



*Artists
rendition*

Holy Family Crucifix Spire to be erected on Good Friday.

Proclaiming our Catholic identity 45 feet over the prairie:

Why a Crucifix? The Crucifix Spire was designed to proudly proclaim the Holy Family Shrine's Catholic identity to the public, and to draw pilgrims in from the highway.

Symbolism: We die with Christ in the tomb and rise with him in the chapel. He leads us out into the landscape. We follow him, carrying our crosses into the world and reaching out to others. The Crucified Christ will now face the interstate to embrace pilgrims and travelers with the sacrificial love of Jesus.

Crucifix Spire Specifications: The Cross, made of stainless steel tubing, is approximately 40 feet tall (one foot for each day of Lent), and weighs 2,820 pounds. The figure of Christ is just over 8 feet tall, made of cast bronze, weighing in at 528 pounds.

Process: The Cross was fabricated by Nebraska Welding Ltd. out of stainless steel tubing and plate. It was suspended on it's side by giant cranes, rotated on it's axis, cut and welded together. The figure of Christ was made by Michael Montag, using the lost wax casting process. It is a process whose origins are lost in the cellars of antiquity with a few modern twists. A cast bronze sculpture is made three times, first in clay, then in wax, and finally in bronze. There is a series of different types of molds that transform the shape of the sculpture from one step to the next.

The sculpture is cast in many pieces into bronze at 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. It is then assembled by welding together the individual pieces like a huge 3-D jigsaw puzzle. Finally it is given a color treatment called a patina. The ornamental base was made by Enterprise Pre-cast, and the Engineering was done by Rupprecht Engineering Inc.

The Celtic circles have rings and spirals with no beginning or end. These three rings are seen as a portal into the infinite Spirituality of the Trinity, the Holy Family, and the Domestic Church. They form a likeness of a monstrance, magnifying the Body of Christ.

Stainless steel is the razor's edge of modern art and technology. It trumpets the relevance and the dynamism of our church in the modern age.

Bronze recalls the staff of the Bronze serpent that Moses held up in the desert so that all who looked at it could live (Numbers 21:4-9). In the same way, as it says in John 3:14-15, "so the Son was lifted up so that all who look upon him with the eyes of faith might be saved."

Donors: This amazing crucifix was only possible because of several major donors: the owners of Nebraska Welding and an anonymous donor in memory of Helen Urzendowski Coulter and Mary Urzendowski.

Mark Your Calendars

2009 Holy Family Shrine Events

Check our website for updates and changes.
www.holyfamilyshrine.org

Lenten Fridays February 27th - April 3rd
6:00 p.m. Stations and Soup.
Sponsored by Wheatfields!

April 10rd Good Friday Erection of the Crucifix.
Join us for Stations at 6:00 pm
with Father Gutowski

May 2nd Open House - Noon to 5:00! Come
view and celebrate our new addition...
The Crucifix! *Sponsored by: Pear's
Coffee, Herman's Nuts and Maggie's
Popcorn!*

May 3rd College of St. Mary's University
Choir in concert 7:00 pm

May 9th May Crowning

June 7th St. Leo Bell Choir 3:00 pm

July 5th Joe Ruhlman Family in concert 2:00 pm

July Gretna Days Prayer Service.

August 1st Saturday The 2nd Annual "**Soul
Filled**" Summer Fest at Soaring Wings
Vineyard with the Knights of Columbus.

August 30th Matt Mayer, pianist - in concert
7:00 pm

October 15th Tony Ward, Vocalist. Music
Director St. John's Creighton Campus
5:00 pm

October 18th Sunday, Family Fun Walk/Run.

December 5th Christmas Family Pilgrimage.
Meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus, choirs in the
chapel, hot cocoa, and cookies for all.

Stewardship in Action!



Gift Shop Volunteers: From left,
Elly Lukowski, Rosemary Holub, and
Jeannette Theall



Founding Priest, Fr. Matt Gutowski



David Rye and Fr. Mike Grewe



Robert Frederickson and
Holy Family Shrine Founder,
Anna Louise Micek



From left: MaryLou Holmberg-Roth and son
Jan & Charlie Wear, and Fr. Matt Gutowski



Caretaker Matt Sakowski and
Board President Laura Micek-Kwong