

Thank You

*for visiting Saint Thomas More Catholic Church.
We are honored and blessed by your presence among us!*

May God bless your journey.

*And in the words of Saint Thomas More,
“May we merrily meet one day in heaven.”*

*Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Saint Thomas More Catholic Community*

Church location: 1079 Summit Avenue in Saint Paul, MN
(Corner of Summit Ave. and Lexington Pkwy.)

Pastoral Center & Church’s Mailing Address

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Saint Paul, MN 5105-3004
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08/21/2018



Please pause on your tour of our church
to pray for yourself, your family and this faith



Prayer of Saint Thomas More

O Lord,
give us a mind that is humble, quiet,
peaceable, patient and charitable,
and a taste of your Holy Spirit
in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.

O Lord,
give us a lively faith, a firm hope,
a fervent charity, a love of you.
Take from us all luke-warmness in meditation
and all dullness in prayer.
Give us fervor and delight
in thinking of you, your grace
and your tender compassion toward us.

O Lord,
give us the grace to work for,
the things we pray for.

Amen



Easter Sunday Sprinkling Rite

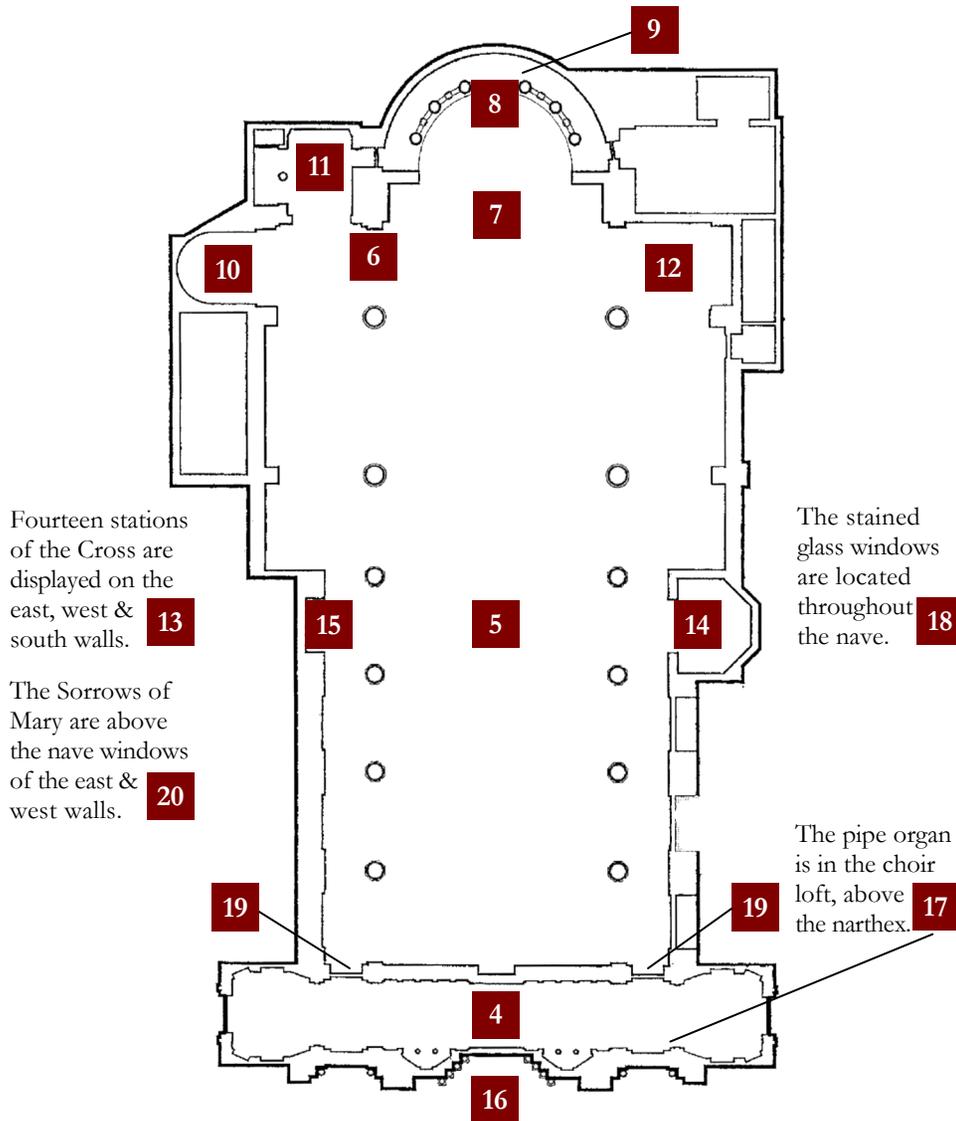


Statuary and sculpture not identified in this brochure were designed at the Pittsburgh studios of Frank Aretz and Frank Vittor and the studio of Brioschi-Minuti Co. of Saint Paul. The Gherati Co. of Saint Paul executed the works. These include the transept reliefs of the Angel Uriel (God is Love) and the Angel Jerahmeel (God is Mercy) as well as the Ascension of Christ over the interior of the central nave doors.

Praised be Jesus Christ! Welcome!

Thank you for visiting our place of worship,
the heart of our community!

Saint Thomas More Catholic Community, founded on January 1, 2008, is the union of two Catholic Parishes on Summit Avenue: The Church of Saint Luke (1888) and The Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (1949). Our rich heritage from these two communities of faith has blessed us with over 125 years of Catholic worship, community and ministry in this historic area of Saint Paul.



1. Architect

John Theodore Comès, one of America's most famous architects, designed Saint Thomas More Catholic Church. Comès, a native of Saint Paul, headed the firm of Comès, Perry and McMullen of Pittsburgh and was invited by Archbishop John Ireland to design and oversee the construction of this church building. When Comès died suddenly in 1922, his associate William Perry brought the project to completion. Under the direction of the Walter Butler Co. Inc. of Saint Paul, construction began in 1924 and was completed in 1926. This work was carried out during the pastorate of Msgr. James Byrne. The dedication stone was laid by Archbishop Michael Dowling on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1925. The Mass of Dedication was celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Murray in early October, 1926. The entire work took place during the pontificate of Pius XI, whose coat of arms is carved above the southwest entrance of the church.

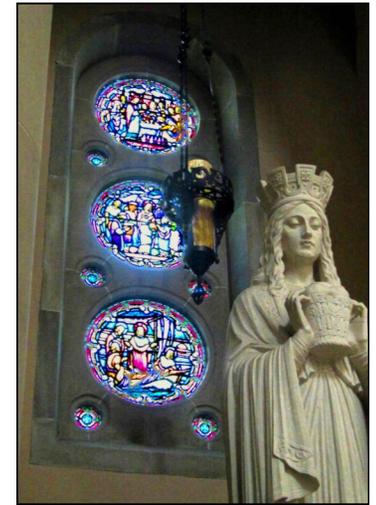
(A floor plan of the church is found on page 16)

2. Architecture

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church is a notable example of "Romanesque Revival" architecture, which thrived throughout Europe and North America from 1889 to 1930. Romanesque Architecture is a combination of the architectural styles of the Roman and Byzantine empires and flourished throughout Europe and England between the 9th and 12th centuries.

Main Characteristics of the Architecture

- ◆ A basilica floor plan
- ◆ Barrel vault ceilings
- ◆ An apse at one end of the building
- ◆ Apsidal chapels around the apse and/or throughout the nave, the main body of the church.



3. Facade

The church is constructed of Indiana Bedford Limestone and measures 198 ft. in length. A glorified cross surmounts the imposing 122 ft. façade on Summit Avenue. Below the cross is the Paschal Lamb and a statue of Saint Luke, the original patron. The great rose window with the symbols of the four evangelists stands at the center of the facade.





17. Pipe Organ

This three manual and pedal organ is the work of Casavant Freres of Quebec and has 40 stops divided into 39 ranks. Built for this church in 1926, it is one of the last organs built under the personal supervision of the Casavant brothers. Casavant organs continue to be considered among the finest quality in the world.

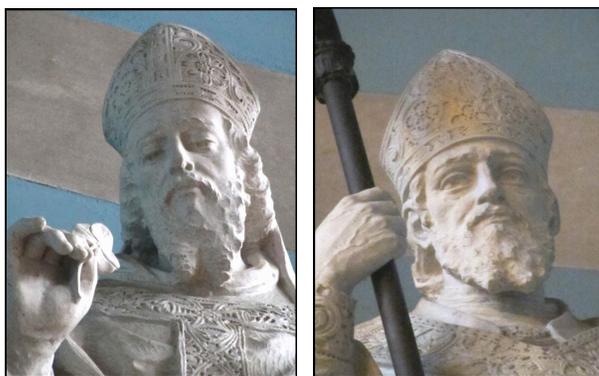
18. Stained Glass Windows

Throughout the nave, the stained glass windows depict Old Testament events in the lower register and New Testament events in the upper register. The transept windows

depict scenes from the *Acts of the Apostles*. These are the design and creation of Weston and Leighton of Minneapolis. The Cathedral glass of the clerestory is the work of the Saint Paul Glass Company.

19. Saint Patrick and Saint Boniface

Surmounting the east and west doors of the nave, these statues were added in 1926. They honor the Irish and German origins of the founding parish community.



20. Sorrows of Mary

The lunettes above the nave windows depict the Sorrows of Mary.



West and East Portals

Over the three portals of the facade, the history of Salvation is epitomized. Above the west portal is the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden with Noah's ark below. This west portal is complemented by the east portal of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary above and the ship of the Church below.

Central Portal: Christ in His Majesty

The great arch surrounding this image contains fifteen discs, seven of which are symbols of Christ. Carvings of the twelve apostles appear immediately below Christ in Majesty. To the left of the apostles are the prophets and to the right of the apostles are holy men and women from the early and medieval Church. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac is carved to the left of the center doors and Melchisedech's Offering to the right. The Archangels Michael and Raphael stand to the left and right of central portal.



4. Narthex

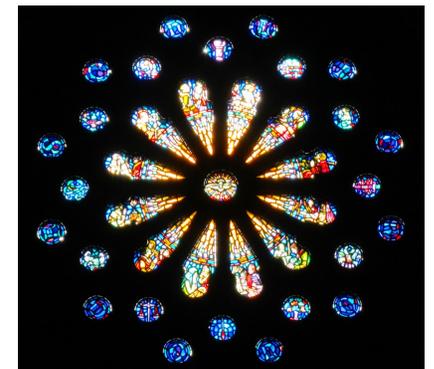
Inside the narthex: to the east, the staircase ascends to the choir loft and descends to the undercroft; to the west is an entrance from Lexington Parkway and a staircase descending to the undercroft of the church. Above this west entrance are stained glass windows: one of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; the other a personification of Wisdom with Solomon whom God granted this gift when he became King.

The windows at the east represent the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Saint Cecilia, the patron of music; Mary, Tower of Ivory; and Saint Anne. The more contemporary window in the narthex itself, represents Saint Catherine of Siena.



16. Rose Window

The rose window (and three sets of four round windows in the northwest entrance) were designed by Andreas Larson of Minneapolis. The Holy Spirit forms the axis of the rose window from which radiates the seven gifts and twelve fruits of the Spirit.



15. Shrine to Saint Thomas More

The statue of Saint Thomas More is the generous gift of our parishioners and the family and friends of Mary Ellen Sarafolean, beloved member of this faith community, for whom it is a memorial.

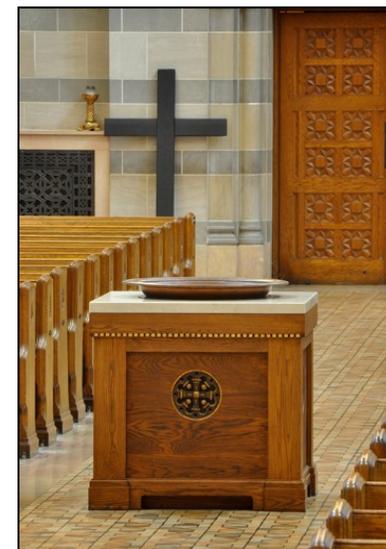
Cast in ground Carrara marble, the statue of our patron was designed and created by sculptor Leo C. Irrera of Washington, D.C. In this statue Mr. Irrera wanted to create a visual statement that would capture Saint Thomas More's essence: to choose God over power. For this reason the Lord Chancellor's "Chain of Service" is at his feet while the Cross of Christ rests on his heart.

A true renaissance man before his time, Saint Thomas More was an outstanding and articulate example of a Christian humanist. He is shown pointing down to a few of the many books he authored, among them *Utopia*, *The Sadness of Christ* and a book of his English poetry. He reminds us daily of the supremacy of conscience formed in Christ and the inalienable dignity of the human conscience. He was martyred in the Tower of London on July 6, 1535. His feast day is June 22.



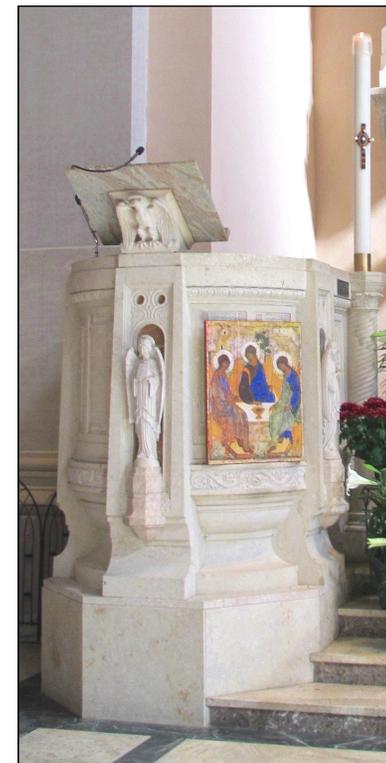
5. Baptismal Font

At the center of the nave stands the baptismal font. This font is constructed from sections of the original wooden communion rail, which was replaced in 1933 with the existing marble railing.



6. Ambo

The ambo is made of Italian marble, which was imported from Piedrasanta, Italy. It is adorned with three angels signifying the meaning of God's Word for the Church: the Torch for Knowledge, the Ten Commandments for the Law, and the Lamp for Wisdom.



7. Altar

The altar stands at the center of the sanctuary. It is constructed of Formosa marble with inset mosaic medallions taken from the original altar. The medallions on either side depict grapes and wheat, symbols of the Eucharist. The central medallion on the front of the altar depicts Christ the Pascal Lamb.



8. Altar Crucifix

The Italian marble and mosaic reredos designed by Frank Aretz of Pittsburgh shows Jesus crucified with Mary and John standing beneath his cross. Six saints surround the crucifix and complete the reredos (west to east): Saint Agnes, Saint Luke, Saint Peter, Crucifixion, Saint Paul, Saint Theresa of Avila and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

14. Saint Therèse of Lisieux Chapel

The statue of Saint Therèse of Lisieux is carved from a solid block of white Botticino marble and was placed on the altar in 1928. The altar, designed by Fredrick A. Slifer, is built of light Botticino marble, with a reredos one shade darker, inlaid with blue, green and gold mosaics. The construction of this church coincided with Theresa's beatification and canonization process. The workers were placed under her protection. No serious accidents occurred during the erection of the building.





12. Saint Joseph Altar

The Saint Joseph Altar, a gift of the Bell Family in 1937, is the work of Joseph A. Capecchi of the Saint Paul Statuary Co. The wall behind the statue is made of Montana travertine and the altar is Montana onyx.

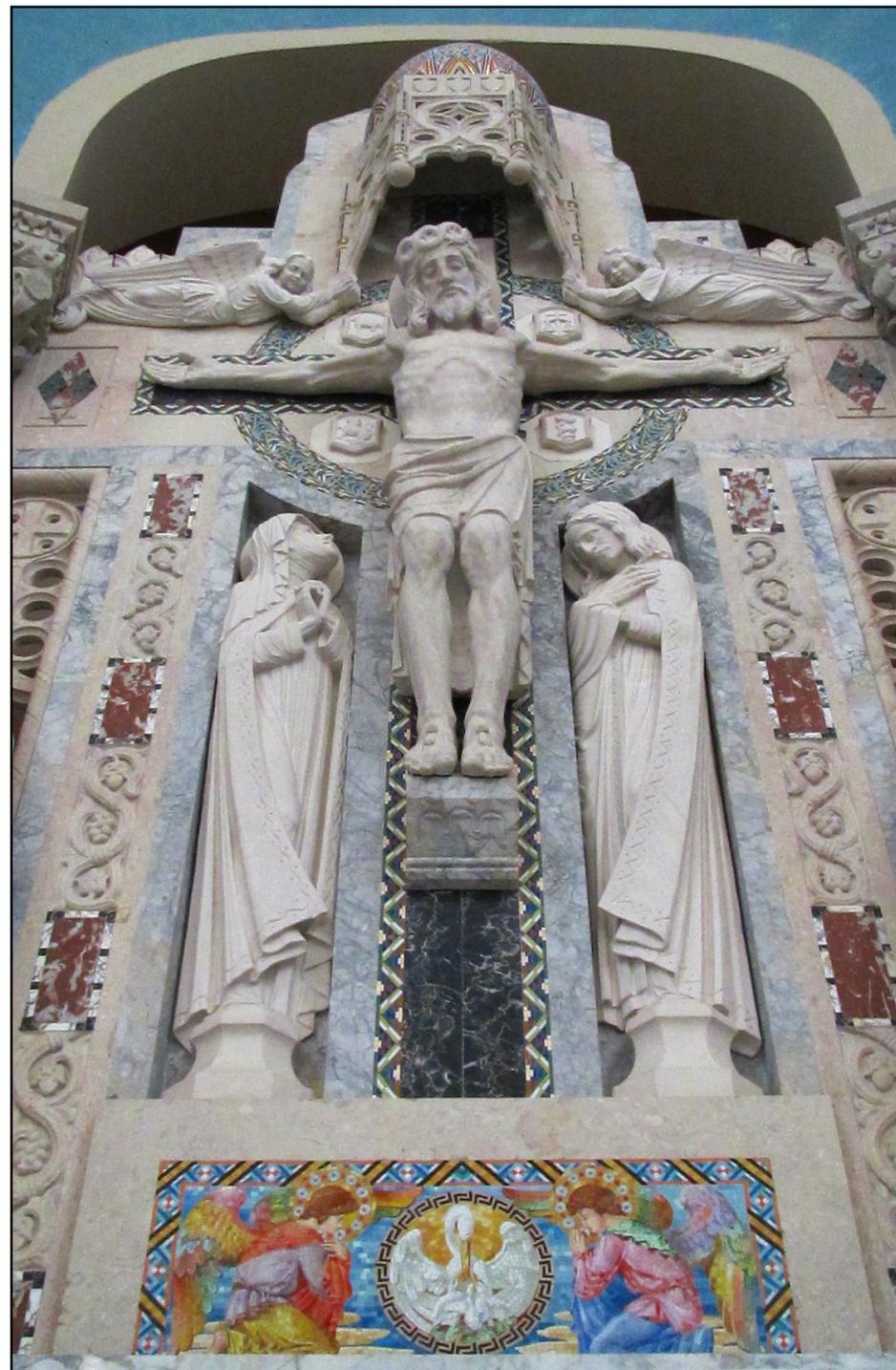
Mural: "The Adoration of Joseph"

The mural above the altar was designed by Msgr. Byrne and executed by Sister Stanisla of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Longwood, Chicago. In the "Adoration," Saint Joseph's infused faith in Christ, the Son of God, seems to be a brighter and more direct light than that of the prophets on the one side, or the doctors of the Church on the other, who see the divinity of Christ by vision or by miracle.



13. Stations of the Cross

Along the side and rear walls of the Church are located the 14 stations of the cross depicting the passion and death of Jesus. These stations are painted copper and done in the Belgian style. The stations begin on the east side of the Church, near the Saint Joseph Altar.

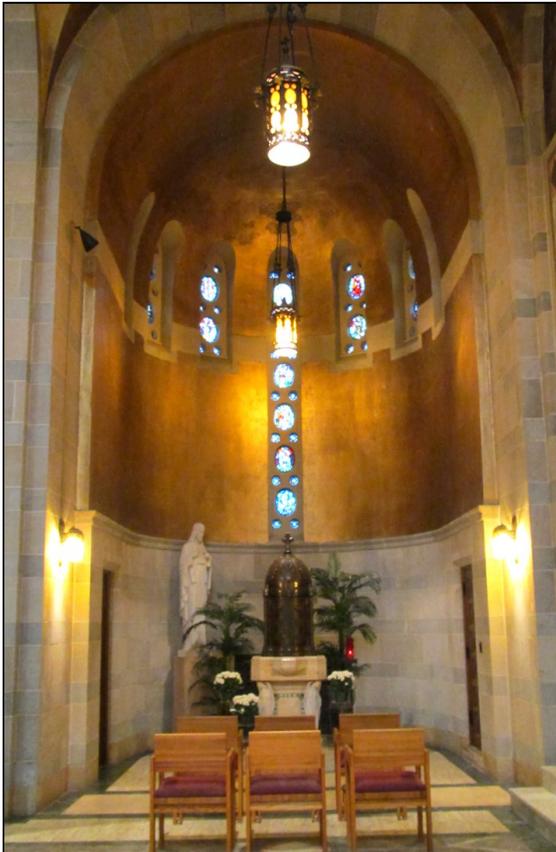


9. Apse

The Rambusch Company of New York was selected by Comès and Perry to design and execute the monumental murals for the apse and sanctuary. These were not created until 1950. The original mural rendered in Byzantine style, depicted Christ the Teacher enthroned upon a rock flowing with life giving water. To this living water come the sheep of Christ's flock. Behind Christ is the cosmos with the sun, moon and stars. Beneath him the seraphim stand with faces covered by their wings before Christ's glory. In the 1988 renovation the mural was altered to its present state.

10. Eucharistic Reservation Chapel

In 1988 the baptistery became the Eucharistic Reservation Chapel. The tabernacle is an original Florentine piece of art created in antique bronze. It now rests on the original baptismal font.



11. Our Lady of Victory Chapel

Victor Cordella of Minneapolis designed the altar for Our Lady of Victory Chapel. The statue of Mary under this title is a replica of the one brought here by Bishop Cretin, the first Bishop of Saint Paul. It is made of Carrara marble and is the work of Da Prato Studio, Chicago. The altar was financed by the children of the school through the zeal of Sister Bernarda.



Mural: "The Annunciation"

The mural above Our Lady of Victory Chapel was designed by Msgr. Byrne and executed by Mr. John Socha of Saint Paul. The mural depicts heaven (angels) and earth (stricken humanity) awaiting Mary's response to Gabriel's invitation to become the mother of God.