



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
*of*  
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, celebrates Cathedral of the Sacred Heart dedication**

**PENSACOLA, FL (December 14, 2020)** — Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, dedicated the renovated Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Dec. 13, 2020, after a ten-month, \$5.7-million renovation process. Parishioners throughout the Pensacola community attended the two-hour Mass, which began with a procession outside.

During the celebration, Bishop Wack anointed the cathedral's altar and walls with sacred chrism, and he censed the altar. The ritual permanently marks the altar as a symbol of Christ and as a sacred place, which makes Christ present during Mass through the Eucharistic sacrifice. Bishop Wack also gave a blessing of the renovated church.

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart consists of new liturgical pieces around the original altar top. These pieces were fabricated by Rambusch company, which also made the original liturgical pieces. The front of the altar depicts a pelican feeding its young, an act that symbolizes Jesus giving himself in the Eucharist. The altar floor is surrounded by marble from Italy.

“God is so good! In the midst of the many challenges and difficulties that we face in our world today, our local church rededicated the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, the heartbeat of the diocese. The beautiful renovations move our hearts to praise God while celebrating who we are as a faith community. As Pensacola and the surrounding areas continue to grow, the cathedral is now able to welcome new and existing families and be both a symbol of – and the means for – faith, beauty, and the presence of God in our midst. Building on the past, we press on boldly in faith, knowing that God is always with us. This is a time of renewal, growth, and great grace for our community,” Bishop Wack said.

In the Roman Catholic Church, a cathedral is the bishop’s official seat, from which he presides over the diocese. In the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, there are two cathedrals: Sacred Heart Cathedral and the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Tallahassee.

The staff at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart invites the community to participate in an Advent Music Service, held Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. Social distancing and masks will be required.

### **About the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**

Sacred Heart, known today as the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, was first dedicated by Bishop Edward Allen of the Diocese of Mobile April 28, 1907. The church was located on the corner of Ninth Avenue and Jackson Street in Pensacola. The current structure, located in the heart of East Hill, was dedicated by Archbishop Thomas Toolen of Mobile May 18, 1967. Sacred Heart Church was named as the diocesan cathedral in 1975, when the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee was established.

*Because of the pandemic, the dedication Mass was open to a limited number of people. For those who attended, social distancing was practiced.*

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