



St. Sylvester Catholic Church

A Tour of the Household of God; the body of Christ

Overview

- Opening Prayer
- The Church
 - Exterior
 - Interior
- Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer



We pray Thee, O Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy; that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue, with unchanging faith, in the confession of Thy name.

Amen.

The Physical Church



- Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - 1180 ...visible churches are not simply gathering places but signify and make visible the Church living in this place, the dwelling of God with men reconciled and united in Christ.
 - 1181 ...a house of prayer in which the Eucharist is celebrated and reserved... this house ought to be in good taste and a worthy place for prayer and sacred ceremonial.

The Exterior



A Church Must Look Like . . . A Church

- Verticality: the church ought to be so arranged that the vertical structure dominates the horizontal.
- Permanence: a permanent structure.
- Iconography: The building needs to teach, catechize and evangelize. The building must show Christ and His Church present and active.

Can you identify
the Catholic
Church?



A



B



C



Approaching The Church



- Piazza (plaza or courtyard) - a place for the faithful to congregate
 - *First transitional space* that prepares us for our dramatic entrance into the Gate of Heaven
 - Takes us from the profane (exterior world) to the sacred (interior spaces of the church)
- Façade - often the most memorable part of a church...the *second transitional space*
- Campanile (or dome, steeple - a bell tower that is the primary vertical element that draws us to the church
- Rose Window - large circular window

Approaching The Church

- The Doors – portals into the Domus Dei (the House of God) or Porta Coeli (the Gate of Heaven)



Inside View of Doors



Approaching The Church

- East-West Orientation
 - Ad Orientum
 - Direction that Jesus will return



West

East

The Interior

- Narthex
- Nave
- Sanctuary
- Baptistry
- Chancel
- Sacristies

The Narthex



Narthex – *third (final) transitional space* from the outside world to the church's interior, a place of welcome

- A vestibule to prepare oneself for entrance into the House of God (the main worship space)

Holy Water Fonts – a reminder of baptismal promises and helps transition us from the ordinary space (external world) to the sacred space (internal world)

Holy Water Receptacle – large container that holds Holy Water

The Nave



- Latin “Navis,” meaning ship – we are passengers on a ship destined for heaven
- The main part of a Catholic church
- The following slides will introduce you to what you will see in the Nave

The Nave



Vaulted Ceiling



Pews with kneelers, book rack, candle holder and Missalettes

The Nave



Offerory Table



Reconciliation Room



Cry Room



Votive Candle Station

The Nave



Stations of the Cross



Holy Water Fonts



Multimedia Area



Statues (Mary, Joseph, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Therese)

The Nave

- 12 columns
 - Symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel
- Window/Doors of 3 with pointed tops
 - Symbolic of the Trinity and pointing toward Heaven



The Sanctuary

Means raised or high place, a place of consecration and sacrifice, where God meets man

When building a church the sanctuary is built first with the focus on the altar

- The Church is built around the altar



The Sanctuary



Altar

- Consecrated and dedicated to the service of God
- Solid wood or stone, permanent (unmovable)
- Relics from martyrs or saints sealed in altar
- Marked on top with five crosses symbolizing five wounds of Christ
- Altar Cloth
- Antependium (enhances the dignity of the altar and helps to clearly define the liturgical season)
- Note symbol on front of altar
 - Lamb (representing Jesus) carrying cross

The Sanctuary

Candles on sides of altar (minimum of two must be present; Paschal Candle during Easter)

Roman Missal (contains words and prayers the priest uses during the mass)



The Sanctuary

- The Crucifix (INRI)
 - Latin inscription (Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum), translates to "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews"
- Alpha and Omega (Beginning and the End)



The Sanctuary



Monastery of the Holy Spirit,
Conyers, GA

- Rose Window
 - Has 5 stars on it (not all can be seen in this photograph)



The Sanctuary



Ambo

- Readings of the Epistles, Psalms and Gospel, contained in the Lectionary
- Note the tetramorph on front of Ambo
 - Angel or winged man (Matthew)
 - Lion (Mark)
 - Ox (Luke)
 - Eagle (John)

The Sanctuary

Presider's Chair

- Center chair for the priest celebrating mass
- Cathedra: What it's called if a Bishop or Archbishop is present



The Sanctuary



- Tabernacle
- Chi Rho Emblem
 - Christian symbol for “Christ” written by superimposing the two Greek letters “Chi (X)” and “Rho (P)” which are the first two letters in Greek of the name of “CHRist.”
- Venite Adoremus (Come let us adore Him)
- Sanctuary Lamp
- Kneelers



The Sanctuary



Ambry or Olea Sancta (Holy Oils)

- Oil of Catechumens (oleum catechumenorum, Latin letters O.C.)
 - For baptism
- Sacred Chrism (sacrum chrisma, S.C.)
 - Used after baptism and for Holy Orders or Confirmation
- Oil of the Sick (oleum infirmorum, O.I.)
 - Anointing of the sick

The Sanctuary

Credence Table



Candle Lighter



The Baptistry

- Baptismal Font
 - Scallop shell symbol on front a symbol of baptism in Christianity)
- Holy Water



The Chancel

- Chancel
 - Area for Choir



The Sacristies

Sacristy: a room in the church or attached thereto, where the vestments, church furnishings and the like, sacred vessels, and other treasures are kept, and where the clergy meet and vest for the various ecclesiastical functions.

Two Sacristies:

- One for the priest to prepare for mass
- One for the parishioners supporting the priest, such as the Sacristan, Acolyte, Altar Server and Usher

Questions?

End of
Presentation



St. Peter's Basilica

Closing Prayer



Bless us with generous hearts, open minds, greater unity, renewed vision, as we celebrate and worship in your house. *But if I should be delayed, you should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth.* May it be a home where all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered to be Christ for others.

Amen.

** Italicized lettering is from 1 Tim 3:15*