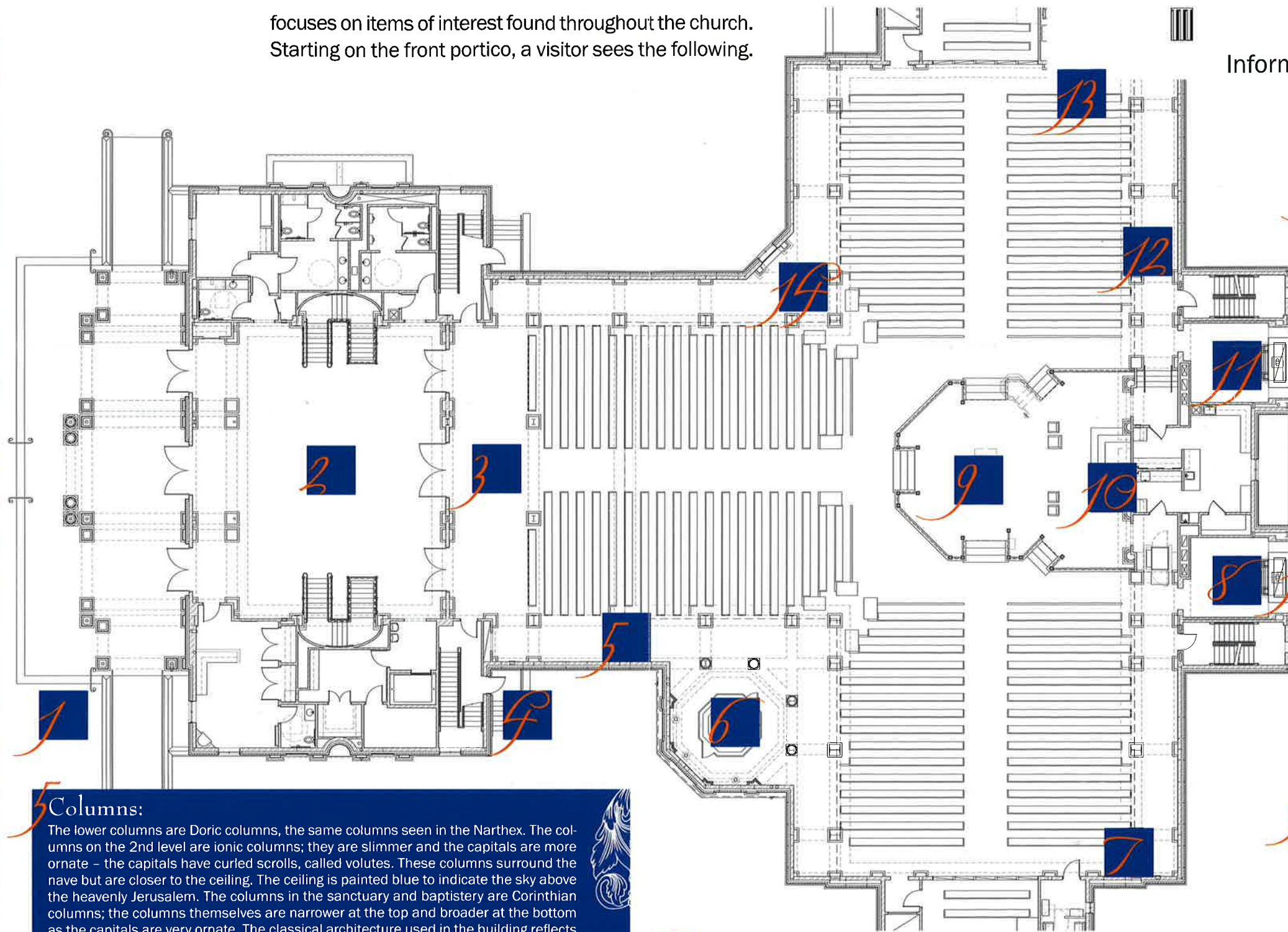


This brochure,
PRIMARILY A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

focuses on items of interest found throughout the church.
 Starting on the front portico, a visitor sees the following.

Information continued on other side



1 Exterior and Bell Tower

The golden brick color was chosen from one of the brick colors used in the education center. It is a solid color so as to signify a higher order than the education center and this golden brick color represents the golden walls of the Heavenly City. The three door entry dates back to ancient Rome; every time an emperor returned from battle they would build a triumphal arch and the most famous is the Arch of Constantine in Rome (the first Christian Emperor). These doors are 10 feet tall and 4 feet wide and are proportionally sized for this building and signify the importance of entering the House of God. The bell tower houses four bronze swinging bells cast by Royal Eijsbouts in The Netherlands. The bells are inscribed with the names of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel. The pealing of bells calls the community to prayer and proclaims the joy of the Church to the world on Sundays.

2 Narthex

The Narthex is the portico or the entry to the Nave of the church; it is a place to prepare ourselves to enter the main worship space. The narthex helps us make a transition from the outside world to the sacred space of the church. In keeping with the classical architecture of the building, there is a hierarchy in regards to the materials and the more sacred or important the space the higher the order of the building materials, so the materials used in the Narthex are not as grand as those used in the nave of the church. As you enter the church you will once again notice the three door entry.

3 Floor:

Looking down the center aisle leading to the circles. The aisle which is on all sides of the cross leads us to the sanctuary, it draws us closer to the mystery celebrated at the altar. And it leads us to receive Christ in the Eucharist. As with the columns the closer we get to the altar the higher quality of materials used; the aisles leading to the sanctuary and the floor of the sanctuary are marble.

4 Reconciliation chapels

These reconciliation rooms are built more like small chapels which emphasizes the dignity of the sacrament. There is room for either face to face with the priest or using the confessional screen. Just like the rest of the building the architecture and furnishings of this chapel speaks to a sacramental reality: it sets at the rear of the nave to emphasize that one comes to Christ through the ministry of the Church for forgiveness of sins and is reminded that after confession - the sacramental completion is to receive the Eucharist.

5 Columns:

The lower columns are Doric columns, the same columns seen in the Narthex. The columns on the 2nd level are ionic columns; they are slimmer and the capitals are more ornate - the capitals have curled scrolls, called volutes. These columns surround the nave but are closer to the ceiling. The ceiling is painted blue to indicate the sky above the heavenly Jerusalem. The columns in the sanctuary and baptistry are Corinthian columns; the columns themselves are narrower at the top and broader at the bottom as the capitals are very ornate. The classical architecture used in the building reflects a hierarchy of materials.

6 Baptistry

This chapel is octagonal in shape representing early Christians who were called people of the 8th day. There are two steps down into the baptismal font, representing the two natures of Christ: human and divine. The floor of the font can be flooded for adult baptisms but there is a font, carved of Italian marble in Massa, Italy, where infants are baptized. Those being baptized enter through the gate on the west, the side of darkness and death and leave the font on the East, side of new life and light. The theme of the chapels décor is baptism. The ceiling mural was created by Evergreene Studios; and the dove depicts the holy spirit which we receive at our baptism. The windows are: Noah's Ark, Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and the three drops of water meaning we are baptized in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

7 St. Gianna Beretta Molla

This statue was hand-carved of wood in Italy by DOLFI. St. Gianna is a 20th century saint who lived in Italy from 1922-1962. She was a doctor, wife and mother who died in childbirth. She was canonized in 2004 and is the patron saint of motherhood and unborn children.

8 St. Joseph Chapel

This chapel is the first of two devotional chapels, one on each side of the sanctuary. It is important to note that you have to walk past the Tabernacle to visit these chapels thus always keeping the connection between our devotions and liturgy. St. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers and of workers. On the gates of his chapel are the symbols of Joseph - a carpenter's tool and a lily; representing his work and his purity of heart.

9 Altar

The Sanctuary furnishings are all made of the highest quality of materials in the church, handcrafted of Italian marble in Massa, Italy. The composite capitals on all of the columns in these pieces are of the highest order and are of original design; you will find a bronze St. Michael sword embedded in each capital. The earthly altar signifies Christ and is permanent and perfect. Beneath the altar behind a bronze grate is the reliquary which holds the relics of Miguel Pro, John DeBebreuf, Charles Garnier and Gabriel Lalemont. The ambo (lectern or pulpit) is like an altar for the Word of God. It is a sign to the faithful that something important happens here and in fact we are nourished with the revealed word of God. It was custom designed with the rest of the furnishings and the St. Michael sword stands as the newel post of the steps.

10 Tabernacle

This is a solid brass tabernacle that is 70 years old and has been refinished. The interior of this tabernacle is lined with cedar reminiscent of "the House of Cedar" built to house the Ark of the Covenant. The exterior features a pelican, an ancient symbol of Eucharist, as the pelican feeds its young by piercing its flesh and feeding them his own flesh and blood just as we are fed by the Body and Blood of Christ.

11 The Marian Chapel

The Blessed Virgin Mary, "Our Lady of Heart" is the centerpiece of this devotional chapel. Jesus Christ is the Heart of the Church and "the one thing she did is the one thing that we all have to do, namely, to bear Christ into the world". The marking on the gate is the monogram of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

12 Stations of the Cross

The fourteen bronze scenes which begin on the north wall and continue to the right around the church depict the passion, death and burial of Christ. These were cast in bronze by Eligius Bronze from plaster Stations that were hanging in the old worship space. As we walk from station to station, we meditate upon the final hours of our Lord's life and ask for his mercy.