Good Friday
Veneration of
Relics From
The Passion of
Our Lord
Jesus Christ
Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood and to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

I would like to extend a special blessing and thank you to the anonymous donor for the use of these precious gifts on the Passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father James Gigliotti, T.O.R. St. Maria Goretti
The Lineage of the Relics

Since early Christian history, physical evidence suggests early Christians preserved the belongings, and in some cases the bodies, of martyrs or people they considered to have lived holy lives. These artifacts are known as “relics”.

Christian relics date back to St. Helena, mother of Constantine (first Christian Emperor of Rome), who travelled the Holy Land in 326–28 AD seeking relics that belonged to Christ and others that were part of the Judeo-Christian tradition. She is attributed to having discovered the True Cross and other Passion relics that were brought back to Constantinople. Throughout the centuries, relics were distributed among Christians for veneration and protection. It is widely believed that the veneration of relics brings about blessings, miracles and protection against evil spirits.

Relics fall into three class categories. A First Class Relic entails a portion of the body (bone, flesh, hair). The Lord did not leave any fragments of His flesh behind, and given the resurrection, the True Cross is considered to be a First Class Relic. The Lord’s vestments (purple robe, swaddling clothes, and tunic) are Second Class Relics. Second Class Relics are typically clothing or items from the saint or Christ has touched. Third Class Relics are items (clothing, medals etc.) that have touched a First or Second Class Relic.

Many of the relics displayed will be in a “theca” or cases typically made of silver or gold in order to preserve it. The relic’s authenticity is noted by having three items in place. First, the relic must have a wax seal (typically on the back of the reliquary). The seal will have a unique design which belonged to a bishop or cardinal. Second, the reliquary must have unbroken threads which seal the back. Third, the relic is often accompanied by a document that contains a watermark seal matching the wax seal. All relics in this exhibit meet these qualifications.

Relics are the treasures of the Church. We are blessed to be in their presence that belonged to the Passion of Our Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the apostles. Although some of the relics are very small, remember that they have survived at least 2,000 years of natural disasters, wars, famine and the persecution of the Christians. Enjoy your reflective and prayerful tour of the relics of Our Lord Jesus Christ and remember that you are in the presence of the treasures of the Church!
This is an 18th Century silver reliquary containing a rare hay relic from the Holy Crib of the Child Jesus Christ. It was obtained from the Flemish monastery in Bruges, Belgium.
This Baroque silver reliquary contains a relic of the cloth in which the Blessed Virgin Mary wrapped the infant Lord Jesus Christ.
This relic of the Blessed Virgin’s hair was initially kept by the Patriarchs of Jerusalem down to Patriarch Juvenal. Empress of Pulcheria ordered the Virgin’s Veil and Hair to be turned over to the city Constantinople. The Veil found its way to Charles Cathedral of France while the Hair was deposited at the great reliquary of Messina Cathedral.
This is a relic from the Holy house of Loreto. The history dates back to the crusades. Loreto has been a popular pilgrimage site since the 13th century when the Holy house was transferred from Palestine to Loreto. According to the local legend, before the final expulsion of Christian crusaders from the Holy Land and destruction of the church by the Turks, four angels carried the home to Loreto.
Contained in a copper front reliquary holding a silver theca, is a rare relic of Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin’s colorful vestment. At the time, it was customary for women to wear veil. This is a substantially large relic of the Blessed Virgin’s vestment.
This jeweled reliquary with a gilded silver theca, contains a very rare and substantial relic of the tablecloth of the Last Supper. It was obtained from the treasure of the Cathedral of Vienne, France. The tablecloth itself was saved from the French Revolution in 1789.
This round wooden reliquary contains a very rare *Ex Arundine* (reed) relic that was used to strike our Lord Jesus Christ during the Passion. It was obtained from a collection originating from a French Bishop.
This round wooden reliquary contains a very rare Ex Fascia (binding) relic used to bind Our Lord Jesus Christ while standing before Pontius Pilate. It was obtained from a collection that belonged to a French Bishop.
This gilded reliquary contains the relic of the Crown of Thorns that was placed on the head of Our Lord Jesus Christ following the scourging at the pillar.
This is a relic from the seamless Tunic of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the relic, DNJC stands for Domini Nostri Jesu Christi – “Our Lord Jesus Christ”. It was obtained from a Belgian monastery.
This beautifully gilded silver and gold reliquary contains a substantial and very rare relic of our Lord Jesus Christ’s Purple Robe worn during the Passion. The robe was placed on Jesus by the soldiers after his scourging at the pillar and placement of the crown of thorns.
This is a 19\textsuperscript{th} century relic of the Holy Nail of our Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Nail relics, including this one, were given out in a limited number by the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome. It contains particles of one of the True Nails. This was allowed to ensure worldwide distribution and veneration. Contained in the wooden base, is a silver theca with a substantial relic of the True Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
This is a part of the Blessed Virgin Mary travelling shrine, a silver reliquary that contains a rare and precious relic of the True Cross.
TRUE CROSS

This is an Altar Cross reliquary holding a substantial relic of the True Cross. Authentication is provided by the Archbishop of Paris, Monsignore de Quelen.
This is a gilded reliquary locket (2”) holding a silver theca with a precious relic of the True Cross from a monastery in Germany.
This is an antique pectoral cross reliquary with a rare and precious relic of the True Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Previously, the pectoral crosses contained relics of the True Cross and were issued to Bishops throughout the world. This relic was obtained from a Flemish monastery.
This relic of the True Cross was originally worn by a Roman Bishop who passed away recently. Pectoral Crosses were issued by the Vatican to Bishops worldwide that contained a relic of the True Cross.
A 19th century rare staurotheca reliquary of ebony and sterling silver with a central theca holding a substantial relic of the True Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The relic first originates from a family of a French Bishop.
This gilded cross reliquary contains a substantial relic of the True Cross. This relic was obtained following the closing of European monasteries.
This is a substantial relic of the True Cross encased behind glass in the base of an Altar Cross. It was obtained from a closed Franciscan monastery in the Alpine region. It is sealed by two separate Bishops and confirmed with an Archbishop’s seal.
This small relic of the Shroud of Turin was acquired in its time following the fire that had damage the Shroud. A very limited distribution of Shroud relics were given to the Bishops of the Church by the Vatican.
This brass gilded reliquary contains the relics of the True Cross, Holy Sponge, Holy Nail, Crown of Thorns, Holy Sepulcre, Crypt of Agonie and the Column of Flagellation. It is authenticated by the seal of the Belgian Cardinal and Archbishop of Liege.
This silver medallion theca contains relics of the True Cross, Scourging Whip, Holy Nail, Ladder, Tomb, Crown of Thorns and Holy Sponge.
This sterling silver reliquary contains many relics: the True Cross, place of Incarnation, Bandages of the Child Jesus, Straw and Stone from the Place of Birth, Tablecloth of the Wedding at Cana, Crown of Thorns, Table of the Last Supper, Cave of Agony, Column of Flagellation, the Seamless Robe, Sepulcre, Via Dolorosa and a Stone from the place of Circumcision.
This brass pectoral cross reliquary contains the relics of the: True Cross, Holy Crib, Table of Last Supper, Holy Sepulcre, Sepulcre of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, St. Anne (mother of Mary, St. Joachim (father of Mary), all Apostles, St. Marc & St. Luke (evangelists). The reliquary came from the monastery of Champigny, France.
This silver Fleur-de-Lys reliquary contains the linen corporal stained with the Holy Blood of the consecrated bleeding Host from Bois-Seigneur-Isaac Abbey, Belgium. On May 3, 1413, the Bishop of Cambrai authorized devotion of the Holy Relic. The link cited here will provide full story coverage.

This bronze altar reliquary contains the relic of St. Peter the Apostle. The title marked on the reliquary, “Ossa humiliate exuitabunt” means, The humbled bones will exult before the Lord. St. Peter the Apostle was the first Pope and was crucified upside down on the site now known as Vatican City.
Within this gilded cross are the relics of the True Cross and St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Simon, St. Andrew, St. James the Lesser, St. James the Greater, St. Thaddaeus, St. Bartholomew, St. Philip, St. Barnabas, St. Thomas and St. Matthias.
This reliquary contains the relics of the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary, vestment of St. John of the Cross, bones of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Donatus, St. Blasius, St. Restituta, St. Francis Xavier and St. James.
In his early years, Francis experienced a misspent youth. While living as a soldier, he was captured and became a prisoner of war. It was there that he had a conversion experience and upon his release he followed a message he received from Christ, “Leave the worldly life”. He took the Gospels as his rule of life, renounced his family wealth and took up life with the poor. He visited hospitals, served the sick, lived with animals and preached in the streets. In 1209 his followers grew in numbers and with Papal blessing, founded the Franciscan Order. St. Francis received the stigmata that occasionally bled the last two years of his life.
When Maria was declared a saint in 1950, Alexander her attacker, was there in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1950 for her purity as model for youth. She is called a martyr because she fought against Alexander's attempts at sexual assault. However, the most important aspect of her story is her forgiveness of her attacker -- her concern for her enemy extending even beyond death. Her feast day is July 6. St. Maria Goretti is the patroness of youth and for the victims of rape.
PRAYER BEFORE
A CRUCIFIX

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus, while before Thy face I humbly kneel, and with burning soul pray and beseech Thee to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment: while I contemplate with great love and tender pity Thy five wounds, pondering over them within me, having in mind the words which David Thy prophet said of Thee, my Jesus: “They pierced my hands and my feet; they numbered all my bones.”

-Ps. Xxi, 17, 8

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, etc., for the intention of the Holy Father.
The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal order of Catholic men who strive to live their lives on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Order was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut. The organization is world-wide with over a million members.

The Knights from Saint Maria Goretti wish to thank everyone for coming to view these treasures of the Church. We also want to thank our Brother Knight from the District who allowed us to share his reliquaries with our fellow Catholics and visitors.

It has been our pleasure to sponsor this event for you and we hope you will take a deeper love of Christ with you when you leave and prepare to celebrate His Resurrection and our redemption.

May God Bless you and keep you and your family safe this Easter season and the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ go with you always.

Yours in Christ,
The Knights of Columbus from Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Council 14549.