

CRYPT In the crypt or basement of the church are a series of chapels. Doors leading to stairwells to the Crypt are marked near the entrance and south of the altar. In the central part of the crypt is a long chapel containing fourteen altars dedicated to Benedictine saints who were outstanding in various fields of achievement during the long history of the Order.

At the west end of the crypt is the chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. The fresco, *Our Lady of Guadalupe and Four Apparitions*, depicts her miraculous appearances in 1531 to a poor Indian, Juan Diego. In the bays surrounding the Marian chapel are altars dedicated to patron saints of nationalities most prominently represented in the history of St. Benedict's Abbey and to saints of special interest to students, retreatants and oblates who use the chapel.

On the north side of the crypt is a chapel honoring St. Scholastica. Above the altar is a wood-carved image of the saint by Mr. Dennis McCarthy of Atchison. The four faceted-glass windows, designed by Mrs. Annette Byrne, the wife of the architect, recount the last meeting between St. Scholastica and St. Benedict. The entire decor of the chapel was the gift of Mt. St. Scholastica, Atchison.

At the east end of the crypt is the chapel dedicated to St. Joseph. Entitled *St. Joseph's Workshop*, the fresco was the artist's gift to the lay brothers for helping him with the project. The unusual Stations of the Cross were carved in Italy.

On the south side of the crypt, in the base of the tower, altars commemorate the patron saints of four great religious orders: St. Dominic, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Basil the Great, and St. Francis of Assisi. Altogether there are thirty-one altars in the crypt.



SCHEDULE FOR THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Vigils and Morning Prayer, Mon. thru Sat. — 6:20 AM

Mass, Mon. thru Sat. — 5:15 PM. Mass on Saturday — 11:30 AM

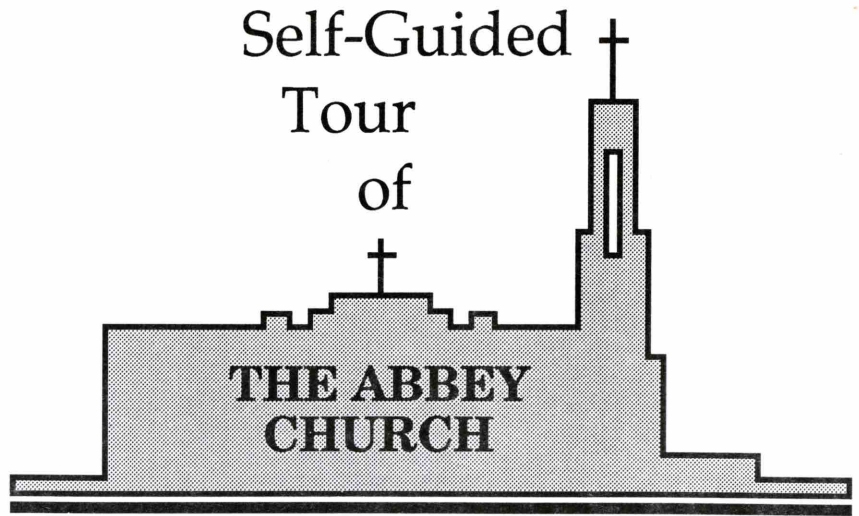
Sunday Vigils (Saturday evening) — 6:45 PM

Sunday Morning Prayer — 7 AM. Sunday Mass — 10 AM

Evening Prayer, Mon.-Fri. — 6:45 PM. Sat. — 5:30 PM. Sun. — 5 PM.

This is your complimentary copy.

A Self-Guided Tour of THE ABBEY CHURCH



Saint Benedict's Abbey Church
1020 North Second Street
Atchison, KS 66002
Phone: (913) 367-7853

CHURCH Designed by architect Barry Byrne of Chicago, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, the church was finished in 1957, one-hundred years after the arrival of the first Benedictine monk in Atchison. It replaced the first abbey church, now St. Benedict's parish church, begun in 1866.

The overall length of the church is 270 feet; the width 118 feet. The nave ceiling is 44 feet high; the choir 34 feet. The capacity of the nave is 650; of the choir, 174. The tower rises 125 feet.

The materials include Winona limestone (exterior), Indiana limestone (interior); Kasota buff fleuri and terrazzo for the floors; and acoustic aluminum pan (porcelain enamel finish) on the ceiling. The altars are made of marbles from Alabama, Vermont and Italy. The pews, choir stalls and woodwork are of white oak.

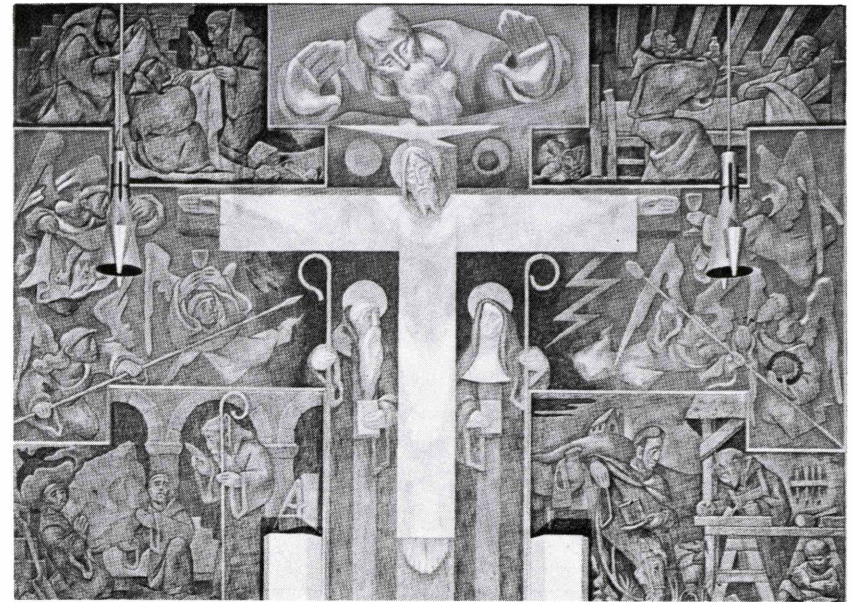
ORGAN Begun in May of 1958 and completed in March of 2002, the 44-rank Moeller organ was designed by Ernest White. It is an outstanding example of the style of organ building in vogue during the Baroque period of music, 1600-1750.

Four divisions—Great, Positiv, Swell, Pedal—are located above the sanctuary and date from 1958. In the choir are the Epistle and Gospel divisions. At the west end is the Antiphonal division featuring a “significant” Hooded Trumpet. The nearly 2600 pipes are played from the three-manual console located in the choir. The architect of the three new divisions was John Tyrrell. Keith Gottschall and Doug Funston of Mid States Pipe Organ Co. installed the new pipes.

CHOIR The 174 choir stalls face each other to facilitate the singing and recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours of the monastic community. Here the monks gather three times a day (morning, noon, and evening) for common prayer. Guests often join the monks for both Mass and the *Opus Dei* (Work of God) — as St. Benedict called the Liturgy of the Hours.

FRESCO Entitled *The Trinity and Episodes of Benedictine Life*, this 610-square foot fresco is the largest of three painted by the distinguished artist Jean Charlot in the summer of 1959. Fresco art consists in painting on newly laid, and still moist, plaster. The pigments penetrate the surface, and when the plaster dries, the painting has a life expectancy of many centuries.

The dominant part of the fresco is a square-cut cross framed in aluminum that stands out from the background in four-inch relief. Depicted on this raised surface in vivid colors are God the Father, His



Son in the mode of a bloodless crucifixion, and God the Holy Spirit seen as a dove between the Father and the Son.

The figure of Christ is not shown as suffering. “Rather there is something of his glorification evident,” said Charlot. “This is in keeping with art traditions of pre-Gothic times, when Christ was shown in glory on the cross, not in agony.”

Beneath Christ are St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica, who lived around the year 500 A.D. Benedict is credited with being the Founder of Western Monasticism. Within the horizontal arms of the cross, angels are shown with the relics and symbols of Christ's passion.

In the left upper and lower corner panels are events from the “Life of St. Benedict,” as found in the second book of *Dialogues* of Pope St. Gregory, who was a Benedictine monk before his election to the papacy. In the right upper and lower corner panels are scenes from the frontier history of the Atchison Benedictine monks.

Father Henry Lemke, the first Benedictine in Kansas and founder of St. Benedict's Abbey, is shown (upper right) caring for a young man dying of fever. In the lower panel, the two monk figures represent the first educational efforts in Atchison. The detail of the clothing of the monk-horseman is from a photo of Prior Augustine Wirth, who arrived in 1857 as the first superior.