

Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church Self-Guided Walking Tour



Welcome to Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church in Spencer County, Indiana.

The parish church is open daily from dawn to dusk.

Art and Architectural Features

- **Stations of the Cross:** Fourteen walnut-framed paintings from Germany, circa 1926, depict Christ's journey to crucifixion.
- **Seating:** Oak pews installed in 1896 seat 360 people.
- **Stained Glass:** Mominee Studios and Artists In Stained Glass of Evansville, Indiana, restored the windows from 2014-2016.
- **Architectural Heritage (1865-1980):** The current church building was completed in 1865 after construction delays caused by the Civil War. In 1980, becoming one of the first three Catholic churches in Indiana listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural and engineering significance.
- **Preservation and Restoration:** The church has undergone extensive preservation efforts spanning more than a century, including addition of a 535-pipe organ in 1898, ornamental stenciling in 1905, major restorations in 1997 and completion of stained glass window restoration in 2016.

Paintings in Historic Church

Twelve oil paintings of apostles and saints decorate the arches between the pillars:

North Aisle (east to west)

- St. Peter
- St. Scholastica (sister of St. Benedict)
- St. Aloysius Gonzala
- St. Anthony of Padua
- St. Francis Xavier
- St. Gregory the Great

South Aisle (east to west)

- St. Paul
- St. Benedict
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- St. Clare
- St. Rose of Lima
- St. Cecilia

Sanctuary Arch

Above the sanctuary, a painting depicts the Lamb of God.

Latin: "Ecce Agnus Dei qui tollit peccata mundi"

English: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"

Side Altar Painting

North side: "The Annunciation" **German:** "Gebenedeit bist du unter den Weibern"
English: "Blessed are you among women"

South side: "Christ's Journey to Jerusalem with his Parents" **German:** "Und er ging mit seinen Eltern nach Jerusalem" **English:** "And he went with his parents to Jerusalem"

Statuary

Eight plaster statues and one crucifix adorn the church:

Sanctuary

- Blessed Virgin Mary
- Two Angels
- St. Joseph

Nave

- Sacred Heart of Jesus
- St. Anthony of Padua

Narthex

- Pieta
- Crucifix
- St. John the Baptist and Jesus in the River Jordan

High Altar Paintings

Two paintings in the reredos (decorative panels) by Heinrich Von Hess (1875-1876):

Arch: St. Boniface laying the cornerstone of the monastery in Fulda, Germany

Lower: The martyrdom of St. Boniface (Dokkum, Germany, June 5, 754 A.D.)

Abbot Martin Marty, OSB, purchased these paintings for \$500. Marty served as pastor at Fulda from 1861-1863 and became the first abbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Sanctuary Paintings

North side: "Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles" **Latin:** "Et repleti sunt, omnes Spiritu Sancto" **English:** "And they were filled with the Holy Spirit"

South side: "Adoration of the Magi" **Latin:** "Et procidentes adoraverunt eum"

English: "And falling down they adored him"

Stained Glass Windows on Either Side of the High Altar

Two Old Testament scenes grace the apse windows:

North: Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice

South: Melchizedek offering bread and wine as king of Salem

Sacristy Door Stencils

Medal of St. Benedict designs appear above both doors:

North: "Crux Sancte Pater Benedicta" ("The cross of the Holy Father Benedict")

South: "Pax" ("Peace")

Scan the QR code for additional information:

- Parish History
- Pastors from 1847 to present
- Self-Guided Tour of St. Boniface Cemetery

