

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Statues in St. John's Church, Folsom

Used properly, statues and other images of saints draw us to the center of our faith - Jesus with his love and mercy. The lives of the saints remind us, emphasize, enhance and illustrate aspects of the life of Christ which Christians seek to make their own. As with stained glass, paintings or mosaics, there is a wide range of choice regarding which saints will be present in a given church. Most usually, statues of Jesus (often the Sacred Heart), Mary, Joseph, Peter, Paul, patron saints and the favorites of donors are depicted. Our recent restoration of our collection offers an opportunity to call attention to our particular family of saints. This page offers a short review of them. The statues of St. John the Baptist, St. Benedict and the angels in and near the back altar are to be cleaned and restored soon.



**ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST**
(located to the left
of the Tabernacle)
Prophet, desert dweller,
precursor to the Messiah,
Baptizer, Martyr for the truth
of Marriage.

"Behold, the Lamb of God"



ST. BENEDICT
(located to the right
of the Tabernacle)
Founder of western
Monasticism through a "Rule"
of Life for the living of the
Gospel in Community.
Benedictine monks founded
and staffed St. John's many
years.

"Ora et Labora"



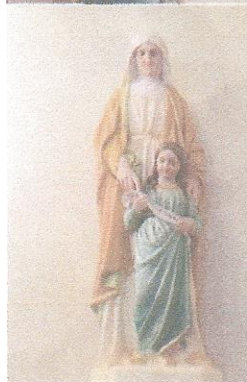
BLESSED MOTHER
(located above left side altar)
Humble servant of God,
Immaculately Conceived to
bear Jesus, the Son of God.
Mother of the Church and
Mother of Christians. Queen of
Heaven, crusher of satan.

"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"



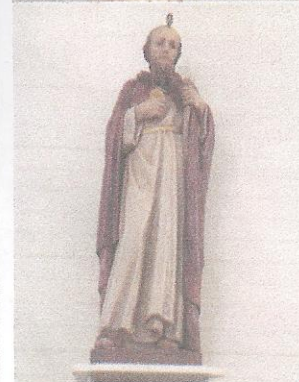
**ST. JOSEPH &
CHILD JESUS**
(located next to Mary)
Husband of Mary, Head of the
Holy Family, Faithful legal
father of Jesus, Patron of the
Universal Church and of
Workers (e.g. carpenters).
Patron for a happy death.

" (silence) "



**ST. ANN
& CHILD MARY**
(located above
right side altar)
Mother of Mary, wife of
Joachim, grandmother of
Jesus. Patron of Christian
mothers and women in labor.

Your will be done.



**ST. JUDE
THADDAEUS**
(located on back wall
near the vestry)
Apostle, brother of James the
Less, relative of Jesus, author
of an epistle, Patron of
desperate cases.

*"Mercy, peace and love be
yours in abundance".*



**INFANT JESUS
OF PRAGUE**

(located above the door
to the vestry)

16th century small (19") statue
of the child Jesus depicted in
royal robes with the globe of
the earth in left hand and right
hand raised in blessing;
miracles attributed to image.



**OUR LADY
OF FATIMA**

(located near vestry)

*"O my Jesus,
pardon us, save us from
the fires of hell.
Lead all souls to heaven,
especially those
in most need."*



**THE BAPTISM OF
JESUS BY JOHN**

(located on the top
of the baptism font)

*"I saw the Spirit descend on
him like a dove"*



ANGEL OF LIGHT

(located to the right
of the Tabernacle)

*"Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts"*

Some churches have a statue or other image of the Holy Family (Mary Queen of Peace, Mandeville, has one). Since the family is so much under attack these days, I thought it would be timely and appropriate to have Jesus, Mary and Joseph together. Some parishioners have already commented they like the idea. Additionally, St. Ann was in the back of church and easily overlooked there. Since she and St. Joachim are the grandparents of Jesus, having her opposite the Holy Family emphasizes the role of the extended family in our faith lives. Since we have so many grandparents in St. John's parish, this also seems a helpful placement to encourage us to follow their example with Our Blessed Mother.

St. Jude was in a crowded space by the stairs to the loft and now he has "more room to breathe". Our times are rather desperate. Let us call upon him not only for individual needs but for our country and world as well.

Grace and peace,

Fr. Robert