

How to Visit:

Visitors welcome on Sunday for Mass for self-guided tours just before and just after Mass.

The Garden opens Sunday-Friday at 7:30am, Saturday at 10:00am, and closes daily at 3:00pm.

Sunday Mass Schedule
8:00 AM - Spanish Mass
10:00 AM - English Mass
1:00 PM - Spanish Mass



Quick Facts:

- Largest Catholic parish church in North America
- Consists of 17-acres and includes a fellowship hall
- Seats over 3,200 worshippers
- Campus includes 2 gardens with flowering plants and olive trees
- Dedicated in 2023

Experience:

- Stunning architecture based on California Mission Style
- Artwork inspired by the Central Valley's agriculture and natural landscapes
- Peaceful outdoor gardens
- Shrines honoring saints
- Vibrant, welcoming parish community

Whether visiting for Mass, prayer, or simply to admire the beauty, the Good Shepherd Catholic Parish invites you to St. Charles.



St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

5049 W. Caldwell Ave,
Visalia, CA 93277, USA

www.gscparish.com



HISTORY & INFORMATION ABOUT ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

Nestled in the heart of California's Central Valley, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church stands as a beacon of faith, community, and beauty. Completed in 2023, this magnificent church is not only a spiritual home for thousands but also a landmark admired by visitors from around the world. Today, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church is recognized as the largest parish church in North America.

The church is named for St. Charles Borromeo, the 16th-century Archbishop of Milan. His legacy lives on in the mission of this church: to form, educate, and shepherd the faithful in the Visalia region.

THE DESIGN

The church design draws upon California Mission Revival and Spanish mission styles, reinterpreted for a modern congregation. The exterior walls are 14 inches thick with expansive beams that support 400 tons of roofing material.

INTERIOR DESIGN ELEMENTS

The Nave is the central portion of the church. The basins of the **Baptismal Font**, created by artists from Italy, are black granite lined with decorative mosaic tiles. The nave floor slopes 21 inches toward the altar for better sightlines.

The Altar is made from Mexican sandstone and is topped with a 6-foot by 10-foot slab of hand-carved wood.

The Retablo, the mural behind the altar, is 48 feet tall, 53 feet wide and is slightly convex. The saints, 15 women and 15 men, are depicted life-sized. Agricultural scenes of San Joaquin Valley - citrus groves, vineyards, grazing cattle, and the Sierra Nevada mountains - complete the mural.

The large-scale **Trinity Cross**, by Spanish artist Jose Antonio Navarro Arteaga, includes 3 individually carved pieces, designed to fit together like a puzzle. It measures nearly 20 feet tall.

The Tabernacle, in the niche below the cross, is made from the redwood of a dismantled 250-year-old bridge from Yosemite National Park.

The dome above the sanctuary features murals of the four evangelists amid a "star cluster cloud" inspired by Hubble telescope imagery. Filigree along the bottom edges includes giant sequoia cones, representative of the nearby national parks.

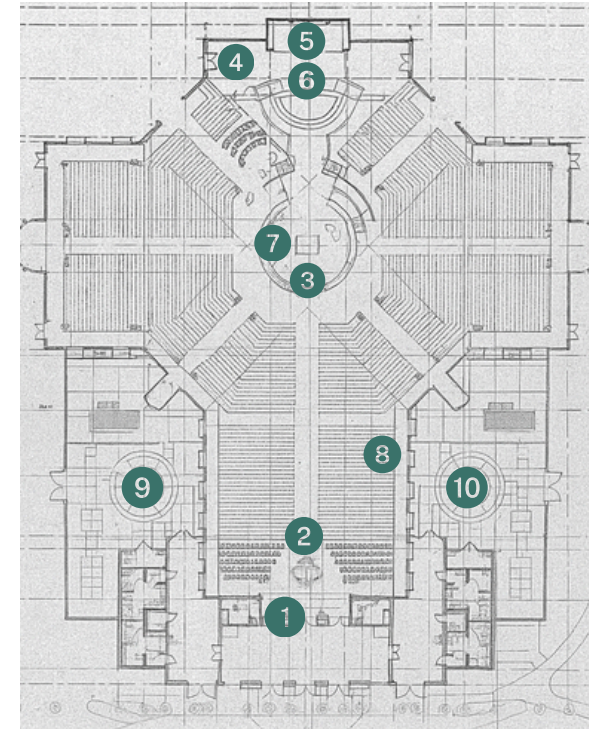
14 Stations of the Cross along the walls are 4.5-feet tall, made from carved wood.

EXTERIOR GARDENS AND ART

Facing the church is "Christ, the Good Shepherd", a 6.5-foot bronze statue by local artist Sam Pena. Mr. Pena is also known for his work at Mooney Grove Park - a 7-foot bronze statue of Hugh Mooney and his dog. 3 bronze bells seen above the entry doors reflect those found in the California missions. These bells, however, have electronic chimes.

The Columbarium Peace Gardens flank the north and south sides of the church. They are serene and meaningful final resting place. On the south side is the Mediation Garden with flowering plants and shrubs. On the northside is the Garden of Gethsemane adorned with olive trees and plants common in arid climates, like Jerusalem. Rose bushes surround the circular courtyard between the church and that parish hall building.

THE CHURCH'S INTERIOR MAP



1. The Nave
2. The Baptismal Font
3. The Altar
4. The Retablo
5. The Cross
6. The Tabernacle
7. The Dome
8. The Stations of the Cross
9. Meditation Garden
10. Gethsemane Garden

