS MORE**

**FEBRUARY 7, 1478 - JULY 6, 1535**

**PATRON SAINT OF THE**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON**

*"I die the King's good servant, but  
God's first."*

Thomas More was born in London, the son of a lawyer. As a youth he was placed in the service of the Archbishop of Canterbury, John Morton, Lord Chancellor of the Realm. He later studied law at Oxford and London. More briefly discerned a religious vocation, living within a Carthusian monastery for a year. He married Jane Colt in 1505, with whom he had four children. After her untimely death, he married Alice Middleton in 1511.

An acclaimed jurist, he was first elected to Parliament in 1505 under the reign of King Henry VII. More was eventually appointed Lord Chancellor in 1529 by Henry VIII. The first layman to occupy this position, Thomas More faced an extremely difficult period, as he sought to serve God, King, and country.

After Henry's divorce from Katherine of Aragon, More was unwilling to acquiesce to the King's demand that he recognize formally Anne Boleyn as the King's wife and queen. Nor did More support Henry's move to break from Rome and establish the Church of England. After refusing to take an oath acknowledging the former, More was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1534; he was beheaded in 1535. Pope Pius XI canonized Thomas More in 1935. His feast day is June 22. Saint Thomas More is the patron saint of statesmen, politicians, lawyers, civil servants, court clerks, adopted children, large families, and stepparents.



## SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE RENOVATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

*"So David gave orders ... to set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of God." 1 Chronicles 2:22*



Each element of the renovation, from materials to thematic design, was carefully chosen by Bishop Michael Burbidge in consultation with a liturgical committee.

The exterior Tudor-style design of the Cathedral was inspired by the times in which our patron saint, Thomas More, lived. This late-Gothic architecture incorporates decorative Renaissance elements into functional Gothic masonry. Its primary characteristics are wide arches, fan vaulting, slender columns (as evident in the East Gallery or Logia), and stained-glass windows set to broad proportions. Tudor architecture made generous use of brickwork, together with cut and carved stone window tracery, all of which feature prominently in the renovated exterior. This is seen most notably beneath the north-facing rose window. Further Tudor influence is seen in the Cathedral interior, which features multiple bay windows framing each of the saints' niches in the church nave. These bay windows are known as oriel windows, due to their prominent use on the campus of Oriel College at Oxford University.

The stained-glass windows were handcrafted by Beyer Studios in Philadelphia and reflect the diversity and inclusion of our diocese and, most importantly, the story of our Catholic faith. Beneath their soaring beauty on the south entrance are doors crafted from Sapele wood and leaded glass.

Together, brick and stone, mortar and glass unite to produce an edifice to bring souls to God, and to honor him in sacrament, word and deed.



*"Behold, God's dwelling is with  
the human race." Revelation 21:3*

Rose windows are divided into stained-glass segments by stone mullions and tracery. The term "rose" window was first used in 17th century England. Previously, these windows were called an "oculus," after the Oculus of the Pantheon in Rome. Rose windows



became more ornate through the centuries. In the middle ages, a Gothic rose window was emblematic of a well-ordered soul; its symmetry recalling the perfect unity found in our right relationship with God. All elements in the window were centered on Christ. Even when the Virgin Mary was depicted at the center, she always holds a Christ child, and every element radiating from that center takes its stable place from its relationship to Christ.

The rose window of this Cathedral uses imagery from Revelation 21:9-20, which speaks of the heavenly Jerusalem, centered on Christ, of which the Twelve Apostles are the foundation. Twelve gemstones adorn the periphery of the window (jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, ruby, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, turquoise, jacinth, and amethyst) taken from the same chapter of Revelation.



*"I die the King's servant, but God's first."*

*Saint Thomas More, July 6, 1535*

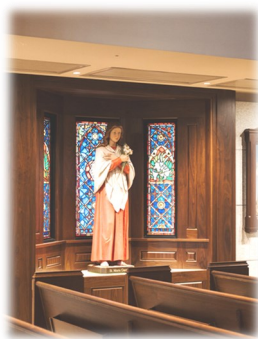
Serving as both a witness and a welcome, the statue of our patron saint, Thomas More, rests just beneath the rose window. A gift from the Cathedral parishioners, the bronze statue serves as a reminder of our patron's steadfast commitment to the truth.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles'  
teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread  
and to prayer. " Acts 2:42*

Spanning more than two centuries, our 70 parishes have a long and rich history throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Soaring above the main Cathedral entrance, the dramatic representations of each parish within the south window acknowledge their unique characteristics while reinforcing our mutual solidarity as a family of faith.



*"So we, though many, are one body in Christ." Romans 12:5*



The Diocese of Arlington encompasses many cultures and expressions of our faith. As such, individual communities honor their patron saints with devotional statues. Interspersed throughout the Cathedral, 16 are located within the body of the nave. Oriel windows, beautifully decorated in stained glass serve as a backdrop to 14 of these statues. The windows include symbols that are associated with each saint and reflect, for some, the cultural heritage of the community that sponsored them. Two additional statues are located in the vesting sacristy.

Individual statues are described in fuller detail within this booklet.

## NOTABLE ASPECTS OF THE CATHEDRAL INTERIOR

*"You have put on Christ, in Him you have been baptized.*

*Alleluia, alleluia."*

*- Rite of Baptism -*



The first function of our faith, bringing souls to Christ, finds representation in the baptismal font, now placed at the entrance of the Cathedral interior. The Book of Genesis recounts God's creation of the natural world in seven days. The eight-sided design of the baptismal font—a design which dates to the fourth century—evokes the reality that the sacrament of baptism is a new act of creation in the grace of Christ. This is also a reference to the resurrection and why we worship on Sunday, the eighth day, and not on the seventh day of the first creation (Saturday).

Our life's journey, from beginning to natural end, is sanctified by these waters. We are welcomed into our Catholic family through baptism, and thereby born to new life. We are welcomed once again at the end of our days before the font, as the priest sprinkles the holy water on our earthly remains, reminding all of our heavenly adoption and return to the Father.

The font is crafted of Bianco Carrara and Azul Macaubas marbles, the former having been used for centuries in ecclesiastical architecture. Together these elements create a striking representation of craftsmanship, signifying the preeminent focus of our faith: unity and salvation in the baptismal waters.

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives." Isaiah 61:1*



The ambry, located near the baptismal font, contains the sacred oils used in the sacraments and sacred rituals: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism. Housed in a custom display case made of wood and beveled glass, the significance of its placement just inside the main interior should not be overlooked. These sacred oils harken back to the Old Testament, where anointing signified God's favor and approval. David's anointing by Samuel heralded a new age of kingship in Israel's history. Jesus' anointing by the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38) reaffirms his place in the Davidic line, thus fulfilling the Messianic promise. He is the new King of a realm beyond earthly bounds. Through the sacraments, we join in communion with Our Lord and Savior as we are anointed priest, prophet, and king.

*"I lift mine eyes to the heavens, from whence does my help come? It comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2*



Clerestory windows form part of the upper level of cathedrals. Historically designed to allow light and air to circulate, they were also structurally important. Modern clerestory windows are typically vertical; here, they are designed to evoke those of the bell tower in the Tower of London, where Saint Thomas More was imprisoned. Decorated with traditional Catholic iconography, they draw our eyes upward toward the heavens.

*"But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity.  
He bore the punishment that makes us whole,  
by his wounds we were healed." Isaiah 53:5*



Instituted by Saint Francis of Assisi, the 14 Stations of the Cross, located on both sides of the nave, allow us to walk with Jesus through humiliation, pain, suffering, and ultimately, his death. Each depicts Jesus' journey to his crucifixion on Calvary. Historically, The Way of the Cross was reenacted by pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem. Eventually, the devotional practice as we know it became the vehicle for those unable to make the pilgrimage.

Put forth in striking detail, the newly crafted Stations reveal the extent of God's love for us. While Jesus is stripped of his dignity and then his life, we, on the other hand, are made "whole."

*"The things we pray for, good Lord, give us grace to labor for."*  
*Saint Thomas More*

Just as the exterior statue stands as a welcome to all, the newly crafted interior statue of Saint Thomas More serves as a reminder of constancy in the faith. Most especially, it calls us to witness our faith with joy, knowledge, and a firm conviction in God's love and protection.

Beautifully carved in linden wood and rendered with a painted finish for realism, this statue is located in the south mezzanine of the Cathedral's interior.



*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20*



With a beautiful design echoing that found in the reredos (screen) behind the altar, the new pews were fashioned and built in the United States by the New Holland Company from white oak. The pews are memorialized by benefactors in honor of loved ones. These memorials are located on the interactive display located in the narthex.

*"Sing to the Lord, bless his name; proclaim his salvation day after  
day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples,  
his marvelous deeds." Psalm 96:2-3*

The musicians of the Cathedral sing from the choir loft, which remains above the sanctuary, located between the new reredos and the new rose window. Their sound fills the Cathedral through the open space of the reredos. The acoustics for which the Cathedral is known will be retained through careful use of sound technology and newly curved choir risers. The addition of a lift makes the space accessible for all musicians and facilitates the moving of instruments and equipment. On either side of the rose window, wooden casework contains over 3,000 pipes of the great organ with the trumpets slightly behind the reredos on either side. All of these features enable the newly-renovated Cathedral to be a place of beauty to the eye and the ear alike. For more than half a century, talented women and men have enhanced our liturgies, brought solace to the grieving, and enlivened our celebrations through their gift of song.



*"Hallelujah! Praise God in his sanctuary; give praise in his mighty dome of heaven. Give praise for his mighty deeds." Psalm 150:1-2*



A significant portion of the Cathedral renovation occurred in the sanctuary, which has been crafted of precious Azul Macaubasa and Bianco Carrara marble. The choice of this beautiful blue color is a homage to our Blessed Mother and a nod to one of our diocesan colors. A railing surrounds a portion of the sanctuary to emphasize the sacred nature of what occurs beyond it.

Relocating the tabernacle and the Bishop's chair (cathedra) reinforces two important theological and architectural elements: the primacy of the Eucharist and the Bishop's role as shepherd of the diocese.

As the source and summit of our faith, Our Lord in the Eucharist rests centrally on the altar of repose.

*(Continued on following page)*



*“Which is greater? The gift or the altar that makes it sacred?”*

*Matthew 23:19*



An “altar of repose” is the altar on which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle. Crafted of the same beautiful marbles as the sanctuary, the altar of repose is positioned slightly above and behind the main altar to remind all of the centrality of the Eucharist.

“The Eucharist is not simply the memorial of a past rite but the living representation of the Savior’s supreme gesture.” Saint John Paul II

*“He called the twelve and \*said to them,*

*“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35*

The cathedra, Latin for “seat,” signifies the authority of the bishop. The word “cathedral” is derived from this and represents where the bishop’s seat is located. Hence, the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More is the “seat of the Diocese of Arlington.”

The prominence of the cathedra highlights the ministerial aspect of the episcopacy and its authority to teach, govern, and sanctify.

It is similarly crafted of the same precious Azul Macaubasa and Bianco Carrara marble as the sanctuary.



*"For a priest's lips preserve knowledge, and instruction is to be sought from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts." Malachi 2:7*

Each church has a presider's chair for the principal celebrant of the Sacred Liturgy. In a cathedral, any Catholic priest can offer the sacrifice of the Mass, but only the diocesan bishop will use the cathedra. As with the cathedra, the presider's chair faces the congregation so he may be fully integrated within the assembly.

The additional altar chairs are for deacons and other liturgical ministers who sit within the sanctuary.

Each of these chairs were handcrafted in the United States from white oak by the New Holland Company.

*"When the priests have entered, they must not go out again from the holy place into the outer court without leaving the garments in which they ministered because they are holy. They shall put on other garments before approaching the area for the people."*  
*Ezekiel 42:14*

The Sacristy is where the sacred vessels and vestments are stored and where the ministers of the liturgy prepare for Mass. The Sacristans maintain the sacristy and sacred vessels. They carefully prepare the sacred vessels for the celebration of Mass. Within the newly renovated vesting sacristy are devotional statues of Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, and Blessed Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus.

*"Let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place of your dwelling. That I may come to the altar of God, ... my joy, my delight." Psalm 43:3-4*



The main altar, centrally located in the sanctuary, is where the Sacrifice of the Mass is offered. Here, ordinary bread and wine, following the words of consecration spoken by the priest, are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. The Holy Eucharist is then distributed to the people in

Holy Communion. In this profound sacrifice and expression of God's love, our souls are nourished with God's grace.



Artistically fashioned in the same blue Carrara marble which is found throughout the sanctuary, the eye is drawn to the traditional Chi Rho symbol of Our Lord. This image is created from the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ "Christos," or ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ.

Relics may be placed within the altar to recall early Church worship services. Persecuted Christians, who met secretly in catacombs, would use the tombs of martyrs as altars. The newly consecrated Cathedral altar houses the relics of Saints Thomas More, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pope John Paul II, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Intricately carved with trefoils and arches, the reredos behind the altar is typical of ecclesiastical architecture. The term "reredos" comes from the Anglo-French "arere" meaning "behind." Gilded to highlight the carvings, the reredos is a beautiful backdrop to the sanctuary. Its shapes are reintroduced on the ends of the pews.



*"What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." 1 John 1:3-4*



Crafted of the same Italian marble as the rest of the sanctuary, it is from the ambo that the Word of God is proclaimed, to inspire and to teach. Likewise, the stand, which sits in the lower sanctuary, is where the cantor leads the congregation to "sing to the Lord a new song." (Psalm 96:1)

The front of the ambo reveals the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega, reminding all that the Word of God, like Our Lord himself, is eternal.

*"The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."*

*1 Corinthians 1:18*

High above the altar the Crucified Christ reigns. It is a reminder of the sacrifice of the Lord for our redemption. On the Cross, Christ unites his suffering with ours.

On the Cross, the Lord reconciles sinners. Saint Paul references the prophet's question, "Oh death where is thy sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55) Christ's victory replaces this finality with the promise of everlasting life for those who believe in him.

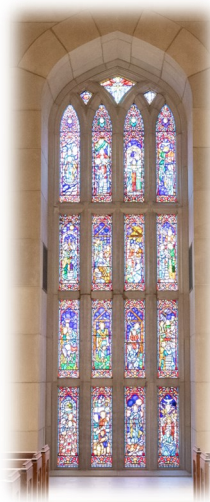


The new crucifix, as well as all the statuary, were designed, carved and crafted by artisans of the Stuflesser company, located in Ortisei, Italy.

## THE EAST AND WEST TRANSEPTS

*"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37*

Completing the cruciform shape, the east and west walls of the Cathedral are decorated with thematic stained- glass. Throughout are scenes in the life of the Holy Family, as well as Our Lord and the Saints. The images represent parishes throughout the Diocese of Arlington. For example, the depiction of the Nativity represents Nativity parish in Burke; the image of the Good Shepherd, Good Shepherd parish in Alexandria. This thoughtful, unified design is meant to reinforce the diverse and inclusive aspects of our community of faith.



The east transept recounts the story of the Holy Family: beginning with three symbols from the Litany of Loreto, a Marian prayer which honors the Blessed Virgin Mary and invokes her aid. The three chosen images are: the Morning Star (Mary heralds a new day with the birth of Jesus); the Mystical Rose (Mary's purity and queenship); and the Tower of Ivory (symbolizing Mary as the ultimate example of purity, holiness, and God's grace).

Beneath these are scenes portraying the Immaculate Conception, Annunciation, Visitation, marriage to Saint Joseph, and the Nativity. Angels heralding the birth of our Savior, are joined with images of major themes in the life of Jesus' childhood. These are partnered with artistic depictions of the death of Saint Joseph, the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Assumption and the crowning of Mary.



*"For the windows on high are opened, and the foundations  
of the earth shake." Isaiah 24:18*

Bathed in the glow of an afternoon sun, the west transept window reflects thematic representations of Jesus, the Holy Trinity, and the Apostles.

The top of the window reveals images of the "Arma Christi," Latin for "weapons of Christ": the nails which punctured his hands and feet, the crown of thorns, and the spear which pierced his side. These stark reminders of his painful death recall the supreme sacrifice made for our salvation.

Iconic illustrations of Christ the Redeemer and Christ the Good Shepherd join images of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Holy Trinity is seen in beautiful detail alongside depictions of the Sacred Heart, the Holy Spirit, and the Precious Blood.

The Apostles' and Christ's contemporaries complete the lower portion of the window reminding us of the Great Commission:



*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the  
name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And  
behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:19-20*



## SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Feast Day observed on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost

Just below the west transept window rests a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This beautiful image reminds us not only of Christ's great love for us, but his great sacrifice for our benefit, "... one soldier thrust his lance into his side, ..." (John 19:34). In Christ's "meek and

humble heart," we find "rest." (Matthew 11:29)

In 1673, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun and mystic, had several revelations where she was asked to encourage Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Her devotion to this spread and today, this depiction of our Savior is one of the most well-known and loved.



*"Most blessed are you among women, and most blessed is the fruit of your womb" Luke 1:42*



*"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home... when Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. ..." Matthew 1:20,24*

Rendered in stunning realistic detail, traditional statuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph flank the east transept window. Our Blessed Mother is shown standing atop a snake with an apple in its mouth relating her pivotal role in salvation history as the mother of the Savior, the New Eve. ("I will put enmity between you and the woman, ... [T]hey will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel." (Genesis 3:15))

Saint Joseph is shown with symbols of his trade (carpentry) and a white lily (signifying virtue and obedience to God). Here, pilgrims can request intercession for themselves and loved ones.





### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 12

Patron saint of The Americas

Located just inside the nave, this painting is the traditional rendering of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe found on the tilma of Saint Juan Diego. In 1531, Our Lady appeared to him in Mexico, on Tepeyac Hill, asking that a church be built on the site. A famous saying from these apparitions is found inscribed above the entrance to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe: "¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu madre?" or "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" Patroness of the Americas, her image is one of the most venerated in Catholicism.

### SAINT MICHAEL (Archangel)

Feast Day: September 29

Patron saint of soldiers, police, paramedics, and the sick and dying

One of the three archangels (with Gabriel and Raphael), Saint Michael is known as the "Defender of Faith." Within the Jewish tradition, he is considered a guardian of Israel; in the Book of Revelation, Michael is seen as having cast Satan to hell. Michael is also known as our protector at death. He is revered and honored among the faithful.



## INDIVIDUAL DEVOTIONAL STATUES

*"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God ..."*

*Deuteronomy 7:6*



### SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

August 26, 1910 – September 5, 1997

Feast Day: September 5

Patron saint of Calcutta and the  
Missionaries of Charity

Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, Mother Teresa moved to India as a Sister of Loretto, eventually founding the religious order of the Missionaries of Charity. Their charism is to minister to the poorest and most vulnerable: the ill, children, and the dying. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she became a global symbol of charity and the example of how "small things done with love can change the world." She was canonized September 4, 2016.

### SAINT JOHN PAUL II

May 18, 1920 – April 2, 2005

Feast Day: October 22

Patron saint of World Youth Days

Karol Józef Wojtyła was deeply affected by the atrocities of World War II. Encouraged to study theology, he entered the seminary and eventually became a priest. Intelligent and charismatic, he rose through the ranks of the Church, becoming a cardinal in 1967, and later, Pope in 1978. His contributions to Catholic teaching and evangelization, as well as to the breakdown of Communism in his native Poland, make Pope John Paul II one of the most beloved and revered successors of Saint Peter. His canonization occurred April 27, 2014.



### SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821

Feast Day: January 4

Patron saint of Catholic Schools, widows and those who have lost children

Born to a wealthy and prominent Anglican family in New York, Elizabeth Ann Seton became a widow at 29 with five young children.

She converted to Catholicism, with a special devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady. She founded the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph, a teaching order, in Maryland. She was the first American-born Catholic saint, canonized on September 14, 1975 by Pope Paul VI. Her shrine in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is a favorite site for pilgrims.



### SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

November 26, 1858 – March 3, 1955

Feast Day: March 3

Patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists

Born to a wealthy and religious family, Katharine used her vast inherited fortune to establish missionary schools in the southern and western parts of the country. After an audience with Pope Leo XIII, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, ministering to the Black and Indian missions in the United States. She was canonized on October 1, 2000, becoming the second American-born saint after Elizabeth Ann Seton.





### SAINT PETER

died c. 64-68 AD

Feast Day: June 29

Patron saint of Rome, bakers, brickmakers, masons, bridge-builders, butchers, clockmakers, cobblers, fishermen, harvesters, watchmakers, locksmiths, netmakers, the papacy, and the Universal Church

One of the first disciples chosen, Simon Peter was a fisherman by trade. Jesus called him to be a “fisher of men,” and “the rock upon which I will build my Church.” In the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Peter is among the first to acknowledge and proclaim that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). In his relationship with Christ, we see profound love met with profound compassion and mercy. We see weakness strengthened by grace, and fear tempered by forgiveness. All popes are successors of Saint Peter as the visible head of the Church.

### SAINT PAUL

c. 5 – c. 64/65 AD

Feast Day: June 29

Patron saint of Rome, evangelists, theologians, musicians, writers, publishers, and reporters; Gentiles; Cursillo movement; and Catholic Action



Born Saul of Tarsus, he was initially one of the most persistent persecutors of Christians. Struck on the road to Damascus, he experienced his conversion after hearing Jesus ask, “Saul ... why do you persecute me?” Saint Paul went on to be one of the most ardent and prolific Gospel missionaries and evangelists. His theology laid the groundwork for much of Church teaching and has been influential across the millennia.

SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

January 2, 1873 – September 30, 1897

Feast Day: October 1

Patron saint of foreign missions and missionaries, AIDS patients, florists, and sick people

Saint Thérèse (also known as the “Little Flower”) was a Carmelite nun. Her example of piety has made her one of the most influential saints, “[R]emember that nothing is small in the eyes of God.” The only book of hers, published after her death, was her journal, “Story of a Soul.” She was canonized on May 17, 1925, and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997, the third woman to receive this title.



SAINT ÓSCAR ROMERO

August 15, 1917 – March 24, 1980

Feast Day: March 24

Patron saint of The Americas and Christian communicators

Romero entered the minor seminary in El Salvador at 13; his ordination took place in Rome in 1942. Extremely intelligent, he worked tirelessly against the violence and social injustice prevalent in his country. He spoke out against the persecution of those who labored on behalf of the poor. As Archbishop of San Salvador, he decried the country’s civil war. He was assassinated in 1980 while offering Mass and was canonized on October 14, 2018. More than 250,000 people attended his funeral. No one was ever convicted of his murder.



#### SAINT ANÊ LÊ THỊ THÀNH

1781— July 12, 1841

Feast Day: November 24

Patron saint (collectively) of Vietnam

Born in Vietnam, Saint Anê was a devout Catholic who provided shelter to persecuted priests. Married with six children, she was nevertheless arrested while carrying letters to imprisoned missionaries. She suffered torture and sickness, eventually succumbing on July 12, 1841. Pope John Paul II canonized her on June 19, 1988.

#### SAINT PAUL CHUNG

1794 or 1795 – September 22, 1839

Feast Day: September 20

Patron saint of Korea

Together with Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Saint Paul Chung was a leader of the Catholic Church in Korea. He defended the faith before the government of Korea, and reunited the Christians in the midst of persecution. In response to his direct appeals, Pope Gregory XVI confirmed the validity of the Korean Church and sent several priests to Korea. He was martyred in 1839 and canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 6, 1984.



### SAINT LORENZO RUIZ

November 28, 1594 – September 29, 1637

Feast Day: September 28

Patron saint of the Philippines and  
Filipino Youth

Of Chinese and Filipino descent, Saint Lorenzo married young and had three children. Falsely accused of murder, he fled to Japan with a group of Dominican priests in 1636. There, they were imprisoned and tortured. Lorenzo Ruiz refused to deny his faith. Martyred for Christ, he was canonized on October 18, 1987.



### SAINT MARIA GORETTI

October 16, 1890 – July 6, 1902

Feast Day: July 6

Patron saint of young people (especially  
girls), rape victims, and the poor

Saint Maria Goretti was a devout but poor girl in Italy when she was attacked by the son of her employer while working on their farm. She was stabbed repeatedly after trying to thwart his advances. She died of her injuries but not before forgiving her attacker. He subsequently repented and became a lay brother in the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. Maria Goretti was canonized on June 24, 1950.



### SAINT PATRICK

Born and Died circa 5th Century

Feast Day: March 17

Patron saint of Ireland

Roman-British by birth, Patrick was enslaved by Irish pirates as a youth. While in his 20s, he returned to Britain after escaping his captors, going on to study for the priesthood. He eventually returned to Ireland as a bishop and missionary. Despite hardships, he converted thousands, established churches, and ordained clergy.

One of the most recognizable symbols associated with Saint Patrick is the shamrock, which he used to illustrate the Church's teaching of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

### PADRE PIO

May 25, 1887 – September 23, 1968

Feast Day: September 23

Patron saint of civil defense, volunteers and adolescents

Born Francesco Forgione in southern Italy, Padre Pio, as he was known, is one of the most famous and revered saints in the Church. At the age of 15, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at Morcone. He was later ordained a priest in 1910. In 1918, he received the stigmata (the wounds of Christ) which remained until his death in 1968. Despite investigations and even sanctions, his popularity grew.

Devoted to the Rosary and a twice-daily examination of conscience, Padre Pio espoused daily Communion, spiritual reading, and meditation. He was canonized on June 16, 2002.



SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

May 8, 1786 – August 4, 1859

Feast Day: August 4

Patron saint of parish priests

*Located in the Sacristy*

The patron saint of parish priests, Saint John Vianney was a French priest renowned for his piety, and devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother. The effects of anti-Catholic bias in 19th-century France weighed heavily on him as a youth. His personal testimony brought many people back to the Sacraments. He worked to revitalize the Church's presence, becoming a sought-after cleric and confessor. He was canonized on May 31, 1925.



SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

c. 1869 – February 8, 1947

Feast Day: February 8

Patron saint of Sudan and human-trafficking survivors

Born in what is now Sudan and enslaved at the age of seven, Saint Josephine made her way to Italy after terrible suffering under the hands of several owners. She was instructed and cared for by the Canossian Sisters, ultimately converting to Catholicism and entering into their order. Among her many jobs with the Order, she prepared the young sisters for work in Africa. Saint Josephine was well-known for her kindness and piety. She bore no ill will to her captors, instead focusing on the trajectory of her life which brought her to God. She became the first Black female saint upon her canonization on October 1, 2000.





VENERABLE MOTHER MARY LANGE

c. 1789 – FEBRUARY 3, 1882

Mary Elizabeth Lange was a religious Sister and founder of the first African American religious congregation in the United States, the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, Maryland. Born in Santo Domingo, she was educated in Cuba, emigrating to the United States in the early 1800s. From her home, Lange founded a religious school for African American children. She eventually opened Saint Francis Academy, which is still operational today. She was declared venerable by Pope Francis in June 2023.

BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY

August 12, 1852 – August 14, 1890

*Located in the Sacristy*

Born in America to Irish immigrants, Blessed Michael McGivney was a Catholic priest who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 as a service organization, particularly for immigrant families. The mission of the Knights of Columbus is to provide financial aid and assistance to sick, disabled, and needy members and their families. Guiding their work are the values of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. The Knights of Columbus has grown to be one of the largest philanthropic entities, with more than two million members. Father McGivney was beatified in 2020.



The Cathedral Knights of Columbus Council has been instrumental in providing charitable aid for countless people in need.

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## *General Information*

- The Cathedral is open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- These hours are subject to change without notice. Refer to the Cathedral's website and/or social media for calendar updates. [www.cathedralstm.org](http://www.cathedralstm.org)
- The *Gifts for All Seasons* shop is located on the lower level of the Cathedral in Burke Hall.
- The restrooms are located on the lower level of the Cathedral in Burke Hall.
- Ramp access to the Cathedral is located on the west side of the Cathedral; handicapped parking is in front and along the north side of the Cathedral.
- Follow us on social media: [#cathedralstmva](#)



## Mass Schedule

Monday–Friday:	7:00 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.
Monday:	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday:	7:00 p.m. (en Español)
Wednesday:	5:15 p.m.
Saturday:	9:00 a.m.
Saturday Vigil:	4:30 p.m.
Sunday:	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (en Español), 5:30 p.m.
Federal Holidays:	10:00 a.m.
Holy Days:	As announced

## Devotionals:

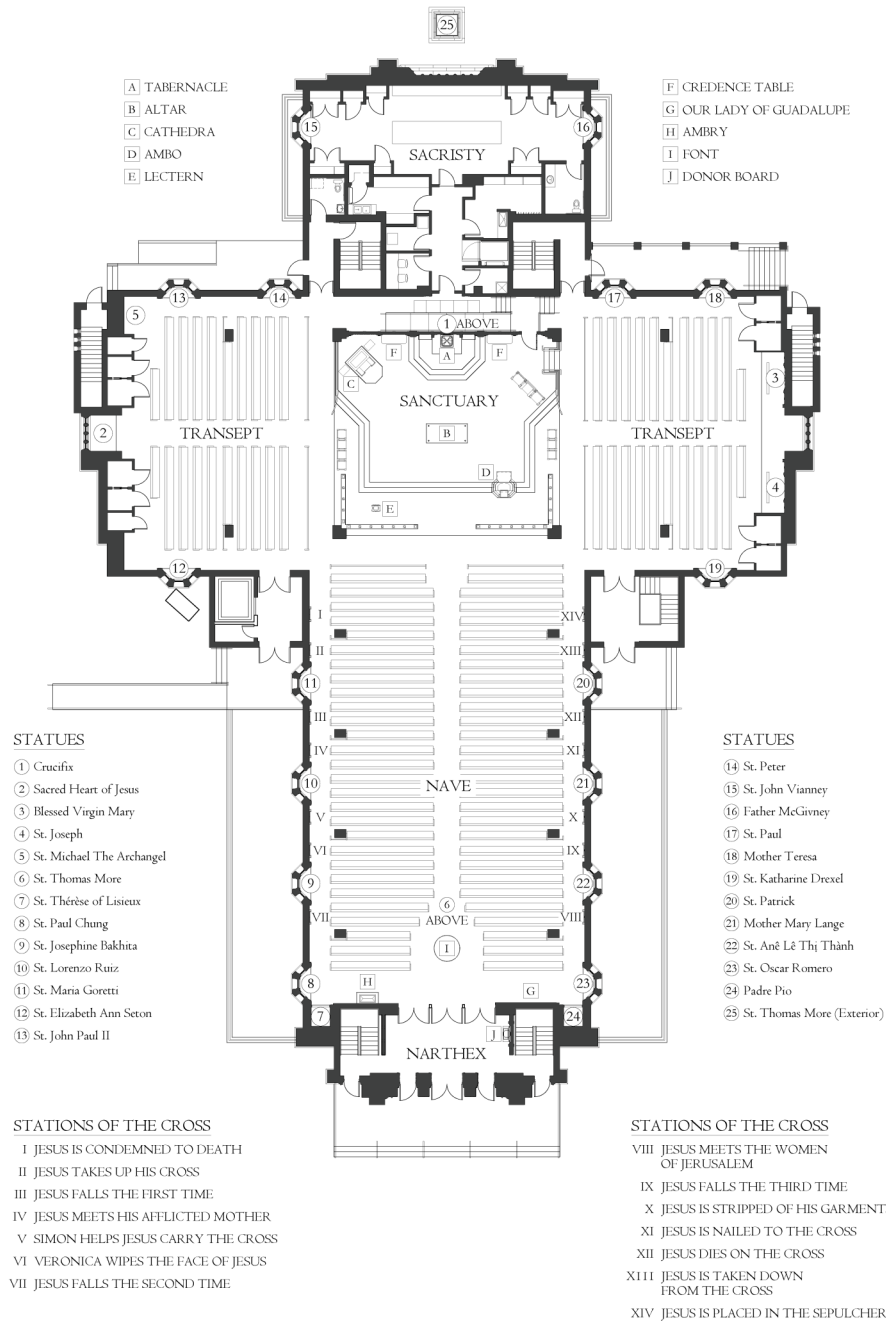
Rosary:	11:40 a.m. before daily Mass Every first & third Saturday after morning Mass
Divine Mercy Chaplet:	Immediately after weekday daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration:	Thursdays after 12:05 p.m. Mass
Evening Prayer & Benediction:	7:00 p.m. Thursdays

## Confessions:

7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday (en Español)  
6:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday  
3:00-4:00 p.m. Saturday  
(in English and en Español)  
and by appointment



# ARCHITECTURAL AND THEOLOGICAL DETAILS OF ST. THOMAS MORE CATHEDRAL





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