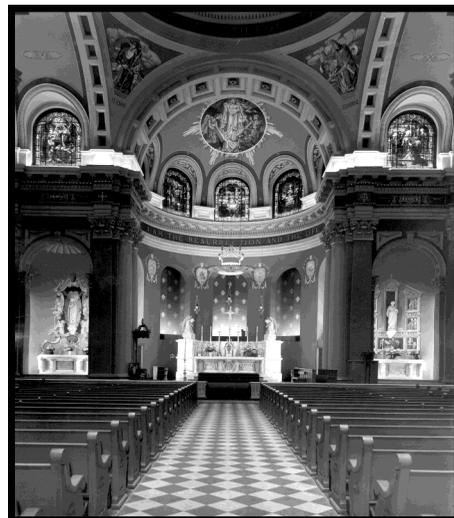




Cathedral 1907



Cathedral 1949



Cathedral 1976

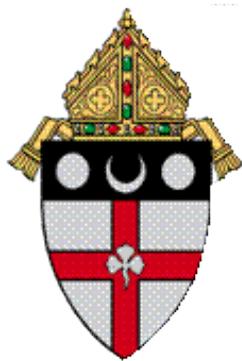


Cathedral 2006

Saint Patrick Cathedral



History and Self-Guided Tour Book



Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick

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Self-guided tour written in 2007

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Floor Plan provided by Richard Summers

Booklet revised 2010 by Margaret Peters, with permission

Booklet revised 2014 by Lubiann Reichert, with permission

Pastor's Welcome

From the Pastor Welcome to Saint Patrick Cathedral! As Pastor of the Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick, I, along with the people of this parish, serve as "innkeepers" at this beautiful House of Prayer, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Harrisburg, serving more than 242,000 Catholics in the 15 counties of central Pennsylvania. Whether you come as a pilgrim in faith, a curious tourist, or a wanderer in search of a spiritual home, we hope that your visit will refresh your soul and fill your heart with the peace of Christ. The sacrifices of many Catholics, rich and poor, from throughout the Diocese built this Cathedral and help pay for necessary repairs and renovations over more than one hundred years, particularly in 1949, 1976, 2003-2005 and 2006. We hope you enjoy your visit!

Very Rev. Thomas Rozman, V.F.

A Brief History of Saint Patrick Cathedral

Saint Patrick Church German Jesuits brought Catholicism to Central Pennsylvania during the pre-Revolutionary period. The first two churches were established in Conewago and Lancaster. Historical records indicate that in 1806 there was a small Catholic mission in Harrisburg. In 1823, the Allison Hill property known as Sylvan Heights was purchased. There is evidence that a chapel was built on that site.

The influx of Irish laborers, who built Pennsylvania's canals and railroads, influenced the building of a church closer to the riverfront, and in 1824 land was purchased at the present State Street site, with the cornerstone being laid for Saint Patrick Church, part of the Diocese of Philadelphia in 1826.

Pro-Cathedral After the formal establishment of the Diocese of Harrisburg in 1868, the original Saint Patrick was designated as a "pro-cathedral" - a church that would temporarily house the *cathedra*, or the Bishop's chair - until a permanent cathedral could be erected. The *cathedra* is a symbol of the unbroken apostolic succession of the bishop and unity with the Pope, the Bishop of Rome. At that time, the Diocese was placed under the patronage of Saint Patrick. During the 1880's the church was enlarged and the entrance was relocated from Liberty Street to State Street. Graves from a cemetery that used to occupy the space adjacent to the pro-cathedral were exhumed and relocated to Mount Calvary Cemetery, Harrisburg, along with the granite Celtic Cross that adorned the Saint Patrick Cemetery.

Cathedral Construction As part of the diocesan synod in 1902, Bishop John W. Shanahan (third Bishop of Harrisburg) proposed the idea of building a cathedral. Construction began in 1904 and was completed on March 1, 1907, less than forty years since the formal founding of the diocese, The Cathedral was dedicated on May 14, 1907.

The architectural design of the new Cathedra was modeled in the Romanesque-Renaissance style. It is cruciform in shape and the original main altar is patterned after Bernini's altar which adorns the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. It was constructed of North Carolina granite on the site of the original church.

A Self-Guided Tour of Saint Patrick Cathedral

Baptistry The east (right) side of the front of the nave contains the former baptistry (diagram #9), which was added in 1949. When in 1998 the baptismal font (diagram #10) was moved to the sanctuary area to provide more visual access for baptisms during Holy Mass, this room became a shrine area which houses various pieces of art. A statue of the Pieta, or sorrowful mother (originally housed in the Cathedral Chapel of Saint Lawrence), is on display during the Lenten Season, and a beautiful wood-carved nativity, from Italy, is on display in this area during the Christmas Season. At other times of the year, there is a statue of the Risen Lord.

The Ambo The ambo (diagram #11) was re-designed in the 2006 restoration and positioned parallel to the congregation. The Book of the Gospels can now be enthroned, after it is proclaimed, on the front of the ambo. The columns at the front of the church as well as the wall behind the tabernacle were marbled by the skilled artists of Evergreene Studios of New York City.

Additional Interior Features As you retrace your steps to the entrance to the church, take notice of the Stations of the Cross, two reconciliation rooms (diagram #12) and some additional artwork on the rear wall. The two canvases that are applied to the rear transoms were added in 2006. Underneath the choir loft are depictions of the Coats of Arms of all of the bishops of the Diocese of Harrisburg, as well as two Popes: Pope Pius IX who reigned during the founding of the Diocese of Harrisburg in 1868 and Pope Pius XII, who reigned when the Cathedral was renovated in 1949. In Rome it is customary to display the Coat of Arms of the pope instrumental in the history of that particular church.

Bishop McDevitt & Bishop Shanahan Shrines There are two additional shrines at the rear of the Cathedral. The first is a bronze crucifix (diagram #13), the work of Samuel Murray of Philadelphia, best known for his statue of Commodore Barry in Independence Square in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania memorial at Gettysburg. This shrine was erected by Bishop Phillip R. McDevitt (fourth Bishop of Harrisburg) in memory of his predecessor, Bishop John W. Shanahan (third Bishop of Harrisburg). The second shrine depicts Christ teaching the children (diagram #14) and was erected by Bishop George W. Leech (fifth Bishop of Harrisburg) in memory of his predecessor, Bishop McDevitt, who was especially dedicated to the education of children.

Summary There are several historical artifacts in the gallery on the lower level that may be of interest. If the gallery is open during your visit, please feel free to visit and look at these items.

Thank You Thank you so much for taking the time to visit Saint Patrick Cathedral and to spend time on this self-guided tour. Your prayers for our Bishop and the people of this Diocese are greatly appreciated.

We are truly blessed to have this House of God, a Home for All as part of the landscape of downtown Harrisburg.

A Self-Guided Tour of Saint Patrick Cathedral

Transept Windows To your left, the large transept window portrays the Marriage Feast at Cana. This story, the first great sign of Jesus, can be found in Chapter 2 of the Gospel according to Saint John. The window to your right depicts Saint Patrick bringing the faith to Ireland. He is seen teaching the King and Queen of Tara, using the shamrock as a visual aid to help the people of Ireland understand the Mystery of the Holy Trinity. The cardinal virtues of Temperance, Prudence, Justice and Fortitude are in the frieze above these windows.

Sanctuary The sanctuary, immediately in front of you, has gone through a number of transformations in the over 100 years of this building's existence. Originally, there was a baldacchino (canopy) centered above the tabernacle, patterned after an altar by Bernini in the Chapel of Reservation in Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. In 1949 this grand structure was replaced by a much simpler hanging baldacchino. In the 1970's, after the Second Vatican Council, the baldacchino was removed, the tabernacle was moved to the side, closer to the congregation, where the cathedra now stands, and the cathedra was in the center of the raised area of the sanctuary. In the 2006 renewal, the tabernacle and cathedra (diagram #4) were restored to their original places. A new niche was created for the repositioned tabernacle, moved back to its original location to stress the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of a Catholic. The relief carving of the Resurrection on the front of the altar of sacrifice (diagram #5) was part of the antependium of the original high altar.

In the 2006 restoration, the sanctuary arches were decorated with architectural tracery as they originally were in 1907, and the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), painted in trompe l'oeil style (literally, "trick of the eye" - the paintings appear to be three dimensional even though they are painted on a flat surface), were a new addition to emphasize that the Gospel is the central focus to our life of faith, and that we are all called to be evangelists in the way we live and act upon our Christian Faith. The Evangelists are looking up, directing our minds and hearts to the heavenly banquet feast.

Blessed Mother & Saint Joseph Shrines The sanctuary is flanked by shrines dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God (diagram #6) on the left, and Saint Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus (diagram #7), on the right, with angels surrounding the Blessed Mother, and scenes from the life of Saint Joseph painted in trompe l'oeil style around his statue. The decorations were added in 1949 and were restored to their original brightness in 2006, as was the painting of the Resurrection at the top of the apse. The marble altar rail (diagram #8) was originally positioned at the top of the steps leading to the sanctuary floor, but was moved to its present location in the 1949 renovation.

The Organ The original organ was installed in the choir loft of the Cathedral by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1906. In 1951, the Gundling Organ Company of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, rebuilt and doubled the size of the organ. In the two chambers housed on each side of the loft, the electrically controlled organ contains more than 2,600 pipes. In 1988, a new console with solid state electronics was installed. After lightning damaged the organ in 2005, the console was rebuilt and redesigned by R.J. Brunner and Company of Silver Spring, Pennsylvania. The console now contains the state-of-the-art Peterson ICS 4000 Organ control system and is capable of accommodating future expansion.

A Brief History of Saint Patrick Cathedral (cont.)

Cathedral Construction (cont.)

It is graced with two stone towers and a dome crowned with the most common Christian symbol, the cross. The copper dome rises 170 feet into the sky and is actually a dome within a dome - caretakers must climb between the interior and exterior domes in order to change the eight lights that shine down on the altar area. The architect for the Cathedral was George I. Lovatt of Philadelphia and the structure was built for \$250,000.

1949 Renovation

In 1949 a major renovation of the Cathedral took place, which placed it in the forefront of Cathedrals located along the eastern seaboard. The huge marble altar was redesigned and simplified, and the sanctuary area was remodeled to provide additional space.

1976 Sanctuary Renovation

Modifications to the sanctuary came in 1976. A permanent altar of sacrifice was cut from the original main altar and moved closer to the congregation. The tabernacle was placed at a new altar of repose and a new ambo (pulpit) was installed. The cathedra was relocated to a more central position in the sanctuary.

1995 Merger

In 1995, as part of the Diocesan Parish Consultations Process, the neighboring parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Lawrence merged with Saint Patrick Cathedral to form the new Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick. The parish of Saint Lawrence was founded in 1859 for German-speaking Catholics of the Harrisburg area, and in 1901 Sacred Heart of Jesus parish was founded in the southern section of the city. The Saint Lawrence Church building now serves as the Cathedral Chapel.

2003-2005 Exterior Renovation

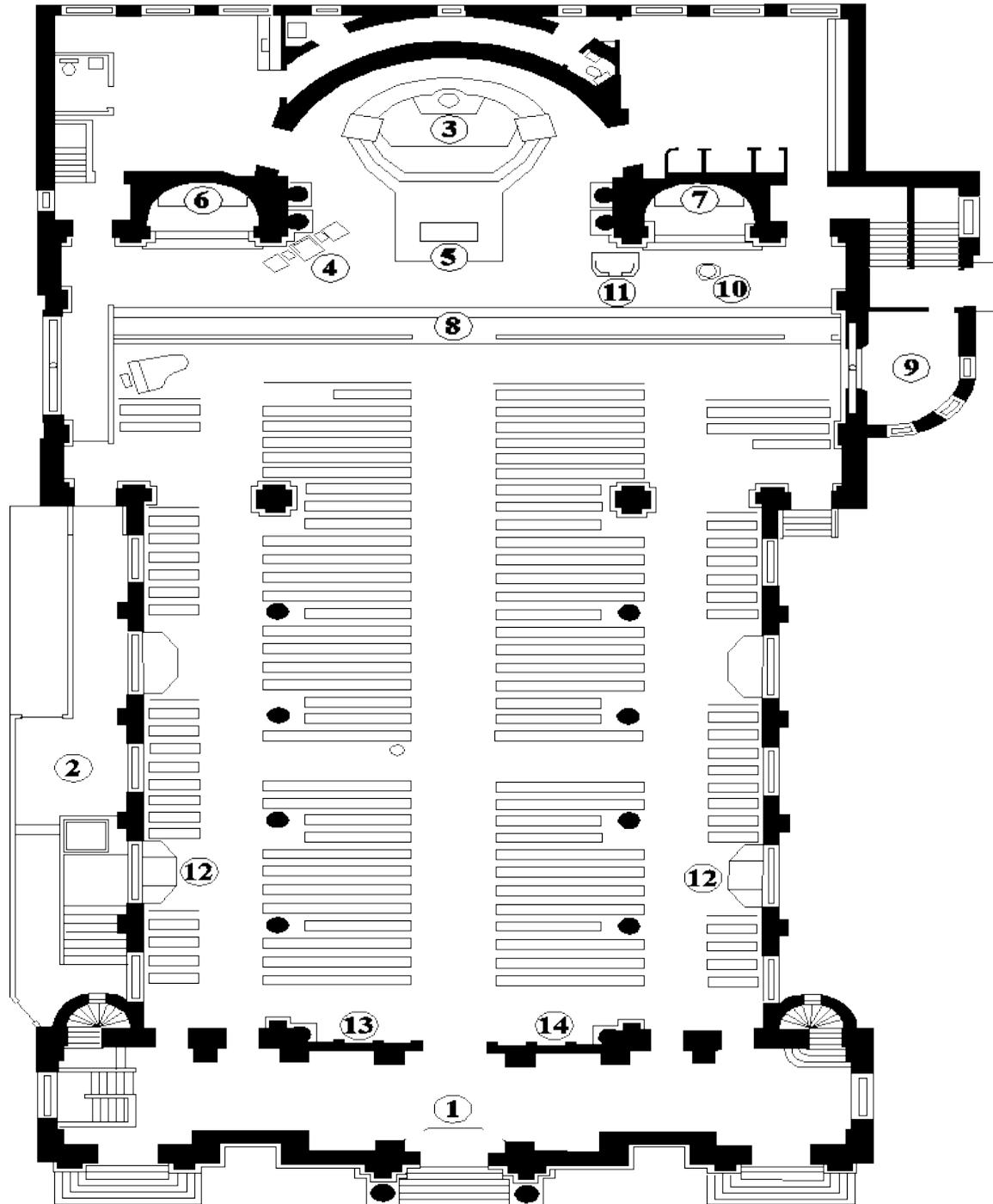
In the Summer of 2003, a major exterior renovation project was begun under the guidance of Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo (eighth Bishop of Harrisburg). This included restoring the fifty stained glass windows located in the main body of the church, re-coppering the dome, cleaning the stonework, replacing the slate roof, and adding new exterior doors for the main entrance. All parishes of the diocese provided financial assistance for the project, which was completed in the Fall of 2005.

2006 Interior Renovation for 100th Anniversary

In 2006 the interior of the Cathedral, under the guidance of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades (ninth Bishop of Harrisburg), was completely restored and renewed, with the tabernacle relocated to the center of the sanctuary, and the entire church repainted. A new sound system was installed, and the decoration in the dome was emboldened and repainted. There is also an audio visual system ready to be used with cameras at various locations throughout the church. The church was completely restored in time to celebrate Christmas 2006. This renovation was to prepare the Cathedral for its 100th Anniversary in 2007.

Saint Patrick Cathedral stands as a visible sign of the deep faith of the people of the diocese as well as a reminder of the faith of those who have gone before and those yet to come. This Cathedral is truly the House of God, a Home for All.

A Self-Guided Tour of Saint Patrick Cathedral



Exterior

The exterior of the Cathedral was entirely restored between 2003 and 2005. Everything but the caps on top of the two towers was cleaned, repaired or restored. In 2005 spotlights were positioned to illuminate the dome at night, with a special chandelier hanging at the level of the 12 Apostles windows, serving to backlight these windows. Many remark on how wonderful it is to have the lighted Cathedral as part of the nighttime skyline of our Capital City. A plaque embedded in the western stairway is dedicated to Bishop Dattilo; a time capsule containing items pertaining to the Centennial Anniversary of the Cathedral is located beneath this plaque.

Narthex

The east and west ends of the narthex (diagram #1) house panels from the antependium, or front piece, of the original high altar. Abel, Melchizedek and Abraham are shown offering sacrifice in the east side panel, and the Eucharistic Sacrifice is depicted in the west side panel. Also located in the narthex are depictions of the Holy Family, and statues of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (in memory of Bishop George L. Leech, fifth Bishop of Harrisburg), Saint John Neumann (in memory of Bishop Joseph T. Daley, sixth Bishop of Harrisburg) and the entrances to the choir loft. The lower level of the church, which was not totally excavated until the second part of the 20th century, was renovated with the parish offices in 1985 as well as the narthex stairway leading to the lower level gallery. The Church Street glass portico, with handicapped accessibility to both levels of the church, was added to the exterior of the Cathedral at that time. (diagram #2)

Tabernacle

As you first step into the nave (main body) of the Cathedral and immediately take the grandeur of this building, you are invited to first acknowledge the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the tabernacle (diagram #3). The lighted sanctuary candle at the front of the Church is a sign that the Eucharistic Jesus is present in the tabernacle. Please take a moment to say hello to God and to offer your prayers for your visit.

Stained Glass Windows

As you walk up the main aisle you will notice the magnificent stained glass windows on both sides of the church. In radiant color and exquisite detail, these windows from Munich, Germany, depict familiar Gospel scenes and stories.

Clerestory

Take notice of the clerestory (upper part of the church) windows. Well-known symbols such as HIS (the first three Greek letters of the name Jesus) the pelican and her young, the martyr's harp with a red background, the wheat and chalice for Eucharist, the Keys of the Kingdom and other symbols, remind us of salvation in Jesus Christ. The words in the frieze (decorative band) underneath the clerestory windows are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22*)

Inner Dome

As you stand outside the altar area, at the altar rail, look up to the "inner" dome, rising 114 feet above the ground. It is illuminated by windows portraying the twelve apostles, with symbols of the apostles in the frieze directly underneath the windows. Four doctors of the Church, saints whose writings and teachings express authentic Catholic doctrine, Augustine, Ambrose, Jerome and Gregory the Great, are on canvas applied at the supporting arches of the dome. These paintings were added in 1949.