

The Dome. At the highest point of the Cathedral is a large icon of **Christ Pantocrator** (Almighty). This powerful yet compassionate image shows Jesus holding the Gospels in one hand and blessing with the other. Inscribed in English, Arabic, and Greek is the time-honored **Jesus Prayer** (“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me”).

Sixteen **prophets** of the Old Testament (e.g. Moses, Elijah, Ezekiel, Isaiah) ring the base of the dome. These prophets foretold the Incarnation and the coming of the Messiah.

Supporting the dome are four pendentives adorned by the **Evangelists** Matthew, John, Luke, and Mark (right). Each evangelist is shown inscribing the opening lines of his gospel. As eyewitnesses of the Lord, the Evangelists convey the message of salvation to mankind.



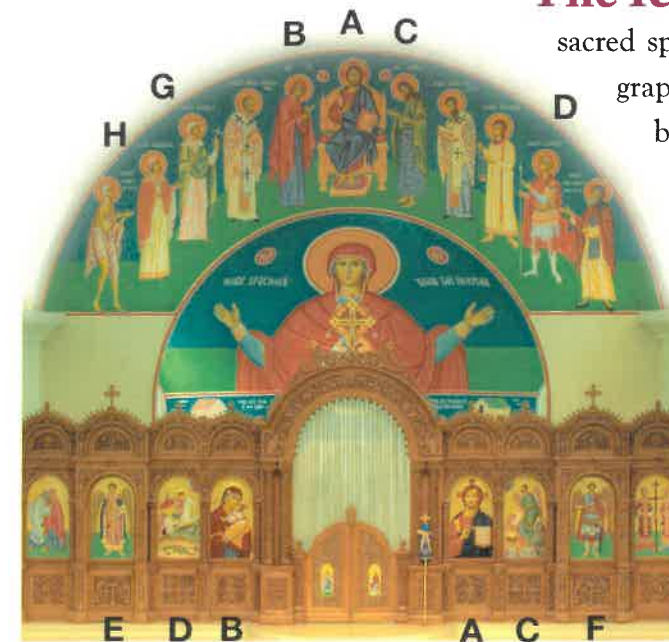
Courtesy Dr. Merrill Thomas



The Altar. The apse inside the altar displays the icon **More Spacious Than the Heavens** (left). The Virgin Mary stands between heaven and earth, which are now reunited through the Incarnation of Christ. She proclaims her Son as the salvation of the world. Below her are the **Apostles**, who carried the gospel to the ends of the earth. They also appear in the **Dormition** (Falling Asleep of the Theotokos) icon directly across from the altar, above the balcony.



The Iconostasis sets the altar apart as sacred space. Its oak carvings feature crosses, grapevines, loaves and fishes, and other biblical motifs. Each panel icon is painted in egg tempera with a flat gold background to reflect light back to the viewer. The icon of **Christ the Savior** is flanked by John the Baptist and the Theotokos, a pattern repeated in the arched **Deisis** above the altar, and in the outdoor mosaics. Saints significant to the community include St. Barbara and St. Thekla of Syria, the ancestral homeland of the church’s founders, and St. George, an early Christian martyr from Palestine.



A Christ the Savior/Christ Enthroned • **B** Theotokos (Virgin Mary) • **C** St. John the Baptist • **D** St. George (patronal saint) • **E** Archangel Gabriel • **F** Archangel Michael • **G** St. Thekla the Protomartyr • **H** Great Martyr Barbara.



Above Patriarch Joseph (Genesis) and Righteous Hannah (I Samuel). **Right:** St. Mary Magdalene, Equal-to-the-Apostles, and St. Nicodemus the Secret Disciple (John 3).

SAINTS from SCRIPTURE

The lower register of the Cathedral ceiling is decorated with icons of holy men and women from the Old and New Testaments. The halos represent illumination, indicating that the saint is filled with the light of Christ.

