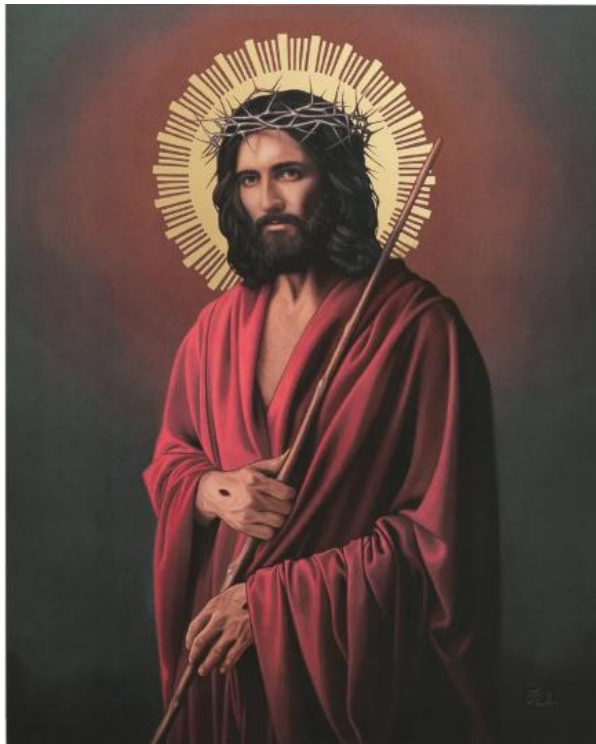




South Entrance Main Church

CHRIST THE KING

Be consoled in the gaze of Jesus with this stunning commissioned sacred art that beautifully captures the love of Christ for his Church through the sacrifice of his Passion.

In his Passion, Jesus displayed the true nature of his kingship: humble, self-sacrificial, and rooted in divine love. He laid down his life for each one of us, suffering a painful death so that we might have eternal life in him. His death on the Cross is the ultimate testament to his love for his bride, the Church.

Noteworthy symbolism in the painting:

- Printed in **gold foil**, the halo resembles a golden monstrance, to reflect the divine beauty of Jesus's Real Presence in the Eucharist
- Jesus is holding the reed that the soldiers presented him with during his Passion after they had crowned him with thorns.
- Jesus is thought to have had a deep olive complexion and dark brown eyes and hair. His depiction in this painting is meant to strike a balance between familiarity and historical accuracy.
- Besides adding depth and texture to the image, Jesus' scarlet robe reveals his vulnerability. Red symbolizes his Passion and is the liturgical color of Good Friday and the feast of Corpus Christi.
- Inspiring Catholic art is not reserved for use in churches and cathedrals—it is available for homes and offices as well. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "Sacred art draws man to adoration, to prayer, and to the love of God" (CCC 2502).



Thea Bowman Hall

St Josephine Bakhita

Be inspired by the life and holiness of St. Josephine Bakhita! **Catholic artist Tianna Williams and Fr. Josh Johnson** have partnered with Ascension to create this beautiful piece of sacred art.

Rich with symbolism, this image depicts St. Josephine Bakhita in her religious habit, with historical accuracy down to the smallest detail of her medal of Our Lady of Sorrows (matching the one she wore while she was alive).

Each aspect of the image, from her halo to the sunflowers around her to the chain in her hands, speaks to an important aspect of her saintly life. For St. Josephine Bakhita, holding chains in her hands represents both the freedom from slavery that she found later in her life, and the freedom she found in Christ.

St. Josephine Bakhita, who endured many hardships in her lifetime, reminds Catholics that freedom in Christ and joy in all things is possible.

Saint Josephine Bakhita's life emphasizes profound faith, forgiveness, and finding joy in God's love despite immense suffering as a former slave, she said: **"I am definitively loved, and whatever happens to me—I am awaited by this Love. And so, my life is good"** and her willingness to forgive her captors: **"If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today"**. She also encouraged prayer, compassion, and finding peace in God's will.

[St. Josephine Bakhita](#) had a profound, motherly devotion to the Virgin Mary, seeing her as a protector even before knowing her, and calling out to "Our Lady" in her final moments, viewing Mary as a source of comfort, safety, and a direct link to God, especially as she trusted in Divine Providence. Her relationship was characterized by deep trust, seeing Mary as a loving Mother who guided her from the horrors of slavery to faith, often praying the Rosary and finding solace in Mary's presence amidst suffering.

St. Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.



North Holy Family Foyer

St. Martin de Porres

Be inspired by the life and holiness of St. Martin de Porres, a saint who overcame the adversity of his humble beginnings to serve the Lord. **He reminds Catholics that all are called to serve God's creation with love and kindness.**

Rich with symbolism, this portrait depicts St. Martin de Porres in his Dominican habit, portraying with historical accuracy his role of service within the Dominican Convent of the Rosary in Lima, Peru.

Saint Martin de Porres founded a home for orphaned and abandoned children, where he worked tirelessly to improve the [lives](#) of the poor and marginalized. His legacy continues to inspire people to work towards improving social justice and to care for the sick and poor. He was eventually canonized by Pope John XXIII as the first Black saint of the Americas.

Each aspect of this image, from St. Martin de Porres' halo to the basket of bread he holds, speaks to an important aspect of his saintly life. For St. Martin, a basket of bread symbolizes his daily mission to provide for the basic needs of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

- “Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.” – St Martin de Porres



Thea Bowman Hall

St. Charles Lwanga

Rich with symbolism, this image depicts St. Charles Lwanga with resolute dedication to Christ, with historical accuracy and cultural significance down to the smallest detail of his African-inspired halo.

Each aspect of this image, from the fire in his heart to the wood in his hands, speaks to an important aspect of his holy life. For St. Charles Lwanga, carrying wood to his own martyrdom was a way to be like Christ and follow in his footsteps.

St. Charles Lwanga, who fought for the innocent and chose martyrdom rather than abandon his faith in Jesus, **reminds Catholics that they are called to faithfulness** even in the face of persecution and death.

Saint Charles Lwanga's famous quote captures his steadfast faith during martyrdom: **"You're burning me, but it's like water you're pouring to wash me. Please repent and become a Christian like me,"** said as he faced death by fire, highlighting his willingness to suffer and his desire for his executioner to find faith.



Thea Bowman Hall.

St. Augustine of Hippo

Find inspiration in the life and holiness of St. Augustine, a saint and Doctor of the Church whose theological writings have had a timeless impact on Catholics through the ages. This newly commissioned sacred art beautifully captures St. Augustine's life and teachings.

Rich in detail, this captivating artwork **portrays the symbolism of St. Augustine's spiritual journey.** Depicted in a way that blends both his Italian and North African heritage, St. Augustine stands under a dark sky as the sun breaks through the clouds, symbolizing how **God's light cut through the clouds of his restless and wayward life, illuminating his path to truth and redemption.**

In St. Augustine's hands, you will see a flaming heart, a poignant symbol of his profound love for God, as well as sheets of papyrus, calling to mind **his extensive writings that continue to guide believers to this day.**

“Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.”

— **Augustine of Hippo, [Confessions](#)**