

Reflections on Catholicism in the Valley

Sixth Graders from the New School visited two Catholic parishes: Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church in the Mount Baker neighborhood and St. Edward Church in Hillman City

These are some of their impressions

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church

1531 Bradner Place S., Seattle, 98144

Our Lady of Mt. Virgin was built in 1911. It served as the parish for the Italian immigrant community which settled in south Seattle in the early part of the century.



Our Lady of Mt. Virgin was formed in 1911. The name came from another church in Italy. The church in Italy kind of has the same structure as the one here. Most of the origins came from Italy, too.-- A sixth grader



What the priest of Mt. Virgin wants for the future is for the church to be more diverse. Even though they accept everyone, they have different service times for different ethnics/languages. -- B.J., a sixth grader



I thought the priest was going to say something like I hope more people come to church. What he said was kind of like that, he wishes to have more nationalities at church. There is Italian, Chinese and white people; he would still like more though.-- Asia, a sixth grader



There were tall glass windows on the lower left and right walls. They told us about their god(s) and other stuff too. -- AJA, a sixth grader



We were learning about why the religion came to Rainier Valley. I saw a box that had the holy bread inside. I also saw tall statues of their god(s). One looked like a warrior -- A sixth grader



The Virgin Mary with the baby Jesus



The surrounding neighborhood of Mt. Virgin was mostly Italian people. It was called “Garlic Gulch.” Some Italians in the neighborhood still go to church there around 8:00 a.m. The diversity of the community is growing gradually.

I also saw tall statues of their gods. –

A sixth grader



There are symbols in the stained glass windows. “Jesus is the king who reigns from the cross, giving salvation throughout the world.” Catholic Priest

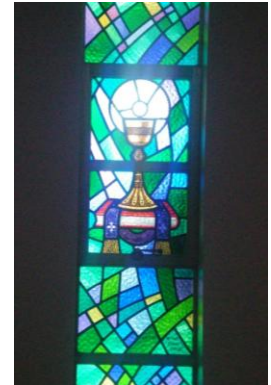


St. Edward Church

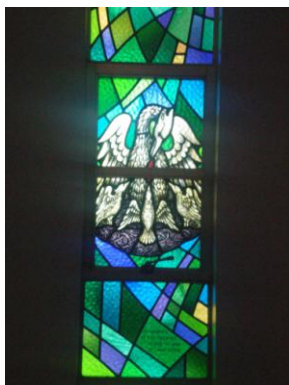
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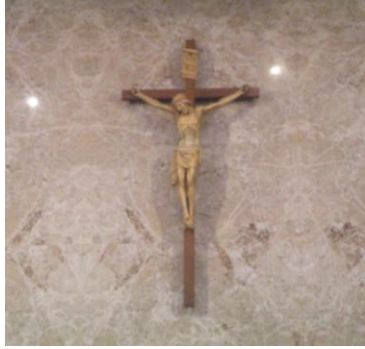
*Saint Edward Parish is over 100 years old. When you walk into the newer church, you see that the windows are stained glass and very colorful. The priest showed us the stations of the cross and the hanging statue of Jesus. Some churches have an organ. This church did, but the difference was that this organ is HUGE, maybe as long as a school bus. --
A sixth grader*



This picture has a story – the story is of a peasant who asks St. Edward for food, but he didn't have any. So instead of food, he gave him a ring. -- Ashley, a sixth grader



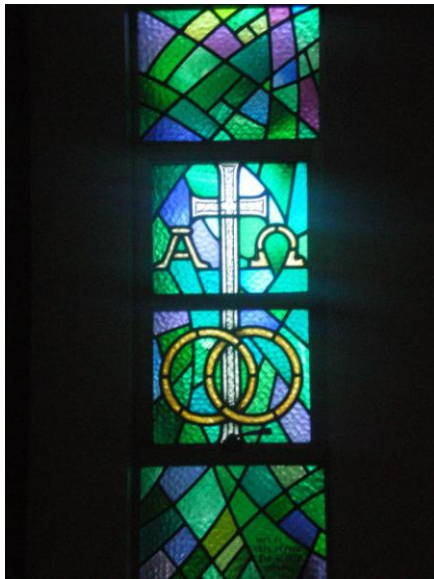
To the Catholics, the dove is their Holy Spirit. -- A sixth grader



The church was amazing. It was very large. I knew it was still a place of worship because I saw tons of stained glass and I saw where people get baptized. The stained glass told the story of Jesus. --A sixth grader

There was a place for the last meal and there was a place that is gold and called the tabernacle. -- A sixth grader

Jesus was on the cross on the wall above the altar. I already knew that Jesus was put on a cross when he died. When we walked out there was a holy water cup and some people put their hands in it and put some on their forehead. -- A sixth grader



There were stained glass windows showing symbols of white doves, hearts with crosses, and so on. -- A sixth grader



There was one window of Jesus walking on water or floating above, the water coming back to life. -- A sixth grader