

St. Anne Relief



The beautiful sculpture to the side of the altar is a twin to the tympanum that hangs above the door of the Archdiocesan Chancery building at 12 State Street. The art, produced by Michael Kapetan and Sergei Mitrofanov and installed in the autumn of 2016, depicts St. Anne, Jesus, and the Blessed Virgin Mary flanked by angels. Jesus, the Living Word, is standing on the Word, upon which is written a portion of the prologue of John's Gospel: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The image itself is more than nine centuries old, but holds special significance for the Archdiocese since St. Anne is Detroit's patroness. Included on the Christ Child's tunic is a trillium, signifying the Trinity, but also Michigan's state flower. Apple trees from the Garden of Eden also remind us of one of our local crops, and the angels' features reflect our diocesan diversity – a way of reminding each of us that the New Covenant in Christ is personal, familial, and universal.

When I Was Naked

The sculpture in our outdoor entry garden portrays Jesus Christ as a bare homeless man, gripping a piece of cardboard as protection. "When I was Naked," part of a biblical Matthew 25 series by Timothy Schmalz, confronts prejudices against the impoverished and obliges us to see the divinity and dignity within every human. The statue was gifted to our Mother Church by Michael and Carole Ritchie in November, 2017.



Other installations of this work include one at St. Peter in Chains Basilica, Rome and one at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati. More about Timothy Schmalz and his artwork can be found on his website: <https://www.sculpturebytps.com>