

## OUTSIDE OF CHURCH

### 1. FAÇADE

- Front of church displays sculptor Marton Varo's 30-foot-tall sculpture of the Annunciation, depicting the Archangel Gabriel greeting the Virgin Mary with the words "Ave Maria" (Hail Mary). Carved in marble from Cave Michelangelo in Carrara, Italy.



- Travertine stone from 4 different quarries in New Mexico
- Cornerstone laid in March 2006
- The 12 apostles are 18 inches tall, made in Italy. They are fashioned from gilded-bronze colored gold.

- Entering the church to the right is a statue of

the Infant of Prague. Discovered by a Spanish monk who received a vision from the Christ Child. Infant was brought to Prague in 1628. After many battles, it was found in the ruins of a church. The Infant is the Patron Saint of vocations, family life and travelers.

- Entering the church to the left is a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe who is the Patroness of the Americas. The image of Our Lady appeared on the cloak of Juan Diego (Tepeyac, Mexico City - Dec. 12, 1531). In our image she appears pregnant.

## INSIDE OF CHURCH

### 2. BAPTISMAL FONT

- Weighs 3500 pounds and was carved from a single block of white marble.
- Next to the font is the Paschal candle. Each year at the Easter Vigil



a new Paschal candle is lit. Following the Easter season, this candle is positioned near the baptismal font, and it is lit each time the sacrament of Baptism is celebrated.

### 3. FLOOR DESIGN

- The floor is made using Brazilian "ardósia" slate, with special memorial bricks bringing color to floor design.

### 4. PEW ENDS

- Each is crafted with 54 individual pieces of wood
- Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright design

### 5. LIGHT FIXTURES

- 11 feet tall, weigh 800 pounds and took over 500 hours to assemble

### 6. CRUCIFIX

- Designed by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz, the crucifix, suspended from the rear wall of the sanctuary, is a constant reminder of the sacrifice of Christ.

- It weighs 4200 pounds and measures more than 23 feet in height.
- The bronze Corpus

was cast in Bangkok, Thailand. Upon installation in 2009, the Corpus, which had been detached from the red-oak cross, cleared the doors of the church by a mere 1/16 inches. Workers reattached the Corpus to the cross while it was lying on the altar, as Christ lies on the altar in the Eucharist during the sacrifice of the Mass.

- The two shadows on either side of the crucifix appeared as it was hung. This image may call to mind the two criminals crucified with Christ (Luke 23:33) or the three persons of the Blessed Trinity;



## INSIDE OF CHURCH

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### 7. SANCTUARY

- Beneath the suspended crucifix stands the altar, on which Holy Mass is offered daily.

- Both Mary and Joseph statues were privately donated
- 12 Apostles made of "Linden Wood." Weight range: 218 - 289 pounds and average approximate height of 6 feet

- In the center of the altar stands a golden crucifix surrounded by six candles. Seven candles are used when the Ordinary Bishop celebrates Mass at this altar.



### 8. THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- Depict Our Lord's journey to Calvary

- Salvaged from a catholic church in Detroit the day before the church was scheduled for demolition. Although the current wooden frames had been built before this discovery, they perfectly accommodated the stations. The stations date from the 1920s.

- Catholics traditionally pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, the day of Our Lord's death, during Lent.



### 9. CONFESSIONALS

- Each has one room for the priest (center) and two for the people (either side).
- The Church encourages us to make frequent use of the Sacrament of Confession, which has been called a second baptism.

- Confessions are heard several times each week.

### 10. CHOIR LOFT AND ORGAN

- 80 person capacity
- Holds an electronic organ which has been given high scores for its performance
- The black boxes against the wall are large speakers for the organ.
- The circular window and a future organ screen offer memorial opportunities.

### 11. TABERNACLE

- The ornate bronze tabernacle is prominently located behind the altar and designed to encourage adoration of Our Lord.

- Made in Spain, one of the largest in the country
- Large blue areas are simple enamel

- The large white characters outlined on the blue enamel doors are Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which from ancient times

have indicated that Christ is "the one who is and who was and who is to come" (Rev 1:8).

- The design, with its buttresses and circular window, replicates that of the church of Ave Maria.

- The tabernacle is flanked by gold angels bowing in adoration to Our Lord.

- The red sanctuary lamp to the left is lit when Jesus is present in the tabernacle.

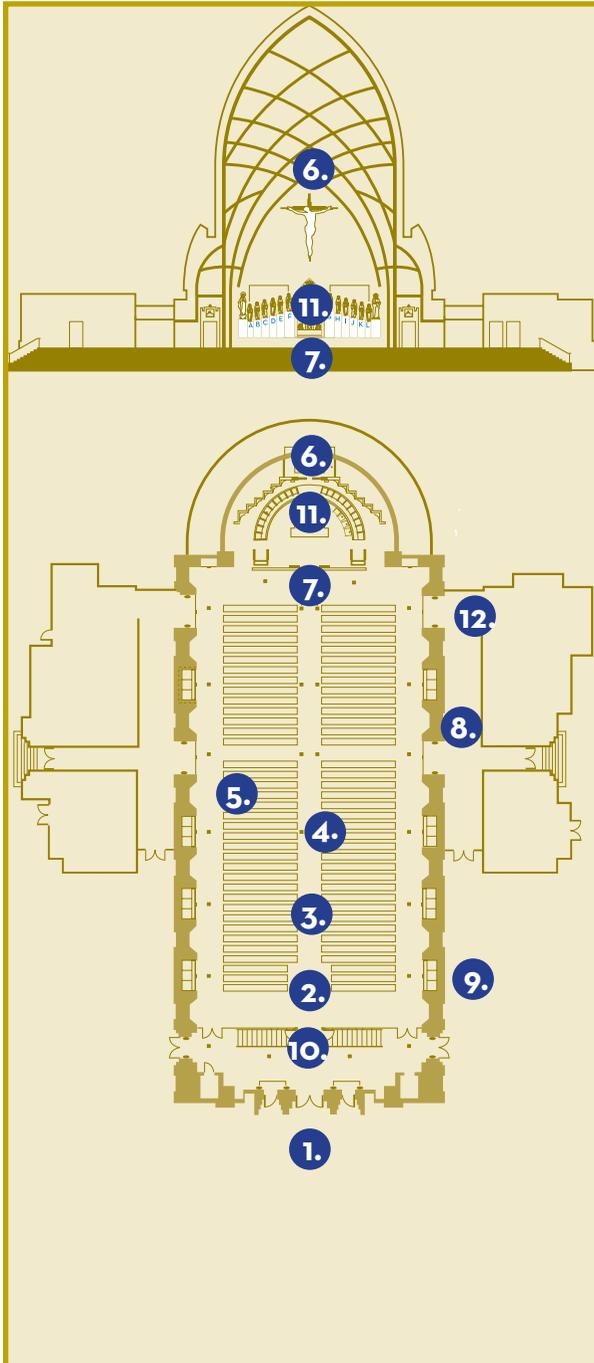


### 12. MEMORIAL FACING STONES

- Along the walls throughout the Church are named memorial facing stones.
- More facing stones are available to reserve in honor of a loved one, saint or special event.

## TOUR INSTRUCTIONS

Open the brochure to find highlighted locations and informational facts about each one



## WELCOME TO AVE MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ave Maria was established in 2007. From its beginnings, the church building in the center of town became an iconic landmark as the population of the town began to grow, including many families, retired people, university personnel and students.

In March of 2008, His Excellency Frank Dewane, Bishop of the Venice Diocese, dedicated the parish church of Ave Maria on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. On January 19, 2017 Bishop Frank J. Dewane raised the Quasi Parish and Oratory to full Church and Parish status.

At that time, His Excellency Frank Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, celebrated Mass in the church for the first time. In 2017, the church building was purchased from Ave Maria University by Ave Maria Parish. This beautiful structure now serves as Ave Maria Catholic Church in the Diocese of Venice.

The faithful of Ave Maria, as well as visitors and pilgrims from near and far have experienced within these walls grace, healing, reconciliation and spiritual nourishment.

### OTHER FACTS

The design of the church evokes Gothic style and contemporary features.

#### Dimensions

- 27,000 square feet
- 206 feet in length
- 118 feet high
- 1,100 capacity

#### Design

- Frank Lloyd Wright inspired
- Steel design concept came from two chapels designed by E. Faye Jones, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright

## GUIDED TOURS

### For information on tours

Call: (239) 261-5555

Or email: [Tours@AveMariaParish.org](mailto:Tours@AveMariaParish.org)

## PURCHASE A TREASURE FROM YOUR VISIT



Pavers, Facing Stones, and a Custom Rosary are available for purchase at Ave Maria Catholic Church.

**Pavers start at \$350**

**Facing Stones start at \$3,000**



**Rosary - \$85**

**For information about item for purchase:**

Call: (239) 261-5555 ext. 4

Or email: [Memorials@AveMariaParish.org](mailto:Memorials@AveMariaParish.org)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**For general information about Ave Maria Parish:**

Call: (239) 261-5555

Or email: [office@avemariaparish.org](mailto:office@avemariaparish.org)



**Ave Maria Catholic Church**  
5088 Annunciation Circle  
Ave Maria, FL 34142

# A self guided tour of Ave Maria Catholic Church

