

## The Church Militant

*Includes all those on earth  
in whom the Spirit is at work.*

4. Reflect on the painting of  
*The Descent of the Holy Spirit*  
located on the left sanctuary wall.

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God,  
who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit,  
we may be truly wise  
and ever enjoy His consolations.  
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### **The Church Militant**

This painting is of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady and the Apostles on the first Pentecost. This is the birth of the Church of living people on Earth. The Holy Spirit inspiring and strengthening the members of the Church on Earth was not just a one-time occurrence. It continues throughout history, in every generation of the Church, until the Last Day.  
From: *The Historical Sermons* by Rev. Edward Petty

## The Church Suffering

### *The Holy Souls in Purgatory*

5. Reflect on the painting on the sanctuary wall  
to your right, *The Church Suffering*, which  
depicts the souls in purgatory, who are  
received into heaven.

### Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Good and gentle Jesus,  
Whose loving Heart was ever troubled  
by the sorrows of others,  
look with pity upon the holy souls in Purgatory.  
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
Amen



Note that this painting of the Church Suffering is not just a picture of Purgatory, but of souls being released from Purgatory into the fullness of heaven. In the painting are St. Michael, St. Joseph, Our Lady and the Blessed Trinity receiving the souls. The benefits of the sacrifice of the Mass are also applied to the Church Suffering in Purgatory.

From: *The Historical Sermons* by Rev. Edward Petty



## *Saint Francis Xavier Basilica*

## **The Communion of Saints**

2021



### **Triumphant New Testament Saints**

In the West, the communion of saints commonly means a communion of “holy ones,” both the living and the dead. This includes those on earth, those still journeying to God in the purification process Catholics call purgatory, and those who now abide in God. The old terminology for these three states is “**the church militant**” on earth, **the church suffering** in purgatory, and the **church triumphant** in heaven. Together we all make up the church, the body of Christ. The best thing about the communion of saints is that it connects us all – because we are all one body.

**When we celebrate the Eucharist, we pray with all those who have gone before us.**

When the Mass is celebrated on earth, at the words of consecration. “This is my Body; This is the cup of my Blood;” when the bread and wine become the Glorified Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, time opens up and the eternal Sacrifice of Christ in heaven is made present to us on the altar.

Excerpted from: *What is the Communion of Saints*,  
by Catherine O’Connell-Cahill, December 26, 2014,  
issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 79, No.12, page 46).  
And, from: *The Historical Sermons* by Rev. Edward Petty

## The Triumphant Church

### *Intercessions to New Testament Saints*

#### **3. Now reflect on the New Testament Saints to the left of the Mystical Lamb of God.**

**Holy Mary**, help those in need, give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful, pray for God's people, assist the clergy, intercede for religious.

**Saint George** (with spear), valiant champion of the Faith, assist us in the combat against evil.

**Saint Lawrence** (with gridiron), martyr and deacon, help us to seek out the poor and to be generous in meeting their needs.

**Saint Stephen** (with stones), first deacon and first martyr of the Church, help us to bear witness to Jesus in both our words and in our actions.

**Saint Joseph** (with lily), beloved father, help all fathers to offer unconditional love to their children.

**Saint Rose of Lima** (with crown of roses), help us to make time for solitude to contemplate God's love.

**Saint Peter** (with keys), holy apostle, give us the courage to ask for forgiveness, when we have offended others.

**Saint Paul** (with sword), you taught others about the saving message of Jesus, help us to share the "good news" of the Gospel.

**Saint Henry** (the King), humble and just Holy Roman Emperor, help us to devote our lives to service.

**Saint Boniface**, apostle of Germany, teacher and evangelist, give us the courage to evangelize among our family and friends. Open their hearts to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

**Saint Francis of Assisi**, beloved saint and lover of all creation, where there is hatred help us sow love, injury sow pardon, doubt sow faith.

**Saint Francis Xavier**, great missionary to Asia, and patron of this basilica. Help us to have the same zeal for our faith that fueled your missionary work.

**Saint Catherine of Siena**, mystic and Doctor of the Church, help us to be generous to the poor and to work for peace and unity.

**Saint Cecilia** (playing the organ), martyr and patron saint of singers and musicians, help us to always sing God's praises

The second figure, without a halo, is Fr. Heer, pastor of the parish in 1904, when the painting was done.

## The Triumphant Church

#### **1. Begin in front of the main altar. Look up to the painting that covers the apse. Reflect on the Mystical Lamb of God, celebrating the heavenly liturgy of Revelation 5.**

### The Divine Praises

**Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name.**

**Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.**

**Blessed be the Name of Jesus.**

**Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.**

**Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.**

**Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.**

**Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.**



**Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary Most Holy.**

**Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.**

**Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.**

**Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.**

**Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.**

**Blessed be God, in His Angels and in His Saints.**

*The Church Triumphant* painting in the apse of the Basilica is the culmination of all the art in the church. All paintings were done on canvas wallpaper, in 1904, by Alphonse and Lottie Brielmaier.

## The Triumphant Church

### *Old Testament Saints*

#### **2. Continue by reflecting on the Old Testament Saints to the right of the Mystical Lamb of God.**



### Old Testament Saints

John the Baptist

Noah holding the ark

David with his harp

Melchizedek with bread and wine

Moses with the Ten Commandments

The Three Magi with their gifts

In this second grouping is Msgr. M.M. Hoffman. He was pastor, when St. Francis Xavier Church was named a basilica in 1956.

### Prayer to Saint John the Baptist

**O God, you raised up St. John the Baptist to prepare a perfect people for Christ.**

**Fill Your people with the joy of possessing His grace, and direct the minds of all faithful in the way of peace and salvation.**

**Grant that St. John was martyred for truth and justice, so we may energetically profess our Faith in You, and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life.**

**Amen.**