


SHRINE  
OF  
ST. JOSEPH

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179 YEARS

# The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.

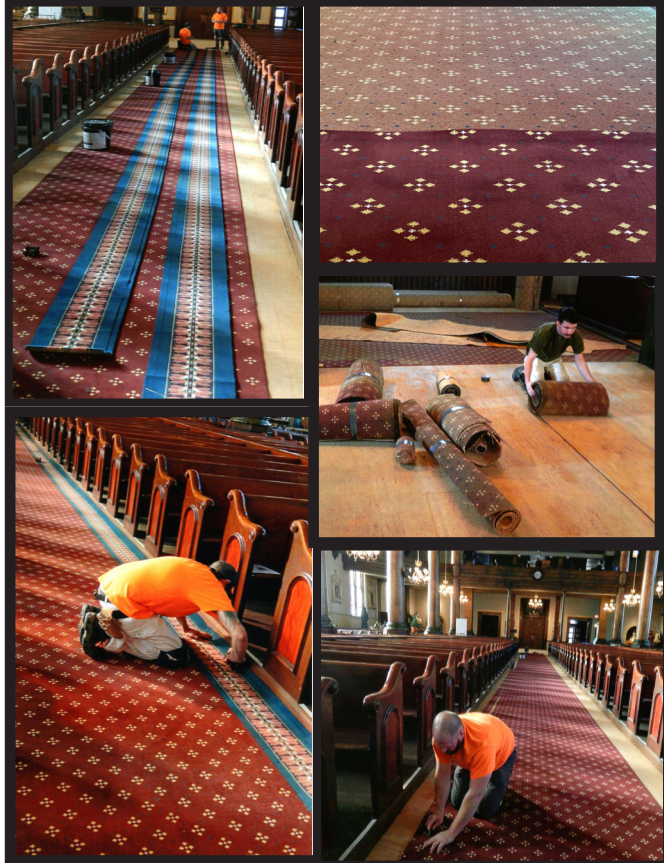
# NEWSLETTER

1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63106-4614 • Rectory Phone (314) 231-9407  
e-mail: info@shrineofstjoseph.org

## WINTER-SPRING ISSUE 2023

### Installation of Shrine's New Carpeting

Donations from the last fall and spring fund raisers paid for nearly the entire cost of the Shrine's new carpeting. Beginning January 9th, workers rolled out new carpeting, starting with the center aisle, followed by the front and back areas of the church, and then all of side aisles. 938 square yards of the main carpet and 100 square yards of the blue border were used. The old carpeting, installed in 1992, had served the Shrine just over 30 years. When our Organization began restoration, the floors were covered with old linoleum that had yellowed with age. "Old-timers", Anita Schene and Carmilla Baker, remembered when they, and others--on their hands and knees-- tried to keep the linoleum clean but it was an impossible task because its surface was so worn. After much discussion, it was decided to replace the linoleum with carpeting. The carpeting, along with a few hand rails and other religious statuary are some of the very few additions to the Shrine that were not part of the original church. However, the carpeting gradually underwent considerable decolorization or serious fading (see photo) as well as normal wear and tear. Because of how well the carpeting actually held up over these 30 years, Kevin Finazzo, the Shrine Board's treasurer, retrieved financial records from 1992 and was able to find the name of the company that produced the carpet and discovered it was still in business. Joe Finazzo, the Board's vice president, contacted the company located in England, and, surprisingly, found out that the company could exactly duplicate this carpeting they had produced for the Shrine in 1992 because a copy of this original carpet still existed in their files. So, this is the second generation of virtually the same very high-quality carpet that Ted Wofford, the Shrine's long-time architect, had picked out and ordered 30 years ago, with beautiful wine-colored burgundy color, fine detail, and blue border. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, a number of statues, kneelers, and candle holders from the rear of the church were temporarily moved to allow for the removal of the old carpeting and repair of a few pieces of the plywood sub-floor. The installers that were selected are specialists in doing commercial work and had an excellent reputation for installing high quality carpeting in large spaces like hotels. What makes this carpeting extremely impressive and somewhat tedious to install is that there is also a very attractive blue border running up both sides of the main 130-foot aisle and across the front and back. It took 7 days to accomplish all the installation--just in time for the Shrine's first wedding of the new year.



Carpet Installation

### Another Blessed and Memorable Christmas at the Shrine

Words can't describe the glory of the Shrine during the Christmas season. The season highlights all the work and effort through the years that has gone into the survival and restoration of this extraordinary Catholic monument.

On December 10th, approximately 30 volunteers decorated the entire church and then on December 18th, St. Nick made his annual visit after Mass, both engaging and delighting children, young and old. In the afternoon, the Shrine's choir sang the Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols with Archbishop Rozanski presiding at the Old Cathedral on the riverfront. Here at the Shrine, an hour before the Christmas Vigil began, the choir--with brass quintet, timpani, violin, organ and piano -- sang various Christmas anthems and led the congregation in a selection of traditional Christmas Carols.

Attendance at the Shrine for Christmas is a long-held tradition among many families, but for those who are sick or living out of town, wherever you live, you can join us virtually via the Shrine's Facebook Page, YouTube Channel or by accessing the Livestream link on the Shrine's webpage. The new video system, located in the lower balcony has five cameras strategically located throughout the Shrine so that nearly all parts of the interior can be shown as needed.



St. Nick makes his Annual visit to the Shrine



Andy Chibnall & Tim Nies  
Livestream Christmas Vigil Mass



Members of the Choir lead the  
Congregation in Christmas Carols

## Father Weninger's Account of the Miracles Leading to the Canonization of Peter Claver

Father Weninger, SJ was a very highly respected, well-known, and distinguished Jesuit missionary priest and author. In 1848, he came to America from Europe. During his 40 years here, he zealously preached to vast numbers in English, French, and German. He traveled extensively to nearly every part of early America and had developed a profound devotion to the life and the work of Peter Claver, SJ and desired to have then, Blessed Peter Claver elevated to saint, because of Peter Claver's 35 years of work in caring for the slaves who were taken to South America. At the end of a mission, Weninger always blessed the sick with relics of then Blessed Peter Claver. In March of 1864, while preaching 45 Parish Missions throughout several Midwest states, Fr. Weninger preached here at then St. Joseph Church, where a German immigrant—Ignatius Strecker experienced a miraculous cure — one of several cures sent to Rome for the Congregation of Rites to examine, and which became one of the miracles used in the cause of Blessed Peter Claver's canonization. Below are excerpts in Fr. Weninger's own words of miracles that were granted through the intercession of Peter Claver and the blessing of sick with his relics. Five miraculous healings were sent to Rome which Weninger later wrote about in the Woodstock Letters just before his death. In addition to the miracles attributed to Peter Claver's intercession, Father Weninger's Woodstock Letters contain a staggering amount of information about the Jesuits in North America. He retired to Cincinnati in 1882 and died in 1888, just one year after Peter Claver was elevated to Saint. Here at the Shrine, Fr. Dale Wunderlich, our Rector, invites worshippers to venerate a relic of Peter Claver after each Mass.



Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier Weninger, SJ

### Excerpts from Account of the Miracles by Father Weninger Admitted by the Congregation of Rites for the Canonization of Peter Claver

[Devotion of Peter Claver began in the U.S. with his beatification. At that time, I preached a mission in our church of St. Joseph's in St. Louis. I announced I would talk to the sick after the conclusion of the mission. At the end of a 2nd mission at St. Joseph's, they brought a child born blind. The following day, the parents thanked me because the child had gotten perfect use of his eyes. I told the parents to thank God and his servant, Blessed Peter Claver.

After that, I gave missions uninterruptedly for nearly forty years, imposing the relics over and over again at the conclusion of my mission, and cures followed cures almost without interruption, so that the veneration of Peter Claver was spreading and increasing throughout the U.S. over which I traveled, but still I felt no impulse to notify Rome of these cures. In the year 1862, I gave a mission in Melrose, N.Y. There, a woman came, afflicted with a rotten hand...the whole hand was a mass of corruption, gangrene set in, and the hand was to be cut off. I placed the relics on the hand, and told the woman to come the next morning and that I would recommend her to Blessed Claver. She came, and, at once, she rose up, went out to the street, removed a bandage, saw that she had, as it were, a new hand and no more corruption was visible. A crowd quickly assembled and an apothecary who knew the previous condition of her hand, said, "I don't know what the priest did to cure that hand, but one thing I say—that is a wonder."

I went to the neighboring parish, and I felt my finger pierced, as by a lancet, and the pain almost made me sick. My finger began to swell. I began to think that possibly Blessed Peter Claver was thus afflicting me for not heeding the fact that these cures were wrought by God, to promote his canonization. I immediately inquired from Rome what I should do in regard to the many cures worked through the application of relics of Peter Claver. I was thus encouraged to select five cures and send them to the Congregation of Rites in Rome for examination. So I sent 5

miracles—of these, the Congregation of Rites selected three.

The first was a lady in Milwaukee in 1862 afflicted for 12 yrs. by a cancer on the right cheek. The second was that of a girl with a broken collar bone in Philadelphia. The third was a man in St. Louis, who had caries\* of the breastbone and 3 ribs and pulmonary consumption.\*\* The doctors advised his wife to prepare for his funeral.

Of the first case, I laid the relic on the cancer, and the cancer disappeared at once. She went joyfully home rubbing her face with her hands and telling people. The 2nd cure—the girl with the broken collar bone—had been to doctors without success. The bones would not join. I asked her about her right hand. She said, "I am disabled...and cannot move my right hand; the bone is broken." I applied the relics to the bandage on her hand. She untied the bandage and joyfully swung her hand before her mother's eyes, exclaiming: "See, no more broken bone!" The 3rd case was that of Ignatius Strecker, in St. Louis, in 1864. His wife told him that after my mission I was giving, I would impose the relics on the sick. He wanted to have the relics applied to him too. As soon as the relics were laid upon him, he said to his wife, "Now I can dance." In a moment, he was cured of all rottenness of the bones and of his consumption and immediately returned to work.

These processes of these 3 cures I sent to Rome and the congregation selected two of them. (Strecker and one other) When I was called to the witness stand, I testified that I had imposed the relics and cures kept happening. Twenty years passed and I finally heard that Blessed Peter Claver was to be canonized in 1885—it was deferred till 1887. The news was published in *The Catholic Review* which printed a letter giving an account of Peter Claver's canonization and I felt exceedingly thankful.]

---submitted in Cincinnati, by Francis Xavier Weninger, Feb. 2, 1888  
Volume 17 of the Woodstock Letters, p. 106-109

\*Decay of the bones \*\*tuberculosis

## The Giving Tree: The Holy Spirit at Work

Christmas was a time to make a commitment to those less fortunate than ourselves. A decorated tree in the rear of church invited folks to contribute to the Crisis Nursery Center and the Women's Night Program. Last Fall, Kathleen Weltzin, Board member, and her husband, Mike, became involved with the Women's Night program which assists homeless women



The Giving Tree

by providing temporary shelter helping them to get into permanent housing and offering other support services. It was suggested that the women be taken on an outing for the day. The Weltzins accepted that idea and actually took 22 women in the program on two outings in the Fall. Subsequently, they got to know these women and their circumstances very well which developed into strong relationships with them. Donations from the Giving Tree program, allowed for the purchase of coats and boots for all 22 women in December to give them "a hand up—not a hand out." Coats were purchased at greatly reduced prices from Kohl's Department Store in Fenton. "But little did we know," said Kathleen, "that the

manager, Mike Meadows, when he inquired who all the coats were for, found a way to defray the cost even more! We were elated!" Upon receiving the coats, some with grateful tears and others were too overwhelmed to speak. One of the women said, "this is so amazing! Last year I was living behind a dumpster." The Weltzins were also able to pick up much needed items for the Crisis Nursery Program serving children in a crisis who are given a safe haven from child abuse or neglect. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous donors to the Shrine's Giving Tree this year. Thanks to all for making this possible. Surely, the Holy Spirit was at work here.

## Shrine Shoppe Hosts End of Fall Fundraiser

As always, before and after every Mass, the Shrine Shoppe not only serves coffee and pastries, but also in order to celebrate the end of the Fall Fund Raiser and raffle drawing on November 27th, the Shoppe volunteers had a special sale on selected items. Their sale continued throughout the Christmas season with many Christmas season items for sale at reduced prices.

Winners of the raffle drawing were: 1st place: Dr. Mark Stuckey, O'Fallon, MO; 2nd place: John Busalaki, Wildwood, MO; 3rd place: Kathy Ruesler, Bridgeton, MO; and 4th place: Dianne Raney, Chesterfield, MO. We are grateful to all who participated in our fundraiser. We are extremely humbled by your generosity in light of this inflationary period we are all experiencing.

## WEST TOWER – A BELL TOWER OR A CLOCK TOWER?

The answer is that it could have been considered both because from 1881 there were (and still are) bells high up in the west tower and a clock—5 ½ ft. in diameter—was on the front facing south toward the downtown until 1954.

In 1881, when St. Joseph's became the largest parish in St. Louis with 4,000 parishioners it was decided to add the towers to the church which had only one smaller spire at the time. As difficult as it is to imagine today, both towers were originally built to a height of 155 feet hovering over the ethnic community and downtown area that it served—that's roughly 30 feet higher than what one sees today. The towers were originally capped with ornate cupolas and a clock. But, in 1954, it was felt that the 30 feet of cupolas posed a danger. In the MO Historical Society's archives is a 1954 Post-Dispatch article and photo showing scaffolding around the upper towers. The article says, "the cupolas and domes atop the twin 156 ft. towers are to be removed because supporting timbers have decayed." True or not, nonetheless, it was decided for safety reasons to remove all 30 feet of both cupolas as well as the clock bringing the height down to what we see today at around 125 feet with hexagonal caps.

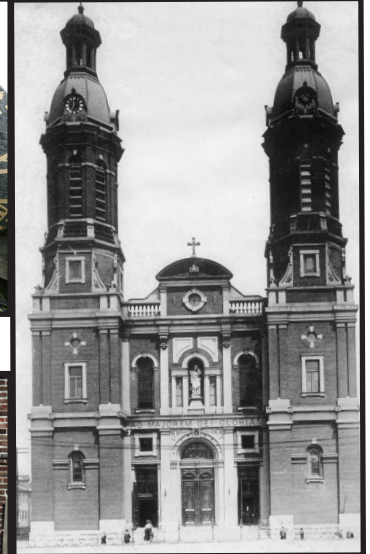
The original west tower contained a clock facing south at a height of about where the caps are now located. Inside the west tower was (and still is) a complicated-looking mechanism which controlled the movement of the hands on the clock. The clock was removed during the scaling down of the towers in 1954. However, both the clock and mechanism were saved (see photos)—this 5 ½ foot diameter clock is currently in the rectory basement waiting for a new home in the Shrine's future museum space and the old, odd-looking mechanism used for controlling the time on the clock still remains inside the upper part of the west tower. The operation of the clock and its mechanism need more research about how this system originally worked.

Inside the louvers of the west tower are four bells—the largest bell, produced by Stuckstede Foundry St. Louis in 1881—is reportedly the heaviest single bell ever cast by Stuckstede. The foundry's website says: "In 1881, the foundry cast a 6,000 lb. bell for St. Joseph (now the Shrine) in St. Louis that is still the heaviest bell in the state of Missouri," measuring a whopping 6 feet in height and over 67 inches in diameter. Above the large bell, are three additional smaller bells, all cast at Stuckstede and put in place at the time of the completion of the towers in 1881 and equaling a total of 10,000 pounds. In 1977, the clappers were removed and the bells which were originally rung by ropes, were, instead, set up to be rung electronically.

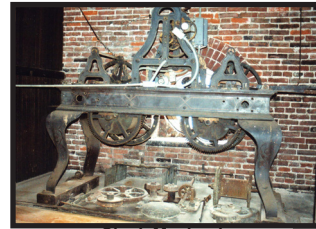
In 2008, with a grant from the Acquiva Trust, the monumental tower stonework restoration was completed with the placement of gleaming new limestone facings over cut back deteriorated sandstone. The historic towers have gone through some changes, but their striking beauty is regarded as the centerpiece of the Columbus Square neighborhood and, although 30 feet lower than they were originally, can still be seen for many blocks when looking up 11th Street from the downtown area.



Clock



Towers until 1954



Clock Mechanism

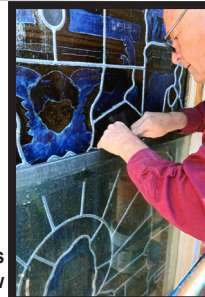


Towers Today

## STAINED GLASS MAINTENANCE

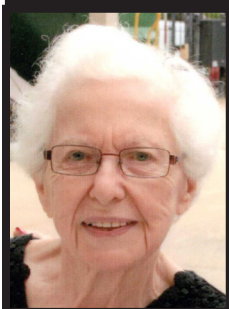
Unlike the windows along the length of the Shrine that are original, the two figural windows in the organ loft on either side of the organ of St. Cecilia and King David were so damaged that they had to be re-built in 1992. Using fragments from the original windows, Art Glass Unlimited did a fantastic job of reproducing both these windows. Recently, the St. Cecilia window needed repair-- this work was done by the Emil Frei Company which is in its 5th generation of producing and maintaining some of the finest liturgical art in America. In December, Stephan Frei, grandson of Emil Frei, completed this repair work which required a 60-foot lift to reach that window. There is a tendency to believe that once stained-glass windows are built and put in place that no more needs to be done. We wish that were the case, but, as we have learned, like everything, they need to be inspected periodically.

R - Stephen Frei repairs St. Cecilia Window



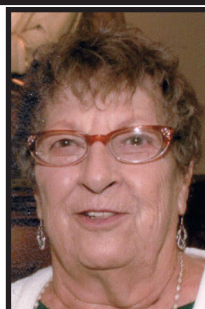
St. Cecilia Window

## REMEMBERING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LIVES OF DORIS KANNADY AND DELORES "DOOLEY" PESTKA



Doris Kannady

Doris Kannady and Dooley Pestka, long-time Shrine volunteers, are at home with the Lord and have now joined many other dedicated volunteers, priests, and friends of the Shrine. Two of our very devoted and hard-working retired Friends entered into Eternal Life in December. Doris passed on Dec. 12 at age 96 followed by Dooley on Dec. 30 of 2022, at age 86. Doris worked with her husband, Ralph, in the membership office for many years; Dooley worked in the air and steam club office. But they both performed many other duties as well—no one will be able to add up all the hours of work these ladies gave to our organization and to the Shrine. More importantly, they also both represented the epitome of thoughtfulness to everyone. It is difficult to imagine how this organization could have survived without people like them who shared with us their special gift of kindness to all.



Delores "Dooley" Pestka

## LENT AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Please check the Shrine's website for our Lent and Easter schedule [www.ShrineofStJoseph.org](http://www.ShrineofStJoseph.org) ► Worship ► Upcoming Masses & Special Events



The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 1220 North 11th Street  
 St. Louis, MO 63106-4614



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Please clip the address panel and mail it to us noting your correction or request.

**Mass Times**  
 Sundays: 11:00am  
 First Friday of each Month: 12:00pm (Noon)  
 Holy Days of Obligation: See Website [www.shrineofstjoseph.org](http://www.shrineofstjoseph.org) for details  
 Veneration of St. Peter Claver Relic or St. Padre Pio Relic following Mass  
 Fr. Dale Wunderlich, Rector and Recipient of the Aquinas Institute "Great Preacher" Award.

*Staying in touch with the Shrine:*  
 • Website: [www.shrineofstjoseph.org](http://www.shrineofstjoseph.org) • Facebook: [Facebook.com/shrineofstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/shrineofstjoseph) • YouTube: StJoseph Shrine •

## Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership

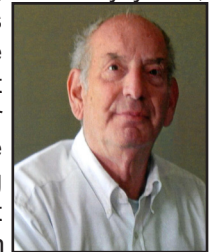


Sherry Chibnall

The restoration and on-going maintenance of the Shrine is accomplished strictly through private contributions. Annual membership dues are only \$10 per individual. If you are already a member, we **GRATEFULLY THANK YOU** and ask for your continued support. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. **Your financial support is necessary** to help in the preservation of this irreplaceable historic and religious landmark for future generations. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Chibnall, your Membership Committee Chairperson, at (314) 231-9407.

## Air & Steam Club

Members of the Air & Steam Club have, for many years, helped to cover utility costs. Your donations have contributed greatly toward the Shrine's heating and AC bills. If you aren't currently a Member, please consider joining now. Your help is needed! There are monthly drawings for prizes totaling \$200. Tickets are \$12 each, and 1 ticket gives you 1 chance to win each month and there's no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase. Simply complete the form below and mail it together with your check payable to:



John Colao

"Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc."

1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614.

For more information, please contact **John Colao**, Chairperson at (314) 231-9407

### Please Remember the Shrine in your Will or Trust.

Application for Membership & **Renewal Form**  
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 Dues are \$10 per person, per year

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to:  
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

Air and Steam Club  
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

1st Prize	\$100
2nd Prize	\$ 50
3rd Prize	\$ 50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter my name. I do not wish to make a donation at this time.

### Special Notice:

Please be aware that the Shrine has not and does not give or sell names and addresses on our mailing list to any other groups or organizations.