



WELCOME TO
SAINT MARY
MOTHER OF GOD
GERMAN VILLAGE

684 South Third Street
Columbus, Ohio 43206



Mass Schedule

Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Friday - 8:30 a.m.

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday - 12:30 p.m. *Spanish language Mass*

Rite of Reconciliation: Confession

45 minutes prior to the 4:00 p.m., 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Interested in becoming Catholic?

St. Mary's offers a process for persons considering full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. This program is called the **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)**. For more information call the parish office at 614-445-9668 or email us at drjeffreytiel@gmail.com



We welcome you to take a tour through our church.

This guide provides a few highlights of the church history, artwork, and architecture.

Saint Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church, located in the heart of historic German Village, beautifully brings together history and tradition with a vibrant faith. Considered by many to be the landmark building, St. Mary's stands as a symbol of the religious foundation of the German immigrants who settled here during the 1800's.

In 1863, the German-speaking Catholics in south Columbus began working toward a church of their own. Two years later, in 1865, the parish of St. Mary's was founded. A temporary combination of a one-room church, one-room school and second floor rectory was erected at a cost of \$5,000. This building, located behind the present church, is now called the Specht Center after the church's first pastor, Msgr. Francis X. Specht.

In 1866, construction began on St. Mary, the third Catholic Church in Columbus. Under the direction of architects Blackburn and Koehler, the church was constructed at a cost of \$40,000.00. The building is of German Gothic design and is 62.5 feet wide, 140 feet long, 75 feet high and 60 feet clear. The ceiling vault is unsupported by columns. On November 29, 1868, St. Mary's was dedicated by Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans.

In 1987, church leaders initiated a renovation to preserve the architecture and historical beauty of the church. This renovation included: completely restoring the ceiling and wall artwork, enlarging the sanctuary area, relocating the ambo, new carpet and wood floor, refinishing the pews, installing new kneelers, establishing a north-side entrance handicapped ramp, new public address system and new Stations of the Cross.

On December 6, 1987, the community celebrated the restoration of St. Mary in a dedication ceremony, with the Most Reverend James A. Griffin, Bishop of Columbus, presiding.

In 1994, the slate roof of the steeple was replaced. In 1998, air conditioning was added to the church, a gift of St. Mary Alumnus Dr. and Mrs. W. W. O'Donnell. In 2002, renovation of the Burkley Center provided office space, restroom facilities, meeting spaces, and an elevator to aid accessibility.

In August 2016 a direct lightning strike disabled all the electric systems, including, sound, lights, the elevator, computers, bell controls and the electric parts of the pipe organ. In October of the same year, the building was examined by an engineer who condemned it until many repairs were made.

The attic trusses had shifted and there was evident movement of the side walls. Ultimately, it led to a 2 ½ year project to insert ten large steel girders into the side walls, a totally new floor, a new ceiling with the original paintings faithfully reproduced, new doors, re-leaded windows, new roof, new gardens out front and many other items restored, noted elsewhere in this booklet.

The church reopened on Palm Sunday, 2019 following a long sojourn in the school gym and occasionally at St. Leo Church. People graciously endured the folding chairs, the hideous florescent lights and the basketball hoops. One little boy who was brought to Mass every week in the gym, was taken once to another parish. When he saw that church, he asked his parents, "Where are the basketball hoops?"

The Organ

The original organ was made by a local builder and was installed in 1875. In 1901, the present organ was built by the William Schuelke Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and installed at a cost of \$5,000. In the 35 stops in the great, swell, and pedal organs, there are 2,250 pipes. It was later electrified, and in 2001, fully restored.

The Confessionals

The current confessionals are four in number. Two are located on the north wall and two on the south wall. At the recent renovation of 2019, the confessionals were returned to their original locations, keeping with the historic character of St. Mary Church.

The Crucifix

Parishioner Thomas Zinner constructed the near-life-size wooden crucifix hanging from the dome above the apse. Measuring 10 feet by 12 feet, it was first hung in the 1930-1935 period. Four symbols at its extremities represent the four evangelists Matthew (a human head), Mark (a lion), Luke (an ox) and John (an eagle). The crucifix was removed in 1987, refurbished and replaced in its original position in 1998.





Stations of the Cross

St. Mary's 14 Daprato 100-year-old Stations of the Cross depict incidents in Jesus' journey to Calvary. These Stations of the Cross are original to the church and were recently brought from storage by Julius Vargo, cleaned and beautified. In our 2019 renovation these were reintroduced into the church. The set is in memory of Sharon Kay Vargo, whose parents were married here.

The Steeple

The steeple, 197 feet above ground level, was built above the tower in 1893 at a cost of \$5,000. The clock was installed in 1894. In 1870, the chime of three bells was hung in the tower at a cost of \$2,200.

On April 24, 1963 a new 500-pound stainless steel cross was placed at the top of the church steeple. It replaced the old weather worn wooden one, which had stood there for 70 years.

In 1994, at a cost of \$147,000, the church steeple was restored. New copper flashing was installed and all the slate was replaced. Pieces of the old steeple slate were distributed as lasting remembrances of St. Mary's.

The Paintings

The ceiling design was originally painted in the 1890's. The ten ceiling panels depict titles of the Litany of Loreto of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wisconsin repainted the ceiling during the renovation of 1987. Photographs and stencils of the original ceiling were used to reproduce the design, which had been damaged by years of wear and deterioration.

On the south side of ceiling closest to the altar and moving back:

Spiegel der Gerechtigkeit/Bitte für uns

(Mirror of Justice/Pray for us)

Mary, responsive to the will of God, reflects God's own holiness. She mirrors the holiness of God. She is the mirror of justice.

Sitz der Weisheit/Bitte für uns (Seat of Wisdom/Pray for us) Mary can be called the Seat of Wisdom because Wisdom became incarnate in her Son, Jesus, whom she carried in her womb.

Ehrwürdiges Gefass/Bitte für uns (Vessel of Honor/Pray for us) Mary a pure virgin held in her womb the Savior of the world.

Geistliche Rose/Bitte für uns (Mystical Rose/Pray for us)

Goodness and holiness flower in the saints. Mary, the queen of saints, can be called then the Mystical Rose and in her are found the mystical mysteries.

Thurm Davids/Bitte für uns (Tower of David/Pray for us)

The Tower of David was the strongest tower in the wall of Jerusalem and survived the destruction of the city. Mary is the only creature of God not destroyed by Original Sin and she remains strong as she intercedes

On the north side of ceiling closest to the altar and moving back:

Morgenstern/Bitte für uns (Morningstar/Pray for us)

Mary is the Morning Star that heralds the coming of Jesus, the sun of justice and the dawning of the day of redemption.

The Paintings cont'd.

Himmelspforte/Bitte für uns (Gate of Heaven/Pray for us) Mary was the first tabernacle of the Most High God. Christ entered the world through Mary as the Gate of Heaven. That title remains hers as she leads us to her Son.

Arche des Bundes/Bitte für uns (Ark of the Covenant/Pray for us) The Ark of the Covenant contained manna, the rod of Aaron, and the tablets of the covenant, tokens of God's covenant with the people of Israel. Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant who contains the Living Bread who comes down from heaven, Jesus Christ.

Goldenes Haüs/Bitte für uns (House of Gold/Pray for us) Mary was the temple of God; her womb housed the Lord. She is the House of Gold and was called full of grace by Gabriel.

Elfenbeinerer Thurm/Bitte für uns (Tower of Ivory/Pray for us) The Ivory Tower exists as a sanctuary to help those who are lost find their way home. Mary always leads us to her Son.

Between 1930 and 1935 Gerhart Lamars, a native of Munich, Germany, completed the sanctuary paintings. The ceiling painting of the apse represents the dome of heaven with the Eye of God encased in an equilateral triangle, representing the Trinity. The oval symbols near the face of the apse are symbols of salvation. The angels hold instruments of Jesus' passion and stand over the Latin which translates, 'Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world...Faithful cross, most noble tree of all.'

The oil paintings, which flank either side of the sanctuary above the side altars, were signed and dated 1867 by Wenceslaus Thein and William Lamprecht, Cincinnati, Ohio. The painting on the left depicts the Epiphany of the Lord (the visit of the three kings); the one on the right depicts Jesus, Mary, Joseph and St. Anne in Joseph's carpenter shop.

Stained-glass Windows

St. Mary's Church has a total of 13 stained glass windows. They are believed to be the work of the Von Gerichten Art Glass Studio, but the records are lost. One of our windows appeared at the World Fair and was featured in the Von Gerichten catalogue. They have been beautifully restored by Franklin Art Glass (2019) located here in German Village. The original windows were not pictorial. They featured geometric patterns and religious symbols. They were designed to fit gothic styled stone casements which had full-length dividers down the middle. Original windows are still to be found on either of the stairways leading to the choir loft, on either side of the organ, in the sacristy, in the vestibules and over the doors entering the church.

Eight of the original stained glass windows were replaced with pictorial stained glass windows. Four of the five on the sanctuary walls are stained glass windows and depict stories from the Bible, the life of Jesus Christ, Mary, the Holy Family and legends of saints (St. Dominic and St. Therese).



Stained Glass Windows cont'd.

North Wall – First window from the altar

St. Dominic and Mary

This stained glass window depicts St. Dominic receiving the rosary from Mary. This window is dedicated to the memory of Monsignor Francis Xavier Specht, the first pastor of St. Mary's. (Zur Erinnerung Anden Hochwurd F X Specht, V.G.)

The Annunciation Second window

This stained glass window depicts the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she had been chosen to bear the Son of God who was to be named Jesus. (Luke 2:26-35) Dedicated to Fr. Benjamin P. Horny first regular assistant at St. Mary's (1886-1903).

The Holy Family Third window

This window depicts The Holy Family in a garden being serenaded by a young cherub playing a violin. Music is important to Germans of all ages and the early parishioners of St. Mary's were very musical. Donated by Regina & Adam Dunkle.

St. Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower) Fourth window

This is the last replacement of the eight stained glass windows in St. Mary's nave. The date for the replacement is reported to be 1932, which is just seven years after Pope Pius IX canonized St. Therese in

1925. Donated by the Arthur H. Maeder family – the five angels represent his five daughters – Mary K., Rowena, Alice, Margaret, and Louise.



Stained Glass Windows cont'd.

South Wall – First window near the altar

Jesus Reveals His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

This window depicts St. Mary Margaret Alacoque kneeling before Jesus who exposes His Heart to her. This window is dedicated to Monsignor Francis Xavier Specht.



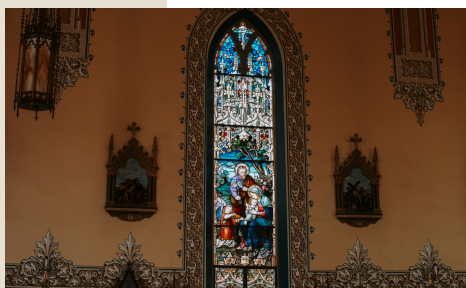
The Marriage of Mary and Joseph Second window

This event is not frequently depicted in religious art. It reveals St. Joseph as the protector of the Holy Family. Gift of Louis (last name missing).

Christ and St. John the Baptist as Children Third window

The scene is idyllic, a verdant spot beside a small stream. Note that the Child Jesus is offering water to John who will later baptize Jesus

in the Jordan. The lamb in the foreground symbolizes Jesus the true Lamb of God. In Memory of John R. and Barbara Hellenthal.



Mary, the Immaculate Conception Fourth window

Mary is surrounded by an aura edged with stars standing on a crescent

moon. Under the moon a serpent, with an apple in its mouth, is crushed by Mary, the Immaculate Conception, the new Eve. This combines images from Genesis and the Book of Revelation. Gift of the Women's Sodality.



The Altar Area

The altar is at the center of our church, and at the center of our faith. The altar, around which the Church is gathered in the celebration of the Eucharist, represents the two aspects of the same mystery: the altar of the sacrifice and the table of the Lord. This is all the more so since the Christian altar is the symbol of Christ Himself, present in the midst of the assembly of His faithful, both as the Victim offered for our reconciliation and as the True Bread from Heaven who is giving Himself to us. "For what is the altar of Christ if not the image of the Body of Christ?" asks St. Ambrose. He says elsewhere, "The altar represents the body [of Christ] and the Body of Christ is on the altar." The liturgy expresses this unity of sacrifice and communion in many prayers. The altar in Christianity has been the focal point of unity, reverence, prayer, and worship

The tabernacle, "tent" holds the Blessed Sacrament. This gilded receptacle is placed in the center of the reredos and reminds us that Jesus Christ is the center of our lives. The tabernacle candle is next to the tabernacle. It is lit when the Blessed Sacrament is present.

The reredos is visible behind the main altar, standing 45' high and 20' wide. This was carved from white walnut by Allard Klooter at a cost of \$2,500. The reredos constructed prior to 1866 is older than St. Mary Church. It was moved here from another church in Cincinnati. The reredos holds statues for the prayerful reflection of the congregation. The reredos in St. Mary contains five statues all made of carved wood. The center statue is Mary, Mother of God, holding the Infant Jesus. She is the patroness of the parish. The statue left of center is St. Catherine of Alexandria, patroness of carpenters; on the right is St. Boniface, the Apostle of Germany. Two smaller wooden angels stand at the Tabernacle, the left one holding a sheaf of wheat, the right angel holding grapes, the elements we bring for consecration into the Body and blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Arching over the reredos is the Latin phrase Ave Maria Gratia Plena, or Hail Mary, Full of Grace.

The Altar Area Cont'd.

Side Altars

On either side of the sanctuary are side altars. The one on the right is dedicated to St. Joseph and the one on the left to Mary, Mother of God. Traditionally, Mary is shown at the right hand of Jesus, much like the Queen Mother in Israel was at the right side of the King. Joseph is depicted at the left of Christ as the patron of the Universal Church. Additions to the side altars were made in 2020 with the inclusion of Saint Clare of Assisi and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary to the right and left, respectively, of our Holy Mother; Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Anthony of Padua to the right and left, respectively, of Saint Joseph.

Communion Rail

The Communion Rail is liturgically considered to be an extension of the altar. This rail has been in the church since the early 20th century

Pulpit and Ambo

In the 1980's renovation of the old pulpit took place. The pulpit was shortened and relocated to the opposite side of the church. More recently it has been reconstructed to its original location and design and many of its missing pieces were found and added to complete its original beauty. A separate pulpit (Ambo) is now in the sanctuary for ordinary use.

The Baptistry and the Pieta Shrine

Located at the west end of the church are two alcoves. On the North side is the Baptistry. It has a ceiling painting full of water symbols. Around the painting's edges is inscribed: "As the hart panteth after the fountains of water, so my soul panteth after Thee, O God". (Ps.41:2) The Baptismal font with its copper bowl and carved base has been in continuous use since 1868.

In the south alcove at west end is the statue of The Pieta, a statue of Mary holding the dead Christ at the foot of the cross. This shrine is available for prayer and meditation.

**ST MARY GERMAN
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Contact Us



614-445-9668.



www.stmarychurchgv.org



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