

OUR LADY OF HUNGARY

Founded as mission: 1916 | Parish established: 1921 | Current church built: 1948

Hungary's Royal Saints:

St. Elizabeth (1207-31)

Feast Day: November 17

A princess of Hungary, Elizabeth is renowned for her care of and concern for the poor; among her charitable works she is noted for distributing bread daily to the needy that came to her door. Widowed at the age of 20, she later joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1228. She spent the last years of her life tending to the needs of the poor in a hospital she founded.

St. Margaret (1242-71)

Feast Day: January 18

Margaret's parents, the King and Queen of Hungary, placed her in a Dominican convent when she was 3 years old. As Margaret grew, a sincere vocation developed and she made her profession at age 12 despite the pressure to marry and secure royal alliances. She embraced an austere life of prayer and did not avoid hard tasks. She gladly worked in her convent's kitchen, laundry, and infirmary—particularly with difficult patients.

St. Stephen (975-1038)

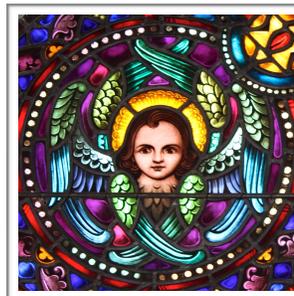
Feast Day: August 16

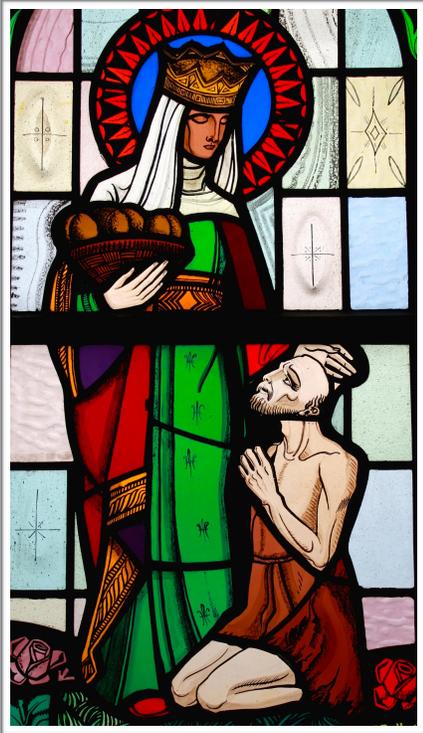
Born a pagan, Stephen became Christian around age 10. After succeeding his father as Chief of the Magyars, he endeavored to Christianize his people. He suppressed pagan practices, sometimes violently, and worked with the pope to organize the Church in Hungary. He also asked the pope to grant him the title of king and was crowned as the first King of Hungary in 1001.



PARISH HISTORY

First established in 1916 as a mission church of St. Stephen parish (closed in 2003), Our Lady of Hungary became a full parish in 1921. Bishop Herman Alerding of Fort Wayne appointed Father Geza Gyofry to serve as its first pastor. In 1923, the parish moved its church to its present location on West Calvert Street after the Studebaker Corporation purchased the original church grounds on Catalpa Street. In 1924, the parish built a rectory. A few years later, in 1927, it added a school and a home for the Daughters of Divine Charity who staffed the school. Father John Sabo (1905-1991) became the parish's second pastor in 1935. Sabo began his tenure at Our Lady of Hungary in 1930 as an assistant and he remained as pastor until he retired at the age of 75 in 1980, after completing 50 years of ministry at the parish. Construction began on the current church in 1948 and it was dedicated on December 18, 1949, the church was nearly complete for its first services on Christmas that year. The current pastor, Father Kevin Bauman, began his service at Our Lady of Hungary in June 2011; he is the first graduate of parish's school to serve as pastor.





ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The Church of Our Lady of Hungary is built in a stately Romanesque Revival style using a cruciform plan. The rounded arches seen in the church's doors, windows, and the arcades along the nave, are a defining aspect of Romanesque architecture.

The most striking features of Our Lady of Hungary are the altar triptych and the murals adorning the walls of the chancel and transepts. Painted in the early 1960s by Father Peter Prokop (1919-2003), a Hungarian priest and artist who trained in Budapest and Rome. Father Sabo discovered his work during a visit to the Eternal City and invited him to South Bend. Sabo desired to highlight Hungarian artistic traditions at Our Lady of Hungary and the widespread use of triptychs in the Hungarian churches he studied motivated him to install one in South Bend.

The central panel of the triptych depicts Mary as a queen with the Infant Jesus in her arms while He holds a globe. St. Margaret, St. Elizabeth, and St. Stephen lead the saints flanking the Blessed Mother. The side panels depict scenes from Mary's life.

The murals on either side of the triptych invoke Mary as the patroness of Hungary and the United States, emphasizing the link that Our Lady provides between the two nations. Along the sides of the chancel, Prokop drew inspiration from Psalm 150, which is a song of praise to God, and painted saints and angels glorifying God with music and incense. The Four Evangelists with their symbols are depicted on the walls near the front of the sanctuary. In the right transept, the mural's central figure is St. Emeric, son of St. Stephen. Given that the Latin form of Emeric is Americus, the imagery stems from a tradition that implies that the Americas ultimately derive their name from this saint. For the left transept, Prokop created a meditation on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He included a portrait of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, since her visions of Jesus helped popularized this devotion, as well as depictions of three parables that epitomize Divine Love: the Good Shepherd, the Prodigal Son, and the Good Samaritan. It is considered one of Prokop's finest works.

Additional artistic highlights include the stained glass windows, which feature the saints mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass along with significant local patrons. The Rose Window depicts Christ the King surrounded by the Four Evangelists and four angels. The angel in the lower right (as viewed from inside) is a memorial to the child of the donor of the window.

The Stations of the Cross were created by Elizabeth Kormendi (d. 1980), a Hungarian artist who came to South Bend in 1939 with her husband, Eugene Kormendi (1889-1959). A model of his sculpture, *Christ, the Light of the World*, is in the right transept. The full bronze was installed in Washington, DC, in 1949; since 1989 it has been at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Architectural Glossary

- **Arcade:** A series of arches supporting a wall, or set along it.
- **Chancel:** The part of a church near the altar and typically separated from the nave by steps or a screen.
- **Clerestory:** The upper part of a church, containing a series of windows. It is clear of the roofs of the aisles and admits light to the central parts of the building.
- **Transept:** Either of the two parts forming the arms of the cross shape, projecting at right angles from the nave
- **Triptych:** A picture or relief carving on three panels, typically hinged together side by side and used as an altarpiece.

Photography: Bartholomew J. Timm
Text & Layout: Andrew J. Remick

Sources: www.americancatholic.org;
www.dominicans.ca; Ildikó Csurgay, "In memory of Rev. Peter Prokop," 2008; "Our Church History," *Our Lady of Hungary*, ourladyofhungary.com.