Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

by Meagan Denton

For field trip three I went to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The building is located at 800 south Cathedral Place Richmond, Virginia 23220. This was a Catholic Mass that I had attended. I went to mass on November 29, 2015 at 9:00am on Sunday. The person who did mass was Janet Brown.

The outside of the building is a cream color with a sea foam greenish room. The outside is very uniquely decorated with different shapes. Most of the decoration is located at the top of the building. There are three tower looking parts of the top of the building. Each one has a cross located at the very top of each tower. There is also this bridge like thing that connects to of the towers and they have these ball objects all along it. When you face the front of the building it has six large columns that end at the top of the stairs. It has a very small staircase at the front of the building. Behind the columns there are three small hanging lights and it has a double door entrances between the columns. Behind the lights are a pattern of circles and rectangles designs. At the top of the columns is a triangle shaped roof with the words “If Ye Love Me Keep My Commandments.” The building also has windows that are designed decoratively throughout the building. The building also has small crosses located at different spots of the top of the roof. On one side of the building is a circle shaped window with stained glass. It has several circles with two bigger circles in the middle that are cut into four sections by a plus shaped design.

The inside of the building is beautifully decorated with columns, stained glass, and religions symbols and murals. The ceiling has beautiful designs and murals all along the length of the chapel. For each of the tower and dome that you see on the outside of the building each one on the inside is hollow with intricate murals and reliefs of angels and God. The walls are a cream color with this green color used throughout the columns and some of the trim. There are three sections of pews in the church. When you first walk in you see the first section of pews. That is the longest section and as you walk through there are two other sections to the left and the right of the “stage” area. At the back of the row of pews on the sides are two large statues. Beside the statue areas are two other ares with statues located on both sides. One side contains a statue of the Virgin Mary. When facing the “stage” area from the longest section of the pews there is a small podium. Behind that is the stairs to the “stage” which has this rectangular box with flower designs all along the sides. On two of the sides are two highly decorated poles that has candles at the tops of them. Behind that is the area where the choir, piano and three chairs are for the officials. You are also able to walk behind the choir seating area through doors located on the sides.

When I went to the service I went with a friend of mine who goes here regularly. He
interaction. The opening to me seemed dramatic as the priest and altar servers walked down the aisles. The ritual of communion was used which is where the eating of bread and the drinking of wine signify which signify the holy communion with God as in the last supper. Overall a very interesting experience.

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