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# Faith QUEST

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## Welcome to Faith Quest at St. Ignatius at Chapel Point!

Welcome to the oldest continuously serving Catholic parish in the U.S. It was here at Chapel Point that Fr. Andrew White, S.J., established St. Thomas Manor and the parish of St. Ignatius in 1641. For over 150 years, this Jesuit house at St. Ignatius was the home of Superiors of the Maryland Mission. Many missionaries lived and worked here, and from the manor house, priests attended Catholics in an area stretching from Virginia to Pennsylvania.

The church that you see today was built originally in 1798, although an 1866 fire substantially destroyed the interior of the church and the Manor. The church was restored and rededicated in 1868. In your quest today, we invite you to look around closely see if you can answer our questions.

### INSIDE THE CHURCH

#### 1. Look at the windows.

There have been literally thousands of Catholic devotions over the centuries. They gain and lose popularity depending on the culture and the spiritual needs of the faithful. Here we focus on two in particular: the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) had mystical experiences encouraging devotion to the Sacred Heart as an expression of God's love in the willingness of the Son to take on human life and suffering for our redemption. The devotion was finally approved by Pope Clement XIII in 1765, just eight years before his successor would suppress the Society of Jesus, which had been instrumental in promoting the devotion.

Not long afterward, in 1799, Pope Pius VI approved devotions to the Heart of Mary, which had emerged from a series of earlier local devotions. Images of the Immaculate Heart show a cross piercing the heart of the Blessed Mother, which recalls Simeon's prophecy in the Temple that Mary would share in the sufferings of her Son, "and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:35).

Devotions reminding us of Christ's solidarity with believers in times of suffering clearly resonated with Catholics around the world, but especially in the U.S. in times of difficulties and conflict. The Civil War and the sweeping cultural change of the late 19th century renewed the appreciation of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts.

In the eight main windows, how many representations are there of the:

Sacred Heart of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

Immaculate Heart of Mary \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Look at the central painting in the sanctuary.

This parish is named for St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556). After St. Ignatius was ordained, but before he formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), he and his companions stopped to pray at a small chapel in the town of La Storta, outside of Rome. They were on their way to Rome to place themselves at the disposal of the Pope after they had failed in their attempt to travel to the Holy Land and convert the Turks. Despite the lack of ships heading to the Middle East, blocked by war and weather, Ignatius still had some doubts about turning from their original purpose and was praying for a confirming sign. In the chapel he had a mystical experience. In his vision, Ignatius saw the Trinity. The Father addressed the Son saying, “It is my will that you take this man as your companion.”

In the painting you see in the sanctuary, Jesus is depicted holding what object which showed that the companionship was not one of glory and honor but of loving and sacrificing service?

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The kneelers are another item of particular interest in our church. They were made by women of Southern Maryland and the Northern Neck of Virginia. Perhaps you’d like to choose a kneeler and pray a while before moving on in your quest.

## 3. Look at the baptistery room.

To the right of the sanctuary is an eight-sided baptistery room. Notice a natural wood tabernacle sitting atop a white wooden altar. The tabernacle was saved from the 1866 fire that gutted the church and manor house. The inside of the tabernacle was embroidered by the sisters at the Carmelite monastery, Carmel of Port Tobacco, which is another Faith Quest site not far from here. The altar is a home altar once used by priests who traveled around to various homes in the parish offering Mass. In the colonial period they did so because public Catholic churches and Masses were illegal. However, even into the 20th century, these circuit rider Masses were still offered because of the distances and difficulty of travel.

How many times do the letters “IHS” (which indicate the name of Jesus in Greek) appear in the decorations of the room and its furnishing?

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## 4. Look at the window over the choir loft.

As you exit the church toward the river and cemetery, you will pass through old wooden doors saved from the fire. Before you do, take note of the window above the door and choir loft. The window contains the date July 5, 1640.

What scene does it depict?

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## 5. Look in the vestibule.

The Society of Jesus formed by St. Ignatius and his companions was approved by the pope in 1540. Since then, the Jesuits have produced dozens of saints and martyrs and have spread their mission throughout the world, although the history of their order has not been

without controversy. Today the Jesuits are the largest male religious order in the Catholic Church, and one of their number has recently become quite well known.

Who was the first Jesuit pope and how many framed pictures are there of him in this brick entryway?

\_\_\_\_\_

As you exit to the vestibule, you will see a plaque commemorating the re-establishment of the Society of Jesus. While Pope Clement XIV shut down the Jesuits in 1773, a small group remained in Russia. In 1805, anticipating the universal restoration of the Society, ex-Jesuits in Maryland were allowed to take vows under the Russian Province.

**IN THE CEMETERY**

**6. Look in the Jesuit cemetery.**

Close to the church, separate from the rest of the graveyard, is a small cemetery for Jesuits. There is a large monument commemorating the Jesuits who had worked on the Maryland mission, most of whom are not buried here. There is also a stone indicating the burial of some Jesuits under the sanctuary, which used to be the chapel. The original parish cemetery had been at the bottom of the hill, at the actual Chapel Point jutting into the Port Tobacco River. Because of flooding issues, the move of the church to the hill, and the destruction of tombstones by Union troops stationed at the Point during the Civil War, the cemetery was moved to its current site in 1868.

Which of the Jesuits in this small cemetery was the first to die? (Look for OB or Obit and a year.)

Fr. \_\_\_\_\_ died in \_\_\_\_\_.

**7. Look in the parish cemetery.**

When the original cemetery was moved to the hill, some tombs were moved individually by families, while others were moved to mass gravesites. In the first row of graves, inside the iron fence next to the graves marked with a confederate flag, find a large stone lying flat. This is the oldest identified tomb in the cemetery. The person buried here, who died in 1705, is identified by her first name and her relationship to two men.

Who were they and what were their relationships to the deceased?  
Elizabeth was the

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and the

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**ACROSS THE STREET**

**8. Look in the devotional garden.**

Crossing the street to the devotional garden, you will see the Stations of the Cross. At the end of the Stations of the Cross is a large crucifix. Notice the absence of nails and raised arms of Jesus.

What event after the crucifixion would this represent?

(A) Burial in the tomb. (B) The Resurrected Jesus. (C) The sending of the Spirit.

**9. Look at the statue.**

The large shelter is a shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary. Look beyond the shelter and find a statue commemorating one of our more recent American saints.

What is her name?

St. \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL QUEST**

Congratulations, you have finished your “tour” of St. Ignatius at Chapel Point. Now use what you’ve seen and learned to find out something about our parish patron. Answer the questions below, then circle the first letter in each of your answers to see a word spelled vertically.

- \_\_\_\_\_ La Storta, where St. Ignatius received an important vision, is outside this city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ What is kept in the tabernacle?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Last name of the American saint whose statue you found.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Last name of the first Jesuit buried in the small cemetery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ First name of a woman who died here in 1705.
- \_\_\_\_\_ First name of the priest who baptized the Indian king on July 5, 1640.
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did St. Ignatius see in his vision at La Storta?
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Jesuits” is the common name for this order.

Because many people have benefitted from a period of time spent with the “Spiritual Exercises” compiled by St. Ignatius, he is the patron saint of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (Answers are on the next page if you need them.)

While you are here, you’re welcome to stroll around our grounds, which have witnessed so much history. You can see the old slave quarters (later the cook’s house), St. Thomas Manor — the oldest continuously operating Jesuit residence in North America — and of course the beautiful view. But before you leave, remember to stamp your passport. You’ll find the stamp in the back of the church. You can also update your status on the Faith Quest leaderboard at [www.adw.org/FaithQuest](http://www.adw.org/FaithQuest) and send photos, posts, or tweets to share your experience at this Faith Quest stop with your fellow Faith Questers: [www.facebook.com/groups/faithquesters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/faithquesters) or Twitter @WashArchdiocese.

***Thank you for visiting St. Ignatius at Chapel Point!***

**FAITH QUEST ANSWERS**

1. Number of Sacred Heart of Jesus images: 3  
Number of Immaculate Heart of Mary images: 2
2. A cross
3. Number of IHS monograms: 2, one in a window, one inside the tabernacle. The IHS monogram is part of the logo of the Jesuits.
4. The scene is a depiction of the baptism of the Indian (Piscataway) King
5. Pope Francis appears in 3 pictures at the Church of the Gesu in Rome
6. Louis Roles, S.J. — died Feb 27, 1744
7. Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Darnall and wife of Edward Digges
8. (B) the Resurrected Jesus
9. St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680), “Lily of the Mohawks.” She lived in an area of upstate New York that was evangelized by missionary “black robes” (i.e., Jesuits) and was baptized by them. Her feast day is July 14.

Final Quest answers:

**Rome**  
**Eucharist**  
**Tekakwitha**  
**Roles**  
**Elizabeth**  
**Andrew**  
**Trinity**  
**Society of Jesus**

St. Ignatius of Loyola is the patron of (among other things) RETREATS, as proclaimed by Pope Pius XI in 1922. Since he was a soldier in his young life, he is also frequently mentioned as a patron of soldiers and of course, he is likewise the patron of the Society of Jesus.