



East
North — South
West

Floor Plan
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

KEY DATES

- 1913 – Construction begins (design by Henry Walsh, Cleveland, OH; windows by Willett Studios, Philadelphia, PA)
- 1915 – Exterior stonework complete; roof in place; first Mass
- 1930 – Structure complete; dedicated Thanksgiving Day (no towers)
- 1938 – Palm Sunday Mass elevates the church to cathedral status for the Archdiocese of Detroit
- 1950 – Begin construction of west towers (Diehl & Diehl architects), baptistery in narthex, and sacristy.
- 1951 – Consecrate completed cathedral (11/17) and spire (fleche)
- 2003 – Dedication of remodeled building (design by Gunnar Birkerts) on March 25

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

- Length – 230 feet
- Width – 75 feet
- Nave height – 68 feet
- Tower height – 136 feet
- Fleche height – 180 feet
- Style – English Gothic Revival, Latin cross
- Exterior facing – Ohio sandstone (rock-faced ashlars in random sizes); Indiana limestone for buttresses, tracery, doorways, and trim
- Capacity – 850 seats; up to 1200 standing

NAVE – NORTH WINDOWS

(begin near Our Lady Chapel; move clockwise)

Nativity of Christ – Virgin holding Jesus with shepherds; angels on outside panels; “Christ, the Lord Savior, who is born to you.” Below: Saints Gregory the Great, Ambrose, James the Elder, Augustine, Jerome.

Christ in the Temple – Christ and Jewish doctors; “Jesus advances in wisdom and grace with God and man”; Joseph and Mary on left; Jewish teachers top right. Below: Saints George, John, Nicholas, Christopher.

Wedding Feast at Cana – Christ with stone jugs with Mary to the left; “Whatsoever He shall say to you, do ye.” Below: Saints Veronica, Ursula, Andrew, Catherine of Bologna, Barbara.

Christ Blessing the Little Children – Christ with children and their mothers; “Suffer the little children to come unto me”; Peter in left panel; John in right panel. Below: Saints Philip Neri, Philip the Apostle, Athanasius, Boniface.

Transfiguration – Christ with Moses to right and Elias to left; extreme left has James and John; extreme right is Peter; “This is my beloved Son; hear Him”; Below: Saints Francis of Assisi, Bernard, Thomas the Apostle, Dominic, Anthony.

Founding of the Church on St. Peter – Christ with Peter on immediate right with keys; 8 apostles in other panels. “I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven”; Below: Saints Martin of Tours, Paul the Apostle, Benedict, Paul of the Cross.

SANCTUARY WINDOWS

(begin in north transept, near the doors; continue clockwise)

Holy Name / Communion of Saints (large north window) – Christ enthroned before 7-branch candlestick; above is God the Father; below are adoring angels; lower yet are saints kneeling around empty tomb; side panels are holy men on one side and holy women on other, and saints; extreme side panels have angels. Five panels below: Noah, David and Goliath, Temptation in the Desert, Jeremiah, and Davidic Covenant.

Agony in the Garden – Apostles sleep at left; Savior in agony; Peter sleeping; Judas pointing to Christ; “Tristis est anima mea usque ad mortem” (My soul is sorrowful unto death).

Christ Carrying the Cross – Simon of Cyrene at left assists Christ; Christ alone; Mary and John to the right; two thieves prodded by soldier at far right; “Weep not for me but for yourselves.”

Institution of Most Blessed Sacrament (directly behind altar) – Christ seated with apostles; on far right Judas leaves with money bag; angels above. Below: saints of the early church; “Beati qui non viderunt et crediderunt.” (Blessed are they who did not see and believed).

Christ Dies on the Cross – Ministering angels in left panel; Virgin and Mary of Cleophas gaze at Christ in next panel; the Savior with Magdalene in center; St. John and St. Peter with Joseph of Arimathea watch on the right; “O see if there is any sorrow like unto my sorrow.”

Burial of Christ – Disciples and holy women prepare the body; 1st panel women with spices; 2nd Magdalene weeps; 3rd sorrowful Mother holds Jesus; Joseph of Arimathea. “Acceperunt ergo corpus Jesu” (therefore they took the body of Jesus).

EUCCHARISTIC RESERVATION CHAPEL *(leave nave)*

Assumption of Mary (least window) – Mary assumed into heaven with heavenly hosts; St. Elizabeth and St. John before her; Anne on far right. “The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women.” Below: scenes from the Virgin’s life – Annunciation, Nativity, Holy Family, Joseph’s workshop, Jesus appears to Mary after the Resurrection.

Genealogical Tree of Christ (large south window) – Tree of Jesse, rooted at bottom with branches rising and showing Old Testament figures, topped by Mary holding Jesus, the fruit.

St. Cecilia – (west window) Beatification of Cecilia in middle with wingless angels; St. Therese of Lisieux on left; St. Rose of Lima on right. Biblical passages top each window; below Cecilia, the music reads: “holy holy is this Name” with St. Cecilia’s signature.

NAVE – SOUTH WINDOWS

(leave Eucharistic Reservation Chapel; return to nave)

Resurrection – Christ in glory; cowering guards on either side; angels with swords on outside panels; “I am the resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in me altho be dead shall live.” Below: Saints Gregory of Nazianzus, Sebastian, Louis IX, Lawrence, Patrick.

Christ Appears to the Holy Women – Christ in center facing Magdalene; “Do not touch me for I am not yet ascended.” Below: Saints John the Baptist, Anthony the Hermit, James the Lesser, Paul the Hermit.

Supper at Emmaus – Christ in the center with his disciples on inner panels and serving maids on outer ones; “Their eyes were opened and they knew him.” Below: Saints Stephen of Myret, Justin, Charles Borromeo, John Chrysostom, Simon Stock.

Christ Gives the Apostles the Power to Forgive Sins – Christ in center; apostles in others; “And that Penance should be Preached; Remission of Sins.” Below: Saints Agnes, Bridget of Sweden, Jude, Clare, Helen.

Ascension of Christ – Christ ascends as apostles watch; “A cloud received Him out of their sight.” Below: Saints Thomas, Aquinas, Bartholomew, Ignatius, Sylvester.

Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles – Mary in center with Holy Spirit as dove; apostles surround her; “They were all filled with the Holy Ghost.” Below: Saints Vincent de Paul, Timothy, Matthew, Barnabas, Alphonsus Ligouri.

Rose Window (facing west) – Cherubs of Glory, with cherub in central quatrefoil.