

# SAINT MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH

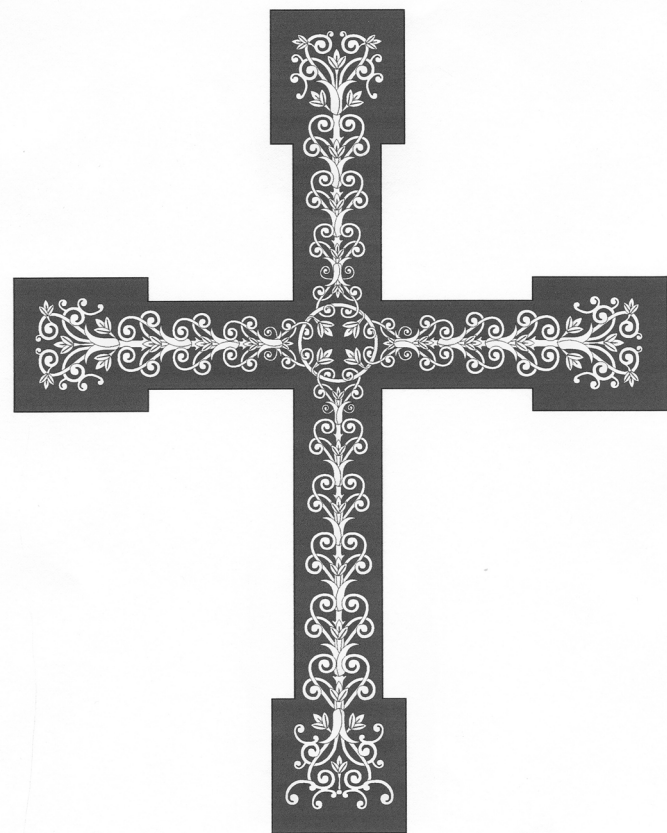
Brighton, Michigan

2201 South Old US 23 Highway Brighton, MI 48114



HEAVENLY FATHER,  
WE COME BEFORE YOU TO DEDICATE TO  
YOUR LASTING SERVICE THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER,  
THIS TEMPLE OF WORSHIP,  
THIS HOME IN WHICH WE ARE NOURISHED BY  
YOUR WORD AND YOUR SACRAMENTS.  
HERE MAY YOUR CHILDREN GATHERED  
AROUND YOUR ALTAR  
CELEBRATE THE MEMORIAL OF THE PASCHAL LAMB.  
HERE MAY PRAYER RESOUND  
THROUGH HEAVEN AND EARTH FOR  
THE WORLD'S SALVATION.  
HERE MAY THE POOR FIND JUSTICE,  
THE VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION, TRUE FREEDOM.  
FROM HERE MAY THE WHOLE WORLD, CLOTHED  
IN THE DIGNITY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD,  
ENTER WITH GLADNESS YOUR CITY OF PEACE.

-RITE OF DEDICATION OF A CHURCH AND AN ALTAR-



ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

ESTABLISHED JUNE 29, 1993

DEDICATED JUNE 29, 1998

REDEDICATED JANUARY 9, 2010

## IN THE BEGINNING

In 1992, the Diocese of Lansing purchased these twenty acres from Christine Schifko for the establishment of a new parish. Bishop Kenneth Povish created a new Catholic Community in Brighton Township on June 29, 1993, and appointed Fr David Howell the first pastor the next day. He assisted at both St. Patrick and St. John Parishes. On the first Sunday of Advent, 1993, over six hundred people gathered at Hartland Farms Middle School for our first weekend Liturgies.

Planning for our first building began in January of 1995 with the organization of the first Construction Task Group (CTG). They studied projections for the future growth of the area, estimated the space needs of a growing community and visited other parishes in southeastern Michigan to learn how they had planned and built their facilities. During the summer of 1995, members of the CTG hosted nineteen small groups with over 200 participating to explain their findings and present three possible building scenarios. The overwhelming consensus of the parishioners was that we would build a large, multi-purpose parish center; containing our parish offices, a social hall, space for religious education and meetings and a dedicated worship space.

In September of 1995, we formed the second Construction Task Group to act on this mandate. Christine Reinhard of Thornridge Studio was chosen as our liturgical consultant to guide us through this second phase. We began with an educational process which enabled us to understand the many different aspects which shape a space for Catholic worship.

In January of 1996, we hired Ken Neumann of Neuman Smith of Southfield and Lee Mamola of Mamola Associates of Novi as the architectural team for our project. They successfully blended the ideas gathered by the first Construction Task Group and the expectations of the 180 parishioners who participated in two, day-long, Advisory Sessions.

The CTG created a site plan for the full utilization of our property. During

## LITURGICAL DESIGN CONSULTANT

Christine Reinhard of Thornridge Studio, Fenton, MI

**ARCHITECTURE** David Swanson of Swanson Design Studios of Lansing, MI

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** O'Neal Construction Ann Arbor, MI

Project managers: Eric Trippe and Dean Kokkales

**THE FUND DRIVE TEAM** John & Sue McLellan, Chairs

All furnishings and accoutrements designed by Christine Reinhard  
in collaboration with CTG II

All metalwork fabricated by Rick Findora, Lodi, WI

All woodworking fabricated by Clayton Yoder, Topeka, IN  
with the exceptions of:

Plant stands - Tim Schiller

Processional banner poles - John Ditri & Chris Habsburg

Mary Shrine base - Norm Neilsen, Fenton, MI

Banner hanging system - Dick Walker

Worship ceiling embellishments designed by John Buscemi

Special thank you to the banner and quilt fabrication teams who have been  
and will be laboring to bring us a wonderful environment.

This booklet designed and produced by Diane Kubus

It is with an even deeper sense of gratitude that we dedicate our new facilities to God’s glory and the service of God’s People on January 9, 2010. Our new facilities also bear the fingerprints of so very many people, as once more we repeated the same process we used previously! We had 38 members in our Construction Task Group, almost 200 advisors, and seventy-five folks who worked on our fund drive. We also had many, many people who thoughtfully shared their comments, suggestions, time, and talent to create this new facility.

We are grateful to our consultant, architects, and  
our contractors for all of their hard work.

We thank God for you!

**CONSTRUCTION TASK GROUPS PHASE I AND II**

Edwin Belanger	James Devine	Charlie List	Daniel Schifko
John Biga	John Ditri	Karen Luck	Pat Shiek
Dwayne Bilicki	Denise Domanik	Karen MacDonald	Tom St. Clair
Patrick Brennan	Josie Doucette	Chris Madigan	David Swanson
Joan Brown	Donald Eagle	Mary Mahar	Charleen Turowski
Christopher Burt	Ted Eisenhut	Tom McSweeney	Dan Tuthill
Theresa Burt	Tom Farrington	Mark Mohrenweiser	Pat VanBuskirk
Dynetta Cadaret	William Frank	John Peterson	Jerry VanBuskirk
Margaret Callaghan	Catherine Goettsche	Richard Phillips	Mary Walker
Leo Camden	Will Gordon	Laura Rector	Richard Walker
Joseph Carney	Helen Hackett	Kathy Reichardt	Sandra Walus
Ray Chaplin	Bruce Heatley	Christine Reinhard	Robert Walus
Teri Chaplin	Robert Henderson	Robert Reske	Ronald Weingartz
James Chevalier	Larry Hill	Marilyn Rhadigan	Daniel Weir
Maryetta Churches	Sr. Joyce Hoile	William Ross	Mark Wright
Kathy Clark	Fr. Dave Howell	El Rushak	John Yanok
Doug Daniels	Dorothy Koprowicz	Dave Scharf	Edward Young
Priscilla Davis	Diane Kubus	Judy Scharf	Theodore Zvosec
Wesley Davis	Ben Lindamood	Paul Schifko	

that process, we realized that, at some point, the parish would have to move or remove the rectory to build either our first building or to build the second phase. In April 1996, at a general parish meeting with almost 200 attending, it was agreed that the rectory should be moved to clear the prime site on the property for our new building.

Many volunteers prepared the house for its move in October. They reconstructed the basement, which was used as our meeting room and the garage, which was used as our weekday chapel. We also moved the barn from our future parking lot to its present site.

Construction of this 28,000 sq. ft. facility began in March of 1997. It was built for \$3.2 million by O’Neal Construction of Ann Arbor. Our parish numbered almost 500 families and 450 of them pledged \$ 1.5 million to its construction. The remaining cost was borrowed from the other parishes of the Diocese of Lansing.

The main entry led to a large gathering area and a large worship space holding 800 seats. This worship space was designed to be expanded to accommodate





growth until a permanent church could be built in the future. The altar and ambo were designed by Bill Colley and constructed by Dennis Howe and others from our parish. The west wing of the building contained the youth room, social hall and kitchen. Movable partitions enabled us to create 8 separate rooms for religious education and activities. The south wing of the building contained the nursery and four more religious education rooms. It also had our adult formation room, Holy Cross Chapel and our parish offices.

On June 28, the eve of the fifth anniversary of our parish, Bishop Carl Mengeling dedicated the building. This Liturgy inaugurated a new era for St Mary Magdalen Parish as we moved from being a fledgling community, in temporary settings, to a permanent presence in our own spiritual home.



## RESURRECTION BELL TOWER

The church bell tower has traditionally served a special role in the life of the parish community. The bells of a church tower served as a “voice” that called the community together for prayer and invited them to raise their hearts and minds to God! The tower, with its steeple “pointing to heaven” helped guide travelers to the town.

Our Construction Task Group also decided to use the interior of our bell tower as a columbarium for the interment of human cremains. Inside the tower are 1,100 niches that will hold up to two urns each. The names of those interred are engraved on the individual urns, the niches and on the granite walls surrounding the base of the tower. Our bell tower thus serves as a vertical cemetery: a Resurrection Tower.

## WITH GRATITUDE

With gratitude, we dedicated the original building to God’s glory and service on June 28, 1998. We rededicated it on January 9, 2010. We are grateful to our parishioners and benefactors for their generous financial contributions. We are also grateful to Bishop Earl Boyea, and our sisters and brothers of the whole Diocese of Lansing for their support.

Our Spiritual Home bears the fingerprints of many, many hands who helped shape this facility. Thirty-one parishioners guided the original project in our first Construction Task Group, an additional one hundred-eighty acted as our Advisors, and sixty-five of our members served on our fund drive. Many of our people shared their comments, suggestions, time, and talents to create this facility.

## HOLY CROSS CHAPEL

This chapel is our fourth day chapel since the beginning of the parish, and it is located on the western side of the gathering area. It seats 120 people and is used for weekday Liturgy and small services. As you approach the chapel, you will see to the right of the entrance a special space where the deceased members of our community lie in state before their funeral. Immediately across from that space is our original Ambo which now holds our Book of Honor which lists all of the donors to our first and second building projects.

Holy Cross Chapel has a special entryway. On either side of the 9 foot linen glass doors are two carved wooden panels, each depicting four angels of the heavenly choirs. These panels were carved by Michael Kapetan of Ann Arbor. To the left and right of these panels are two stands that were created by splitting in two our original tabernacle stand. The stand and the carvings were done by Dennis Howe of Brighton.

The altar and ambo were created for the first chapel and have been renovated for our new chapel. The tops of the ambo and altar are octagonal in form, symbolic of eternity, while the pedestals are formed by three legs rising into one, symbolic of the Trinity.

An inlaid cross in the center of the altar top marks a stone beneath which comes from the original church of St. Patrick Parish in Brighton. The statue of Mary Magdalen in front of the ambo was originally part of a crucifixion scene in the old church of St. John in Hartland. The crucifix is from Old St. Michael in Flint. The eight hanging lanterns were crafted by Rick Findors and the stained glass windows were designed and crafted by Elizabeth Devereaux and her studios.

On the south wall of the chapel is a half-life statue of Mary in bronze from Bramante Studios. On the north wall there are three niches that contain six bas relief sculptures, and are the work of Ginger Hadd of Ann Arbor. They depict the seven Corporal Works of Mercy, a teaching of the Church which is based on the final judgment scene found in Matthew 25.

## AFTER 10 YEARS OF GROWTH...

The original vision for our facilities recognized that we would eventually outgrow our first facilities. In less than ten years our parish leadership began to recognize that our community grew by 5% annually. The numbers of children in religious formation more than doubled, growing from 350 to almost 800. By 2006, a Growth & Development Team was formed and spent six months looking at the projected growth of the area and the parish.

We counted up all of the scheduled uses of our facilities for September through June. This count included all weekend and weekday Masses, but not Penance, weddings, funerals or other special events. Over these 10 months, we averaged 130 activities a month. But this was only part of the story, because several of these activities used more than one room. These 1299 activities used 3023 rooms over 10 months averaging 302 rooms each month.

The Growth & Development Team presented its findings to the parish in another series of small group meetings over the summer of 2006. As a result we formed another Construction Task Group to suggest how we might meet our future needs. Once more we asked Christine Reinhard of Thornridge Studio to help guide us through the process as our liturgical design consultant.

At that point, we began to discuss several options with parishioners: (1) to do nothing, (2) to build a new church and renovate our original building to provide needed space, (3) to build another building to provide space for formation and activities. After interviewing several architects, we hired David Swanson of Swanson Design Studios in Lansing to assist us in our efforts. After looking at our original facilities, he provided an important fourth option: to expand our existing space to the west and south and renovate and expand the worship space. After several consultations with parishioners and a parish-wide vote, it was an overwhelming choice for this new option.

The CTG II actively pursued this new option and broadly consulted with our parishioners along the way. Plans were posted for comments and two meetings, open to everyone, were held for the review of our plans. During this process of advice and consent, the CTG II interviewed general contractors to manage our project. The choice fell to O'Neal Construction from Ann Arbor.

With preliminary plans and cost estimates in hand, we turned to our 1162 parish families to ask for their financial support. In August of 2007, we began our fund drive and by the time it was complete, over 800 families pledged \$4.2 million to the project with the remainder of the cost coming from our parish budget.

Construction began in August of 2008. Over the next year, our gathering area was enlarged and two new wings extended to the south and west of the former front entrance. The south wing holds a new kitchen, a community room, youth room and activities room. The west wing contains 14 formation\meeting rooms and a new day chapel. We also enlarged our offices, doubling that space.

In September of 2009, we moved out of our original building into our new construction. Our formation programs and preschool moved into the west wing. We also moved 800 chairs from our worship space to the community and activity rooms; a space filled with the praise of God was joyfully emptied in a matter of minutes.

Over the next five months, the worship space was enlarged to accommodate 1,200 worshippers and completely renovated. The east wing gave us a new adult formation room and provided a dedicated library which will house the parish collection of books and videos plus the books of Dr. Beverly Raye Sinke and Fr. Dave Howell. The north wing houses a new, larger and more cheerful nursery and another large adult formation room.

On January 9, 2010, on the eve of the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, Bishop Earl Boyea dedicated our newly renovated worship space. This Dedication Liturgy inaugurated a new era for St Mary Magdalen Parish as we continued our growth as God's People in our own spiritual home.

**THE DEDICATION CROSSES:** Around our worship space are 12 crosses that also have the Tree of Life theme. When a church or worship space is dedicated by the bishop, the walls are sprinkled with holy water or baptized. Later in the rite, the walls are christened or anointed with Sacred Chrism. The modern custom is to anoint four times, reminiscent of four directions. The ancient tradition is to anoint the walls 12 times, reminiscent of the 12 apostles who are the foundation of the heavenly Jerusalem. The twelve dedication crosses mark the places where our walls are anointed. An oil candle also venerates this anointing, and is lit at all festival liturgies.

“The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” Revelation 21.14.

## THE EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL

Jesus often took His disciples to an out of the way place to share His life and mission with them. This chapel provides an intimate, secluded place for private prayer and devotion. Inset in the door is a stained glass depiction of Mary Magdalen contemplating the cross. This memorial window was created by Brighton Stained Glass. The two side hanging candles were crafted by Rick Findora of Lodi, WI.



The stained glass windows were created by Elizabeth Devereaux and her studios. The refurbished tabernacle had been in St. Luke Parish in Flint. The carved angels and pelican added to the tabernacle are the work of Michael Kapetan; the pillar was designed by Christine Reinhard with our Construction Task Group and fabricated by Clayton Yoder of Topeka, IN. The refurbished kneelers had once been a part of Sacred Heart Parish in Flint. Our monstrance, a vessel used for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, comes from St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing. It is approximately 75 years old.



**THE STATIONS of the CROSS:** The stations of the cross are found in the niches along the north and east walls of our worship area. St. Francis of Assisi created the first set of stations after his return from the Holy Land. His purpose was to help the faithful walk with the Lord along the way of the cross. George Hoelzeman of Hattieville, AR was commissioned to carve these fourteen images of the Lord’s way of the cross.

**THE CRUCIFIX:** The central mystery of our Catholic Faith is the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Our crucifix is meant to depict both of these realities. Based on the Gospel of John, it portrays Jesus on the cross. Closer inspection reveals that there are no nails, the side of Jesus has been pierced, and the eyes of the Lord are open. This is the Risen Lord, showing the nail marks and His side to us, so that like Thomas, we might recognize our Lord and our God present to us especially in the Eucharist.



The crucifix was created in an icon style by Nicholas Markel. Following a medieval tradition, there are four smaller icons at the ends of the cross. Since the mother church of our diocese is St. Mary Cathedral, an icon of the Blessed Mother is at the top of the cross. On the right and left are icons of St. Patrick and St. John the Baptizer. The founding families of our parish came from these two neighboring parishes. Finally, at the bottom, is an icon of St. Mary Magdalen.

**THE BACK** side of the cross is covered with an image entitled “The Tree of Life.” It is based on the antique wrought iron cemetery cross in the bell tower plaza. It was created by Nicholas Markel 12 years after his original work to complete the cross when it was suspended from the skylight.



The following is a description and guide to several features that are a part of our spiritual home.

### SHRINE of the CROSS

The first mention of Mary Magdalen in the Gospel relates that Jesus exorcised seven demons from her.(Lk 8.2) More importantly, she was among the devoted followers of Jesus who accompanied Him from Galilee up to Jerusalem, financially supporting Jesus and his disciples. Her devotion led her to be among that small group who stood by the cross of Jesus. As you arrive at our parish site, you are greeted by the Shrine of the Cross. The scene depicted by the shrine shows Saint Mary Magdalen standing at the foot of the cross.

The shrine also serves as columbarium, a cemetery for the burial of human cremains. A small plaza of engravable pavers lies at the foot of the shrine to mark the place of burial.

### SHRINE of the FIRE

At the beginning of the Great Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, a new fire is lit as the first announcement of the resurrection; for the Risen Lord is the light that scatters the darkness of this world. The Shrine of the Fire is located in front of the portico at the entrance to our parish center. It features a permanent location for the new fire on Holy Saturday. Next to it we preserve the flame of Holy Saturday which burns until the following Ash Wednesday.

On Holy Saturday night and at every baptism throughout the year, this flame is given to the Baptized. When the newly baptized receive the Light of Christ, they are admonished, “Walk as children of the Light, keeping the flame of Faith alive in your heart!”

## THE GATHERING AREA

The gathering area is a critical piece of a church because church should be a place where people know your name, so our original area was doubled. Besides providing additional space for parishioners to gather, it has several other special features. Central to the space and near the entrance is a new Welcome Table where weekend visitors can obtain information about the parish. It also has a video bulletin board to provide information and direction to those who come to our large facility for different programs and activities.

**WITNESSING TO THE RESURRECTION:** Under the skylight in our enlarged gathering area, there is a statue of Mary Magdalen which depicts the saint in her most important role. She was the first to see the Risen Lord, who sent her to His disciples to tell them this good news. This important role led the early fathers of the Church to refer to Mary Magdalen as the “Apostle to the Apostles.” The five foot statue of Mary Magdalen was carved by Michael Kapetan of Ann Arbor. In the floor, directly in front of the statue, is our dedication stone.

**OUR VISION STATEMENT:** Our Vision is central to the formation of St. Mary Magdalen Parish. When we began in 1993, over 400 interested Catholics from the area met in small groups to discuss their hopes, dreams and expectations of a new parish. These ideas were used to write our Vision which now hangs in the gathering space. This statement was signed by our founding parishioners and by all those who have joined us since we began. We used our Vision to plan both phases of our construction and to provide direction to and evaluate all of our parish programs and activities.

Another special feature to our gathering area is the quilt that hangs between the doors to the Community Room which tells the story from Genesis of the seven days of creation. It was designed and sewn by our parishioners. The other feature is the Ministry Tables which provide information on some of the many ministries of our parish.

## THE ALTAR & AMBO

The altar is the most important furnishing of a church and the focal point of our most important prayer, the Mass. It is the table around which the Children of God gather to be fed. Here bread and wine are transformed by the Holy Spirit into the Body & Blood of the Risen Christ, so that the assembly, the gathered priesthood of Christ who offer the sacrifice of Christ, might be transformed in his image. In the words of St. Augustine, “becoming what they receive and receive what they are.”



**OUR ALTAR** was designed by Christine Reinhard with our Construction Task Group. Its four legs reach up to hold the mensa or altar table. To many, they suggest the uplifted arms of a praying community. The design also suggests a cup, reminiscent of the words of the Lord Jesus who asked if his disciples would be able to drink of his cup.

Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink?” Mark 10.38



**OUR AMBO** was designed to mirror and complement our altar. In the Catholic tradition, the ambo (sometimes called a pulpit) is the smaller altar or the Table of God’s Word. The processional cross and altar and ambo candles that stand near the altar and ambo are made of brass and onyx. They once graced the high altar of old St. Michael Church in Flint and were donated to St. Mary Magdalen by St. Michael when we began.



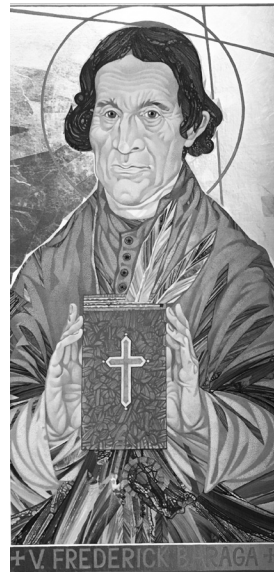
## ICON SHRINES

To the left and right of the baptismal font and on the western wall of our worship space are small devotional shrines holding the icon images of 14 saints. These were suggested and chosen by a parish wide vote of our community. The icons were created by Alexander Zorin of Detroit.



The fourteen icons depict:

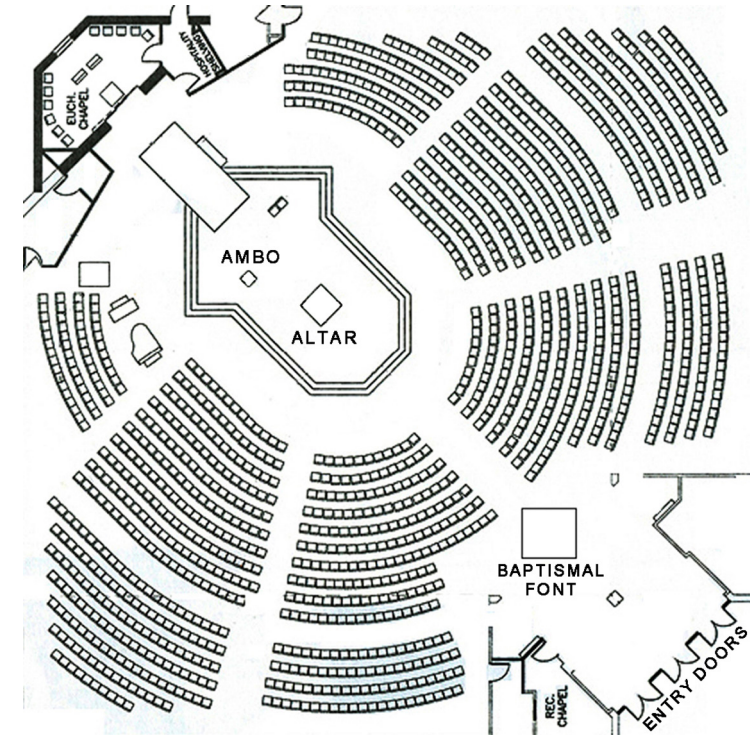
St. Francis Assisi, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Jude, Padre Pio, St. Monica, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Thomas More, St. Paul, St. Peregrine, Venerable Bishop Baraga, (bishop of the upper peninsula of Michigan) St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Joseph, St. John XXIII, and St. Frances Cabrini.



## MEMORIAL WALL

Along the south wall of our worship space is another special shrine. Catholic and Orthodox Christians have always had a tradition of praying for those who have died. Every November for years, we have created a special “Wall of Remembering” with the pictures of those who have died over the past year. Using half of the altar that graced our original church, we have created a permanent shrine honoring those who have died in the past year.

## WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SPACE



## ENTRY DOORS

Perhaps the most striking feature of the gathering area is the entrance to our worship space. The three, 9 foot doors are separated by four stained glass angels whose wings spread into the upper panels of the doors. The stained glass panels are the work of Elizabeth Devereaux and her studio. The four angels stand as guardians and protectors; worshippers are invited to find God’s protection and care “under their outstretched wings.”

## BAPTISMAL FONT & AMBRY

The new instructions for Baptism require fonts to be constructed in a manner that permits both emersion as well as by the pouring of water. For in Baptism, we die with Christ so that we might rise with Him to new life. (Rm 6.4)

The smaller, upper font is used for infant baptisms. Shaped like a cross, it is a reminder of the water that flowed from the Lord Jesus as He hung on the cross. The lower font is used for the baptism of adults. Its octagon shape symbolizes eternity. The font was designed for our original worship space. In the renovation a four inch row of Pewabic Tile was added to the upper font and a six inch band was added to the lower. Woven into these bands are creation images that serve as reminders that the waters of baptism are also the living waters of the new creation in Christ Jesus.

Traditionally, we bless ourselves with baptismal water as we enter for liturgy. The shapes of the font and flow of the water remind us that life flows from the cross into eternity. The cross of death became the tree of life.

Immediately behind the font is the ambry, a special case containing the holy oils that are used in sacramental celebrations. The Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumen and the Sacred Chrism are blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday.



## SHRINES

### MARY, MOTHER OF THE LORD

Reverence and devotion for the Blessed Mother is an ancient practice of both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. We venerate Mary as the exemplar or model of all those who follow Christ.

No single image can capture the reality of Our Lady's life or her faith, but we have chosen an image of that depicts her role as patron saint of the Americas: the image of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe. The statue is based on an image of Mary dressed as an Aztec princess that was left on the serape of an Aztec convert, St. Juan Diego at Guadalupe, Mexico in 1531.



### VENERABLE SOLANUS CASEY

The other primary shrine stands in the southeast corner of our worship space opposite the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is the image of the Venerable Solanus Casey.

Solanus Casey ministered to the needs of all God's children of every denomination during the difficult times of the 20th century. He was the doorkeeper of Capuchin monastery in Detroit and approximately 200 people visited him at the monastery on an average day. He used his simple, gentle gifts to touch their lives. He listened to their troubles and promised prayer; when Solanus prayed for others, his prayers were answered with unexplainable frequency. His soup kitchen, established during the great depression, continues, and prayers for healing are still answered through his intercessory prayer.

