



ST. JOSEPH  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# RELIQUARIES

*A Gift of St. Mary's Ladies' Society*

St. Joseph Church in Cold Spring, KY, stands as one of the final and most refined works of prominent mid-twentieth-century architect Edward J. Schulte. Designed between 1960 and 1964, the church reflects his signature blend of modern style and enduring liturgical tradition.

Today, that vision continues to shape parish life as St. Joseph embraces the Church's renewed devotion to venerating relics—tangible links to the saints who inspire and intercede for us.

New reliquaries, to be placed at the Marian Side Altar for quiet prayer and personal devotion, will echo the church's clean lines and warm simplicity, with details drawn from the altar's reredos. Crafted in wood to recall our Patron Saint's trade as a carpenter and highlighted with gold leaf, they will hold relics of Saint Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and ten other saints represented in the sanctuary's high altar reredos. The reliquaries are a gift from the St. Mary's Ladies' Society, whose generosity will be honored with a commemorative plaque.



# WHAT ARE RELICS?

From the earliest days of Christianity, the faithful have treasured relics—physical remains or belongings of the saints—as tangible reminders of their holiness and as means of drawing closer to God. Relics are traditionally classified into three categories: first-class relics, a part of a saint's body (such as bone, hair, or blood); second-class relics, an item the saint personally used (such as clothing, a rosary, or a breviary); and third-class relics, an object touched to a first-class relic.

The veneration of relics is not worship of the object itself, but an expression of love and honor for the saint and, ultimately, for God, who worked through their lives. In churches around the world, relics inspire prayer, strengthen faith, and connect us to the living history of the Church.

