

“I consecrate this house you have built, I place my name here forever; my eyes and my heart will be here for all time.” 1 Kings 9:3
Inscribed in Old Polish around the corona of the dome.

Pope John Paul II Pavilion

1 The **rose window** in the pavilion highlights, clockwise from the top, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Katharine Drexel, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, with Our Lady of Częstochowa in the center. The **coat of arms** to the right of the rose window is that of Pope John Paul II and on the left side is this basilica's coat of arms (see inset below.)

2 All of the popes painted in the pavilion were Franciscans. The scene painted on the south wall is the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy and on the north wall is the neighborhood around the Basilica and city of Milwaukee transitioning from the turn of the century to present day.

The Basilica

3 Above the doors in the gathering area are reliefs of (L to R) Archbishop Katzer, Pope Leo XIII, and Cardinal Martinelli (Apostolic Delegate to the US who dedicated the church in 1901). Statues of St. Peter and St. John Vianney are opposite the doors. On the ceiling above this area in Latin: “Pater Noster, Qui Es In Caelis, Sanctificetur Nomen Tuum” is the beginning of the **Lord's Prayer**.

4 The painting above the east exit depicts one of the great figures of Polish history, Rev. Peter Skarga, a 17th century Jesuit, preaching before the Polish royal court.

5 On the east confessionals are bronze bas-reliefs of *The Need for Forgiveness* (Septuagies septies; Seventy-seven times) and *The Lost Sheep* (Salvare quod perierat; Saving what had been lost.) Above the confessionals are the first seven **Stations of the Cross**, carved from marble. The stations are inscribed in Polish. The window in this transept shows the Blessed Mother with the Infant Jesus, presenting the rosary to St. Dominic, while St. Catherine of Siena looks on. The scene is flanked by St. Thomas Aquinas on the left and St. Hyacinth on the right.

6 The **Our Lady of the Rosary Altar** survived the fire of the first church. The statue of Mary is flanked by St. Apollonia (left) and St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. The painting above is a Guardian Angel protecting a child.

7 The **Grand Pulpit**, carved from white Italian marble, contains the images of Jesus the Good Shepherd and the four evangelists: St. Matthew (man), St. Mark (lion), St. Luke (ox), and St. John (eagle). The statues between the images, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Jude, and St. Francis of Assisi — were added recently to replace original statues removed in the 1960s.

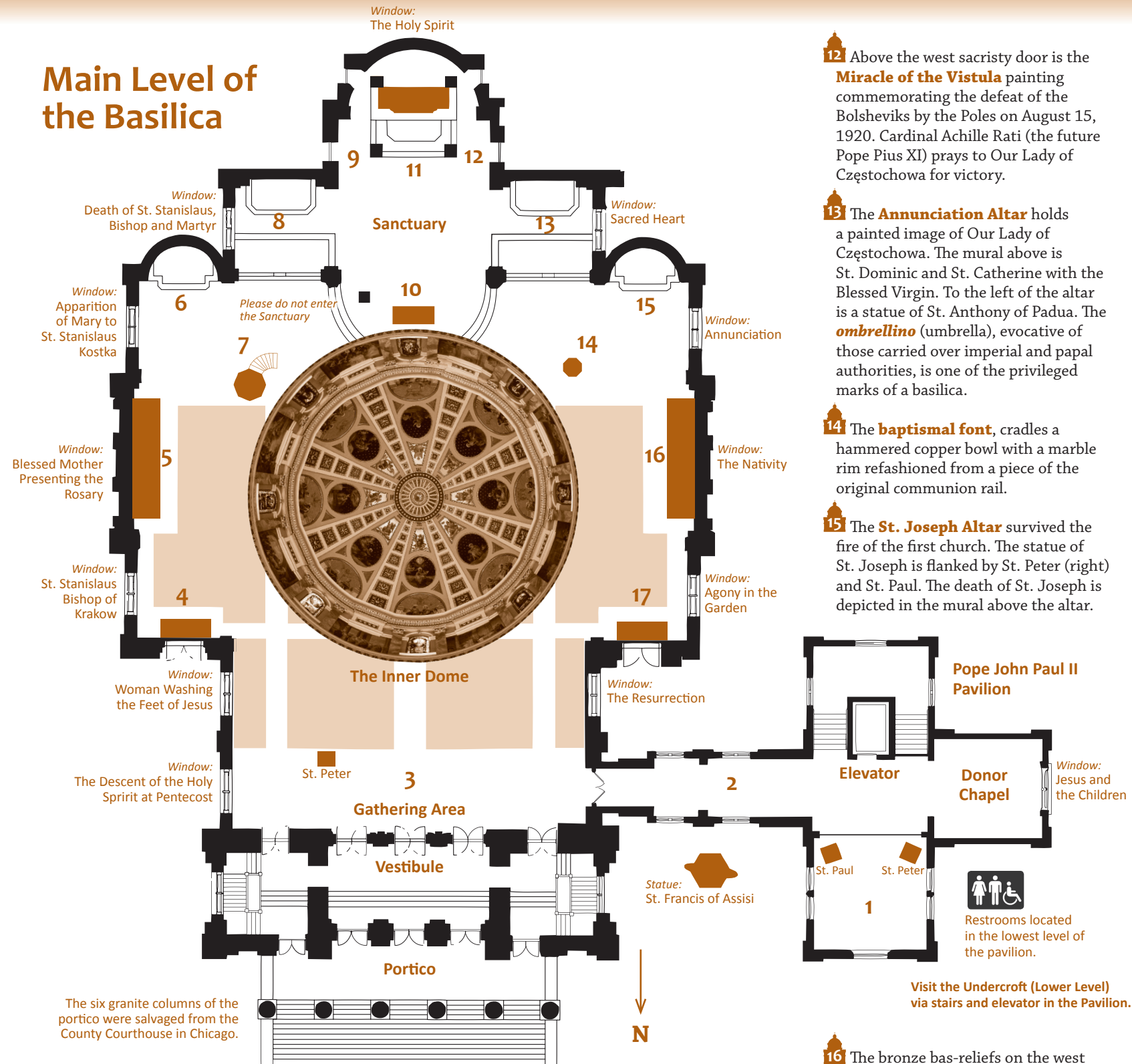
8 The **Sacred Heart Altar** shows St. Margaret Mary Alacoque at Paray-le-Monial, France. The painting above is St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The **Papal Chair** is a symbol reminding us of our union with the Holy See. A statue of the Infant of Prague is behind the glass. The large statue to the right of the altar is St. Francis of Assisi. The **tintinnabulum** (processional bell) is reminiscent of those that signalled the approach of a papal procession. This bell is one of the privileged marks of a basilica.

9 The painting above the east sacristy door portrays St. Hedwig, Patroness of Poland, with St. Cunegunda, Blessed James of Strepar, St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, St. Hyacinth, and Blessed Bronislava. In the background is the city of Warsaw.

10 Four onyx columns, originally in front of the Last Supper relief on the High Altar, support the **mensa** (table) of **The Altar of Sacrifice**. The relief of the Eucharist in the center is from a section of the original communion rail removed to enlarge the sanctuary.

11 The **High Altar**, carved of marble, holds the **Tabernacle**. Built over the altar is the **baldachino** (canopy), covered with 23k gold leaf. Inscribed in Latin is “Behold God's dwelling place among men!” In the base of the altar is a high-relief marble image of the Last Supper, based on the painting by Leonardo da Vinci. The painting behind the altar is the *Martyrdom of St. Josaphat*. To the left is a painting of St. Andrew of Bobola and to the right, St. Vincent de Paul. In the *apse* (semi-domed ceiling) above the baldachino is *The Glorification of St. Josaphat*, containing over twenty-five figures.

Main Level of the Basilica



Coat of Arms of the Basilica

At the top is the ombrellino (umbrella) in red and gold. The motto, “Ut omnes unum sint” (That all might be one.) The division of the shield signifies the bishop's stole. In the top center is the papal insignia of the tiara and crossed keys of St. Peter to signify our affiliation as a minor basilica with the See of Peter. The cornucopia represents the prosperity of the New World (taken from the coat of arms of the state of Wisconsin.) On the right is the wounded heart of young Josaphat. The crossed arms on the bottom are derived from the coat of arms of the Franciscan Order.

12 Above the west sacristy door is the **Miracle of the Vistula** painting commemorating the defeat of the Bolsheviks by the Poles on August 15, 1920. Cardinal Achille Rati (the future Pope Pius XI) prays to Our Lady of Częstochowa for victory.

13 The **Annunciation Altar** holds a painted image of Our Lady of Częstochowa. The mural above is St. Dominic and St. Catherine with the Blessed Virgin. To the left of the altar is a statue of St. Anthony of Padua. The **ombrellino** (umbrella), evocative of those carried over imperial and papal authorities, is one of the privileged marks of a basilica.

14 The **baptismal font**, cradles a hammered copper bowl with a marble rim refashioned from a piece of the original communion rail.

15 The **St. Joseph Altar** survived the fire of the first church. The statue of St. Joseph is flanked by St. Peter (right) and St. Paul. The death of St. Joseph is depicted in the mural above the altar.

17 The painting above the west exit is General Thaddeus Kosciuszko leading Polish peasants into battle against Russian invaders.

The Inner Dome

The eight angel paintings surrounding the Eastern European crystal window in the center of the dome, represent eight of the nine divisions of the angels. The ninth, the archangels are painted on the ceiling above the Sanctuary. The eight roundels depict Prophets from the Old Testament who foretold the coming of the Messiah. The eight lunettes contain paintings of Evangelists, Apostles and Doctors of the Church. The eight rectangular paintings in the drum of the dome depict the seven Sacraments and the Adoration of the Magi. Between these paintings are the **Madonna windows** depicting Eastern European shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The **inscription** at the base of the dome in Old Polish, is from 1 Kings 9:3 - “I consecrate this house you have built, I place my name here forever; my eyes and my heart will be here for all time.”

The St. Francis Paintings in the four corners just below the dome, are eight lunette paintings portraying the mystical life of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Organ utilizes a compilation of pipes from the original Basilica organ and numerous others. It has 46 ranks of pipes ranging from the size of a pencil to over 16 feet long.

The Rose Window above the Organ Gallery, surrounding the “ever-watchful eye of God” are images of the four Evangelists: (clockwise from top) St. John (eagle), St. Matthew (man), St. Mark (lion), and St. Luke (ox).

The Undercroft (Lower Level)

- **History Exhibit**
- **Social Area**
- **Restrooms**
- **Lower Church** (used for daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, other gatherings)
 - Reliquary Chapel
 - Lourdes Chapel, mural by P. Bianchi
 - Main Sanctuary, features *trompe l'oeil* by Andy DeWeerd; refurbished original furnishings; decorating scheme inspired by the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy.

A Landmark is Born

Welcome to the Basilica of St. Josaphat. This church and parish are named for St. Josaphat, an Archbishop in the Kingdom of Poland in the early 1600s. The parish was founded in 1888, and its first home was a modest building that burned to the ground in 1889. The parish built a second church but it was too small for the growing congregation of 12,000 parishioners.

Father Wilhelm Grutza, the pastor, hired a German-born architect named Erhard Brielmaier to design what is, in essence, a smaller version of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Both churches have a cross-shaped floor plan with a huge central dome.

When the plans were nearly complete, Fr. Grutza learned that the U.S. Post Office and Custom House in Chicago was being razed and he purchased it for \$20,000. The building was dismantled and the salvaged materials were loaded on 500 railroad flatcars and brought to Milwaukee. They were stockpiled in a vacant lot across the street.



The present church is not what the Post Office and Custom House looked like. Architect Brielmaier changed his plans to include the salvaged materials, but his design remained faithful to the original model—the Vatican Basilica of St. Peter.

Ground was broken in 1896 and the church was finished in 1901. At the time of completion, the only building in the country with a larger dome was the United States Capitol. Cost overruns put the parish in major debt. The Archdiocese searched for an order of priests that would take over the administration and debt of the parish. In 1910, the Conventual Franciscans took over administration of the parish and the debt was retired in 1925.

With the debt gone, plans were made to finish the interior. The church wasn't exactly an empty shell when it opened. The stained-glass windows were in, imported from Innsbruck, Austria. The main altar was here. But most of the building was a blank canvas, painted alabaster white. The parish hired a Roman artist, Gonippo Raggi, in 1926. His crew spent two years working on the interior. They painted the oil murals, finished the ornamental plasterwork, and painted the columns to resemble marble. In 1929, after the interior work was finished, the Franciscans petitioned Pope Pius XI to declare St. Josaphat Church a basilica.

In the Catholic Church, basilica status is reserved for the largest, most beautiful, and most historically important churches. In 1929, St. Josaphat Church was named the third basilica in the United States. Today there are seventy-nine in this country. The Basilica of St. Josaphat is the largest church in Milwaukee, with a seating capacity of over 1,000 on the main floor, hundreds more can be accommodated in the galleries.

What is a basilica?

In ancient Rome, *basilica* was an architectural description of the public hall that formed a gathering point in every Roman city for the purpose of transacting business. It was usually a large rectangular hall with a central nave supported internally with double colonnades and a semicircular apse at one end. Light came from the clerestory, the row of windows above the colonnades.

After the Roman Empire became officially Christian, the buildings were used as the first churches, and the term came to specifically refer to a large and important church that has been given special ceremonial status by the Pope.

The Conventual Franciscans

The Basilica of St. Josaphat has been owned and administered by the Conventual Franciscans since 1910. The Basilica is home to numerous Franciscan Ministries including a parish and school, a weekly food pantry, and other ministries of outreach. Through the years, the Franciscans have maintained an active presence and a spiritual home for numerous members of the local community and beyond.

St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation

In 1991, due to decades of wear, tear and neglect, the Basilica building was in danger of shuttering its doors forever. A small group of local business leaders responded to this threat with urgent determination, rallying around the Basilica in an effort to restore it to its original glory. The St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation was born. Since that time, the Foundation has achieved tremendous results, investing more than \$18,000,000 in its mission to restore and preserve the Basilica for the community. The Foundation builds awareness of the Basilica as an architectural landmark, center for arts and culture, home to a rich history, center of spirituality and an international visitor destination.

The St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation is a chartered non-profit, non-sectarian Wisconsin organization. Gifts to the Foundation ensure the Basilica continues to inspire everyone with its history, beauty and tranquility for years to come.

Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

Celebration of Eucharist

Weekends: Saturday at 4:30pm
Sunday at 8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00pm

Weekdays: Monday—Friday at 7:00am
Wednesday at 12:00pm
Saturday at 8:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays: Following the 12:00pm Mass
Vespers and Benediction at 5:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Weekdays: Following morning Mass

Saturdays: 3:00pm



Corner of 6th St. and Lincoln Ave.

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Visitor Guide and Tour



Welcome to

the
BASILICA
of Saint Josaphat

A Ministry of the
Conventual Franciscans

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

TheBasilica.org