

# Holy Spirit Catholic Church Tour

## 1. Offices

Holy Spirit is a busy place and every day of the week, and much of this activity takes place in the office suite. The Receptionist greets everyone who comes in and she is in charge of all communications. The Formation office is where Rochelle and Barb work on all the projects for Faith Formation (Religious Education). The Copy and Fax room is always buzzing. The Business office is where all the financial and church management takes place. Father's Tom has an office in the church as well as in the rectory. Father's door is always open to anyone who wants to talk to him. The office next to Father's is Karen (Pastoral Associate) and Becky's (Choir Director).

## 2. Sacristy

This is a room for keeping vestments (such as the alb and chasuble) and other sacred vessels. The Altar Servers also keep their robes in here. This is where the sacristan prepares everything for communion. The Communion vessels are washed in the sink. This is a very special sink. The drain does not go out to the sewer, the drain for this sink goes directly outside so what is poured down the sink returns to the earth.

## 3. Baptismal Font, Paschal Candle

You have probably seen a baptism for a baby. The large silver bowl of water is called the baptismal font. Water is used as a sign of new life. A new Paschal Candle is lit at the Easter Vigil and lit again at other special times throughout the year. At Baptism each person receives a baptism candle, this candle is lit from the Paschal Candle.

## 4. Choir, Cross, and Stained Glass Window

Music adds so much to the celebration of Mass, and the Holy Spirit is blessed with a wonderful choir with members who share their talent at each Mass.

Do you know the difference between a cross and a crucifix? A crucifix is a cross that shows Jesus' body on it. A cross does not have Jesus' body on it. Here you can see the crucifix of a dying Jesus. Seeing the crucifix reminds us that Jesus loves us so much that he died for our sins. Please note that this Jesus figure has no hands and no feet, because we are supposed to be his hands and feet in our world.

Our stained glass window features a pelican. The mother pelican loves her young so much she will pluck her own flesh to feed her children if no other food is available. Showing love and care toward others is how we can be Jesus' hands and feet in our world.

#### 5. Mary's Corner

Most Catholic churches have a statue or painting dedicated to Mary, as Mary is the mother of God and the Mother of the church. People may come here and pray quietly. Our painting "The Madonna with Butterfly" is a very special reminder of the sign of new life. The butterfly emerges from a cocoon is a symbol of Christ coming from the tomb alive on Easter after dying on the cross for sin on Good Friday. Small candles are available for anyone who desires to pray for a special intention.

#### 6. Pantry

Our pantry is not for use, but is stocked with food for people who come from all over Northwest Indiana when they are in need of assistance. You can do your part and bring food to Mass anytime to help stock the pantry.

#### 7. Ambry and Oils

The Ambry is where the containers of oil are stored. The word ambry comes from the Latin "armarium" which means cupboard, chest, or safe. Even in Jesus' day oils were important because they were used for healing. The ambry and the display of the oils reminds the community of the sacramental importance of welcoming new members, Confirmation, and caring for the sick.

#### 8. Chapel and Tabernacle

A chapel is place where individuals and come and pray. The tabernacle is housed in our chapel. In some churches the tabernacle is located behind the altar. The Eucharist is kept in the tabernacle. Kneelers are in front of the tabernacle so people can come and pray quietly. The Sanctuary Candle next to the tabernacle is lit when the Eucharist is present. Some say it is lit when Jesus, who is the Eucharist, is home. When you see that the candle is lit, you must bow your head or genuflect (to bend down on one knee) to show reverence and respect for the Eucharist upon entering the chapel.

#### 9. Entry Way / Vestibule

Our entry way contains many things important to Mass. The blue books contain the order of the Mass and all of the music that we share. The holy water font placed at the entrance gives people a chance to bless themselves with holy water when they enter and leave the church as a sign of their own baptism. The crucifix used in

procession at the beginning of Mass is here along with the crosses worn by the Eucharistic Ministers.

The book of petitions is kept here so that anyone can write down someone's name to be prayed for. The Saint Vincent De Paul box for the needy is also located here.

#### 10. Stations of the Cross

The first of the 14 Stations of the Cross is on the left wall by the doors leading to the office. The Stations of the Cross is a prayerful journey. Each station represents one event from the day Jesus died. We walk and pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent.

#### 11. Presider's Chair

This is where Father sits. The altar servers sit next to Father.

#### 12. Ambo (from Latin "I ascend") and Lectionary

This is where the lectors (people who read during Mass), the priest, or deacon proclaim the Word of God. The lectors read the first and second readings. The first reading is usually taken from the Old Testament. The second reading is usually taken from the New Testament. The Lectionary is the book of readings that are taken from the bible that we hear at Mass. Proclaiming the Word of God is a very special ministry.

#### 13. Altar

The table of the Lord is where we celebrate the Eucharist, and it is therefore a sacred anointed place. It is a place where we offer our gifts of bread and wine at each Mass. Through consecration, the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. When Father is at the altar during Mass, it is a very holy and sacred time. It is a time to look at Father and listen. It reminds us each week of how much God loves us. How lucky we are to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

#### 14. Credence Table (Italian "Credenza")

This is where the offerings of bread and wine wait to be brought up to the altar to be blessed by Father. The offerings are taken by one of our families and other parishioners to the altar. They carry up the altar cloth, Purificator (the cloth to wipe the cups of wine with), bowl containing the bread or hosts, wine, bowl and water to wash Father's hands and Father's chalice.