



2015 Guide Book & Directory

Cathedral of The Incarnation

2015 West End Ave. • Nashville, Tennessee 37203 • (615) 327-2330 • www.nashvillecathedral.org

Cathedral of the Incarnation

2015 West End Ave., Nashville, Tennessee 37203-2372

(615) 327-2330

www.cathedralnashville.org

Dear Members of the Cathedral Parish:

I am pleased to present to you our annual Cathedral Membership Guide Book & Directory. In these pages you will find a presentation of our parish history, descriptions of our ministries, programs and activities, and the names and addresses of our registered members. It is my hope this publication will be a helpful tool to you and your family. It is in our collective work as a parish community through worship, education and service, that we best answer the call of Jesus Christ to do the work of the Kingdom. For over a century this parish has been known for the spirit of worship in our liturgies, the quality of education to our children and adults, our evangelization in the community – especially Midtown – and our service to those most in need. I am pleased to be a part of this tradition going strong now for some 100 years. I hope this guide will enable us to come to know each other better and to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church through our dedication to our parish.

I especially thank all who made this publication possible by advertising in our Directory, and I encourage all of our members to show our appreciation for our advertisers by supporting them in return.

Thank you, parishioners, all for all you do to serve God through your dedication, love and support, of the Cathedral of the Incarnation parish.

Yours in our Savior,

Very Rev. Edward F. Steiner, D. Min.
Pastor & Rector

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Monday: Communion Service 7:00 a.m.
12:10 p.m. Mass

Tuesday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.

Monday-Thursday: 5:30 p.m. when Vanderbilt University is in session

Holy Days of Obligation: Call or see Bulletin Schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Meet the Cathedral Staff

Bishop

Bishop David Choby was born in Nashville and baptized and raised in the Cathedral parish. He was consecrated and installed as the Diocese of Nashville's eleventh bishop in the Cathedral. After spending a year at Aquinas College here in Nashville, he entered the seminary at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa. He completed his studies at Theological College at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., before being ordained as a priest on September 6, 1974, by Bishop Joseph A. Durick at St. Henry Church in Nashville.

Bishop Choby holds degrees in theology and Canon Law. He has served in a variety of parishes his longest term being pastor of St. John Vianney in Gallatin. He has worked in the diocesan Tribunal throughout his priesthood. Bishop Choby served on faculty at The Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio, between 1984 and 1989.

Bishop Choby was elected as diocesan Administrator for the Diocese of Nashville by the diocesan College of Consultors in 2004 before becoming our bishop on February 27, 2006. He is the second priest of the diocese's 176 year history to be tapped as its bishop.

Pastor & Rector

Father Edward F. Steiner was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is the son of Ed (deceased) and Mary Neligan Steiner and has two younger sisters, Laura and Elizabeth. He is a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga ('73). In 1977, he completed his college studies in writing and in theatre at Saint Meinrad College & Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana. He spent his first year of graduate studies living at the North American College in Rome and attending the Pontifical Gregorian University. Following this year of study, Father Steiner spent a pastoral year of internship working as a counselor and Director of Short Term Services at Catholic Charities in Nashville. Returning to seminary to complete his studies at the Catholic University of America, he was ordained a priest at his home parish, St. Jude Church in Chattanooga, on May 28, 1982. Most recently, in May 2011, Fr. Steiner received the degree of Doctor of Ministry in Homiletics from the Aquinas Institute of Theology at St. Louis.

Father Steiner has enjoyed a variety of ministries within the Diocese of Nashville as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Donelson for seven years, was a sacramental minister at St. Henry Church for two years, and was pastor of St. Joseph Church in Madison for twelve years and pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksville for six years before becoming pastor of the Cathedral Parish on August 1, 2009. While at Immaculate Conception, Father Steiner served as a "contract chaplain" at Fort Campbell Army Post filling in while the regular Army Chaplains were deployed or in need of extra help. Father also spent nine years teaching at Father Ryan High School, one of them as an interim principal and two years as Associate Principal. He was the Director of Camp Marymount, the diocesan summer camp, for six years.

Along the way Father has served as a volunteer chaplain for the Metro Police Department and Metro Fire Department. He serves as a Work Release Commissioner on the Davidson County Work Release Commission and has done so for over ten years. On the fun side, Father trained bloodhounds and served in the search and rescue field as a dog handler for twelve years. He enjoys fishing, family genealogy, and studying history as his hobbies, and unless pastoral duties prevent him from doing so, he can be found in the upper reaches of the stadium during Titans' football games.
Email: esteiner@cathedralnashville.org

Associate Pastor

Fr. Jayd Neely was raised in Oklahoma. He completed his studies for priesthood at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, in May, 2009, earning a Masters of Divinity degree. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Nashville in June, 2012. Fr. Neely is currently assigned to the Cathedral of the Incarnation as the Associate Pastor.
Email: jneely@cathedralnashville.org

Director of Pastoral Ministries

Deacon Jim McKenzie is a native of Nashville and attended Christ the King School and Father Ryan High School. Deacon McKenzie received his bachelor's degree from Belmont University and completed graduate studies in anesthesia at the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. Deacon McKenzie worked as a nurse anesthetist at Saint Thomas Hospital West. He was ordained a deacon in 1999. Deacon McKenzie served as the Catholic Chaplain at Vanderbilt University before being assigned to the Cathedral of the Incarnation. He also previously held the position of Director of the Office of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Nashville before coming on full-time as Director of Pastoral Ministries for the Cathedral. Email: jwmckenzie@cathedralnashville.org

Deacons

Deacon Mark Faulkner, originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, is president and co-owner of Besway Systems, Inc. Mark was ordained to the diaconate on May 14, 1999, along with Deacon McKenzie. He holds a degree in physics from the University of Dallas. Mark is married to Sue, and they have four children: Shannon, Joseph, Matt and Peter. Email: mfaulkner@cathedralnashville.org

Deacon Joe Holzmer is a native of Nashville. Joe was just ordained on June 9, 2014. He is a graduate of Father Ryan High School ('69) and the University of Notre Dame ('73). Joe has over 30 years of financial management experience in local and state government. He is presently the Controller-Parish & Schools, Financial Services, for the Diocese of Nashville. Joe is married to wife Pam, and they have 3 children. Email: joe.holzmer@dioceseofnashville.com

Deacon Thales Finchum, originally from east Tennessee, has lived in Nashville for 44 years. He was ordained on June 9, 2006. A police officer for 35 years, he retired in July 2006. He is also a retired military officer holding the rank of major. Thales served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and with the Tennessee National Guard. He holds an associate's degree in Fine Arts from Watkins Institute. Thales has been married to Kate for 38 years, and they have three children, eight grandchildren, five dogs and one cat. Email: tfinchum@cathedralnashville.org

Director of Business and Finance

Lori Reddick has just celebrated 21 years at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. When first employed she had the role of church secretary, and as the parish grew she fell into other positions. She now oversees the financial operations of the Cathedral. Lori is a graduate of St. Cecilia Academy and attended Nashville Technical Institute. She is married to husband, Ray, and they have two sons: Alan and Michael. Email: lreddick@cathedralnashville.org

Church Secretary and Church Records

Marcie Castelliran has worked part/time for the Cathedral for almost 6 years. She took on the challenge of filling the position of parish Secretary & Sacramental Records. Marcie has returned to the work force after getting her 2 sons, Michael and Adam off on their carrier paths. We are truly happy to have her join us. Email: Marcie@cathedralnashville.org

Facilities and Events Coordinator

Lindsey Stamps is a Nashville native. She attended Christ the King elementary school and Fr. Ryan High School. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University having majored in Organizational Communications. Lindsey has been with the Cathedral for almost 5 years. Her duties include scheduling and coordinating the weddings, funerals, and parish events. Email: lstamps@cathedralnashville.org. Lindsey is also available as a wedding coordinator.

Director of Religious Education

Robin Baskin, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, is Director of Religious Education. She has a degree in education from Vanderbilt University. Before becoming the DRE, Robin also served as a catechist at the Cathedral. She is married to Bobby, a high school teacher and coach. They have one son, Hank. The Baskins have been members of the Cathedral parish for eight years. Robin is responsible for supervising and administering the catechetical program for parish children preschool through high school, which has over 200 students and 25 volunteers. She is participating in the Catechetical Formation Program offered through the Diocese and is the past chairperson of the Diocesan DRE Association. Email: rbaskin@cathedralnashville.org

Director Of The Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (RCIA)

Kevin F. Raymond became the Director of RCIA for the Cathedral in May, 2012. With a B.M. in Music Education and a strong theological interest and upbringing, his abilities to explain and defend the Catholic Faith along with continuing Catechetical education fuel his passion for this ministry. Kevin is also the director of The Cathedral Players, a parish organization dedicated to bringing the performing arts to the Cathedral. In his spare time he serves as a Cantor for our Cathedral Masses. Email: KFRaymond@comcast.net

Director of Music

Jackson Schoos came to us from the Diocese of Sacramento, California where he was Director of Music & Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as Diocesan Director of Worship. He holds a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Theology as well as a Master of Music Degree in both Choral Music and Vocal Performance. With over 30 years of parish and diocesan experience he brings a multitude of gifts to the parish. Jackson also serves as Direct of Music for the Diocese. Email: jschoos@cathedralnashville.org.

Director of Cathedral Day School

Kelly Doyle, a native of Nashville, is our Director of Child Care. Kelly is the Director of our preschool program, Cathedral Day School and she oversees the Sunday nursery. She started the Day School program in August 2009. She has full staff, several volunteers, and a program for children ages 6 months to 4 year olds. Kelly is married to Devin, and they have three sons and a daughter: Connor, Sammy, Jackson and McAuley.

Getting Involved at the Cathedral

How you can make a difference

With more than 2,200 families, the Cathedral of the Incarnation can be a bit overwhelming. You might wonder how you - one person - can possibly get involved in our huge faith family; but we are only as strong as our members, so we want to make getting involved easy! The Cathedral is a great parish community because of all our members who participate in worship, education, and service.

Read descriptions of all the opportunities on the following pages to find where you can lend your time and talents:

Worship

Altar Servers

Servers assist the priests and deacons during the celebration of mass and other liturgical services of the parish. The position of a server is open to any young man or woman of the Cathedral parish who is in fifth grade through high school.

Time commitment/Training: candidates will receive specific training before serving at Mass.

Contact: Fr. Jayd Neely, jneely@cathedralnashville.org

Altar Society

The Altar Society provides volunteers with a perfect opportunity for quiet reflection and meditation in the Cathedral while performing a valuable service. Altar Society members, usually working in pairs, clean the altar, change altar linens, polish sacred vessels, clean the baptismal font and change candles as needed. Extra care and servicing is done during the major holidays such as Christmas and Easter. Floral arrangement work is minimal. During the year the Altar Society distributes blessed candles for home use. Participants include married couples and singles.

Time commitment/Training: As scheduled on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 10:00 a.m.

Contact: If interested in participating, please contact Rusty and Debbie Eaton at the Cathedral office at (615) 327-2330.



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Liturgy of the Word for Children

During the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses, children ages 6 through 12 participate in the Liturgy of the Word at levels appropriate to their ages and development. The children leave the assembly after the Opening Prayer and gather in their own room. Two readings are proclaimed - the first reading and the Gospel. Adult leaders then guide the children in a discussion of how the scripture's message applies to their own lives. After this, the children recite the Creed, add their Prayers of the Faithful, and then return to the assembly.

Contact: Parish Office at (615) 327-2330.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Eucharistic ministers are lay people who volunteer and are trained by our deacons to assist the clergy in distributing Holy Communion at Mass. Many of the Extraordinary Ministers take the Eucharist to the sick at area hospitals and nursing homes and make home visits to those unable to participate in community worship. Eucharistic ministers assist in the nourishing of God's children with the Body and Blood of Christ.

Time commitment/Training: Each minister receives instructions dealing with the role of extraordinary ministers, with an emphasis on the theology of the Eucharist. Those who wish to take Communion to hospitals or shut-ins receive extra training. The schedule for participants rotates. A list of substitutes is maintained in case of last minute schedule changes. Extraordinary Ministers are needed for both weekend and daily Masses.

Contact: Susan Siegel at susan.siegel@gmail.com.

Ministry of Reader

The Ministry of Reader provides another opportunity to serve the community at our liturgies. Readers experience a joy that comes through serving the Lord and others. Readers share the Word of God with the Cathedral community by reading the Scriptures at Mass. They serve God by communicating His word to the parish community.

Time commitment/Training: The schedule for participants is established quarterly. A list of substitutes is also maintained in case of last-minute schedule changes. The weekend Mass Reader ministry requires two readers for each Mass.

Contact: If you are interested in becoming a Reader at the weekend Masses, or during the weekday Masses, please contact the parish office at (615)327-2330.

Music Ministries

The Music Ministry of the Cathedral of the Incarnation exists to enhance the liturgical celebrations of the parish and diocese by adding beauty and supporting the participation of the Assembly. We endeavor fully to embrace the Church's vision of a sung liturgy, a task for which a Cathedral Church is given a special responsibility by the Church's liturgical documents. Interested persons are invited to participate in the following ways:

The Cathedral Choir

What: SATB choir, sings at the 11:00 a.m. Mass each Sunday, September through June, on certain Feast days, for some diocesan liturgies with Bishop Choby, and presents special musical events. Repertoire is varied, including chant and simpler polyphony, as well as more contemporary selections.

When and Where: Rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Music Room and meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday to warm up for Mass; some additional time commitments throughout the year.

Who: Open to singers aged high school senior and beyond, with voices that blend well, basic music reading skills, and some choral music experience.

Why: To add beauty and solemnity to the Liturgical life of the Parish and Diocesan Communities, to support and encourage the singing of the Assembly, to serve God and the community, to be ambassadors for the Cathedral in the larger community, to present selections from the Church's musical treasury, to grow as vocal musicians, and to have fun!

How: Contact the Music Director to schedule a simple (not at all frightening) audition. Generally, new choir members are welcomed in September and January, but sometimes it is possible to join mid-year.

Cathedral Cantors

Cantors for Cathedral Masses are drawn from interested and qualified active members of the Cathedral Choirs.

If you are interested in participating in a Cathedral Choir, please contact our Music Director, Jackson Schoos, at jschoos@cathedralnashville.org

Prayer Network

Cathedral parishioners support each other and their community through their actions and through the power of prayer.

Time commitment/Training: If you would like to join the prayer network, please contact us and we will send you the prayer list each week.

Contact: Please contact the Cathedral Prayer Network if a friend or family member is sick or in trouble; if you are afraid or alone; if you or someone you know is facing a crisis. Prayer cards are available in the back of the church or you can e-mail your request to marcie@cathedralnashville.org, or Alice or Terry Hill at aliceandterry@comcast.net

Greeters

They greet you with a smiling face when you arrive for Mass. They may assist you in finding a seat. They collect the offerings during Mass. They even help you find your way around the church. Who are they? These people are commonly known as Ushers. They are a group of individuals whose goal is to exemplify and extend the hospitality of the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Time commitment/Training: Ushers are found at every Mass.

Contact: If you are interested in participating as an usher, contact one of the Ushers at Mass or call Ken Schmitt or Gary Lawrence (615) 327-2330.



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Education

Religious Education

Catholic formation for children is the responsibility of all those in our parish: priest, deacons, staff, parishioners, Godparents, catechists, and most importantly, parents. This formation begins at home and is built upon at the church. We help in the process by sharing our experiences through questioning, answering, recounting our faith journey, and through prayer. Catechists are the pillars of the Religious Education program. Our program begins for children age three and builds gradually through Confirmation in the 8th grade. The end result is a maturation of Catholic understanding for our children.

The Religious Education program has a staff of more than 25 wonderful volunteers that work very hard to make the program a success. Each class has at least two catechists and they work together in planning the weekly session.

Children in grades kindergarten through 7 meet from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Children ages 3 and 4 will meet during 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Confirmation preparation (grade 8) meets Sunday afternoons with their schedule announced each year.

The Religious Education program continually seeks catechists, aides, and substitutes. We have in service trainings throughout the year for catechists and those who may be interested in teaching. Religious Education classes begin in September and end in late April/early May.

Contact: If you have children eligible for Rel. Ed. and would like to enroll them in class, please watch for announcements in the parish bulletin each summer. Please contact Robin Baskin, Director of Religious Education, at (615) 327-2330 or rbaskin@cathedralnashville.org with any questions. Those interested in learning more about volunteering should also contact Robin. You must be a registered member of the parish to participate in the Rel. Ed. program.

Neri Nights

This is the Cathedral of the Incarnation's dynamic coed youth group for high school students in grades 9-12, and is open to all high schools. The group meets on Sunday evenings during the school year from 6:00-7:30 p.m., in Room 304. The focus of Neri Nights is fellowship, service, and faith formation. Participants in Neri Nights have the opportunity for service hours. The highlight of the year is an annual ski retreat in January. For information about Neri Nights, please contact Robin Baskin, DRE at rbaskin@cathedralnashville.org

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)

RCIC is a program for children who have not been baptized or who are baptized but have not received their First Holy Communion. This process is generally for older children who are not yet adults but not elementary aged children. RCIC is open to parishioners and non-parishioners who are in need of preparation for these sacraments and for reception into the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Whether your family is just entering the church, is returning after time away, has decided as a family to delay the children's sacramental preparation, or has any other circumstances that has delayed your children's reception of the sacraments, this program is for you.

As this covers a wide age range of children, accommodations will be made depending on the amount of children involved per school year. There may be one or two children of similar ages in a session or even one-on-one preparation for each session if need be.

If you have further questions please contact Kevin F. Raymond, Director of RCIA at KFRaymond@cathedralnashville.org or (615) 327-2330 ext. 1306.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

A person who is considering the possibility of becoming a Catholic or is a non-Catholic and simply wishes to learn more about the Catholic Church will find no better way to do this than through the RCIA. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process designed to form and inform inquirers who fall into three categories: the person; the person baptized into a faith tradition other than Catholic; and the baptized Catholic who was neither confirmed nor reared as a Catholic.

At the Cathedral, the RCIA Inquiry session meets every Thursday evening, with the exception of holidays, at 7:00 p.m. in Room #303 of St. Albert Hall. Those definitely deciding to entering into the Church meet on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Room #305 of St. Albert Hall, both sessions conclude at 9:00 p.m. Child care is provided by reservation by contacting kfraymond@cathedralnashville.org or (615) 327-2330 ext. 1306

A few months after beginning the RCIA process, each inquirer is assigned a Sponsor who is a practicing Catholic, usually a member of the parish, who goes through the sessions and rites (ceremonies) of the process with the Inquirer, serving as a friend and mentor.

Contact: If you have further questions, please call Kevin Raymond at the Cathedral office at (615) 327-2330. kfraymond@cathedralnashville.org

Adult Ongoing Formation

Do you know what you believe? Do you know why you believe it? Do you live in such a way that people who see you know what you profess to believe? Does your heart burn for an intimate relationship with God? Do you hunger for deeper meaning and purpose in your life? Do you wonder what your life is all about? Does your daily life with its struggles cause you to question God's presence? Do you wonder how you can do more to reach out to people in need? Do you wish to learn more about your faith and at much deeper levels than before? These questions are at the heart of Adult Formation at the Cathedral. Faith seeks understanding; it is intrinsic to faith that a believer desires to know better the One in Whom he has put his faith and to understand better what He has revealed; a more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a great faith, increasingly set a fire by love. In the words of St. Augustine, "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe."



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Cathedral Young Adults

The Cathedral Young Adult Group gathers parishioners in their 20s and early 30s to provide social, spiritual, and service opportunities. Each week the Young Adults meet in the narthex (behind the baptismal font) and go to dinner together at nearby restaurants on Sunday nights following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Monthly activities include a Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, a group Bible Study which meets three nights each month, and various service opportunities. There is a monthly calendar of events in the racks in the narthex as well as on the Cathedral website: www.cathedralnashville.org. Those who are interested can also join the Facebook group called "Cathedral Young Adults Face book Group." If more information is needed please contact Fr. Neely at jneely@cathedralnashville.org

Boy Scout Troop 1914

Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in St Albert Hall. For more information, contact Scoutmaster, Dave Lavell at (615)587-3342 or dave.lavell@gmail.com. You can check out Troop 1914 at www.troopwebhost.org/troop1914nashville/

Elizabeth Ministry

The Elizabeth Ministry offers support to women with pregnancy, with a new baby, and with welcoming a newly adopted child, especially those who do not have family in town.

Contact: Sue Lavell 354-1093

Faith-Sharing Groups

During the Fall and during Lent, Cathedral adults gather in small groups to study, discuss, pray, and build community with parishioners. Scripture study materials or lectionary-based programs guide the discussion led by Cathedral volunteers.

Service

Coffee & Doughnuts

If you ever want a time to catch up with friends and family after Mass or want to meet fellow parishioners, then come to Coffee & Doughnuts after the 8:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Childcare Services

Ever wish you had a babysitter during Mass? The Cathedral of the Incarnation offers a free nursery service during the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. The nursery is for infants to age 3.

The nursery is located on the first floor in St. Albert Hall and staffed by educators and parent volunteers. Silent pagers are available for parents to take to Mass in case of emergencies.

Time commitment/Training: We are always looking for parent volunteers to help in the nursery. Parents who leave children in the nursery are asked to volunteer once every schedule. But you don't have to be a parent to help! We accept teenagers, confirmation candidates looking for service hours, and anyone who just loves kids.

Contact: For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the nursery, contact Caroline Crouch, nursery director, at cscrouch@comcast.net

Legion of Mary

Legion of Mary members spend at least two hours a week performing "spiritual works of mercy." These works can involve such activities as sponsoring an RCIA candidate or visiting individuals who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing homes. Members renew themselves through attendance at weekly meetings and prayer, with special emphasis on the rosary.

Time commitment/Training: Meetings held each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in St. Albert Hall. The group leads the praying of the Living Rosary on the first Sunday of October.

Contact: For more information, contact Nancy Brown (615) 327-2330.

Knights of Columbus

The Cathedral Knights of Columbus Council #544 is the oldest council in the South. In December 2000, we celebrated our 100th anniversary. Council #544 is one of over 12,000 councils in the Order of the Knights of Columbus. There are more than 1,600,000 men in the Order, and all are devoted to service to church, community, family, and youth.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to practical Catholic men in union with the Holy See. The member shall not be less than 18 years of age. A practical Catholic is one who lives up to the Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church. Membership offers the opportunity for fellowship with those who are of the same belief, who recognize the same duty to God, to family and to neighbor, and who stand side by side in defense of those beliefs.

Room in the Inn

Along with more than 156 local churches, the Cathedral provides critical shelter and meals during the winter months. Room in the Inn is beginning its 19th year of serving and lending a helping hand to the homeless population of Nashville. Father Charles Strobel initiated the program with four churches in 1986. The Cathedral of the Incarnation has been participating since the program began.

The Cathedral hosts 20-30 guests every Tuesday night from November to March. We provide each guest with transportation to the Cathedral, a hot meal, fellowship, and a warm bed. In the morning, we provide breakfast, a sack lunch, and transportation to the downtown main campus of Room in the Inn. During the Christmas holidays our parishioners prepare and give each guest a gift backpack containing essential winter clothing and toiletries for which our guests are truly grateful.

Time commitment/Training: The Room in the Inn program at the Cathedral is always looking for volunteers to serve as overnight Innkeepers, providers for dinners, breakfasts and lunches, as well as people to help with transportation and laundry.

Contact: If you are interested in sharing your talents and services, please contact Jim Coode (615) 327-2330.



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Haiti Mission

The Haiti Mission team lends a helping hand both spiritually and financially to improve the education and health of the parishioners of St. John the Baptist parish in LaVallee, Haiti, and to enhance their way of life while maintaining their culture.

The Cathedral is one of over 20 Catholic churches in Nashville that has an adopted parish in Haiti. Our sister church, St. John the Baptist, is in LaVallee, a mountainous area 50 miles from Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince. The Cathedral brings spiritual comfort, education, health benefits and financial assistance to a poverty-stricken people. Through events such as a Haiti Dinner, Sea Container Drives, and quarterly special collections, the Cathedral is able to send financial support to St. John. These monies have financed a larger church building, five chapels in the surrounding villages, a hospital, youth camps, and catechism classes.

Time commitment/Training: We are in need of volunteers for a wide variety of projects. Anyone is welcome!

Contact: For more information, contact Bill Carter at (615) 373-4628.

Respect Life

The Cathedral of the Incarnation's Respect Life committee helps promote and defend the pro-life teachings of the Catholic Church through activity and prayer within the parish community. Issues of interest include abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, stem cell research, and related topics. Projects include a rose sale fundraiser on Mothers' Day and the collection of baby items for local pregnancy resource centers in January.

When we meet: Please watch the church bulletin for upcoming committee meetings and events contact Roy Silveria through the Church Office for more information on how to get involved. (615) 327-2330.

Social Justice

The Social Justice Committee provides educational and service opportunities for parishioners in keeping with the Church's Social Teachings. The committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 303 of St. Albert Hall. All are welcome to participate. Service opportunities include food drives, a Christmas Wish Tree, school uniform drive, Bread for the World letter-writing campaigns, Safe Haven shelter meal preparation and more.

Hospitality and Social Life

We sponsor annual events, which include: Spring Fest, Spaghetti Supper, October Fest, and an Advent Wreath Workshop. These are all eagerly awaited and well-attended festivities.

Contact: Watch the bulletin year-round for announcements about our events. If you'd like to help, contact Mark or Bobbie O'Neil at (615) 662-2014, or e-mail bobbieoneill@comcast.net or m.oneill74@comcast.net.

Veterans Prayer Breakfast

Men and women who have served our country's military join for prayer on the third Tuesday of each month in the Fleming Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. and concluding at 8:30 a.m. Veterans pray together for those who are and who have served as well as discuss and plan projects to aid fellow veterans and active members now in service. The Prayer Breakfast is open to veterans of all branches and denominations. For more information contact Patrick McGuffey at (615) 327-2330.

Women's Group

Women of the parish gather for monthly meeting to increase social interaction, provide spiritual growth and to be of assistance to the parish and wider community. Watch the bulletin for meeting dates and details or call Bobbie O'Neill at (615) 662-2014.

A Look Back -

The History of the Cathedral

The Cathedral of the Incarnation has a rich history dating back to 1909, when the Most Rev. Thomas Sebastian Byrne was the Bishop of Nashville.

Our patronal feast, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrates the miraculous conception of Jesus in the Womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas.

Every cathedral is the home church of a presiding bishop, his home base, his center of operation. The word comes from "cathedra," which means a "chair." The bishop's permanent chair is located in his cathedral.

The Cathedral of the Incarnation is the third Cathedral of the Diocese. The original Cathedral, the Cathedral of the Holy Rosary, sat on Capitol Hill where an historic marker now remembers its location. The second cathedral, Saint Mary of the Seven Sorrows, still exists downtown at the corner of 5th and Charlotte Avenues. It resembles a typical Roman basilica: a rectangular structure serving as a court of law during the Roman Empire. Nashville architect Fred Asmus, in collaboration with Bishop Byrne, based the design of our present Cathedral upon that of one of the most famous churches in Rome, Saint Martin's on the Hill. The bell tower is similar to that of Saint Damase, another church in Rome.

Renovations to the Cathedral Church

Every cathedral is to be a model of proper liturgy and liturgical environment. It is in this spirit that the Cathedral has undergone two major renovations. Dedicated on July 26, 1914, from the beginning the cathedral has been a beautiful church, rich in art and in symbolism. However, no structure lasts forever; it needs fortification against the ravages of time. For example, the original cathedral had hardwood floors, which deteriorated over time. It also relied upon natural light, which resulted in blinding shafts of sunlight from the clerestory windows. The original church had no vestibule; there was nothing to protect the people in the pews from blasts of cold wind.



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Cathedral 1937 Renovation

After a parishioner's foot went through the wooden floor, the major first renovation was begun. The back inside wall was added creating the present vestibule. The original altars were made of wood and plaster, so they were replaced with marble. The work sacristy and upstairs music room was added. The wooden floors were replaced with concrete overlaid with tiles resembling wood. The clear windows in the clerestory were replaced with colored glass. Most notably to today's identity of the church, the Angelus prayer was inscribed on the upper walls under the windows to commemorate the Incarnation, and, finally, an Angelus bell was added to the church tower, which had no bell. Also in 1937, new lighting was installed in the body of the church and other changes were made in the sanctuary. All of this brought the building up to the liturgical, aesthetical, and mechanical standards of those times.

Cathedral 1987 Renovation

Fifty more years of daily use took their toll on our cathedral. Also, the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council were a major factor prompting another renovation. The grandeur, comfort, and liturgical propriety of today's church are due to the second major renovation in 1987.

Most of the changes in 1987 - 80% in fact - are hidden from view. New water and sewer lines, new air conditioning and seven miles of electrical wiring were added. Others changes are more evident. The smallish sanctuary was extended 10 feet. The entire church was re-painted in soft, bright contemporary colors. Everyone agreed that the church was too dark, so the prism windows were installed in the clerestory, and a new, computerized lighting system was installed. The beautiful dark oak pews were refinished in the light color seen today.

The floor was replaced with new tile from both Switzerland and Crossville, Tennessee. Thousands of tiles were cut to provide the desired effect. The baptistery was moved from the rectory-side entrance, and a baptismal pool added for both symbolic and liturgical reasons. The tabernacle was moved from the old high altar to a new Eucharistic Chapel on the left side of the sanctuary, although most recently it was moved to the right alcove to provide more peace and tranquility for prayer. Old confessionals were taken out and the alcove on the right side became a Chapel of Reconciliation now enhanced by the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. A window was installed in what were the middle doors leading from the vestibule into the body of the church providing a spectacular view of the baptismal font and the body of the church when a person enters the church from the street. The Statues of the Holy Family, originally in the two alcoves on each side of the Sanctuary, now flank the baptismal area. A new altar and new sanctuary furniture were added.

During the eight-month renovation, Mass was celebrated in Saint Albert Hall, which has now itself been renovated.

The Fleming Center Opens in 2002

The first major addition in the Cathedral's history, the Reverend William J. Fleming Center opened on Nov. 15, 2002, after almost a year of construction. The facility includes an almost 6,000 square foot social hall, full-service industrial kitchen, seven offices for parish administration, conference room for group meetings, a permanent home for the parish archives. At this time a bride's room and bathrooms were added to the church, and a connector hallway that allows indoor movement between all parish buildings was also added.

The new parish center was named after Fr. William J. Fleming, pastor of the Cathedral from 1985-1999. Beloved by all for his sharp wit and ever-present sense of humor, Fr. Fleming believed in the power of community and the importance of gathering together and living out God's word.

2008 - 2009 Renovation St. Albert Hall

In preparation for the 100th anniversary as a parish, Rev. Patrick Kibby undertook the last major renovation of the parish plant. The old heating system for the rectory, the church, and St. Albert Hall were said to be the oldest still functioning system in the city. A new central air and heating system for the rectory was installed with upgrades to some of the wiring and plumbing, which required major plaster work to the rectory walls. The entire roof of the Cathedral had to be torn off, the extensive gutter work redone, and the red tile roof replaced. The bell tower had to be completely renovated for safety reasons. St. Albert Hall was also completely renovated, bringing up-to-date classroom facilities to the building to meet current fire and safety codes. An addition to St. Albert Hall was added to the back of the building adding much needed space for education and meetings. All of the building's brick exteriors were cleaned and repaired, as well as the eaves and soffits. Completely new landscaping and lighting completed this multi-million dollar renovation thus allowing the Cathedral parish to continue its mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the city of Nashville.

Take a Tour of the Cathedral Church

Have you ever looked around our beautiful Cathedral and wondered about all you see? Here are some brief explanations about some of our interesting features:

Baptistery. The Baptistery at the North end of the nave includes a baptismal font and pool. Serving as a holy water font, Catholics place their fingers in the holy water, and then make the Sign of the Cross to recall their entrance into the Church and the Christian faith through Baptism. The font pre-dates the Cathedral of the Incarnation by about 10 years and was originally a part of St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows when it served as the Cathedral. It is a scaled-down replica of the baptismal font designed by Michelangelo at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The octagon shape of the pool is a traditional symbol for the resurrection, which is sometimes called the Eighth Day of Creation. Statues of the Holy Family stand on each side of the Baptistery. The large window that frames the Baptistery includes a cross and a dove - a symbol for the crucifixion and the Holy Spirit. The dove is made of opalescent glass. It is designed after the famous Holy Spirit window in St. Peter's in Rome.

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Ceiling and Angelus

The main ceiling is a central feature of the Cathedral's interior. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States, made of an ornamental plaster called Rigalico. A closer look will reveal that the symbols in the North end of the nave are associated with the death of Jesus, while those of the south end nearest the sanctuary are more related to His Incarnation and birth. Look for a pair of dice (used to cast lots for Jesus' clothing) and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega (beginning and end). You will find a shepherd's crook with a cross, a crown of thorns with three nails, and many Christian symbols. The clerestory windows were made of art glass by the Louisville Art Glass Company. They include blue Flashed Glass, hand-blown in France. There's also some Drawn Antique Lead Crystal glass, a clear glass that forms a checkerboard effect. The other colors in the floral patterns were created using glass paint. On a sunny day, prisms on the West windows cast rainbow effects throughout the Cathedral. The clerestory windows were designed to provide light and to focus one's attention on the sanctuary at the South end of the building.

Beneath the clerestory windows circling the nave is the Angelus. The translation of the Latin:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The words "AVE REX" (Hail, King) flanking the dome of the apse are not a part of the Angelus.

The pews on either side of the aisle have been at the Cathedral since it was built in 1914. They were made of white oak in Jackson, Tennessee. The kneelers were replaced in 1984.

Stations of the Cross

You will find a depiction of the Via Dolorosa, or Way of the Cross in most Catholic churches depicting 14 events leading from Jesus' arrest to His crucifixion. These events are captured in the Stations of the Cross along the east and west walls. The Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral are made of scalable, giving the appearance of old ivory. Devout Catholics visit each of these stations, especially during Lent, to pray and reflect on the Passion of Christ.

Gospel Bas-reliefs

The four large rectangular sculptures that help frame the apse are depictions of the four evangelists: Sts. John and Matthew to the east/left side of the apse, and Mark and Luke to the west/right. These images are full of symbolism taken from the Old and New Testaments, particularly the books of Ezekiel and Revelation: the eagle, the lion, the ox, and the face of a man. St. John is associated with the symbol of the eagle because of his lofty theological flights in the Gospel. St. Matthew is associated with the face of man because in his gospel he firmly establishes the human nature of Jesus. St. Luke is the ox because his Gospel emphasizes the theme of sacrifice. St. Mark is associated with the symbol of the lion because he begins his Gospel with the ministry of St. John the Baptist - the voice crying out in the wilderness.

Crucifixion Chapel

The Crucifixion Chapel is located to the left of the sanctuary. This area is dominated by a large wooden crucifix, which was commissioned by the late Bishop Smith while visiting Oberammergau, in Bavaria, Germany, in 1930. Oberammergau is the site of a large Benedictine Monastery and also the site of the world famous Passion Play held there every 10 years.

Picture in the Dome

Looking above the white marble crucifixion scene in the apse, you'll see paintings depicting God the Creator blessing the world. He is flanked by paintings of angels. These images were painted on canvas and then attached to the dome. While intrinsically beautiful, the paintings also help draw people's attention to the sanctuary.

Sanctuary and Altar

The sanctuary is the focal point of the Cathedral. This is where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated. There are three places of primary liturgical importance in the sanctuary: the altar; the cathedra (the chair of the Bishop of Nashville); and the ambo (or pulpit), from which the Word of God is proclaimed.

The altar is one of the High Priest, the most important symbol for the presence of Christ in a Roman Catholic Church. It represents Jesus inviting us to share the meal he offered to the Apostles at the Last Supper. It calls to mind Christ as the Lamb of Sacrifice, who was offered up for us on the Cross (thus an altar of sacrifice). The altar, as is customary in the Catholic Church, contains a relic from a saint, usually a martyr. The relic in the main altar is that of Pope Victor I, who was Bishop of Rome between 189 and 199 A.D. St. Victor, although not a martyr, was persecuted for his zealous approach to the spreading of the Gospel.

Cathedra and Reredos

The word cathedral comes from the Greek word "cathedra," which means "chair." The Cathedra is the bishop's chair, and the Cathedral is where the bishop's chair is located. It represents his authority as a successor of the Apostles and the chief shepherd of the diocese. You will notice the cathedra at the top of the steps in the rear of the sanctuary. It includes a coat of arm on the top of the backrest. Each bishop has his own coat-of-arms. Behind the bishop's chair, there is a large marble crucifixion scene. No longer an altar, it is now called a Reredos, which is from Latin arere (behind) + dorsum (back). The term originally referred to an open hearth of a fireplace or a screen placed behind a table. This was sculpted in Italy and put into place during the 1937 renovation. Visitors are welcome to come forward (outside of liturgical ceremonies) to examine the incredible detail of the crucifixion scene and the Bishop's coat-of-arms.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Many churches have the tabernacle (a word meaning “little house”) in the center of the church behind the altar. Interestingly, cathedrals may not place tabernacles in the center of the church. Cathedrals are required to have a special chapel for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. One reason is that a bishop may never turn his back to a tabernacle, so saying Mass at the altar with the tabernacle to his back is problematic. Another reason is that it is envisioned by the church that a cathedral will be a place of sacred concerts, ecumenical prayer, and a place where the whole community – Catholic and non-Catholic can gather for important functions. Most importantly however, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is intended to promote private Eucharistic devotion. For these reasons and more, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is in the alcove to the right of the altar. A special feature in the Reconciliation chapel is an art glass window that depicts the Blessed Virgin as a child with her mother, St. Anne.

Prior to entering this chapel look above and see the sanctuary lamp hanging from the ceiling. This lamp has been hanging in the Cathedral since it opened in 1914. When lit, the lamp serves as a signal that the Blessed Sacrament is present in the tabernacle. It is appropriate to genuflect when entering or leaving the church when the lamp is lit.