

The large rose windows, found at either ends of the transepts, were installed between the years 1903-1906 at the time of the Cathedral's construction.

In the ambulatory (behind the sanctuary) is a Chigot window that depicts the Disciples of Christ, the Ascension of Christ and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into heaven.

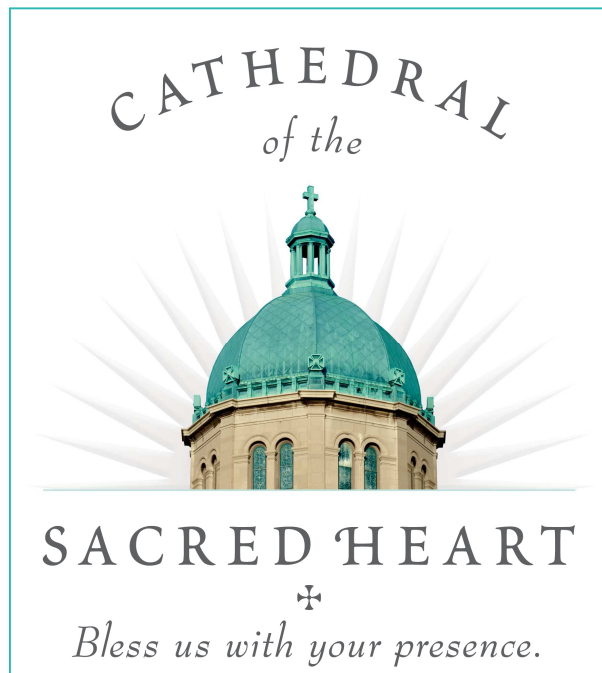
Also located in the ambulatory are three stained glass windows installed in 1931 by Rambusch Decorating Company of New York, the company commissioned to paint and decorate the interior of the church in honor of its 25th anniversary. These windows represent Christ the Priest and Shepherd; Christ the King; and Christ the Teacher and Redeemer. The steps below these windows lead to the newly restored Crypt & Undercroft **(20)** and museum exhibit.

This temporary museum exhibit, located in the Undercroft, illustrates the history of the Diocese of Richmond. Visitors who take the guided tour of the Crypt & Undercroft may also view the marble burial markers of those laid to rest in the space, including three former bishops of the Diocese and several family members of the Cathedral's donors, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan.

How do I schedule a guided tour?

Guided tours of the newly restored Cathedral of the Sacred Heart including the Crypt & Undercroft exhibit and Baptistery Gallery are presently offered by appointment.

To schedule a tour for your parish group, social organization or school students, please contact either the Museum Curator at 804-359-5661 or the Cathedral's Tour Coordinator at 804-358-5651.



## Self-Guided Tour for the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and Museum Exhibits

### WORSHIP SERVICES

All are welcome to join us in our worship.

Saturday 5:15 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday 12:05 p.m.

Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo,  
Bishop of Richmond

Rev. Patrick Golden, Rector

### Welcome to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart!

Framed by Richmond's Monroe Park, the Monroe Park campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, and the residential Fan District, the Cathedral serves as the Mother Church of the Diocese of Richmond and as the local parish for its Richmond congregation.

### HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL

Upon entrance into the vestibule, visitors will find two informational displays that illustrate the early history of the Cathedral **(1-2)**, and two displays in the side aisles **(17, 21)** that offer detailed descriptions about the history of the stained glass windows and the Cathedral's consecration day.

Designed by New York architect Joseph H. McGuire, the Cathedral is considered to be Virginia's finest ecclesiastical example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The building is constructed of Virginia granite and Indiana limestone with a copper dome and tile roof. Six fluted Corinthian columns support the architrave on the front of the building's exterior, which displays the motto "If Ye Love Me Keep My Commandments" (John 14:15). The outline of the coat of arms of the Diocese of Richmond appears above the name of the church, left of the columns.

Richmond was a small town of only 16,000 when its first Catholic Cathedral, St. Peter's, 800 E. Grace Street, was built in 1834. After the Civil War, Bishop John McGill realized that the growing Catholic population would need a new house of worship. In 1867 he purchased a lot in what was then considered the far west end. Lack of funds prevented further action until 1884 when Bishop John J. Keane purchased the remainder of the present block. With the announcement of a gift of \$500,000 for the proposed Cathedral from Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Barry Ryan, plans for the building were drawn up.

On June 4, 1903, Archbishop Diomedede Falconio, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, officiated at the laying of the cornerstone, which came from the Garden of Gethsemane. Three years later, thousands of people filled the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart for the Dedication on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1906. The consecration ceremony was

a milestone in both Richmond's history and the history of Catholicism in Virginia. The event was reported nationally, and the local newspaper devoted two special sections to the religious, architectural, and civic importance of the Cathedral.

The Cathedral Carillon was installed in 1995. It is a gift of the Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, 11th Bishop of Richmond, in celebration of the 175th Anniversary of The Catholic Diocese of Richmond and the 25th Anniversary of Bishop Sullivan's episcopacy. The 61-bell note Carillon was made by Van Bergen Foundries, Inc., of Charleston, South Carolina.

The Cathedral is a Virginia Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and received the Historic Richmond Foundation's 1992 Award of Achievement for its restoration.

### ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

The floor plan of the building follows the lines of a Latin cross. The nave, or body of the church, forms the long arm of the cross while the transepts, extending north and south between Park and Floyd Avenues, form the shorter arms. Bordering the nave are the side aisles, set apart by 32 foot high by arched Corinthian columns.

Featured near the main entrance of the church is the Baptismal font **(3)** and the oils case **(4)**. Placed near the front doors, the font serves as a reminder that through the sacrament of Baptism, the faithful enter the church of Jesus Christ. Adjacent to the font is a case which contains the Oil of Catechumens, used for anointing new Catholics; the Chrism Oil, used for Baptism, Confirmation and priestly Ordination, and the Oil of the Sick.

Above the vestibule at the main entrance is the organ loft which contains 3,899 pipes and one of two consoles for the organ. To the left of the vestibule is the auxiliary sacristy **(5)** and access to the organ loft. Above the doorway is a panel that depicts St. Cecilia, patron saint of music. To the right of the vestibule is the Baptistery Gallery

and Reconciliation Room **(6)**. Above this doorway is a panel that illustrates the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. In addition to housing the original 1906 Baptismal font, visible through the doorway, the Baptistry Gallery also features an exhibit that traces the history of the Cathedral's construction. Several restored liturgical artifacts belonging to the Cathedral are highlighted. This exhibit can be viewed either by appointment or during museum open house hours.

The coffered barrel vault over the nave features four panels with the coats of arms of Pope Leo XIII, Pope Pius X, Pope Benedict XV, and Pope Pius XI, whose papacies spanned from the laying of the cornerstone in 1903 to the 25th anniversary of the building's dedication in 1931.

The center aisle leads to the main altar **(7)** which is located below the 96-foot high dome. At the apex of the dome is a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit. Below the dome are medallions of the four Evangelists and their symbols: St. Matthew and the young man; St. Mark and the lion; St. Luke and the bull; and St. John and the eagle. Decorating the archways between the columns that support the dome are coats of arms of all of the bishops of Richmond, with the exception of the first bishop, and of the popes serving at the time of the Cathedral's consecration, 50th and 100th anniversaries. Painted on the ceilings of the north and south transepts are the coats of arms of Bishop Augustine Van de Vyver, during whose administration the Cathedral was built and dedicated, and Bishop Andrew Brennan, during whose administration the Cathedral observed its silver jubilee.

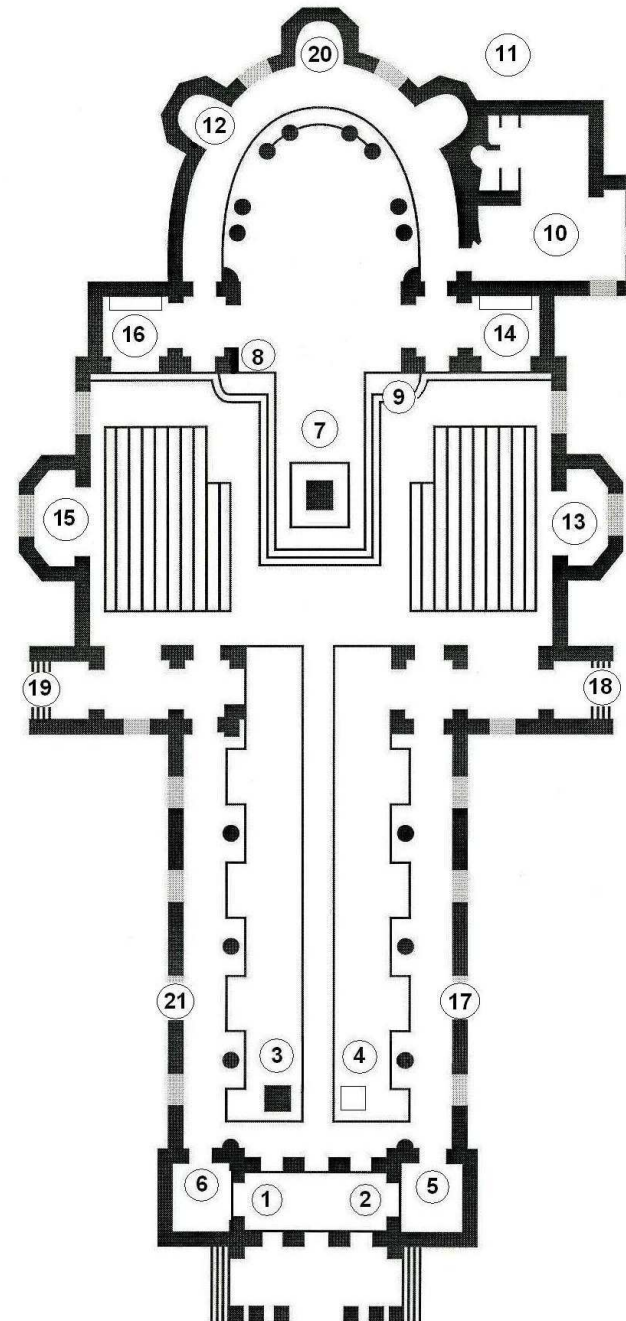
The Cathedral's sanctuary, where the main altar is located, begins at the crossing of the nave and the transepts. Located in the sanctuary is the chair of the Bishop of Richmond **(8)** and the pulpit **(9)**. The semicircular aisle or ambulatory is separated from the sanctuary by a wrought-iron grill, made by Richmond's historic Tredegar Iron Works, and a low marble and brass railing. This railing is part of the original communion rail once located in front of the main altar. The first door on the right past the pulpit leads to the Sacristy **(10)** and the second to the church's Parish Hall **(11)**.

Also in the ambulatory is a marble statue of St. Peter holding the symbolic keys to the kingdom **(12)**. In addition to the main altar, there are four smaller marble and mosaic chapels. There are two chapels in the north transept chapel. The chapel near the Park Avenue door **(13)** is dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul, patron saint of the diocese, while the chapel facing the congregation **(14)** is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The door to its tabernacle depicts her pierced heart. In the south transept, the chapel on the Floyd Avenue side is dedicated to St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers **(15)**. The chapel that faces the congregation is dedicated to the Sacred Heart **(16)**. A heart surrounded by a crown of thorns appears on its tabernacle door.

#### Key

- 1-2. Cathedral history displays
3. Baptismal font
4. Oils Case
5. Auxiliary Sacristy
6. Baptistry Gallery and Reconciliation Room
7. Main Altar
8. Bishop's chair
9. Pulpit
10. Sacristy
11. Parish Hall
12. Statue of St. Peter
13. St. Vincent de Paul Chapel
14. Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel
15. St. Joseph Chapel
16. Sacred Heart Chapel
17. History of stained glass display
18. North transept door to Park Avenue
19. South transept door to Floyd Avenue
20. Stairs to Crypt, Undercroft & museum exhibit
21. History of Consecration Day display

## Floor Plan of the Cathedral



## THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

In the nave aisle on the north side of the church visitors will find an informational display that illustrates the history of the Cathedral's beautiful stained glass **(17)**.

The stained glass windows that line the side aisles were created in 1956 by Francis and Pierre Chigot of Limoges, France, to replace the original 1906 windows. The aisle windows depict a progression of events in the life of Christ. The four windows in the left side aisle portray: the Incarnation, the Nativity, Jesus teaching in the temple, and the marriage feast at Cana. The four windows in the right side aisle portray the conferring of the power of the keys to St. Peter or the foundation of the Church, the institution of the Holy Eucharist, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Around the walls of the Cathedral, below these windows, are the Stations of the Cross, a series of 14 bronzed plaques depicting the last hours of Jesus' life.

Below the ceiling vaults throughout the church are 24 clerestory windows, designed by the Chigots, which depict the bread and wine of the Eucharist. In the apse above the sanctuary are nine Chigot windows representing the eight beatitudes and a center window symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

At the north transept entrance **(18)** is a window that depicts St. Vincent holding a child, and another child with a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The Cathedral is shown in the bottom panel of the window. Near the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel is a window that commemorates the Virgin Mary and Pope Pius XII, who proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption.

In the south transept, next to the Sacred Heart chapel, is a window depicting the appearance of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a 17th century Visitation nun. The window near the entrance to the south transept **(19)** depicts St. Joseph as a carpenter. St. Peter's Basilica in Rome is shown in the lower panel.