

St. Michael the Archangel Church
502 West Front Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161
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Historical sketch of our parish Church.

On 3rd July 1852, a group of families of recent German origin signed an indenture for the transfer of land known as the Harleston property. This property was then, in that same year, deeded over to Peter Paul Lefevere, Administrator of the Diocese of Detroit. The Ordinary, Bishop Frederic Rese, was living in Germany.

Those early families were: Lang, Schaub, Brillman, Kirschner, Steiner, and Westerman. Since 1845, the Redemptorist Simon Saenderl had been tending the German speaking families in a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph on the second floor of St. Mary's rectory. Saenderl was then sent as the pioneer priest to Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties and Peter Kronenberg succeeded him at Monroe. Under the direction of Fr. Kronenberg, the founding families bought property on Humphrey Street. However, when the home and land of the city's first Mayor, George B. Harleston, was up for sale, they bought it for \$2000. On that property stands, today, the Parish Church and Rectory of St. Michael the Archangel.

On the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, Wednesday 29th September 1852, the Provincial of the Redemptorists in America, Bernard Hafkenschied, blessed the house which had been converted into a church. Michael was chosen at the request of Michael Lauer, a local businessman and generous donor to the early German parish.

From the beginning, two rooms in the house were set aside as school rooms for boys and on the first Sunday of Lent, 25th February 1855, Sister Aloysius Walter, I.H.M., began religious instructions for girls. Sister was one of the first members of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary founded in 1845 by the Belgium Redemptorist Louis Gillet. Sister Aloysius started a regular school for girls on 16th April 1855. St. Michael the Archangel was the first mission of the I.H.M. community outside of St. Mary's parish.

Three years after the foundation of St. Michael, the Redemptorists left Monroe. The priest Henry Rievers came up from Erie Parish to minister in May 1855. The first resident pastor of Newport, John Van Gennip (a Dutchman) began helping Fr. Rievers a month or so later. In 1859, Van Gennip was sent to Dexter and was replaced at Monroe by Mary Paul Wehrle for one year. He was followed by the associate of St. Mary's, Desiderius Callaert, for a few months.

On 3rd May 1860, Julian Maciejewski arrived at St. Michael as the first officially named pastor. He died on 25th May 1861 and was buried at Mt. Elliot Cemetery in Detroit. The Associate of St. Mary's, Remigius VanDerHeyden, was to act as pastor until the arrival in November 1861 of Bernard C. Stentzel. Fr. Stentzel was to remain as pastor for two years until he left the Diocese of Detroit. On 24th July 1863, Benjamin Schmittziel arrived as the new pastor and was to remain in the service of this parish for the next thirty-six years.

Plans for a new church were begun with the purchasing of a set of plans and specifications that had been used in the construction of the Cathedral of Fort Wayne, Indiana. John Wahl began work on the church in 1865 and the cornerstone was laid on 12th June 1866.

The church measures 60 by 145 feet and the gable is 100 feet above the ground; buttresses in the outer walls support the roof. The total cost, excluding tower and bells was \$30,000. On the feast of the Guardian Angels, 2nd October 1867, the church was consecrated by Bishop J. H. Luers of Fort Wayne. Bishop Lefevere was too ill to conduct the rites of consecration.



Pastors of St. Michael

Julian Maciejewski 1860-1861

Hugo Noetzel 1958 – 1971

Remigius VanDerHeyden 1861

Theodore Fujawa 1971 – 1980

Bernard C. Stentzel 1861 – 1863

Donald Kresmer 1980 – 1981

Benjamin Schmittiel 1863 – 1899

Daniel Rebain 1981 – 1988

Charles G. Bolte 1899 – 1915

Jacob Samonie 1988 – 1995

Alphonse Bertele 1915 – 1947

Stephen Rooney 1995 – 2008

Bernard C. Loehner 1947 – 1949

Stephen L. Vileo 2008 – 2015

Stanley Fedewa 1949 – 1958

Philip Ching 2015 –

Ceiling Murals

Starting on Saint Joseph's side of the Church.

The Betrothal of Joseph and Mary: Matthew 1: 18-25

The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary: Luke 1: 26-38

The Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth: Luke 1: 39-56

The Nativity of Christ the Lord: Luke 2: 1-20

The Flight into Egypt: Matthew 2: 13-15

The Presentation of The Child Jesus in the Temple: Luke 2: 22-38

The Child Jesus teaching the elders in the temple: Luke 2: 41-52

The Dormition of The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin into Heaven

The Coronation of The Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth

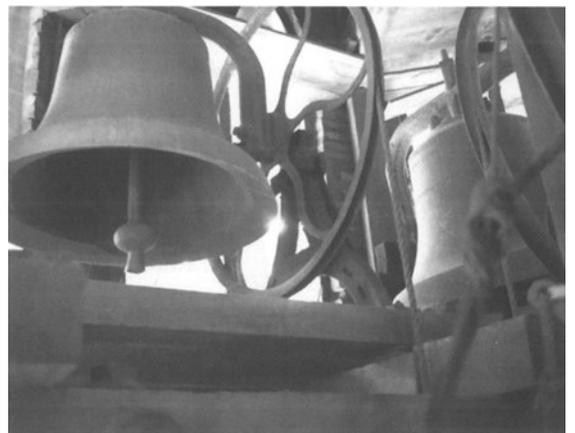
The Stations of The Cross: In the Summer of 1923, Matthew Ising of St. Louis decorated St. Michael for the sum of \$5,500. The Stations were imported from the Tyrolese Art Company, Munich, Germany by the Fredrick Pustet Co. The cost of installation was \$2,425. The stations are carved in wood then dipped in plaster to enable the artist to do the detail. The stained glass windows were donated, at the cost of \$100 each, by sixteen individuals, including Father Schmittiel. A replacement value of \$971,388 was estimated for the stained glass windows in 2015.

William Steiner donated two large, wood-burning furnaces that he built in his shop. They were considered quite marvelous in their day.

Bells: Completion of the church spire on Thursday, August 16, 1883, suggested the addition of bells. The parish placed an \$1,800 order with the St. Louis Bell Foundry in late November 1884. Henry Struckstede cast the bells in December.

The bells weigh 4,000, 2,000, and 1,000 pounds and sound the notes of lower C, E, and G, respectively. They arrived at the church on Friday, January 2, 1885. With great care, they were unloaded the following day and placed in front of the altar, just outside of the communion rail, where they were exhibited for all to see. On Sunday, January 11, 1885, Bishop Henry Borgess presided over a ceremony to bless the three bells, named

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph" in honor of the holy family. Installation in the belfry on the second level of the steeple began the next day.



The Main Altar

The main altar of our church displays the crucified Christ upon his death. Pictured to his right is the Mother of Jesus, Mary, and to his left is St. John. Kneeling before him is most likely Mary Magdalene. Of course, this is the culmination of the event which we hear in the Passion of Christ. Mary, the Mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene, and St. John stood by Jesus until the very end. Jesus' dying words were "Eli eli, lama sabachthani?" or "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In this depiction of Christ, Jesus is presumably dead, since his executioners have already pierced his side to ensure he had died.

St. Michael the Archangel is on Jesus' right side and the left side is most likely the Archangel Gabriel.



Crucifixion itself was a popular form of execution at the time of Jesus' death. However, Constantine the Great - the first Christian emperor of Rome - abolished the use of crucifixion in the Roman Empire in 377 AD, out of respect for Christ. Crucifixion was not only a form of execution, but also humiliation; generally Christ is depicted wearing a cloth, however, in common practice, the condemned were nude and crucifixions were done in very public places to deter others from committing the same crimes - which is why "INRI" appears above Jesus, displaying the "crime" he committed. INRI stands for the Latin of "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews." The cause of death for many who are crucified is not necessarily the crucifixion itself. Jesus, as we believe, died within three hours. However, some may take several days to die. Dehydration, infection from scourging, blood loss, and asphyxiation from holding oneself up for such a long period are all possible causes of death. The image of the Cross has become the symbol of Christianity.



The Last Supper is depicted below the tabernacle on the main altar. The Last Supper is considered to be the first celebration of Mass.

Hierarchy of the Angels

The hierarchy of Angels in the Catholic tradition consists of 9 Choirs of Angels. (Angels are depicted both on the main altar and on the cupola above the main altar)

Seraphim is the first, and highest, choir of angels. They are the caretakers of God's throne and constantly shout his praises, saying "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of host; all the earth is filled with His glory." The name Seraphim means, "the burning ones." Each angel has 6 wings: 2 covering their faces, 2 covering their feet and 2 with which to fly.

Cherubim is the next choir of angels. They act as attendants of God, and guard places, such as the garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve sin, and guard the throne of God. They each have four faces: a man, an ox, a lion, and a griffon (vulture).

Thrones follow Cherubim. They number around 70 and some fallen angels are among them. They are tied with the steadfastness of God and God uses them to bring His justice on each of us. They are usually depicted as a wheel with many eyes.

Dominions is the next choir of angels. They regulate the duties of the lower angels and have little contact with humans. They are believed to look like divinely beautiful humans with a pair of feathered wings, not unlike other angels, however they hold scepters and orbs, which are emblems of their authority.

Virtues follow Dominions as the next choir of angels. They are depicted above the Crucified Christ on the main altar. They were present when Jesus ascended into heaven. They govern all nature, controlling the seasons, stars, the moon, and the sun, and they also work miracles on earth and provide courage, grace and valor.

Powers follow Virtues, and they are the warrior angels that defend the World from demons. They are also bearers of conscience and keepers of history.

Principalities are the next choir. They watch over leaders of humans - our presidents, kings, queens, congresses, prime ministers, etc. to inspire them to make good decisions for humanity. They also inspire the arts and sciences.

Archangels follow Principalities and are probably the most well known to Catholics. They are the messengers of God, and among them is St. Michael the Archangel - the namesake of our Parish. The Archangels include: Michael, Raphael, Gabriel, Rriel, Raguel, Seraqael, and Haniel. Gabriel announces that Mary will be the mother of God at the Annunciation and Michael slays the devil, as is depicted in several locations in St. Michael Church.

Angels are the lowest, but most recognized order of angels. Satan - the most famous fallen angel - was among this choir. These angels are the most numerous and act as divine agents of God to execute judgment, lead, protect, heal, and intercede to God on our behalf. Guardian angels fall in this choir.



Gabriel (left) and Michael (right) are from the Choir of Archangels on the left side of the cupola.



Raphael (left) and the Divine Redeemer are pictured on the right side of the cupola.

Depictions in Saint Michael

St. Joseph Altar

St. Joseph (center), was the husband of the Blessed Virgin and foster father of Christ. Joseph's lineage can be traced back to King David. There is little information about Joseph in the bible, and he is only mentioned in the gospels of Matthew and Luke; Joseph was believed to be a carpenter or artisan, and since Mary is generally depicted as a widow during Jesus' adult ministries, Joseph is believed to have died prior to this period. He is patron saint of fathers, workers, and of a happy death. Also, in 1870, Pope

Pius IX declared him patron saint and protector of the Catholic Church. Two of his feast days are March 19th Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary and May 1st Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker.



St. Anthony of Padua (right), was a Portuguese Franciscan Friar who lived from 1193 to 1231. In 1219, he was named the hospitality director of his abbey in Lisbon, where he met five Franciscans who were traveling to Morocco to preach to the Muslims there; he became interested in the simple lifestyle of these men. In early 1220, he received news that the five friars were martyred in Morocco and after contemplating their heroism, he elected to join the Franciscan Order, leaving behind his lavish lifestyle. He traveled and preached through much of Italy and Southern France until his death on June 13, 1231– which is his feast day- at the age of 36. He is the patron saint of lost items, travelers and the Patron of Portugal. St. Anthony Church in Temperance is dedicated to him.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga (left), was an Italian Jesuit who lived from 1568-1591. He was born in Northern Italy, in what was known as the Papal States, to the illustrious House of Gonzaga. At a young age he took a private vow of chastity and, against his family's wishes, entered the Jesuit Order while he, and his family were in Madrid, Spain. He rejected all property and status in society and dedicated his life to the service of others. When the plague broke out in Rome in 1591, Aloysius volunteered at a Jesuit hospital and was exposed to the virus, he died soon thereafter. He is depicted holding a lily, referring to his innocence and a cross, referring to piety and sacrifice. Aloysius is patron of youth and his feast day is celebrated on June 21st - the day of his death.



St. Joachim (above St. Joseph's Altar), was the husband of Anne and father of the Blessed Virgin, Mary. Joachim and Anne are not mentioned in the Bible, however the second Century apocryphal "Gospel of James," tells the story of our Lady's birth, which is closely modeled after the birth of Samuel, in 1st Samuel. Joachim is believed to have died just prior to the birth of Christ, and shares a July 26th feast day with Anne.



Our Lady's Altar

Mary of Nazareth, the Holy Mother of God (Center), was born in Galilee to Joachim and Anne (who are depicted above Mary and Joseph's altars, respectively) around 20 B.C. Gabriel appeared to her at the Annunciation, asking her to be the mother of Christ; this is depicted in the second ceiling mural on the St. Joseph side of the sanctuary. Mary's life is shown in all ten of the ceiling murals from her Betrothal to Joseph in the first, nearest St. Joseph's altar to the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth, nearest Our Lady's altar. Mary can also be seen dressed in black to the left of the crucified Christ on the

main altar and on the Fourth Station of the Cross, where Jesus Meets his Mother (on the eastern wall of the Church). Mary has many feast days, but the most common is on January 1st, the feast of Mary, the Mother of God.

St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, (to the right of Our Lady) was born in the late third century in Rome. She was martyred at age 12 or 13, during the reign of Emperor Diocletian on January 21, 304. Events surrounding her death are blurred, but most accounts agree she refused to marry a nobleman's son, and therefore was condemned to death. However, Roman law did not condone the execution of virgins, so she was sent to a brothel, where she went unharmed, through various miracles. She was eventually either stabbed to death or beheaded. Her name comes from the Latin word for lamb, hence the lamb in her left hand and the palm branch in her right hand represents the triumph of her martyrdom. She is one of only seven women mentioned in the Canon of the Mass and she is patron saint of chastity, gardeners, engaged couples, rape victims and virgins. Her feast is celebrated on January 21st.

St. Helen (to the left of Our Lady), also known as Helena, she was the wife of Emperor Constantius and mother of Emperor Constantine I, the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity. Constantius divorced Helena and exiled her and Constantine in 289, however, upon Constantine Coronation in 306, he brought her back into public life. Helen became a Christian in 313, and is responsible for establishing many Christian churches throughout the Roman Empire, and she is credited with finding the relics of the True Cross near Calvary— which are believed to be the remnants of the actual cross upon which Jesus was crucified. Constantine I gave her the honorary title of Augusta – female form of Augustus, or Emperor, named after Caesar Augustus- in 325; she died in 330. Her sarcophagus can be found at the Pio-Clementine Vatican Museum, which Pope Clement XIV founded in 1771. Her feast day is August 18th.

St. Anne (above Our Lady's Altar), was the mother of the Blessed Virgin, and was from Nazareth, the daughter of the Nomad, Akar. She married Joachim at age 20 and gave birth to Mary at age 40. She is the patron saint of cabinetmakers, horseback riders, housewives, women in labor, as well as patroness of many places including Canada. Duren in eastern Germany is a place of pilgrimage for Anne since 1506 and the City of Santa Ana, California is named for her. She and Joachim share a feast day on July 26th.



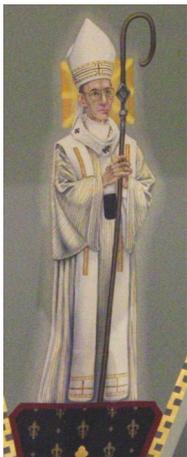
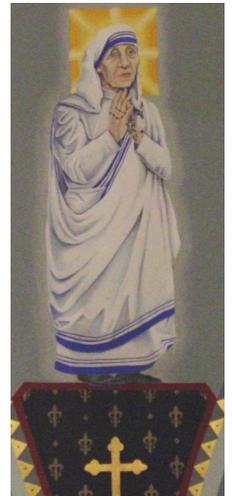
Eastern Arches



(Starting nearest St. Joseph's Altar)

Patrick of Ireland, was born in 390 in the British region of the Roman Empire and was captured at the age of 16 by Irish raiders, for whom he became a slave in Ireland. He grew to love Ireland, however escaped to the European continent and was ordained a priest in France in 432. He returned to Ireland and began to spread the Catholic faith. It is generally believed that he is the reason the entire Island of Ireland is Christian. He is depicted as banishing all snakes from Ireland and he used the Shamrock to teach the Irish about the Holy Trinity, which is why the Shamrock is now the symbol for St. Patrick's Day. Patrick died in 461, and was buried at Downpatrick with Brigit, and he is the Patron of Ireland, Nigeria, Boston, and engineers, among others. His feast day is March 17th.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, not yet a saint when painted, was beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003, and canonized by Pope Francis on September 6, 2016. Born Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu in the former Ottoman Empire/Yugoslavia in 1910, she joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland to learn English, which she could use to teach children in India. She then went to India in 1929, and in 1937 she took her vows, and began teaching in Calcutta. In the late 1940s, she left the Sisters of Loreto and began her missionary work, serving the sick and dying in the Calcutta slums, where she became known as Mother Teresa. In 1950, she received permission from the Vatican to form the Missionaries of Charity, which opened many hospices, homeless youth homes, and other centers to care for the underprivileged, sick and dying. In the 1980s, Teresa began working with organizations, such as the Red Cross, to help victims of disasters, such as the Siege of Beirut, victims of the Chernobyl Accident, and earthquakes. By 1996, she had over 500 missions in 100 countries, including several in underprivileged neighborhoods in the United States. She suffered 2 heart attacks, including one while she was visiting Pope John Paul II, and voluntarily stepped down as head of Missions of Charity in March, 1997. She died six months later. She is recognized across the world for her charity, including Mother Teresa International Airport in Albania and the "Mother Express" train in India, as well as several churches and schools.



Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who died at the age of 68 in 1996, was Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago, followed in the footsteps of Cardinal Dearden, which is why they are painted on arches directly across from each other in the sanctuary. Cardinal Bernardin was a supporter of Vatican Council II reforms, as was Cardinal Dearden. He was installed on August 25, 1982, as Archbishop of Chicago, which is considered to be one of the most prestigious Archdiocese in the United States. He was elevated to cardinal in 1983, and served as President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He began to suffer from pancreatic cancer in 1995, and traveled to Rome to visit with Pope John Paul II, on two separate occasions. Shortly before his death, President Bill Clinton presented him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He died November 14, 1996. He has not yet been beatified.

Eastern Arches continued



Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Dr. Edith Stein), was born to a German-Jewish family in 1891. During her teenage years, she was an atheist. However, after reading St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography at age 21, she converted to Catholicism. She began teaching philosophical classes at various universities, however anti-Semitic legislation passed by the Nazi government required her to resign. In 1933, she wrote a personal letter to Pope Pius XI, asking him to denounce the Nazi regime, which went unanswered. Also in 1933, she entered a Carmelite monastery, where she continued her philosophical writings. As the Nazi forces became more threatening, she transferred to another Carmelite Monastery in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Teresa, however, was not safe in the Netherlands, and all Jewish converts to Christianity were rounded up and taken to Auschwitz. She died in a gas chamber on August 9, 1942, at the age of 50, with her sister, Rosa, also a convert to Catholicism. Her depiction shows her wearing the traditional garments of a Carmelite nun, but also the Star of David, which all Jews were required to wear under Nazi-rule. She is patron saint of Europe, martyrs, and World Youth Day. She was canonized in 1998, by Pope John Paul II and her feast day is August 9th.

Catherine of Siena was a member of the Order of St. Dominic. However, she remained a laywoman and never became a nun. She was born in Siena, Italy in 1347 (her house still stands today) and was the 23rd child of her mother, although many of her siblings had died in the Black Death. She is believed to have had a vision of Christ, in which he smiled at her at age six, and at age seven, she vowed a life of chastity. She traveled about Europe as a teacher of the Church, and also corresponded with Pope Gregory XI, discussing reforms to the clergy and administration of the Roman Papal States - which the Pope controlled during this time period. She traveled to Avignon, France where the Popes had resided since 1309 - as a result of a conflict between Rome and the French King- where she urged Pope Gregory to return the Papacy to Rome. He was impressed by Catherine's insistence, and returned to Rome in 1377, ending the Avignon Papacy. Upon Gregory XI's death in late 1378, the Western Schism occurred, and two Popes claimed the Papacy. Catherine supported Pope Urban VI, and she traveled to Rome in an attempt to convince Roman nobles and the Cardinals of Urban's legitimacy. She died in Rome in 1380 at age 33. Many of her correspondences have survived, including letters to Popes Gregory XI and Urban VI, the kings of France and Hungary, the Queen of Naples, and other prominent individuals in Italian society. She was canonized by Pope Pius II in 1461 and is patron of fire protection, nursing, sickness, and Italy. Her feast is April 29th.



Eastern Stained Glass Windows



First Window on St. Joseph's Side

Michael the Archangel (left panel), is the patron saint of our Church and acts as the "Warrior of God," who defends the true faith and protects God's people. He is best known for leading the Army of God against Satan's uprising in the Book of Revelation. His shield displays "Quis ut Deus," which is translated to the rhetorical question, "Who is like God?" This interprets Michael as the symbol of humility before God, because, in actuality, no one is like God. Pope Leo XIII first encouraged Catholics to pray *The Prayer of St. Michael* in 1888; Pope Benedict XVI called upon all Bishops to join Michael's Army to combat evil in 2007. Michael's feast is celebrated on September 29th.

The Guardian Angel (right panel): These angels, in Catholic beliefs, are assigned to protect specific people or groups; they essentially relay prayers to God on the behalf of the person they are sent to protect. The traditional prayer to one's Guardian Angel is: *Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.* The feast of Guardian Angels is October 2nd.

Second Window

The windows above the East Entrance depict various symbols of the Holy Eucharist. The Chalice with the elevation of the host is depicted in the left panel, while the right panel displays the exposition of the Host in the Monstrance for Benediction and adoration. The window directly above the door shows the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which represents Jesus' unending love, compassion and suffering for humanity.



Third Window

Peter, the Apostle (left panel), was the son of a Galilean fisherman. He was an apostle of John the Baptist before being called, with his brother Andrew to be an Apostle of Christ. He was among Jesus' inner circle and witnessed many of the important events of Jesus' last years, such as the Transfiguration. Jesus called upon him to be the leader of His Church on Earth, calling him "rock." He became the first Pope— which is why he is depicted as holding the keys which symbolize the Papacy to this day. He was crucified upside down in Rome around age 67 and he was buried at Vatican Hill, where his remains are still currently located, directly beneath the High Altar of St. Peter's Basilica. He is patron saint of the Papacy, masons, bakers, fisherman, bridge builders, as well as locations, such as Marquette, MI; Rome, Las Vegas, and St. Petersburg, Russia, to name a few. Feast Days: June 29th, February 22nd, & November 18th.

Depictions in Saint Michael



Third Window, continued

Paul, the Apostle (right panel), was an early Christian Missionary. He was originally a Roman Jew and participated in a group that persecuted early Christians, until the resurrected Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus, leaving him blind. Once his sight was restored, he became one of the most important, early leaders of the Church. His ideas include, redemption through faith in Christ: Christ is not only the Messiah, but also the eternal Son of God; and Jesus' Ascension to take his place at God's right hand. He is shown holding a sword— symbolizing power and authority, and a book— symbolizing the Scriptures and Word of God. His feast is celebrated on June 29th and January 25th. He is patron saint of Malta and of Public Relations.

Fourth Window

Luke the Evangelist, was a disciple of Paul and joined him on his Missions. He authored the third Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. Women are featured prominently in his gospel and he is believed to have been a painter, and made at least one icon of Our Lady. His symbol, the Ox, represents the sacrifice at the temple. Feast: October 18th.



John the Evangelist, was one of the 12 Apostles and became guardian of Mary after Jesus' crucifixion. He wrote the fourth gospel to reinforce Christ's divinity, three canonical letters and the Book of Revelation. His symbol is the eagle – which encourages us to look directly at God. He is patron saint of the Freemasons and his feast is celebrated December 27th.

Fifth Window

Elizabeth of Hungary (left panel), lived from 1207-1231, and was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and niece of St. Hedwig. She married at age 14, and she and her husband embraced the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, both believing charitable efforts would bring eternal reward. She was widowed at age 20, when her husband, Ludwig died of the plague; reportedly, she was so upset, she screamed for days. She and her children were banished by greedy relatives, however would later be reinstated as Queen and began work with hospices and the poor. She is patron of bakers, countesses, the homeless, widows, and young brides. She was canonized in 1235 by Pope Gregory IX; her feast is November 17th.

Therese of Lisieux (right panel), a Carmelite nun, who lived from 1873 to 1897, in France, was known throughout the world for her simplicity and doing the small things. Many miracles are attributed to her intercession and she authored an autobiography called *Story of a Soul*. She is patroness of Russia, aviators, florists, France and foreign missions. Her feast is celebrated on October 3rd.



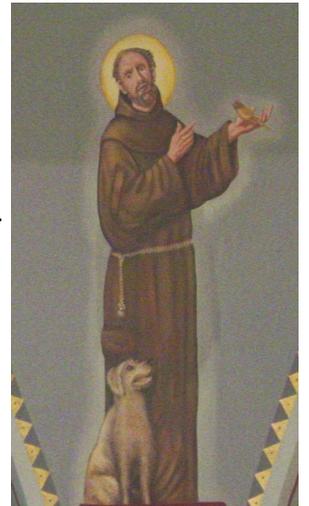
Western Arches



(Starting nearest Mary's Altar)

Hildegard of Bingen was born in 1098 as the tenth child of a German family of nobility. She is believed to have experienced visions at a young age. She was a scholar, philosopher, and founded monasteries at Rupertsberg and Eibingen. She also wrote several books on natural history and medicine, including diagnoses of psychological disorders. Her German descent acts as a symbol of the German roots of our Parish. She technically was never canonized as a saint, however various Popes, such as John Paul II and Benedict XVI, have both referred to her as a saint, and she is included in the Roman Martyrology, which is the official list of saints. Her feast is celebrated on September 17th.

Francis of Assisi, born in either 1181, or 1182, was the founder of the Franciscan Order and is considered one of the most venerated Saints in the Roman Catholic Church, as well as one of the most popular. His order is known for their obedience and reverence to Church authority, especially the Pope, called the Rule of Francis. In 1224, he received the stigmata, making him the first person to bear the wounds of Christ from his death on the cross. In the 20th century, many chose to portray Francis as a nature lover and a hippy of sorts. In actuality he was quite stern. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment. The dog depicted in the mural is Sorcha, Fr. Stephen Rooney's golden retriever, who was around the Parish grounds during his tenure at St. Michael. Francis died in 1226, singing Psalm 141. His feast is October 4th.



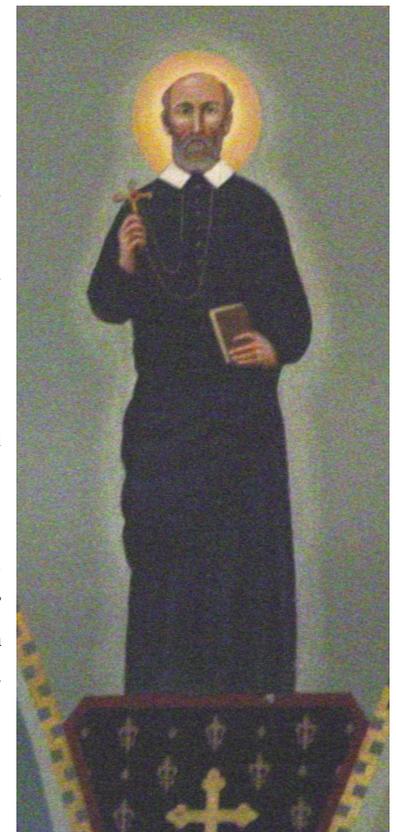
Cardinal John Dearden was the Cardinal Archbishop of Detroit from 1959 to 1980. He was born in Rhode Island and entered St. Mary's Seminary in 1925 in Cleveland. In 1948, he was named Bishop of Pittsburgh, where he earned the title "Iron John," for his stern style of administration. When Cardinal Edward Mooney died in 1958, Bishop Dearden was named 2nd Archbishop of Detroit and he attended all four Vatican Council II meeting in the early 1960s; he was a strong supporter of Vatican II reforms, for which he was chastised by many. He held the post of president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which instituted reforms such as using English for the Eucharistic Prayer, allowing extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and holding Saturday Night Vigil Mass. He participated in Conclave to elect Popes John Paul I and John Paul II. His halo is square because he is considered to have lived a holy life, but has not yet been recognized by the Church. He resigned his post in 1980, and died in 1988 of pancreatic cancer.

Western Arches continued



Briget of Kildare was born in 450 in Dundalk, Ireland. She is nicknamed “Mary of the Gael,” and is a patron saint of Ireland. She became a nun at a young age and founded a double abbey at Kildare, for Monks and Nuns, which is why she is generally depicted as being dressed like a Bishop, complete with Crosier and Miter. There are many legends attributed to Briget, but it is believed that when she was being consecrated, the Bishop presiding prayed the prayer to consecrate a bishop over her when she was taking her vows, rather than the prayer to consecrate a nun. The cross she holds is made of reeds and is historically hung in Irish homes and barns for protection. She is patron saint of many things, some of which include dairy workers, scholars, children whose parents are unmarried, fugitives, and sailors. Her feast day is celebrated on February 1st.

Francis de Sales born in 1567, in Savoy, what is now part of France, to a wealthy and noble family. His father sent all six of his children to the best schools ran by the Jesuits, and upon learning of the idea of predestination, Francis believed he was damned to hell. Following this incident, he decided to commit his life to God, however he attended the University of Paris and the University of Padua, Italy, where he received a law and theology degree. He became provost of the cathedral in Geneva in 1593; however it was located in Savoy, since the Calvinists of the Protestant Reformation maintained control of Geneva. He formed alliances with Pope Clement VIII and French King Henry IV, and was consecrated Bishop of Geneva in 1602. He converted many with his persistent patience and gentleness, and he died on December 28, 1622, in Lyon, France. He was beatified by Pope Alexander VII in 1661 and canonized in 1664. His feast is celebrated on January 24th and he is patron saint of writers, journalists, and the deaf. Many parishioners remember Father Tom O’Neill, a weekend helper at St. Michael, who was a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.



Western Stained Glass Windows



First Window on Mary's Side

Christ the King (right panel) The term “Christ the King” is used by many Christian denominations to revere Jesus Christ on the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Feast Day does not celebrate a specific event, but honors Christ’s sovereignty over all persons, families, nations and the universe. The name is drawn from several instances in Scripture, such as “King Eternal,” in 1 Timothy or “King of the Ages” and “Ruler of the Kings of the Earth” in Revelation. Pope Pius XI instituted the term “Christ the King” in 1925 to counteract Benito Mussolini’s claim to earthly supremacy.

Queen of Heaven (left panel), is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary, coinciding with the belief that following the Assumption, She was crowned the Queen of Heaven; the Queenship of Mary is celebrated on August 22nd, and was first instituted in 1954 by Pope Pius XII. Two example of Hymns honoring Mary as queen include *Salve Regina* and *Regina Coeli*.



Second Window

The Old Sacrifice of the Lamb (right panel), is a term used widely in the Old Testament as a sacrifice for ritual passages. The term “Lamb of God” comes from the idea that Jesus is the sacrificial lamb. The term “Agnus Dei,” which is widely used during Lent, translates to “Lamb of God.”

Melchizedek's Offering (left panel), represents King Melchizedek of Salem's offering of bread, wine and a blessing to Abraham; he is mentioned in the Book of Genesis and is considered to be foreshadowing the Eucharist, a connection which was first made in the 3rd century by St. Clement of Alexandria and St. Cyprian.

Third Window

Bernard of Clairvaux (right panel), lived from 1090-1153 as a French Abbot and Doctor. At age 22, he joined the monastery at Citeaux, and 15 years later, founded the monastery at Clairvaux. He founded over 60 monasteries in his lifetime; when Pope Honorius II died, a schism occurred in the Church when two Popes were elected– Pope Innocent II and Pope Anacletus II– Bernard was chosen to judge between the two rival popes. From 1146 to 1149, Bernard began preaching a Second Crusade throughout Germany (Bohemia), where Jews were being persecuted, however it failed and much of the blame fell upon him. He was buried at Clairvaux Monastery until it was destroyed by the French Revolutionary Government in 1792, when his remains were moved to Troyes, France.



Depictions in Saint Michael



Third Window, continued

Augustine of Hippo (left panel), was a Latin-speaking philosopher and theologian, who was born in 354, in Thagaste, Numidia, which is now Algeria in Northern Africa. He is considered to be one of the most important figures in the development of Western Christianity - both Catholicism and Churches of the Reformations - thanks to his extensive writings. He developed the concepts of "Original Sin" and "Just War," and as the Western Roman Empire began to collapse, he developed the idea of the "City of God." Even if the earthly city disappeared, the Church and spiritual community that worshipped God, would continue to exist. He died on August 28, 430, which is also his Feast Day. He is patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians, sore eyes, and many cities, such as St. Augustine, Florida, which was discovered on his Feast Day, and subsequently named for him.

Fourth Window

Mark the Evangelist, depicted as a lion, which is a symbol of the Resurrection, because, according to legend, a Lion's cubs are stillborn and the lion must breathe life into them. Mark was an apostle of Jesus and the Church of Alexandria. He is patron of notaries and his feast is celebrated on April 25th.



Matthew the Evangelist, is displayed as a Winged Man, attributed to the importance of his work, in which he recorded the genealogy of Jesus in his gospel. He was a tax collector before becoming an Apostle of Jesus, and is patron of accountants, bankers, tax collectors, and bookkeepers. His feast day is September 21st.

Fifth Window



John Baptist Vianney (right panel), lived from 1786-1859. He grew up as a farm hand, during the French Revolution when religious services were outlawed. He, and his family practiced Catholicism in secret and at age 19, he began studying for the priesthood. His studies were, however, interrupted when he was drafted into Napoleon's army to fight in Spain. He eventually finished his studies and in 1815, he was assigned to Ars, a small town in Lyons. He remained there for the remainder of his life, hearing confessions for up to 16 hours a day. He was canonized in 1925 and his feast day is August 4th. He is the patron saint of all priests.

Joan of Arc (left panel), lived from 1412 to 1431, and is considered a heroine of France. Through Divine guidance, she led the French army to many important victories during the Hundred Years' War. She was tried in a corrupt ecclesiastical court in England, after being captured, and was burned at the stake when she was 19, when the court declared her a heretic. Twenty-five years later, Pope Callixtus III examined the trial, declared her innocent and a martyr. She was canonized in 1920, and her feast is celebrated on May 30th. Joan of Arc is patron of soldiers and of France.

Windows in the Balcony



Frances Xavier Cabrini (right panel, left of the organ) was the first United States citizen to be canonized as a saint. She was born in 1850, in Lombardy, Italy; took her religious vows in 1877, and changed her middle name to Xavier in honor of the Jesuit saint, Francis Xavier. She was put in charge of an orphanage in Codogno, Italy, where she earned the name Mother Cabrini. In 1880, after her orphanage was closed, she and six other sisters founded the order of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and, in 1889, she was sent to New York City to work among Italian Immigrants to the United States. The Sisters opened orphanages and hospitals throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Frances became a U.S. citizen in 1909, and she died in Chicago, in 1917. Her feast is November 13th and she is patron saint of immigrants, hospital administrators and orphans.

Kateri Tekakwitha (left panel) lived from 1656 to 1679 and was the daughter of a Mohawk war-chief and an Algonquin Christian convert in upstate New York. Her name means “putting things in order,” and, at age 4, when her entire family died of smallpox, she refused to be married, despite the importance of marriage in her tribe. She was baptized by a Jesuit priest at age 20, for which she was chastised by many of her tribe’s members. She ran away to Quebec to live among other Native American converts; she lived in Quebec until 1680, when she died at age 23. She is patron of Indian Nations, the environment, and loss of parents, and her feast is celebrated March 25th.

Gregory the Great (right panel) was the Pope from 590 to 604, and is one of only four saints to be given the title of “the Great.” He was the son of an aristocratic Roman Senator, however he sold everything to enter the monastery. Upon being elected pope, he saw himself as “the servant of the servants of God,” stating he was undeserving to hold the same position as St. Peter. He sent missionaries to England to preach to the Anglo-Saxons and he instituted a variety of reforms to the liturgy, including the recitation of the Our Father prior to the breaking of the bread. He is also associated with church music, including the Gregorian Chant. He is patron saint of the West Indies, musicians, and teachers, and his feast is celebrated on September 3rd.

Pius X (left panel), was the 257th Pope and served from 1903 to 1914. He was born in Venitia, the Austrian Empire in 1835 and attended the Seminary at Padua. Upon being elected Pope, he adopted the phrase “the renewal of all things in Christ” and is known for a very conservative papacy, including urging daily communion, communion for children at the “age of discretion” (around 7 years), and reading of the Bible. He spoke out against the modernist sectors of the Catholic Church, fearing they would attempt to alter tradition, and he refused to recognize the governments of predominantly Catholic nations who adopted separation of Church and State laws, such as France. He died in 1914, at the onset of World War I and was canonized in 1954. His feast is August 21st.



Depictions in Saint Michael

Over the Sacristies



Mother Theresa Maxis was born Marie Almaide Maxis Duchemin in 1810 to a British father and a multi-racial Haitian mother. She was adopted by a wealthy family in Baltimore, where she received a much better education than most women of the time period. At 19 she founded the Oblates of Providence, which was the first order of women religious of color in the world, and in 1845, she left Baltimore for Monroe, Michigan, where she - and four other sisters - founded Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Hoping to expand, she opened another mission in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. She hoped to open another mission in Pennsylvania, but when her request was denied by the Bishop, she voiced her disappointment and was reprimanded. She was removed as the head of the order and went into voluntary exile so the IHMs would not be further punished. She died in 1892. The IHM sisters worked at St. Michael Parish School as their seventh mission. Mother Maxis has not yet been beatified, as denoted by the square halo.

Peter, the Apostle:

He is depicted holding the keys to the Kingdom.

St. Peter's full biography is in the Profile of the Eastern Stained Glass Windows



Paul, the Apostle:

He is depicted with a two-edged sword, representing the World of God.

St. Paul's full biography is in the Profile of the Eastern Stained Glass Windows

The feast of St. Peter and Paul is celebrated on June 29th.



Alphonsus Maria Ligouri (above the Priest's sacristy) was the founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, or the Redemptorists. He was a Bishop in Naples, Italy and originally studied and practiced law. He was canonized by Pope Gregory XVI in 1839 and later named a Doctor of the Church for his writings on the Sacrament of Confession, Mariology, and moral theology. His feast is celebrated on August 1st. He is patron of theologians.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish was founded by the Redemptorists, and the first pastors of the parish were from the Redemptorist order. The Redemptorists first arrived in Monroe with Mother Maxis, and as more Germans entered the region, the need for a new Church was imminent. As we know, 1852 marks the establishment of St. Michael. However, in 1854, the Redemptorists left St. Michael, when it was deemed un-self sustainable. The assistant priest from nearby St. Mary Parish took over, and St. Michael flourished in the following years.