

Portal

2026 - Mixed Media Mosaic



Portal was created as a memorial honoring Blessed Carlo Acutis, the youngest and most recent saint, and is dedicated to the youth of Saint Joseph Church. In developing the work, the artist immersed herself in Carlo's life through research, film, study, and conversations with parish youth, allowing imagery to emerge gradually and intentionally.

Carlo's devotion to the Eucharist inspired the central concept of a door or portal—an entryway through which others might encounter what is essential to the Christian life. The familiar proportions of a doorway shape the piece, reinforced by a vintage doorknob and keyhole incorporated into the mosaic. A niche inspired by ornate tabernacles observed in Barcelona holds a chalice and host, symbolizing yet another sacred threshold.

Surrounding imagery reflects Carlo's humanity and youthful spirit: rosary beads honoring his devotion to Mary; symbols from his childhood, including sports, play, nature, and technology; and a computer mouse acknowledging his innovative use of the internet to evangelize and share Eucharistic miracles. Each element is placed with care and meaning, including the wrought iron frame, designed to reflect both strength and transcendence.

Portal stands as a visual prayer, inviting reflection on holiness found in ordinary life and encouraging all who encounter it to follow Carlo Acutis's example of faith lived with joy, curiosity, and purpose.

Stations of the Cross

2010 - Mixed Media - Mosaic, Stained Glass, Ceramic Tile, Found Objects



Installed in 2010, the Stations of the Cross form a central element of the redesigned rose garden and columbarium, a sacred space intended for prayer, remembrance, and contemplation. Designed to complement the architecture of the church, each station echoes the Gothic arches of the sanctuary and is scaled as an intimate window for personal reflection.

The abstracted figures and intentional use of color, texture, and movement convey the emotional weight of Christ's Passion—the sorrow, injustice, endurance, and sacrifice. Found objects such as shells, broken china, coins, and beads are incorporated throughout, drawing viewers closer and reminding them that these stations reflect shared human experience. Each station invites contemplation of suffering, compassion, and hope.

Together, these works enhance the spiritual landscape of Saint Joseph Church, offering spaces for reflection and affirming a shared journey of faith guided by the Holy Spirit.

Holy Family Mosaic

2005 - Glass Mosaic



Completed in 2005, the Holy Family Mosaic reflects a vision shaped by years of contemplation and brought to life through a convergence of purpose, place, and patronage. Inspired by the lived experience of family life within the St. Joseph community, the work draws upon the shared spiritual lineage of the Holy Family as a foundation for relationships marked by love, imperfection, and perseverance.

Created with stained glass, smalti, and glass mosaic tile, the mosaic embodies luminosity and strength, symbolic of the enduring qualities that sustain families amid daily challenges and quiet holiness.

Where Art Meets Prayer-Sacred Art on the grounds of St. Joseph

The Artist - Angel Allen

Angel Allen is a South Carolina-based ceramic and mosaic artist whose work explores texture, color, and pattern drawn from the natural world, daily life, and the sacred. Her practice reflects both intuition and experience, shaped by years working in ceramics and mosaic and a formative period immersed in the cultural and ceramic traditions of Western North Carolina.

Allen's work is held in private and institutional collections across the United States and includes ceramic forms, architectural tile, and large-scale mosaics. A former art educator of seventeen years, she designed and led the ceramics program at Cardinal Newman School and continues to mentor former students now working as professional artists. She has participated in numerous residencies and workshops nationwide and currently works from her studio in Columbia, South Carolina.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

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