



TRUSTED LITURGICAL DESIGNERS,
ARTISTS AND ARTISANS FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY

St. Joseph Catholic Church Macon, GA



OVERVIEW

Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, GA, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, celebrated its One Hundredth Anniversary by completely restoring the architecture that was designed and built by a religious brother in the early 1920s. The church is of strong Romanesque character and Federal style and, although built like a rock, time and lack of maintenance slowly faded its magnificent beauty. Monsignor John Cuddy sought out Liturgical Designer Rolf Rohn of Rohn & Associates Design to pull together a myriad of design aspects to update the church's functional and aesthetic needs in a liturgically harmonious manner, including decorative detailing and artwork that was envisioned years ago but never finished. Rolf spent years with the team coordinating one of the most complicated projects of his life. First, it was extremely difficult to find local teams qualified to do the challenging work, and then he had to figure out how to phase the various stages of the project so they would make the most sense economically and the timelines would still allow for weekend liturgies. Rolf's expertise and hands-on experience was invaluable to this complicated restoration. Rolf often worked on-site for two or three weeks at a time managing the many contractors in order to reduce what could have easily been hundreds of change orders if someone less careful and attentive had been overseeing the project. This five-year restoration is considered one of the most complete liturgical updates in the South and it would not have been possible without his breadth of experience and knowledge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Rolf developed a complete education and design program for the restoration, including space formation, new liturgical furniture, side shrine murals, vaulted murals of the Evangelists, priceless stained glass restoration, an intensely Catholic interior decoration plan, and a new high-tech liturgically oriented lighting system.



PROJECT EXECUTION

- Rolf oversaw the cleaning and restoration of 64 huge precious German Meyer stained glass windows.
- Extensive and complicated plaster decorative painting was restored over a period of five years.
- Gold leafed architectural detailing was completed to bring out this highly ornamental plasterwork.
- Rolf restored the aged hand-carved large three-dimensional white Carrara marble Stations of the Cross, which took one year to bring back to life.
- New white Carrara and rich purple Rosso Levanto marble was used for the liturgical furniture, including the altar and the ambo, baptismal font, and confessional details. Rolf designed the altar table to replace the dated 1970s era altar. A new ambo displays symbols of the four Evangelists on its exterior. New priest and deacon chairs were commissioned, as well. These lovely pieces now match the white Carrara finishes and detailing of the existing high altar.
- Rolf designed and implemented new state-of-the-art sound systems and lighting to highlight art and liturgical celebrations.
- Rohn Custom Studio Artist Renate Rohn painted exquisite murals on the left and right of the shrines featuring adoring angels, the Blessed Mother and a Eucharistic Christ. Also introduced were four murals of the Evangelists in the dome base.

COMPLETED PROJECT

St. Joseph Catholic Church is now a lasting monument to the generosity and faith of the people of Macon.

RECOGNITION FROM LEADERSHIP

“But I think the most admirable thing about this building is that it reflects the faith of people who believed their God was beautiful and magnificent...It reflects God and the lives of joy, hardship and hard work of the people who came here and who cared enough to make it beautiful.”—Reverend Scott Winchel, *Macon Telegraph*, November 3, 2016





