

Name _____

Catechist _____ Date of Visit _____

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury, CT

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception has a long rich history dating back to 1925 when its construction began. It was modeled after the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, one of the four major Catholic basilicas and hence its title as Basilica Minor by the Vatican in 2008.

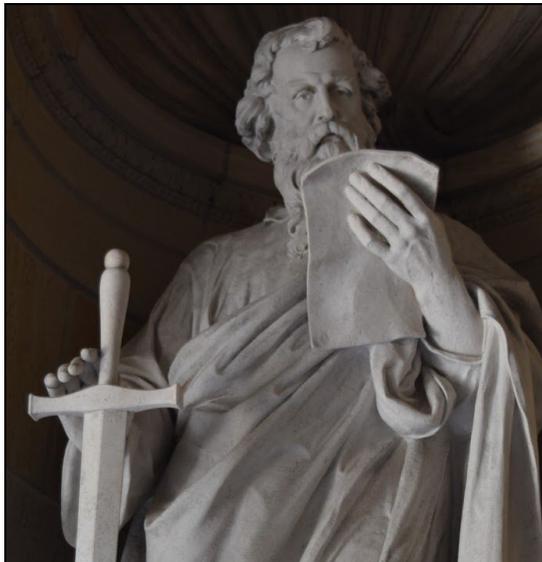
Use this “scavenger hunt” exercise to take a walking tour of the Basilica.



Mosaic is the art of creating images with small pieces of colored stone, glass, and other materials. A temple in Mesopotamia is believed to have the earliest examples of mosaic (dating 2000 to 3000 BC) while the mausoleum for Emperor Constantine’s daughter is believed to have the earliest mosaic depicting scenes of the Old and New Testament in a Christian wall.

Where can you find this example of mosaic at the Basilica?

How many mosaics of this cross are at this location?



Where in the Basilica can you find this statue?

Who is it?

BONUS: What do you think the “piece of paper” represents? (Hint: Think about the New Testament.)



Where can you find this decoration in the Basilica?



Pastor in Latin means "shepherd," so it is appropriate that when a bishop appoints a pastor to a parish, he is really designating someone to shepherd and lead the congregation towards the Good News of Jesus. The Basilica and the early Churches it replaced has had 16 pastors over the years. Find this "sign" to answer the following questions.

How many pastors share the same first names as the 12 apostles? _____

What are these names? _____

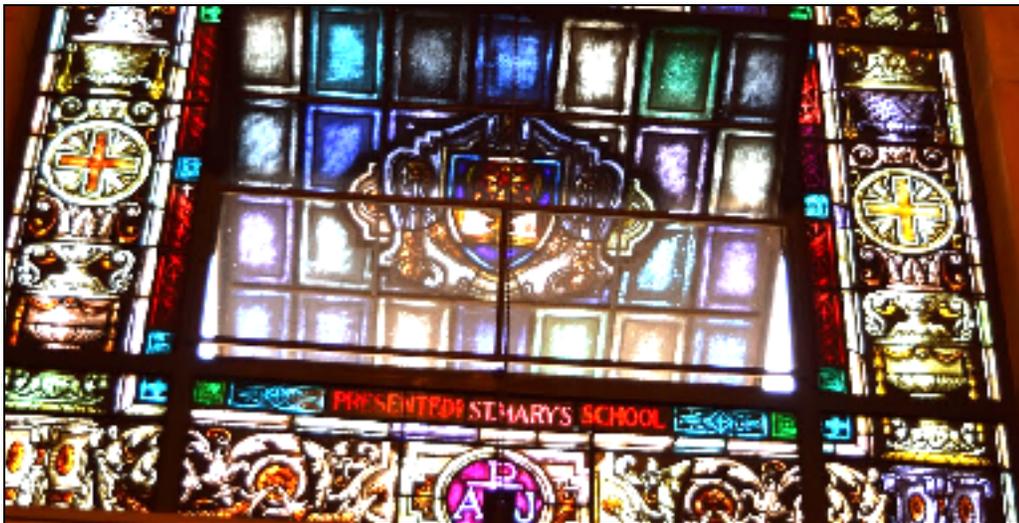
Unlike "pastor," "monsignor" is not a position within the church but rather a title bestowed on a priest by the Pope at the recommendation of the bishop to honor his exceptional service to the Church. Which pastors were also monsignors?



Who is the woman here?

Who is the little girl?

Who is to the immediate right of this statue and what is he/she holding?



Although today admired for their beauty, stained glass windows were originally designed and installed in Churches to educate people since most could not read.

Find this window and compare it with all the other stained glass windows. What is

unique about this one? (Hint: the answer is within this photograph.)

How many people are depicted in the scene? _____

Who do you think they are? _____



“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End!” These words appear eight verses from the end of the Book of Revelation (22:13) and represent God’ eternity.

Where in the Basilica can you find these symbols of God’s eternity?

What is on either side of both of the symbols?



What is this image?

How many are there in the Basilica?

There are four similar ones but red in color. Where are these red ones?



The writers of the Gospels are often depicted in symbols of Man (Matthew), Lion (Mark), Ox or Bull (Luke), and Eagle (John). It is thought that these symbols represent the highest form of animals. Man = image of the king of creation; Matthew's Gospel begins Jesus' genealogy, showing his human nature.



Lion = king of the beasts of prey and a figure of courage, representing Jesus' resurrection. Ox or Bull = king of the domesticated animals and a figure of sacrifice, representing Jesus' passion and suffering. Luke's Gospel begins with Zechariah's duties in the temple, which included the sacrifices of animals; Eagle = king of the birds and a figure of the sky, representing Jesus' Ascension and divine nature.

Where in the Basilica are these images found?

What function does their location have?

Visit the Stations of the Cross and answer these questions:

What color is Jesus' garments in the Stations? _____

Which stations are by the confessionals? _____

How many children are present in Station 8? _____

What is your favorite part of the Basilica? _____

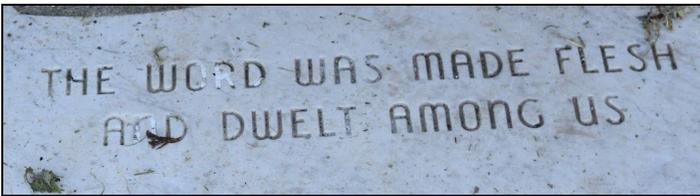
Take a selfie in front of it and post to Confirmation PLACE at St. Margaret on Facebook and/or Instagram: PLACEConfirmation. Alternatively, email to confirmation@stmargarechurch.com.

OPTIONAL IF TIME PERMITS AND YOU WANT MORE CHALLENGES: Visit the Holy Land in Waterbury, which is about 1.5 miles (6 minutes) from the Basilica.

The Holy Land opened in 1958 and was developed on top of Pine Hill in Waterbury by a local attorney. The various depictions of Biblical scenes provided a peaceful place for the community to come together in reflection and worship. The highlight of this park is the large cross that illuminates the dark sky above the city.



What places are on the arches on either side of the Holy Land arch?



Where do you find this stone tablet?



Where are these structures located?

What do you think they represent?



How will men know that you are my disciples?



Where is this sign located?

Once you climb up the hill to the cross, answer these questions:

How many light panels are on the cross on one side? _____

What sporting goods store do you see from the top of the hill? _____
(Interesting note: Sports and athletes are mentioned in the Bible! See 2 Timothy 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-26.)

Take a selfie of you and your family at your favorite spot in the Holy Land and post to Confirmation PLACE at St. Margaret on Facebook and/or Instagram: PLACEConfirmation. Alternatively, email to confirmation@stmargarechurch.com.