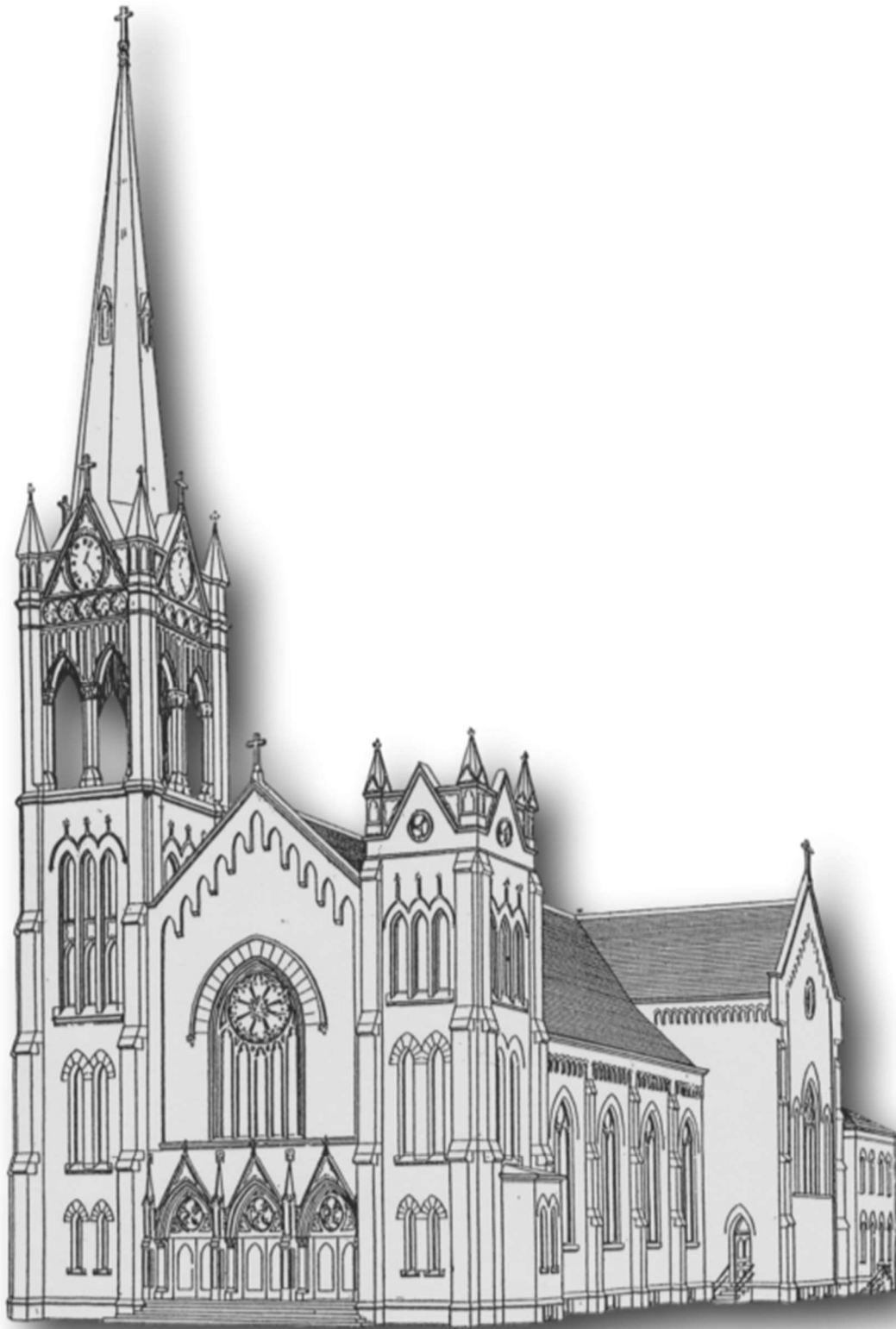




Saint
Boniface
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Walking
Tour



The 'New' Saint Boniface Church, Dedication Sunday, November 18th, 1900

Welcome to Saint Boniface!

Founded in 1836, we are the oldest extant Catholic Church in Louisville. The original church stood on the site of the parking lot and school. In 1898, St. Boniface received permission to build the present, larger church building. This walking tour will help to point out the many historic items that were transferred from the old church.

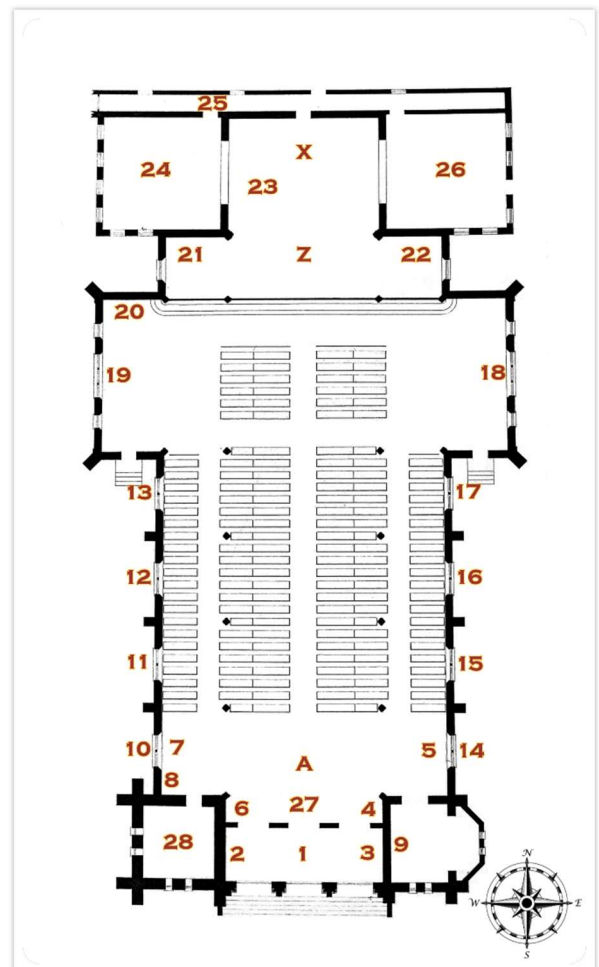
[1] As you enter the vestibule, you see three, brass light fixtures. These and the three above the front steps of the church are from the original church and, if you look closely, you can still see the gas key used to light the fixture. When installed in the present church all lights were gas and electric.

[2] On the left wall, you see the large crucifix bought in 1924 and on the right, [3] the pew rent board. At that time, the church took up no collections and was supported by pew rent - with the most expensive rent being at the front of the church.

[A] Entering the center doors of the vestibule, the first item you see is the marble baptismal font. Made in Italy in 1918, it is a memorial for a priest's first Mass. The glass sculpture, which serves as the bowl, is a generous gift made by the son of a parishioner. The white tile on which the font stands is the original tile floor which was used on the aisle and sanctuary floors.

[4] To your right, you see the statue of St. Therese of the Little Flower and, [5] under the window, is the statue of the Sorrowful Mother made in Munich and bought by Fr. Lucas in 1875. [6] On your left is the statue of St. Rita, given in 1922, and [7] under the window, is the statue of St. Anne with the child Mary. Lining the east and west walls are the fourteen Stations of the Cross. They were added in 1910 and made by the Louisville firm of Lausberg and Macke.

[8] By the door to the tower room and organ loft, you will see a round Angel head. This is one of twenty that were above the center arches. They were deliberately painted over in 1969 and thought lost forever. BJB Restoration Co., who did the 2010 work, found they were hand painted on canvas and carefully managed to save six of them. Through generous donations by friends of St. Boniface, these have now been cleaned and framed by BJB and are hung at various places in the church. [9] In the restroom area, the former baptistery, you will see a portion of what was six large canvasses of hovering angels that were behind the High Altar. This is the only one able to be saved.



The windows are among the most beautiful stained glass in Louisville. They were made in Munich in 1898 and 1899, especially for St. Boniface, by the Royal Bavarian Art Institute.

From the west side (left) toward the altar, are:

[10] Saints Peter Baptist & Francis Solanus

[11] Saint Dominic receiving the Rosary

[12] Saints Nicholas & Otto

[13] Sacred Heart & St. Mary Margaret

From the east side (right) toward the altar are:

[14] Saints Margaret and Colette

[15] Saints Louis and Elizabeth

[16] Saints Henry and Antoinette

[17] Our Lady of Lourdes

[18] The large east transept window depicts Jesus and the children in the center, with Saint Rose of Lima on the left, and Saint Clare on the right. Below that is the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue.

[19] The large west transept window depicts Saint Francis receiving the Portiuncula Indulgence in the center, with Saint John the Baptist on the left, and Saint George on the right. Below them is the statue of St. Anthony of Padua. Both the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and St. Anthony of Padua statues were bought in 1875, and made in Munich. [20] If you look carefully at the wall behind the West Confessionals, you will see a portion of the original stenciling that went around the entire building. This was discovered when the confessionals were moved during the 2010 renovation. These are the only sections that remain.

From the center aisle, at the foot of the communion steps, you see three altars made for the church in 1898 and 1899 by the Lausbuerg and Macke firm. [21] On the west side altar is a statue of St. Joseph in the center, flanked by St. Francis of Assisi and St. Paschal of Baylon. [22] On the east side altar is the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary flanked by St. Aloysius and St. Philomena.

[X] On the main altar are the statues of Saints Peter and Paul and, at the top, St. Boniface. The statues of St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Peter and Paul were made in Munich in 1857 and brought over from the old church. [23] Also, in the sanctuary are the angels and candelabra, the latter marked with dozens of bees on the brass stands. The candelabra and angels date from about 1860 and there are photographs of them in the original church when they held candles. They were later lit by gas, then electricity. [Z] The present altar, chairs and ambo were made by Weberding Co. in 1998. The stencil on the sanctuary walls was taken from the background pattern used on the Stations of the Cross (now hidden on the back of the dark red panels).

[24] To the left of the sanctuary is the St. Timothy Chapel. This was used by the Franciscan Friars for almost 100 years to pray their office. Today it is used for small Masses, weddings and various events. The choir stalls were handmade in Louisville and held together by wooden dowels. The seats fold up so the friars could rest (while standing for prayer) by supporting themselves on the back of the stalls. Three oil on canvas paintings on the wall were above the side altars in the original church. St. Anthony and St. Francis are by Johann Schmitt, dated 1865 and the Blessed Mother is by E. Humbrect, dated 1887. [25] As you leave by the rear door of the Chapel, you will take a pictorial trip of St. Boniface thru the years. [26] As you exit you will notice the magnificent sacristy cabinets made by G. Bittner of Louisville in 1899.

[27] From the sanctuary, you will notice the organ gallery. The great pipe organ is the second, or third, largest in the Louisville Archdiocese. About half the pipes are from the 1890 August Prante organ, with one set from the 1854 John Koehnke organ. Originally in one case in front of the window, the organ was divided in 1919 to let light and air into the choir. The organ is under the care of C. Bobsin Organbuilders.

[28] High in the west tower are the four bells. They were purchased in 1865 by Father Anselm for the original church and re-hung in the tower in 1900.

Interesting facts:

The interior length of the church is 154 feet; the width, 65 feet; and the height, 55 feet. • The tower rises to 185 feet to the cross. • The High Altar was given by the St. Ann Lady's Society and cost \$4,000 in 1900, which in today's terms is \$120,000. What would it cost to replace it today? • The organ cost about \$8,000 in 1890 (today - \$222,000). Its replacement value is over \$900,000. • In 1900, it took 1,100 bulbs to light the church. Today we use about 150. • The church and furnishings cost \$75,000 in 1900 (today - \$2,254,000). It is irreplaceable.

Support Saint Boniface by sharing this beautiful treasure with your family and friends,
liking us on *Facebook* and rating us on *Google maps!*

Saint Boniface Catholic Church
531 E. Liberty Street, Louisville, KY 40202



502-584-4279 ~ www.StBonifaceParish.com