

## Sacristy and Shrines

Many people have the misconception that sacristies are no more than dressing rooms which have closets to hold vestments and microphones and other items. The sacristy has a long history. In the primitive church, both the capsa, the repository for the unconsumed Eucharist, and also the books of scripture were kept in a separate room called the sacrarium. These were brought out for the Eucharistic celebrations. They were kept in ambries which could be locked.

The present sacristy still serves this purpose having a locked ambry to hold the chalices and ciboriums that are used in the services.



The lectionaries and Evangelium (book of the Gospels) are also kept in the sacristy.



In 2000 the floors and walls of the sacristy were redone and a wall screen was installed to direct entrants to the Church from the south entrance to enter the church without disturbing activities in the sacristy.



Displayed on the wall screen in the sacristy is an Icon of "Christ the Teacher."  
This icon was given by the Clayton Paulson Family in Memory of Yvonne Paulson.



The sacristy can in a sense be called a sacristy chapel for it contains pews allowing persons with young children to participate in services without disturbing the assembly.



The sacristy contains three items of spiritual significance.

The first is a small icon, painted in Austria, and given to St. Michael's in the early 1980's. Portrayed in a simple folk style is St. Florian, a Roman soldier suppressing a fire in a small farmers cottage. St. Florian is the patron of fire protection. Though St. Michael's building has the latest in fire protection devices, the parishioners see St. Florian the ultimate defense against such a natural disaster.



Prominent in a niche on the sacristy wall screen is an attractive statue of the Assumption of Mary. This image of the Blessed Mother and her accompanying angels is in a sense, a pilgrimage statue, one purchased in Fatima, blessed by the Pope and hand carried across the Atlantic. It was a gift of members of the Immaculata Parish Circle and was installed in 1999.



The place of honor in the sacristy-chapel is occupied by a shrine to St. Michael's. Installed (blessed and even anointed) in 1987, the shrine consists of a large painting of St. Michael as a Byzantine icon. The icon shows St. Michael as an angelic warrior, a messenger to accomplish the will of God. In his right hand he holds a sword to engage in the spiritual combats in which men are assisted by angels (the captain of the Lord's host appeared to Joshua with a sword in his hand. Joshua 5:13-15). Over his armor he wears the red tunic, the insignia of his dignity as commander of the heavenly host. In his left hand he carries an orb of the world which carries the image of Christ. The head of Michael is adorned with ribbons which flow from either side of the head. They symbolize the spiritual hearing of the angel, attentive to divine commands. The icon was "written" (that is the proper term) by local artist Pat Tupa and the oak frame and shrine base were fashioned by John Carlson, both former members of St. Michael's. A votary at the St. Michael's shrine allows the faithful to light candles which burn as a sign of their silent prayers through the day and night for loved ones.

