

The Church's Art



Paintings

A Bit of History

Of the thirty-six original paintings in the church, most were done by Erasmus Humbrecht, an itinerant artist who also did some beautiful work at the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. According to legend, Mr. Humbrecht painted for a jug of wine, daily meals, and lodging; however, records indicate there was also money involved



The painting of the Sacred Heart over the main altar is European in origin and dates back to 1862. It once belonged to the Duchess of Sagan, a prominent socialite in Paris at the time of Napoleon III.



Paintings of St. Joseph with the Infant Jesus and of Our Lady by Erasmus Humbreht adorn the walls above the two side altars.

Paintings representing the four Evangelists can be seen on the walls of the transept of the church.



The Evangelists are symbolized in art by figures that are usually winged: a human head, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. These are described in the prophetic vision of Ezechiel and in that of Saint John in his Apocalypse. The human head indicates Saint Matthew because he begins his Gospel with the human ancestry of the Messiah. The lion which dwells in the desert represents Saint Mark because he opens his narrative with the mission of Saint John the Baptist, "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." The sacrificial ox is the symbol of Saint Luke for his Gospel begins with the story of the priest Zachariah. The eagle which soars high into the heavens is the emblem of Saint John who, in the opening words of his Gospel, carries us to Heaven itself: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." These paintings were done by Brother Burt Rivet, a Jesuit who left behind numerous paintings and ceramic works in every place that he was assigned.

The Church's Art - Paintings of the Mysteries of the Rosary

High up on both sides of the nave of the church are the canvases painted by Erasmus Humbrecht illustrating the **mysteries of the Rosary**

The Joyful Mysteries



The Annunciation - The angel said to Mary, "You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. And he will be called Son of the Most High." Luke 1,31-32



The Visitation - "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." Luke 1,42 & 45



The Nativity - While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. Luke 2,6-7



The Presentation - When the day came to purify them according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem so that he could be presented to the Lord. Luke 2,22



The Finding of Jesus in the Temple - They came upon him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teaches, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed. Luke 2,46-47

The Sorrowful Mysteries



The Agony in the Garden - Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemani. He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer. "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by." Matt 26,36 & 39



The Scouring at the Pillar- The people said, "Let his blood be upon us and upon our children." At that, he released Barabbas to them. Jesus, however, he first had scourged. Matt 27,25-26



The Crowning with Thorns - They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they fixed it on his head and began to mock him. Matt 27,28-29



The Carrying of the Cross - Jesus was led away, and carrying the cross by himself, went out to what is called the Place of the Skull. There they crucified him. John 19,17-18



The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus - The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two, Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, "Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit." After this, he expired. Luke 23,45-46

The Glorious Mysteries



The Resurrection - The angel spoke, "Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised." Matt 28,5-6



The Ascension - He then led them out near Bethany, and with hands upraised, blessed them. As he blessed, he left them, and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24,50-51



The Descent of the Holy Spirit - Tongues as of fire appeared which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2,3-4



The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven - May you be blessed, my daughter, by God most high, beyond all women on earth; and may the Lord God be blessed, the Creator of heaven and earth. Judith 13,18



The Coronation of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven - A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Rev 12,1

Stations of the Cross



1. Jesus is Condemned to Death



2. Jesus Takes Up His Cross



3. Jesus falls the first time



4. Jesus Meets His Mother



5. Simon of Cyrene Carries the Cross



6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



7. Jesus Falls the Second Time



8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



9. Jesus Falls the Third Time



10. Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



12. Jesus Dies on the Cross



13. Jesus' Body is Removed from the Cross



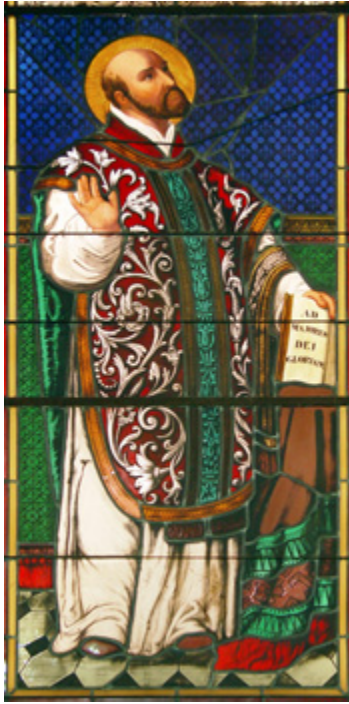
14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Stained Glass

Three different sets of stained glass windows are found in St. Charles Church. The oldest set includes the three windows pictured immediately below which were installed during the time of the church's construction.



High above the main altar is this round window called the "Star of David Window." Within the star is a mother pelican feeding her young. Legend has it that, in times of famine, a mother pelican will pluck her own breast with her beak and feed her young with her blood, resulting in her death. The pelican thus became a symbol for Christ who poured out His blood willingly to save us. Moreover, Jesus continues to feed us with His body and blood in the holy Eucharist.



Included in the original set of windows are those of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, and of St. Francis Xavier, the famous Jesuit missionary. These are found on either side of the main altar.

The second set of windows, now located in the transepts or side wings of the church, was installed in the 1920's.



These include depictions of the Annunciation to Mary by the Angel Gabriel and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into heaven.



There is also a portrayal of the Death of St. Joseph and a tribute to Saint Cecilia who is the patroness of music.

The final set, those depicting [the twelve promises of the Sacred Heart](#) as given to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, was installed in the main seating area of the church in the late 1940's.

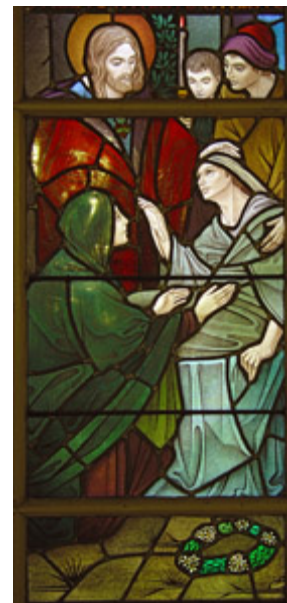
Stained Glass - The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart in Stained Glass



I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.



I will give peace in their families.



I will console them in all their troubles



They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of death.



I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.



Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.



Tepid souls shall become fervent.



Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.



I will bless the homes in which the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honored.



I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.



Those who propagate this devotion shall have their name written in My Heart, and it shall never be effaced.



The Grace of Final Repentance and My Consolation at Death