

## ***Welcome to our tour of St. Martin's***

St. Martin's church is made of wood, and is a big church. One thing our church has in common with all other churches is that people come here to worship. We are now going to take a tour through the Christ the Divine Mercy Parish, St. Martin's church.



## ***What is unique about your parish church?***

Do you know the name of the podium where the lector stands? Do you know why the holy water fonts are near the doors? Well, now you get the chance to find out! ? We will start on our church tour of St. Martin's Church. Remember our church is the place where our parish comes together to worship God.

## ***Gathering Space***

The gathering space is the space between the outside of the church and the main section where Mass is celebrated. This is where people prepare themselves to receive Jesus at Mass. The gathering space is important because as the people leave they prepare to bring the light of Christ to others.

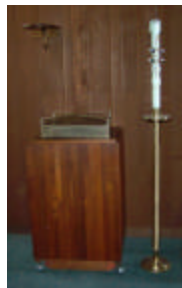


## ***Baptistry***

Have you ever seen or attended a baptism for a baby or an adult? Adults are baptized through the Rite of Christian initiation (RCIA) on Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil Mass. The place where they are baptized is called the baptistry. The water is used as a sign of new life.

During Jesus' time and for a long time after that, the whole body was put under the water in rivers, pools, and lakes.

Today, some churches continue to have the whole body put under the water, where other churches only pour water on the head of the person being baptized. The large candle beside the font is called the Paschal Candle (the Easter Candle), and is there to remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



## ***Holy Water Fonts***

Holy water fonts are found near the entrances of the church. When people enter or leave the church, they bless themselves with the holy water as a sign of their baptism. We all belong to God's family because of our baptism.



## ***Assembly Area***

The main section of the church, where the people gather for Mass is called the assembly area. A group of people who gather to worship God is called the assembly of the faithful. At the end of the aisle, are the altar and the sanctuary.



## ***The Sanctuary***

### ***Cross or Crucifix***

Do you know the difference between a crucifix and a cross? A cross is made up of two logs that are attached like a “plus sign”. The crucifix is a cross that shows Jesus body on it.

At St. Martin's we have a crucifix that hangs above the altar. Our cross shows Jesus dying on the cross. This reminds us of the great sacrifice he made for us.



### ***The Ambo***

Here is the ambo where God's word is read to us during mass. The lectors read the first and second readings during Mass, and the priest reads the gospel.



## ***The Lectionary***

This is the book of readings from the Bible that we hear during Mass. The Word of God is very special and the lectors, deacons and priest prepare themselves to read us these Bible stories by praying about them before they come to Mass. Proclaiming the Word of God is a very special ministry, something that you may be called to do some day.



## ***The Altar***

The table of the Lord (the Altar) is where the Eucharist is celebrated. Through consecration, our gifts of bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. You are sharing in Jesus' body and blood when you share the Eucharist.



## ***The Eucharistic Chapel***

Let's take a look at a few items that you would see in the Eucharistic chapel.

### ***Tabernacle***

The tabernacle is where the Eucharist is kept. The tabernacle is the gold box you see on the stand.

The candle next to the tabernacle and it is lit when the Eucharist is present. When it is lit, we know we need to bow our head or genuflect to show reverence and respect for the Eucharist.



## ***The Sacristy***

The sacristy is where the priests, Eucharistic ministers, deacons, altar servers, and lectors prepare for Mass. All vestments of the priests and deacons are kept here as well as the robes and ropes for the altar servers. Each season of the church year has a different color for the vestments, so pay attention to the color the priest wears and when it changes.



## ***Reconciliation Chapel***

You can come to church to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. This room provides for private reconciliation either face-to-face or kneeling at the screen to confess anonymously.



## ***Stations of the Cross***

The Stations of the Cross are hanging around the room on the back wall of the church.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross are a prayerful journey of the events on the day Jesus died. You journey through the last few hours of his life and follow the events that lead to his death.

The Stations of the Cross are prayed on Good Friday, the day that Jesus died.



***Statue of Mary***

Our church has many statues. One of them is a statue of Mary. Mary is special because she is the Mother of the Church and the Mother of God.



Now that you know the names of the places in our church,  
you can take your family or friends on a tour!

