

RCIA: Tour of the Church

- Opening Prayer:

The Lord's Entry Into His Temple

A Psalm of David

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness;
The world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
On the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbor.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates lift high your heads;
grow higher ancient doors.
Let him enter the king of glory.

- Psalm 24: 1-7

- **Song:** As We Gather at Your Table (MI 311)

- **Tour of St. Joseph's Church**

St. Joseph Carmelite Parish

Just three years after his arrival in Leavenworth, Bishop John Baptist Miede founded St. Joseph Parish on September 5, 1858 to serve the growing German immigrant community in the newly opened Kansas Territory. The first church was dedicated on July 10, 1859, facing Osage Street, where the present Parish Office now stands.

On October 7, 1864, two Carmelite priests from the Bavarian monastery of Straubing, Germany arrived in Leavenworth. Fathers Cyril Knoll and Xavier Huber were given administration of St. Joseph Parish by Bishop Miede on October 9, thus making St. Joseph the first permanent foundation of the Carmelites in the United States. Carmelites from around the world came to Leavenworth in October 2014 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their arrival in America, and 150 years of ministry at St. Joseph Church.

The present German-style Gothic church was dedicated in 1871 by Bishops Miede and Fink, having been built under the pastorate of Fr. Albert Heimann, O.Carm., Bishop Miede's close associate who joined the Carmelite Order in 1865. The German language was spoken in the parish for over 80 years. Since 2002 the parish has celebrated an annual Germanfest to honor the rich ethnic history of St. Joseph's community.

In 1945 the present church was heavily damaged by a spring storm. When the church re-opened in 1946, under the leadership of Fr. Herman Golobic, O.Carm. and Fr. Leonard Kinzler, O.Carm., it included the present wood altar featuring Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. As for the altarpiece at St. Joseph Church: 1) The carving to the left with the sword (like the sword over the terrazzo Carmelite shield at the entrance to the church) is the Prophet Elijah (800 BC). The sword evokes the story of his slaying the 450 prophets of Baal. The carving on the right is a Carmelite holding a book—that is the first Carmelite on Mt. Carmel to receive the Carmelite Rule (1206-1214)—Brother “B” often known as St. Brocard. Some have referred to this figure as St. Albert of Jerusalem seen in the mural to the left, but since he has no miter/crosier/or sign of being a bishop but is dressed in a simple robe holding the rule—Fr. David McEvoy thinks it’s definitely Brother B!

At this same time, the men of the parish excavated the basement of the church establishing a new parish hall. It is called "Kinzler Hall" today in honor of Fr. Leonard Kinzler, one of the leaders of the parish work crew.

From 1981 until 1990, the Carmelite community resided at the Old Cathedral Rectory which had been built in 1863 on North Fifth Street. In 1990, under the pastorate of Fr. Cecil Pickert, O. Carm., the Carmelites moved to a newly built priory at 300 North Broadway, adjacent to St. Joseph Church. The old St. Joseph Priory was razed at that time. The old Immaculate Conception Rectory was razed in 1995 under the pastorate of Fr. Terrence Cyr, O.Carm.

- **Weekly Gospel Reading: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 18:15-20)**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother sins against you,
go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.
If he does not listen,
take one or two others along with you,
so that 'every fact may be established
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'
If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.
If he refuses to listen even to the church,
then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.
Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again, amen, I say to you,
if two of you agree on earth
about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.
For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them."

- **Closing Prayer**