

MAGNIFICAT CHAPEL
AND SYMBOLS





The Chapel is a beautiful integration of the old and the new. The original blue and gold windows inscribed with the first line of the Magnificat in Latin – *Magnificat Anima Mea Dominum* (My Soul Magnifies the Lord) – hang in front of the all-glass west wall. They are thus able to be lit with natural lighting in daylight or with spotlights at other times.



The original deep brown wood carved statues of Mary and Joseph are featured in a prayer area in the southwest corner. Mary's relationship to the Trinitarian God is symbolized in the three intertwined circles over her heart. Joseph holds Jesus in a role of shared parenting.

An undulating ribbon design links the three new windows on the south wall. The smooth textures of the ribbons are contrasted with a faceted texture achieved through a glue-chipped technique. The windows interconnect the cosmic and historical past with the portrayal of the unfolding of the universe and the creation of the earth on the left window. The right window echoes the heritage of the founding and sponsoring community of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, who were founded in France in 1854 and founded Magnificat in 1955 in the Marian symbol of the fleur-de-lis, the lily. The lily is also a symbol of the resurrection and new life, the fruits and beauty of the earth and our commitment to the whole earth community. The open hands seen in the center window feature openness to receive the grace and gifts of God, as well as a gesture of giving to others in service.



The present altar was refashioned from the original altar and beautifully refinished. A credenza for the Offertory gifts was created to match.

The bowl for the holy water font was carved from Sandusky limestone. The continually flowing fountain represents living water. The sound of the moving water reminds us of the waters of the environment including Lake Erie and the Rocky River as well as the

natural sounds of rain, emphasizing the sacredness of all of creation. Around the edge of the bowl is carved the opening line of the Alma Mater:



“Mary, all beautiful, O keep us in your heart.” The bowl is supported by the brass column and aluminum streams of water that supported the original altar.

These undulating streams are echoed in the rhythmic forms of glass in the Chapel doors which open upon the fountain. The closed doors form two Ms for Mary and Magnificat and blue gem droplets of water. In a direct line from the fountain is the tabernacle, the repository for the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, Jesus, the Christ, who has promised to give us living water which will satisfy our deepest thirst.



The all-glass west wall links the indoors with the outside and serves to welcome all entering the building as well as to remind them of the Chapel, the heart of the school. It also calls those praying in the Chapel to remember the needs of the members of the Body of Christ throughout the whole world just as blessings continue to go out from the Chapel to the whole school, the whole world, and even to the ends of the cosmos.