

## **Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

The Chapel is an intimate, luminous, meditative space - its strong vertical elements giving a visual sense of our prayers rising to God.

**12. Tabernacle** - Like the Altar furnishings, the Tabernacle and stand were made of birch and cherry, the Tabernacle rests on a green granite surface, matching the Altar and Baptismal Font. Its strength and height add to the sense of ascendancy of the Chapel. The wood pattern on the door to the Tabernacle reflects the theme of the circular and linear elements.

**13. San Damiano Cross** - St. Francis received his call from God while praying before the cross in the church of San Damiano, near Assisi. The original San Damiano cross now hangs in the chapel in the Basilica of St. Clare. This eight-foot high, hand painted replica is by Demetz Studio, Italy. The rebuilt church at San Damiano became the cloistered convent of St. Clare's order.

**13. Relics of Saints Francis and Clare** - Opposite the San Damiano cross is a reliquary, built by parishioner Emil Pelech in the shape of a cross, which contains relics of our patron saints as well as those of St Bartholomew, St Terese of Lisieux, and others. In the center of the cross is a crucifix that contains a first class relic of St Francis (actual part of the saint's earthly remains - a chip of bone, lock of hair, etc.).

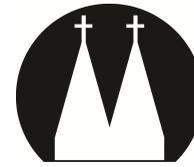
**14. Window** - The stained glass window on the chapel's west wall depicts an angel bowing in reverence to the Tabernacle, holding a censor. The smoke from the incense exits three holes in the lid of the censor, twining into a single column of smoke, a visual reminder of the trinity. The angel - God's messenger, reminds us that our prayers are carried to God. This window was designed and created by Fox Studios, Indianapolis.

**15. Votive Candles** - Votive candles rest in niches in the north wall of the chapel on green granite shelves. Their light rises along the wall as our prayers rise to the Lord.

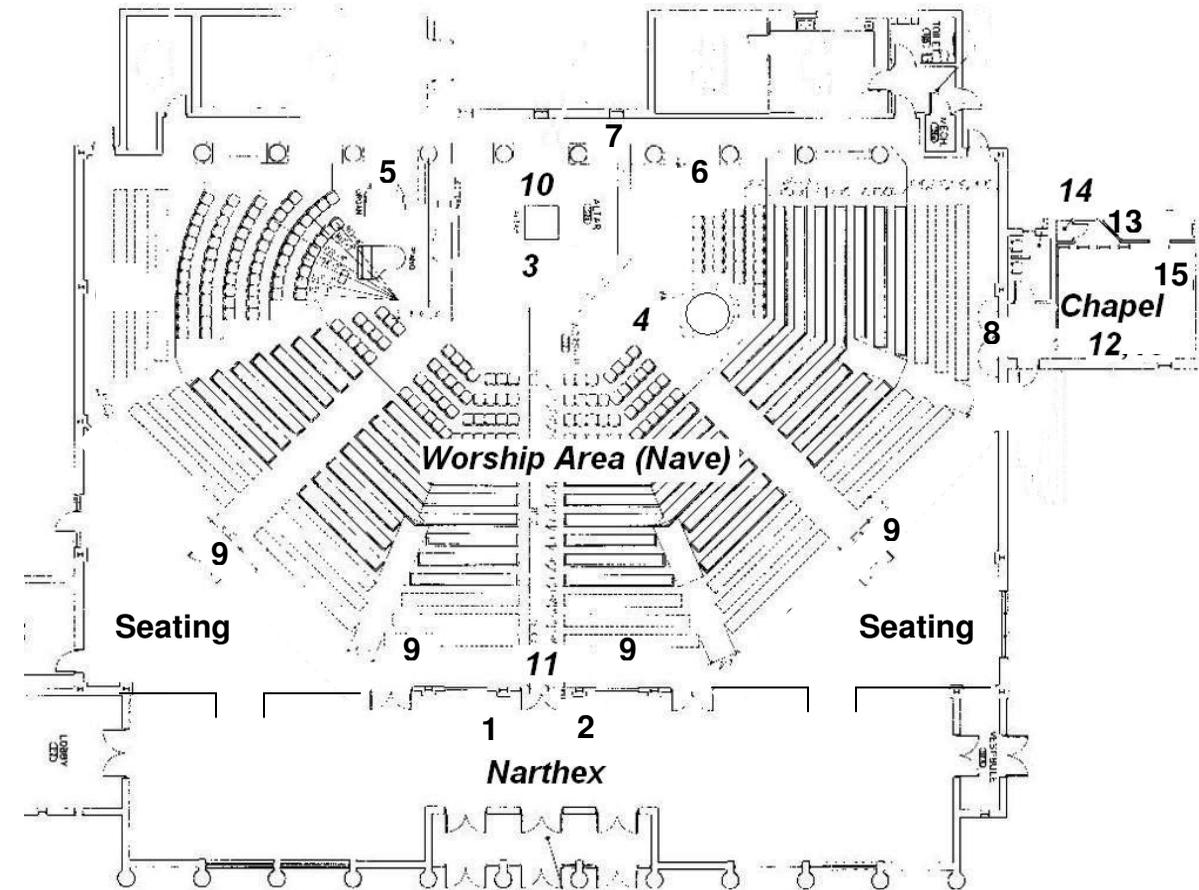
We welcome you to Saints Francis and Clare parish. We hope this pamphlet has helped you gain a deeper appreciation of the sacred art of the parish. Sacred art has been a cherished part of the Christian faith for centuries and can help lead us to a deeper understanding of our faith.

If you are new to the area, we are pleased to invite you to join us for worship at our weekend and daily masses.

Revised 8/06/2012



## **A Tour of Saints Francis and Clare Church**



*Numbers on the floor plan correspond to the appropriate description*

The design reflects the spirit of simplicity espoused by our patron saints. The church exterior is rooted in the architectural styles of historic churches of central Italy, the home of Ss. Francis and Clare. This is seen in features such as the lined effect of the brick, and the design of the church plaza and portico, inspired by the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. The twin spires of the bell tower remind us of the examples set by our two patrons.

St Francis was active in spreading the gospel while St Clare was a cloistered nun.

We are called to both a life of active faith (St Francis) and of contemplative prayer (St Clare).

**Narthex** - The Narthex was designed to be a large and welcoming space. There are open views from the Narthex to the courtyard and the worship space.

**Icons:** On either side of the main entrance doors to the worship space are original Icons depicting selected events in the lives of Saint Clare and Saint Francis. Created by Brother Gebhard Frohlich, S. J., New Orleans, LA, using a centuries-old method employing gold leaf, egg tempera, and linseed oil, they were completed in 1998.

**1. St. Francis** - The four smaller panels below St Francis depict: a) his call before the San Damiano Cross in 1205 (upper left); b) renouncing his father's wealth – including his clothes - before the bishop in 1206 (upper right); c) his cure of a cripple (lower left); d) receiving the stigmata – the wounds of Christ in 1224 (lower right). St Francis died Oct 3, 1226 and was canonized July 16, 1228.

**2. St. Clare** - The four panels below St Clare depict: a) On Palm Sunday night, Clare went in secret from her house to the tiny chapel of the Porziuncula in 1212 (upper left); b) that night, St. Francis cut her beautiful hair and invested her with the garb of a Franciscan (upper right); c) Following St. Francis' death in 1226, his body was brought to the convent at San Damiano for reverence by St. Clare and the Sisters on the way to burial (lower left); d) Pope Innocent IV approved the Rule of Clare, granting her the Privilege of Poverty August 9, 1253 (lower right). St. Clare died Aug 11, 1253 and was canonized Aug 15, 1255.

**Worship Area (Nave)** - The worship area is a simple, beautiful space with circular and linear elements, echoing the contrasting, yet united, spiritual lives of Ss. Francis and Clare.

**3. Altar** - The Altar is topped with green granite, reflecting the material of the Baptismal Font, reminding us that we are called to Christ in the Eucharist through our Baptism. The Altar's simple style is accented by carved symbols on each of the four sides, stylized representations of sheaves of wheat and fish (both ancient symbols of the Eucharist), lilies (symbol of St. Francis) and palms (symbol of St. Clare). While the sides of the granite top are polished, the top is left "rough." During the dedication mass, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein and Fr Steven Jarrell anointed the top of the altar with sacred oils. The altar and other sanctuary furnishings were built by Weberding's Carving Shop, Batesville, IN. All pieces are constructed of birch and cherry woods and reflect the mixture of planar and cylindrical forms.

**4. Baptismal Font** -: The Font allows for either sprinkling or immersion baptisms and is in the form of a circle with a recessed cross. The green granite reminds us of the new life which comes from our baptism. Note that the baptismal is in a direct line between the altar and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Those receiving baptism by immersion enter the font from the congregation side, descend three steps into the font, then, following baptism, ascend three steps toward the crucifix, symbolic of our death and resurrection through this life giving sacrament.

**5. Crucifix** - The Cross, made of cherry wood, matches the wood of the altar. The Corpus, carved by Demetz Studio, Italy, is a reproduction of the Cristo del Tacca, originally carved by an assistant of Michelangelo and was selected for its beauty and realism.

**6. Mary & Joseph** - The statue of Mary and the infant Jesus, carved by Demetz Studio Italy, is a reproduction of Madonna della Strada (Mary of the Street or Mary of the Way) and reminds us that Mary was a very young mother. The statue of Joseph, also by Demetz, includes the tools of his craft.

**7. Ambry** - The Ambry, built by parishioner Emil Pelech, is mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary and holds the Holy Oils used in the Sacraments - Sacred Chrism, Oil of Catechumens, and Oil of the Sick.

**8. Tabernacle Lamp** - The Tabernacle lamp hangs over the door of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, reminding us of the presence of the Blessed Sacrament..

**9. Stations of the Cross** - The fourteen Stations of the Cross are beautifully carved in wood, and are placed to allow the faithful to process from Station to Station. They were designed and carved by Weberding's Carving Shop of Batesville, IN.

#### **Windows:**

The stained glass windows echo the theme of the circular and linear elements and were designed and built by Fox Studios, Indianapolis.

**10. West Window** - This window shows the Resurrected Lord Jesus inviting us to join Him at His table. The invitation is not only to join him at the Altar each Sunday, but to be present at the eternal Paschal Feast in Heaven. A laurel wreath in the perimeter of the window symbolizes His victory, as does the victorious banner at the top of the window. Seen in the afternoon sun, Jesus' garment glows with gold accents! Note that the front of the table has carved fish, creating a visual link between the heavenly banquet table of the resurrected Christ and our altar below.

**11. East Window** - This window shows Ss. Francis and Clare, spiritual companions, who led many to deeper faith through prayer and example. They are holding a palm branch, recalling St. Clare's conversion to religious life on Palm Sunday. The lilies in the foreground are a symbol of St. Francis. The scene includes a number of plants and animals, recalling that their great love for the Lord led them to love all of His creation. The purple which they are standing on symbolizes humility, the red and blue in the background remind us of the passion and the purity of their faith. Note that among the animals are a cardinal (state bird) and an ear of corn which provide a visual link to our own Indiana heritage.