

- ✠ **Mother of Divine Providence**, patroness of the Barnabite Fathers, dominates the “greeting card” that expresses the Christmas blessing from the Barnabite Fathers to all those who visit the Shrine.
- ✠ Life-size **Fontanini Nativity** set in the Basilica.
- ✠ **The Jubilee Year Logo for Year 2000**
- ✠ **September 11 - Fatima Madonna** - description available in racks in Dome Basilica and Fatima store.
- ✠ Twenty 8 foot lit panels honoring **The Mysteries of the Rosary**. The art of many centuries, cultures and styles engulfs the viewer with scenes of the lives of Jesus, Mary and the Apostles.
- ✠ **The Monstrance** is a sacred vessel used by Catholics to show the Eucharist during public adoration. This display was inspired by the late Pope John Paul II, who proclaimed October 2004 through October 2005 as the year of the Eucharist.
- ✠ Lighted image of the **Guardian Angel** with prayer to be recited on plaque beside it.
- ✠ **Immaculate Conception Shrine**– Patroness of the United States, the Fathers wished to honor our Blessed Mother also under this title. This Shrine was donated by the Tront Family and embellished with stained glass windows from Old St. Peter R.C. Church, Lewiston, NY and a new stained glass dome made here in the Shrine’s studio.
- ✠ **Star of Bethlehem** landmark at corner of Swann and Creek Roads. 2007



We hope the following brief explanation of the various Christian symbols you see here in the Festival of Lights will add meaning and enjoyment to your pilgrimage.

- ✠ As you face the Basilica, to your right you can see a topiary of **Joseph and Mary on their way to Bethlehem**.
- ✠ **The Cross, the Anchor, and the Heart with Cross** are symbols of the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity. These virtues are called “theological” because they have God for their proper object:
  - Faith is belief in God
  - Hope is trust in God
  - Charity is love of God.
- ✠ **The Triangle with the eye** is a symbol of the omnipresence of God.
- ✠ **The Tree of Jesse** illustrates the genealogy of Jesus Christ. A detailed explanation can be seen immediately in front of it.
- ✠ **The snake with the apple and the skull** is a symbol of the fall of mankind into sin, with its consequences: death.
- ✠ **The Star of David** is made up of two intertwined triangles. The six-pointed star became the symbol of the unified kingdom of the People of God under the leadership of David the King.
- ✠ **The Two Tablets of the Ten Commandments**: the revealed Law of God.
- ✠ **Two Flowers- a Lily and a Rose overlapping each other**, is a symbol of the Visitation: Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:36-45)

12/09

*Would you like to be on our mailing list? Send your name and address to:*

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- ✠ **The monogram of Christ over the Torah on the Temple steps** remembers the young Jesus in the Temple, where his mother found him dialoguing with the teachers. (Luke 2:41-52)
- ✠ **The Cup with the Palm Frond** are symbols of the Passion of Christ, recalling the bitter cup of Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives.
- ✠ **The Crown of Thorns** recalls the Passion of Christ: "The soldiers led him away inside the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him." (Mark 15:16-17)
- ✠ **The Pillar and the Whip** are symbols of the Passion of Christ: "So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified." (Mark 15:15)
- ✠ **The Dove hovering over the Lily** is a symbol of the Annunciation, representing the Holy Spirit anointing Mary. (Luke 1:26-35)
- ✠ **Lily & Crown & Infant & Palm** represent the Slaughter of the Innocents, infants murdered by King Herod in his search for the new-born Jesus, and so these innocent young victims merit the crown and palm of martyrdom. (Matthew 2:16-18)
- ✠ **The monogram of Christ, a candle, two doves, and a knife** remind us of the infant Jesus being presented in the Temple: the candle says Jesus is the light of the world; the two doves are Mary and Joseph's offering in the Temple; in the waters of his baptism we see the instrument for his circumcision. (Luke 2:21-24)
- ✠ **IHS**: the early Christian Church used as symbols for Jesus Christ certain groups of letters, derived from Greek and Latin words. The IHS comes from the Greek word ἸΗΣΟΥΣ meaning "Jesus".
- ✠ **The monogram of the Blessed Virgin**: all the letters of the name "Maria" are found in this ancient symbol.
- ✠ **The Lamb with the Cross** recalls not only the innocent victim of the cross, but also the Resurrection.
- ✠ **The loaves of bread and the fishes** remind us of Jesus feeding the four thousand from just a few of these. (Mark 8:1-9)
- ✠ **The Host with the Chalice** is the symbol of the Eucharist, the core of the spirituality that nourishes the Roman Catholic Church.
- ✠ **The Seven Flames of the Holy Spirit** recall the many gifts of God, some of which are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.
- ✠ **The monogram of the Blessed Virgin, surrounded by 12 stars**: this symbol for Mary derives from a traditional interpretation of the Woman and the Dragon found in the Book of Revelation (12:1-6).
- ✠ **A & Ω, Alpha and Omega**, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, used by the Christian Church to denote the eternity and infinity of God, Who is the Beginning and the End. (Revelation 22:13)
- ✠ **The Dove with the Olive Branch** is the universal symbol of peace and hope. They were God's sign to Noah of a new beginning for the world after the flood.
- ✠ **The Fish**: Christians have used this symbol since the first century. The Greek word for fish, ἸΧΘΥΣ, uses the same letters that are the first letters (in Greek) of the words "Jesus Christ, God, Son, Savior".
- ✠ **The Book with the Flame** reminds us of the Holy Bible, the inspired Word of God.
- ✠ **X & P, Chi and Rho**, a monogram of Christ, are the first two letters of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ meaning "Christ".
- ✠ **The Oil Lamp**, a true symbol of Advent, this recalls the faithful readiness to welcome the Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1-13). Christ often used this image to teach personal watchfulness for the arrival of the Lord. (Mark 13:32-37)
- ✠ **Saint Nicholas**, a tireless priest and bishop of the 4th Century in Asia Minor, he traveled much, visiting the homes of the poor, serving the faithful in both their spiritual and material need. His name in Latin, "Sanctus Nicholas", became corrupted in popular speech to "Santa Claus". He is the patron saint of children, sailors, bakers, brides, coopers, pawnbrokers, poor souls. He is also the national patron saint of Russia, Greece, Germany, and the Netherlands.