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1841: cornerstone laid

1845: Archbishop Samuel Eccleston of Baltimore dedicated the building

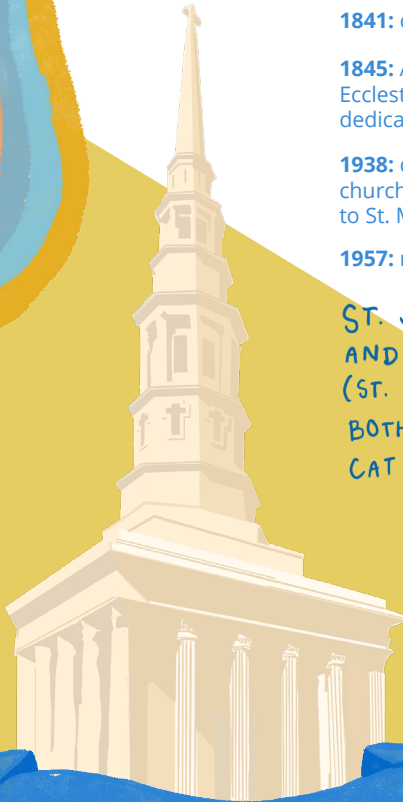
1938: demoted to a parish church; cathedral status given to St. Monica in Clifton

1957: rededication

ST. JOHN NEUMANN AND KAROL WOJTYLA (ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II) BOTH VISITED THE CATHEDRAL.

St. Peter in Chains Cathedral was built just outside Cincinnati city limits, because no Catholic churches were allowed in the city at the time. So Bishop John Baptist **Purcell** planned a cathedral across the street from city limits, grander than any building inside them. Henry Walter, the architect of Ohio's statehouse, designed the cathedral in a **Greek revival style** typical of grand government buildings. Archbishop Karl J. **Alter** then renovated and expanded the dilapidated building. Edward Schulte designed the renovations in a variety of architectural styles, combining **Greek and Roman**.

Lafcadio Hearn, an Irish-American writer, then a Cincinnati reporter, wrote a famous account of a **climb** up the 224-foot steeple in 1876!

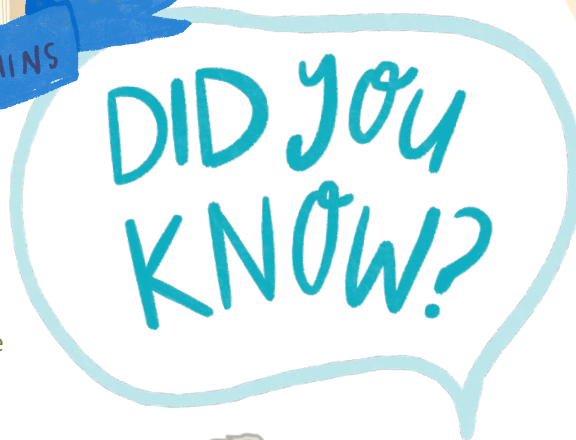


ST PETER IN CHAINS

ART!

On the **exterior** of the cathedral, large bronze doors in the ancient Greek style feature panels combining the crossed keys and an inverted crucifix. The Corinthian columns bordering the church are 33-feet high, symbolizing Christ's 33 years on Earth.

St. Peter is often pictured imprisoned in chains with two keys. But if he has keys, why can't he escape? The keys are a symbol of the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, or the keys to the Church that Jesus bestowed upon him. The two crossed keys are also the symbol for the pope, since Peter was the first pope.



Inside, the giant Stations of the Cross frescos, designed by Loveland artist Karl Zimmermann, recall ancient Greek vase paintings. The 35- x 34-foot glass mosaic, designed by Anton Wendling, is one of the largest in the country.

Peter was imprisoned by King Herod because he was one of Jesus' apostles and spoke out against heresies. The night before his execution, an angel broke his chains and led Peter past sleeping guards to freedom. However, not long after, Peter was caught and crucified. He chose to be crucified upside-down because he felt unworthy to die in the same manner Christ did.



"It's a gem that few have discovered - glorious, beautiful architecture and art that not enough people have explored. Come and see!"

Fr. Jan Schmidt, rector

