

✚ The tabernacle is located in the center of the reredos. Hanging from the ceiling above the altar is the Sanctuary lamp, which burns at all times the Blessed Sacrament is present in the tabernacle. The twelve miniature figures on the lamp represent the twelve apostles.

**Now we look to the left of the main altar towards the east transept.**

- ✚ The stained glass window across from the Sacred Heart altar is Jesus being crowned King of heaven.
- ✚ The oil painting of Saint Vincent de Paul was commissioned in 2013.
- ✚ The statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague, the Christ Child King, is a beloved early piece of art.
- ✚ In the second of the three great windows, the center panels show Mary, the patroness of the Society of Jesus, with Ignatius kneeling in front of her. At the top and bottom of the central panels are two kneeling angels, with the two at the bottom holding symbols of faith and charity. The right and left panels depict the life of St. Ignatius (top to bottom). Left panel: Ignatius presenting the Society of Jesus to Pope Paul III; Ignatius sending Francis Xavier to India; Ignatius as an educator of youth. Right panel: Ignatius giving Communion to his companions; Ignatius sending Fr. Salmeron to Ireland; Ignatius ministering to the sick.
- ✚ The side altar, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Horace Canon, is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose statue is above the altar.
- ✚ The east and west shrines, containing the reliquary and other religious art, were constructed during the 2014 sanctuary renovation. The reliquary, in the east shrine, contains the relics of St. John Berchmans, a piece of the Holy Cross, Saints Ignatius, Barnabas, Christopher and others.

**Now we look to the right of the main altar, towards the west transept.**

- ✚ The stained glass window directly across from the Blessed Mary altar shows Mary being crowned Queen of Heaven.

✚ In the large window we see Ignatius and Christ in a ruined chapel in the village of La Storta. He was rapt in the spirit, and he saw the Eternal Father recommend him affectionately to His Divine Son, who was standing with His cross upon His shoulder. The words of Christ to Ignatius are written on a scroll: "I will be propitious to you at Rome." The famous prayer of Ignatius, well known to many who have made Jesuit retreats, is also written on the various panels: "Take, O Lord, my entire liberty. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace, and I am rich enough, nor do I ask for anything more."

The two angels on the top panels (right and left) hold emblems of Christ and the Blessed Virgin; the two angels in the top center carry emblems of the "House of God" and the "Gate of Heaven."

Also depicted are scenes from St. Ignatius' life. Left panel, center: Ignatius the soldier, wounded in the Battle of Pamplona in 1521

Bottom, Ignatius convalescing, reading the Life of Christ.

An angel holds the book and a banner has the words: *God-send thoughts grew clearer and dearer.*

Right panel, center: Ignatius presenting a sword to the Blessed Virgin at Montserrat.

Bottom, Ignatius feeding the poor.

Lower center: Ignatius leaving home.

Below, Ignatius making his confession.

- ✚ The side altar on the West side of the church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, with her statue above the altar. Below her statue is the enclosure that holds the Olea Sancta, Latin for Holy Oils. There are three bottles in the enclosure: the Oil of Catechumens, for baptism and confirmation at Easter Vigil; the Oil of Chrism, for baptisms, ordinations, and confirmations; the Oil of the Sick, for anointing.
- ✚ To the right of the Marian altar is an oil painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Artists in Spain were commissioned to paint this image for St. John Berchmans in 2012.
- ✚ The ambulatory, behind the altar, leads to the Bride's Room, Sacristy, and the Altar Society work areas.

**The last stop on the tour is outside, to the left rear of the Cathedral - our chapel.**

- ✚ St. Michael the Archangel Chapel, completed in 1995, was built by the members of the O'Brien Family in memory of loved ones.
- ✚ As you walk into the vestibule, the stairs at the right lead to the choir loft. To the left are the rest rooms.
- ✚ The chapel seats about 100 people. As you walk into the chapel, your eyes are drawn to a large stained glass window of St. Michael the Archangel. He carries a sword and is standing over a dragon, a depiction of Satan. Stones are in his left hand.
- ✚ To the left of the altar is a 13th Century Cross, a matchless example of Italian primitive painting by Giunta of Pisa. The cross was stolen from original church in the Greco - Turkish wars in the 16th century. The artwork was taken to Istanbul and found there during the early 20th Century. When the finders tried to return the Cross to the Church, they found that the church had been destroyed. The Cross ended up in New York City at an Auction, and was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George Haddad of Shreveport and presented to St. John's at the time the church was being built in 1928. The Cross hung under the choir loft in the main church until the Chapel was finished in 1995.
- ✚ To the right of the stained glass window is a carving of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, our diocesan patron saints. It is carved from a single piece of wood.
- ✚ The chapel is used for Mass during the week at 12:05pm, and for baptisms, weddings and funerals.



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# Tour of the CATHEDRAL of ST. JOHN BERCHMANS

## Self-Guiding

### History of the Parish

In 1902, the Jesuit Fathers answered a call to come to Shreveport to help establish a parish and school. In May, with St. John's first pastor, Fr. John F. O'Connor, they started a college for boys and built a frame building in the 1500 block of Texas for the church.

Plans for the construction of the new church (current building) began with a building fund in 1924. The Jacobs Estate on Jordan was purchased for a new church and school. The cost of church construction was \$350,000. The church was consecrated January 16, 1929, with the first Mass taking place that day at 11:00am.

On January 12, 1977, St. John's church was designated as a co-Cathedral for the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport, with Father Browning as rector and Lawrence P. Graves as bishop. On January 12, 1983, William B. Friend was installed as bishop. On June 16, 1986, Pope John Paul II split the Diocese of Shreveport-Alexandria. St. John's was designated the cathedral, with Bishop William B. Friend installed as the first bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport on July 30, 1986. Our second bishop, Michael G. Duca, was ordained on May 19, 2008.

### We begin our tour at the church steps.

- ✚ The architecture of the Cathedral is a mixture of Tudor and modified Gothic.
- ✚ Our church parish is one of eight dedicated to St. John Berchmans, the patron saint of youth and altar boys, and the only Cathedral with his namesake.
- ✚ On the corner closest to the garden (left side of the Cathedral) you will see the cornerstone, which was laid in 1927. You will read these words (written in Latin):  
*On July 31, 1927, while Pope Pius XI is happily reigning and Cornelius Van de Ven is Bishop, under the good auspices of the Jesuit Fathers...this special stone is blessed, dedicated and placed in a solemn ceremony as a stone commemorating the building of the Church in honor of St. John Berchmans and for the greater glory of God.*
- ✚ Above the main entrance, if you look up very high, you will see a statue of St. John Berchmans. This is a replacement of the original statue, and was dedicated in October, 1962. Above the main entrance doors are large letters cast in stone, A.M.D.G., letters for: Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam: For the Greater Glory of God.

### Now we enter the vestibule of the church.

- ✚ There are two statues in the vestibule of St. Francis Xavier (left) and St. Alphonsus Rodriguez (right).
- ✚ The room on the west end of the vestibule is the baptistery. See three stained glass windows of baptisms, including that of Jesus by John the Baptist, and of a person being baptized by St. Francis Xavier.
- ✚ In the baptistery is a marble Baptismal Font with baptismal symbols in mosaic design. The font has been in various locations in the church throughout the years, including in the front of the altar and in former cry room.
- ✚ On the east side, a stairway (adjacent to the rest rooms) leads to the choir loft. In the stairway are two stained glass windows: St. Theresa of Avila, a Doctor of the Church, and St. Gregory the Great.
- ✚ The church underwent an extensive renovation in the early 1990s.

### Now we walk into the main body of the church and turn around to view the Choir Loft.

- ✚ Many of the stained glass windows were donated by parishioners and organizations of the parish and were installed over a period of years.

- ✚ The Cathedral has three great windows (made by the Canadian firm Emil Frei), in the choir loft and in the transept, that tell the complete story of the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and the founding of the Jesuit order. The story of his life begins on the school side.
- ✚ Looking above the choir loft, you will see one of the three great windows. The two center panels, entitled King of Kings, show St. Ignatius' vision of Christ and the second panel is the portrayal of Mary as Queen of the Society of Jesus. At the top of these center panels you see the Papal and St. Ignatius coat of arms.
- ✚ Below the center panels Ignatius is shown writing his famous Book of the Spiritual Exercises and chastising himself in the cave at Manresa.
- ✚ In the left hand panels, you see, from top to bottom: St. Michael the Archangel; St. Ignatius converting St. Francis Xavier; and St. Raphael the Archangel.
- ✚ In the right hand panels, from top to bottom, you see: St. Gabriel, the Archangel, St. Ignatius kneeling before an altar, entitled "Master of Spiritual Exercises;" and St. George in armor.

### Now we turn to face the sanctuary/altar.

- ✚ You will notice at each door, there are fonts that contain the holy water. As we make a sign of the cross, we remember that in our baptism we died with Christ, and with Him, we will rise again.
- ✚ Along the inner walls of the Church, there are twelve sconces in the shape of a cross, each holding a wax candle. The twelve candles represent the twelve Apostles, and were anointed with oil as a part of the consecration of the Church in 1994. They can be burned on each successive anniversary.
- ✚ On each side, adjacent to the pews, are our confessionals, offering the penitent the option for confession face to face, or behind the screen.
- ✚ When looking towards the altar, you will notice the Tudor influence with the exposed beams; note the modified Gothic influence with the pointed arches above the doorways, at the main altar, side altars, and between the columns within the church. The architecture is considered modified Gothic because it does not have the Gothic flying buttresses.
- ✚ Two statues are on either side of the confessional as you enter the side aisles: west side, *Gesu Salvatore*, Jesus the Savior; east side, St. Anthony of Padua.
- ✚ There are three layers of religious art along the east and west walls of the church: upper, rosary in stained glass windows; middle, Stations of the Cross paintings; lower, Jesus, Mary & the saints in stained glass windows.

- ✚ The stained glass windows representing the five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are along the top west side of the Church (when facing Fairfield). From the entrance:
  - 1st Mystery The Annunciation
  - 2nd Mystery The Visitation
  - 3rd Mystery The Birth of Jesus
  - 4th Mystery The Presentation of Jesus
  - 5th Mystery Finding Jesus in the Temple
- ✚ The stained glass windows representing the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary along the top east side of the Church, from the entrance, are:
  - 1st Mystery The Resurrection
  - 2nd Mystery Jesus' Ascension of into Heaven
  - 3rd Mystery Descent of the Holy Spirit
  - 4th Mystery Mary's Assumption into Heaven
  - 5th Mystery Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven
- ✚ The fourteen Stations of the Cross oil paintings are on the east and west walls of the church, starting in the West Transept and ending in the East Transept. The Stations were a donation from the ladies of the "Blessed Sacrament Society". The first seven stations on the west wall and are:
  1. Pilate condemns Jesus to die
  2. Jesus accepts His cross
  3. Jesus falls the first time
  4. Jesus meets His Mother
  5. Simon helps carry the cross
  6. Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus
  7. Jesus falls the second time
- ✚ The stations on the east wall are:
  8. Jesus speaks to the women
  9. Jesus falls the third time
  10. Jesus is stripped of His garments
  11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
  12. Jesus dies, upon the cross
  13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
  14. Jesus is laid in the tomb
- ✚ The ten small stained glass windows from the entrance along the lower west wall are:

⊕ St. Paul (in Confessional)	⊕ St. Matthew
⊕ St. Ann, Mother of Mary	⊕ St. Cecilia
⊕ St. James the Great	⊕ St. John
⊕ St. Luke	⊕ St. Peter
⊕ St. Mark	⊕ Sts. Cosmos & Damien
- ✚ The ten small stained glass windows from the entrance along the lower east wall are:

⊕ Our Lady of Lourdes	⊕ St. Elizabeth
⊕ Immaculate Heart of Mary	⊕ St. Joseph
⊕ Our Lady of Mount Carmel	⊕ St. Jude
⊕ St. Michael the Archangel	⊕ St. Theresa of Lisieux
⊕ Sacred Heart of Jesus	⊕ Our Lady of Pompeii

### Now we walk towards the altar and reredos.

- ✚ The main altar is from Italy and was a part of the large white altar/reredos. The altar was removed and used to create the current altar in the 1960s. The altar, a gift from the parishioners, is an unusual structure because it is a carry-over from the Baroque style, which is sometimes called the "Jesuit style".
- ✚ In the center of the altar is a relic, a small piece of bone, of St. John Berchmans. The front amber panel on the altar is a sculptured pelican, reminding us of our "pelican state" and with deeper spiritual significance, as a symbol of the Eucharist. Just as the pelican feeds its young with its blood, so Christ nourishes our souls with His Body and Blood. Note the Latin words "Panis Vitae" meaning the Bread of Life.
- ✚ To the right of the main altar is the pulpit/ambo, which has beautiful carvings around the edges: the Book in the center representing the Bible; symbols for the Evangelists based on the opening passages of each one's Gospel: Matthew was assigned the "human" figure, since he tells the genealogy and the birth of Christ; Mark, the "lion" because he begins dramatically with the voice of one crying in the desert, like the sound of a lion; Luke, the "calf" because he describes the sacrifice of Zechariah; John, the "eagle" since he begins with the soaring flight in his prologue on the Word in Heaven.
- ✚ Behind the altar is the large white reredos (Anglo-Frankish word for "partitions on a wall"), made of Italian marble altar, containing six alabaster panels depicting the instruments of Christ's Sacred Passion: Hammer & Sponge, Crown of Thorns, White Robe of Christ, Crucifixion Nails, Soldiers' Lances and Ladder used to remove Jesus from the cross. The statues at the top of the reredos are, left: St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church; center: St. John Berchmans, our patron saint; right: St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order.
- ✚ In the front of panel of the reredos is a relief depicting St. John Berchmans' Last Holy Communion, sculpted in marble in 2014. This image is based on the altar in his place of baptism, St. Sulpice Church, Diest, Belgium.
- ✚ To the right and the left of the main altar are large, life-size paintings of St. Ignatius (right) and St. Francis Xavier (left). These paintings were original to the first church, as seen in archival photographs. The paintings were moved to the "new" church when it was built in the late 1920's. During the 1990s church renovation they were moved to the Jesuit/Loyola school hall until 2012.
- ✚ The Cathedra, the Bishop's chair, is to the left of the altar. The seat is an original bishop's chair; the shell covering was made in 2014.