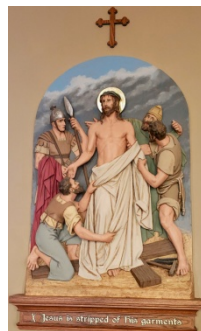


Stations of the Cross



The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. An artist was hired to restore the beauty to the Stations of the Cross. The tone in the sky changes, as Jesus endures the Way of the Cross towards his crucifixion.

**Go Therefore, and Make Disciples of All Nations—
Matthew 28:19**



During the beautification project, Fr. Gregory Abbott was serving as our priest. Fr. Gregory was a great evangelist and he chose this bible verse, as his final gift to us.

**May we all adopt this verse and share the
message of hope!**

- References 1 *"The Catholic Source Book," third edition*
2 *"Symbols, Signposts of Devotion" by Ratha Doyle McGee*
3 *"Christian Symbolism" by Thomas Albert Stafford*

St. Bernard Catholic Church Cologne, MN Beautification Project 2018



Jesus is Waiting for You

This booklet was assembled in an effort to share more about the symbolism in our church. The beautification project had a goal to bring back the beauty and symbolism of our catholic faith and our patron, **St Bernard of Clairvaux**. Some of the artistic choices were inspired by the photo of St Bernard Catholic Church from 1938.

The 2018 St Bernard beautification project was made possible by a memorial gift in remembrance of Adrian Wickenhauser, along with the support of Leon & Marcy Wickenhauser. Our parish has been blessed by their deep faith.

Historic Photo-June 5, 1938



This legacy gift is a reminder that we can all make a difference in the life of the church, by our own offering of our time, talent, or treasure.

Altar of Sacrifice



This is one of the original pieces from our historic church. In the 1938 photo, this altar was the base of the high altar. The Last Supper altar, where Jesus is depicted with his disciples was updated to bring out the beauty of this central tenet of our faith.

The painting depicts Jesus' last meal with his apostles before he was captured and crucified. But more specifically, Leonardo da Vinci wanted to capture the instant just after Jesus reveals that one of his friends will betray him, complete with reactions of shock and rage from the apostles. In Leonardo da Vinci's interpretation, the moment also takes place just before the birth of the Eucharist, with Jesus reaching for the bread and a glass of wine that would be the key symbols of this Christian sacrament.

High Altar



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,
Latin for “All for the Greater Glory of God”

CHI- RHO

The **Chi-Rho** is a Christian symbol consisting of the intersection of the capital Greek Letters Chi (**X**) and Rho (**P**) which are the first two letters of “Christ” in Greek. The Chi-Rho represents either Christ or Christianity. The Chi-Rho was used by Christians before Constantine but it became much more widespread after he adopted it.

ALPHA AND OMEGA

The **ALPHA** and the **OMEGA** are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and thus refer to the eternal nature of Christ. Rev. 1:8 The Lord God says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the One who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty!”

This phrase is interpreted by many Christians to mean that Jesus existed from eternity (as the second person of the Trinity) and will exist forever.

St Bernard of Clairvaux is our patron saint. St. Bernard was a theologian and doctor of the church. He was an outstanding preacher and orator, with his words having a spiritual sweetness and religious eloquence. St Bernard was devoted to our Blessed Mother. The presence of our patron has been incorporated in the church in several ways.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux-Choir Loft



Mary—Left Proscenium Wall



The Annunciation quote around the statue of Mary on the front proscenium wall is St Bernard's words taken from his writings—

O Virgin, The Angel Awaits an Answer. The Whole World Waits For Your Answer, Prostrate at Your Feet.

St. Bernard tells us that to live and love as Mary did we must pray as Mary did, and hold our gaze continuously on God. And for this, says the Saint, we must beware of the danger of excessive activity, regardless of one's condition and occupation, including those inherent to the governance of the Church, because "*numerous occupations often lead to hardness of heart; they are suffering for the spirit, loss of intelligence and dispersion of grace.*"

The Sanctuary



The magnificence of God is represented in the church sanctuary. Gold leafing and more fleur-de-lis stenciling create the backdrop for the Golden Trinity/Holy Spirit in the dome.

The equilateral triangle represents the Holy Trinity. It reminds us that all three Persons of the Trinity are distinct, as are the sides of the triangle, and they are equal. Yet all are inseparably joined, like the triangle, which suggest the one and inseparable Godhead. (3)

The dove represents the Holy Spirit. All four Gospels report the Holy Spirit's descent upon Jesus; all four say that it came as or like a dove from heaven. (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; and John 1:32) In the Old Testament, the descent of the spirit is prophesized in Isaiah 42:1: "*Here is my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen one, with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; He shall bring forth justice to the nations.*"

Stencil Design

Bees are a part of the main stencil in the church. Honey bees work unceasingly for the common good of the queen—which symbolize Mary/The Church. Bees are a symbol of wisdom, as they labor for others and produce good works for all. St. Bernard was relentless in his work for the church. St. Bernard, a Cistercian monk, provided counsel to several popes and rulers of his time. He was a prolific writer and was the founder of the monastery of Clairvaux.



St. Bernard Church has a Marian theme in its design, through the use of the blue color as an accent. The Fleur-de-lis (French for flower of the lily) is an iris. It represents the purity of the Virgin Mary, as well as symbolizing the Holy Trinity.

1 John 5:7: *“So, there are three that testify, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”* II Corinthians 13:14: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”*



Icon above Mary



Mary Agnus Dei – Lamb of God on Book of Seven Seals

The Lamb symbolizes Jesus. According to John 1:29, 36, when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, ***“Behold the Lamb of God”*** (*Ecce Agnus Dei* in Latin). These words are familiar to us; we hear them at every Mass just before Communion. We chose to have the Lamb standing which is a proclamation of Jesus’ resurrection and victory over sin and death. The blood pouring from its wounded side into the chalice proclaims the eternal nature of Jesus’ one sacrifice which feeds the faithful in Holy Communion. The wounded but risen Lamb of God is shown holding a victory banner standing on the Book of the Seven Seals mentioned in Revelation 5 and 6. Chapter 5 begins with, *“I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.”* And Chapter 6 begins, *“I watched while the Lamb broke open the first of the seven seals...”* (1)

Joseph—Right Proscenium Wall



If Mary is known as the first disciple of Christ, St. Joseph follows closely behind as the second disciple. As St. John Paul II said, after St. Joseph's Annunciation, he takes on a spiritual view of the unfolding events. The clarity, which the angel's announcement brings to Joseph, enables him to courageously follow behind Mary in the walk as a disciple.

Joseph, Son of David, Do Not Be Afraid to Take Mary Your Wife Into Your Home. Matthew 1:20

St. Joseph's Annunciation allows him to embrace his vocation with the total dedication that marked his life. He is rightly remembered as 'the just man' since he was faithful in everything that God called upon him to do.

Icon above Joseph



Pelican in her Piety

The pelican is a favorite symbol of the redemption Jesus won for us through His self-sacrificing love whose fruit we consume in the Eucharist. There is an ancient belief that the female pelican would rip open her breast to feed her young with her own life blood to avert their starvation in famine. In another legend, the pelican is the enemy of the serpent, whose stings bring death to the young. The mother pelican, mourning over her dead brood, incinerates herself, and her warm blood restores their lives (2) It offers a striking parallel to the atonement of our Savior. We chose to emphasize its outstretched and protecting wings which gathers its fledglings because it speaks of Jesus's desire: *"How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings but you were unwilling"* (Matt 23:37). The nest is the crown of thorns suffered by Jesus for love of us, that He might gather us to Himself.

