



A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF MISSION SANTA CLARA

(Numbers in parenthesis refer to the attached floor plan)

Across from the front of the Church, you will notice a large wooden cross **(1)**. This is the original Mission cross, first set up in 1777 and moved from site to site since then. It has been encased in redwood for protection; however, a portion of the original wood may be seen behind glass at the base of the cross.

As you face the facade of the church, you will see on the lawn at your left cement steps with the letters "S.C.C." on the front **(2)**. This was where passengers used to dismount from stagecoaches or carriages. "S.C.C." stands for "Santa Clara College." On either side of the steps are two cement hitching posts. The eight white crosses on the front lawn memorialize the 1989 martyrdom of the six University of Central America Jesuit priests and their co-workers during the Salvadoran Civil War.

The statues **(3)** on the facade of the church are bronze reproductions of the previous pearwood statues now within the Mission Church. From left to right they are, St. John the Baptist, St. Clare, and St. Francis. These statues replace the frescoed images that adorned the facade of the 1825 church.

The bells in the bell tower **(5)** include three that date from the Mission period (cast in 1798, 1799, and 1805) and one donated to the University in 1929 by King Alfonso XIII of Spain. The bells are still rung regularly.

In the vestibule of the church **(4)** are several plaques, some commemorating Santa Clara students and faculty who died in wars and one stating that Santa Clara was on the route of the historic De Anza expedition of 1776. The marble holy water fountains were gifts of the class of 1887.

As you enter the nave **(6)**, the sanctuary **(15)** is directly in front of you. Small side chapels line both sides of the nave. The first chapel on the right **(7)** is the Holy Family Chapel, formerly the baptistry. The painting of the Holy Family and the Holy Trinity is by Giuseppe Riva.

The next chapel **(9)** has a statue of St. Anthony and a painting of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. This chapel also houses the console of the Schantz pipe organ **(10)** donated in 1975 by Mr. and Mrs. Foster McGaw. The organ pipes are visible in the choir loft.

The next side chapel **(12)**, formerly the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, is now dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius was the 16th Century founder of the Roman Catholic teaching order called the "Society of Jesus" (but more commonly known as the "Jesuits"). This order inherited Mission Santa Clara in 1851 and proceeded to transform the property into the oldest college in California. The painting of the saint was painted by Fr. Gerald Sullivan, S.J. an art professor at SCU.

On the wall just beyond the St. Ignatius Chapel is the headstone of James Murphy, one of the first students to attend Santa Clara College and the son of the famous pioneer family that settled Sunnyvale. The grave of John Nobili, S.J., one of the founders of Santa Clara College, may be found just beyond the Crucifix Chapel **(13)**. Fr. Magin Catala, a Franciscan missionary at Santa Clara, renowned for his piety, used to pray at this crucifix, which was brought from Mexico in 1802. Fr. Catala is said to be buried in this chapel.

The sanctuary **(15)** houses the main altar **(16)** and the pulpit **(17)**. Next to the pulpit is the recently restored pearwood statue of St. John the Baptist, carved in Oberammergau, Germany in 1928 and originally positioned on the exterior facade of the Mission (now replaced with an exact bronze replica).

On the back wall of the Sanctuary is a replica of the reredos, or altar piece, which was brought from Mexico in 1802 and destroyed in the fire of 1926. The reredos holds statues of St. Michael, St. Mary, St. Clare, and St. Joseph, and oval paintings of St. Francis and St. Dominic. The fine, large wall paintings flanking the reredos were painted in 1931 by Candelario Rivas and they represent "St. Francis at the Cross", on the left, and "St. Anthony Adoring the Christ Child" on

the right. The painted sanctuary ceiling above is a replica of one painted by Augustine Davila in 1825, also destroyed in 1926.

Continuing along the south wall of the nave, you pass the pearwood statue of St. Francis which (like its companion St. John the Baptist statue) used to grace the facade of the Mission and was re-located here to protect it from the elements.

Just beyond the south door, take note of the plaque dedicated to Peter Burnett, the first American governor of California. The next Side Chapel is dedicated to the Virgin of Guadalupe and features a large painting depicting this famous apparition. The two statues at the base of the picture are of Mary's parents: St. Joachim and St. Anne. Hidden above the painting of the Virgin of Guadalupe is a smaller portrait of Mary known as "Our Lady of Sorrows" which was saved from the fire of 1926 and is one of the oldest and rarest relics left us of the 1822 Mission.

Peter de Vos, S.J. is buried next to this chapel. The next chapel **(24)**, honoring St. Joseph, is on the side of Fr. Catala's cell. (The present church is much wider than its predecessor, and therefore includes the former Franciscan Fathers' residence.)

The final side chapel, that of St. Francis of Assisi **(25)**, has a fine, mission-era sculpture of the saint. Of particular note: the window within the reredos beneath the statue reveals a relic of Franciscan Padre, Junipero Serra, the founder of the 21 California missions. This relic was recently donated by Mr. Kevin Starr, former California State Librarian. The two statues flanking the relic are, on the left, St. Colette, a 15th century French woman who reformed the Poor Clare's order and on the right, St. Francis of Solano, renowned 17th Century Franciscan missionary to Paraguay and Peru and namesake of the 21st mission.

The door **(26)** beyond St. Francis' Chapel leads to the Mission Gardens. Follow the pathway outside the door, and then go to your right through the wooden gateway. You are now standing in a wisteria arbor. In front of you, the walkway is made of alternating light and dark slabs. This is the site of the hallway of the Franciscan Father's residence and, in 1861, the remodeled Faculty Building which burned down in 1909. (Note the statue of Jesus erected in 1880 over the mission-period well). The gardens at your left were once the courtyard of the Mission quadrangle, now bounded approximately by the Mission Church, St. Joseph's Hall, the Adobe Wall and the Adobe Lodge. These last two structures are all that remain of the original adobe compound. The St. Francis Chapel **(20)**—accessed only by special appointment—is located at the rear of the Mission Church building and includes the last remaining portion of the 1825 adobe structure and floor tiles.

As you continue around the back of the church, take note of the life-size statue of Fr. Junipero Serra. To the right of that, you will see steps leading up to a large platform **(27)**. This is all that remains of the Victorian-era students' chapel, built in 1885 and burned in 1926 at the same time as the Mission Church. Beyond the students' chapel you will see a walled-in rose garden with a cross in the middle. This is the site of the mission cemetery **(28)**, where over 2,000 Ohlones, Californios and others are buried. In 1851, the Jesuits established a new cemetery, now known as Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, on Winchester Boulevard and Bellomy Street.

Be sure to visit the de Saisset Museum, diagonally opposite the Mission Church. The museum has permanent and temporary art exhibits in addition to the California History Collection on the lower level, which displays artifacts of the Native American, Mission, College, and University periods. The museum's hours can be accessed by calling 408-554-4528 or viewed on the web at www.scu.edu/desaisset . Admission is free.

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MAP LEGEND

1. Mission Cross
2. Stagecoach stop
3. Façade
4. Vestibule
5. Bell tower; stairs to choir loft
6. Nave
7. Holy Family chapel
8. Storage
9. St. Anthony's chapel
10. Console, Schantz pipe organ
11. Reconciliation Room
12. Sacred Heart chapel
13. Crucifix chapel
14. To remains of students' chapel, Mission cemetery
15. Sanctuary
16. Altar
17. Pulpit
18. Sacristy
19. Office
20. Rear chapel, original Adobe Wall on display
21. To Mission Gardens, Adobe Wall
22. Our Lady of Guadalupe chapel
23. Confessional and sacristy
24. St. Joseph's chapel, site of Fr. Catalá's cell
25. St. Francis' chapel
26. To Mission Gardens and St. Joseph's Hall/Restrooms
27. Remains of students' chapel
28. Mission cemetery and rose garden

PLAN OF THE MISSION CHURCH

