

Saint Maria Goretti Church Rejoice and Come In!



A statue of **SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI** greets us as we enter the campus of Saint Maria Goretti Parish.



The **NARTHES** is a large gathering space that serves as a place of welcome for worshippers and provides the transition between the outside environment and the place for prayer. In the early Church, this gathering space served as a "waiting room" for penitents and for those preparing for baptism (catechumens). Today, it is the space where the hospitality of Christ is offered to parish members and visitors.



Statues of **OUR LADY OF THE EUCHARIST**, the **INFANT OF PRAGUE**, and the **SACRED HEART OF JESUS** adorn our church narthex.



The **DONOR TREE WALL** is also located in the narthex. It recognizes generous benefactors who contributed to the pew renovation project and other necessary enhancements and improvements to our church.



The **ADULT FAITH RESOURCE TABLE** is located in the narthex of our church under the images of the lay saints: Saint Gianna, Saint Maria Goretti, and Saints Zelia and Louis (the parents of Saint Theres). Registration forms for all upcoming events, the yearly calendar, and other adult faith materials can be found on this table.



The **CRUCIFIX** is the most solemn and significant symbol of the Christian faith and represents the absolute sacrifice made by Christ for our salvation. Catholics begin every act of worship with the sign of the cross. The cross always has a prominent and central place within the church building.



The **ALTAR** is the table on which the Eucharist is celebrated. It is called the altar of sacrifice because Catholics remember Christ's own sacrifice on the cross.



The word **TABERNACLE** derives from the Latin and means "a tent." It is the receptacle in which the consecrated Hosts for Holy Communion are reserved. Early in the Church's life, it became necessary to reserve some portion of the Eucharist so that those who were ill, or in prison for their faith, could also share in the family meal of Christians.



A **SANCTUARY LAMP** is kept near the tabernacle to call attention to the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



While the altar is the center of the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the **AMBO** (sometimes called the *pulpit*) is the center for the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word. The ambo is frequently called the table of God's Word because it is the place from which the Word of God nourishes the faithful.



The **PRESIDER'S CHAIR**, located in the sanctuary area, is the **PAPAL CHAIR** that Pope Francis used during his visit to the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in 2015 for the *World Meeting of Families* in Philadelphia. It was built by inmates in the prison system's furniture-making program. Pope Francis gave a "thumbs up" to the prisoner's work when he met them stating that, "The chair is beautiful."



The **BAPTISMAL FONT** is located in the front of our church to the left of the altar and ambo to manifest the central importance of Baptism and its relationship to the whole Eucharistic community. In the waters of Baptism, the Church becomes the joyful mother of many children who will grow as Disciples of Christ.



The **HOLY OILS** are located to the left of the baptismal font. They consist of the oil of catechumens for anointing those who are preparing for Baptism, the oil of chrisam for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and the oil of the sick for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Catholic Christians are anointed at various points of their lives with oils, showing that they are a prophetic, priestly, and kingly people in the pattern of Jesus Christ.



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS can be found throughout our church and are meant to invoke a sense of the sacred by their color, design, and shape.



The **CHAPEL** is located in the interior of our church and to its left. Weekday Masses are celebrated in our chapel. The Reconciliation Rooms (confessionals) can be found in our chapel along with a statue of Our Lady of LaVang.



The **RECONCILIATION ROOMS**, located in our chapel, provide the option of either face-to-face confession or anonymity behind the screen. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.



The **SAINTE MARIA GORETTI SHRINE** is located in the interior of our church and to its right directly opposite the chapel. It contains a statue of our patroness, Saint Maria Goretti, first class relics of the saint, photos of the saint and her family, and a stone from her House of Martyrdom in Italy.



The **SACRISTY** or vesting area is a small room where the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments are kept. It serves as a place where the priests, deacons, and altar servers can prayerfully prepare for the liturgy and transition into worship. Our sacristy is located at the end of the narthex hallway next to the Ministry Room.



The **MINISTRY ROOM** is located in the narthex hallway between the restrooms and the sacristy. "Lost and Found" items are placed in the closet of this room. Aluminum foil trays for Saint John's Hospice and Aid for Friends can be found in the cabinets between the freezers. Meal donations can be placed in these freezers.



The **OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS** offer a peaceful place to pray and to meditate upon the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stations of the Cross booklets are available for free in the narthex of our church in the metal baskets near the Adult Faith Resource Table.



A statue of **OUR LADY OF GRACE** sets the scene of the lawn area near our Parish Center. The crowning of Our Lady takes place here in May, weather permitting.



Text and photos by Angela McClellan