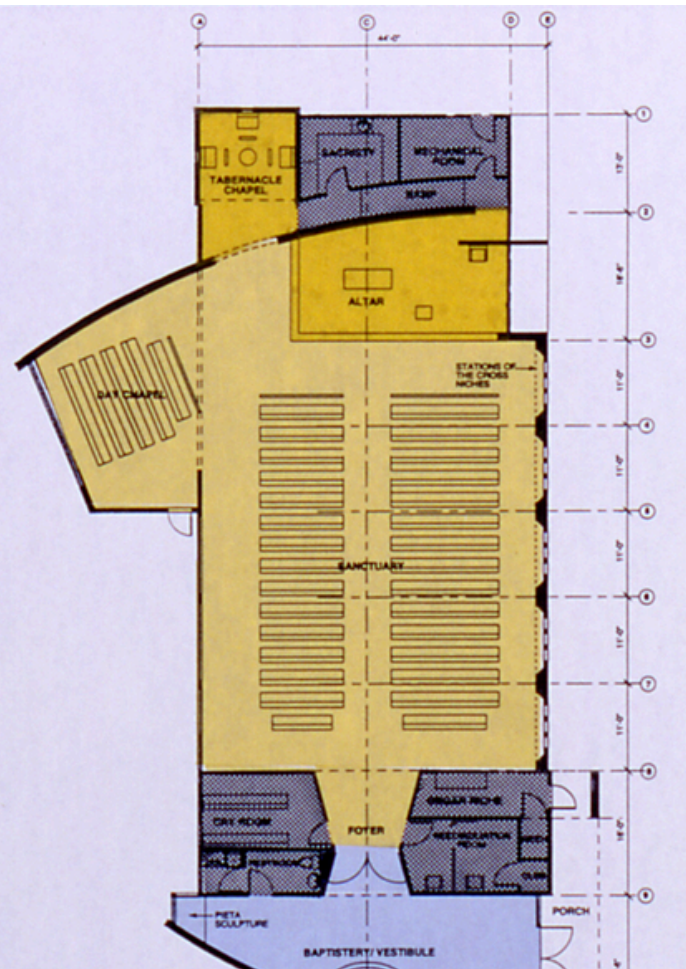
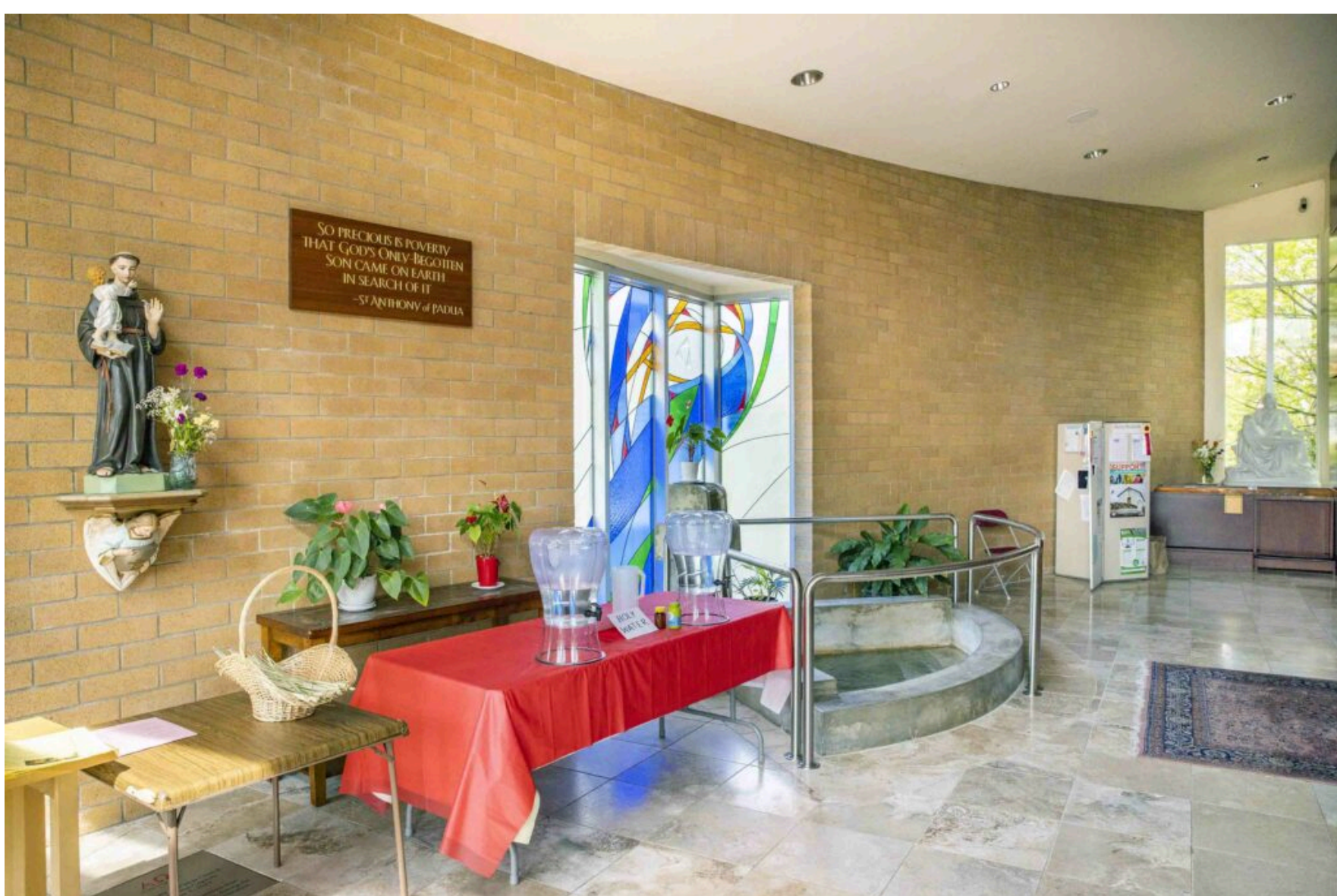
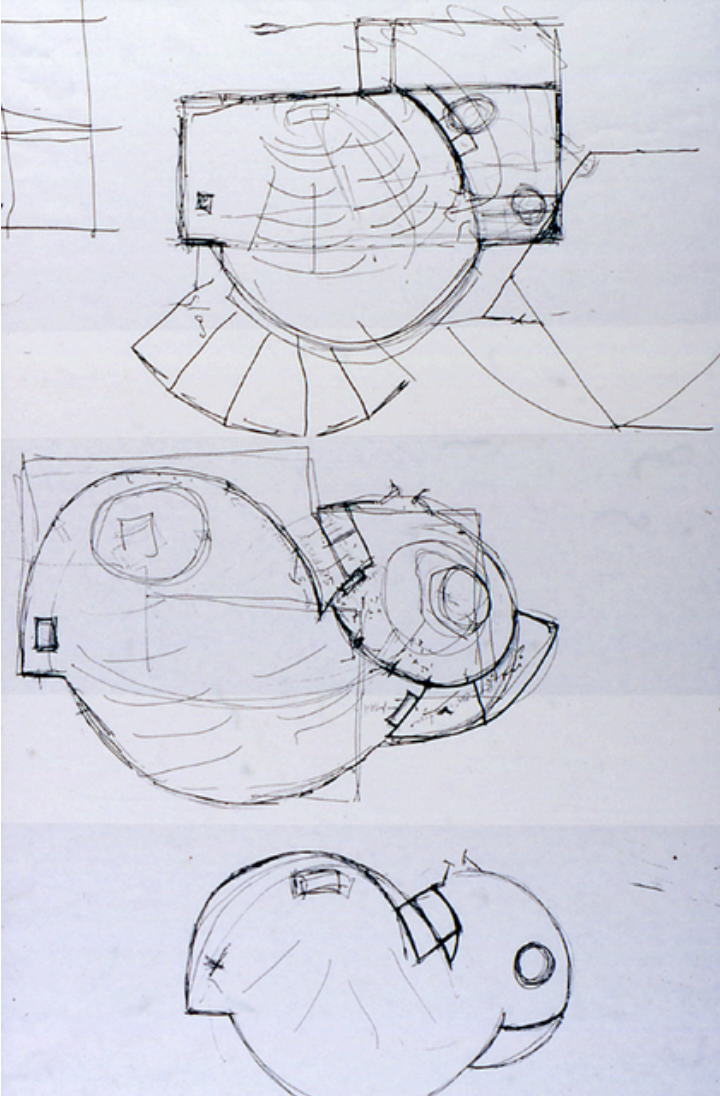


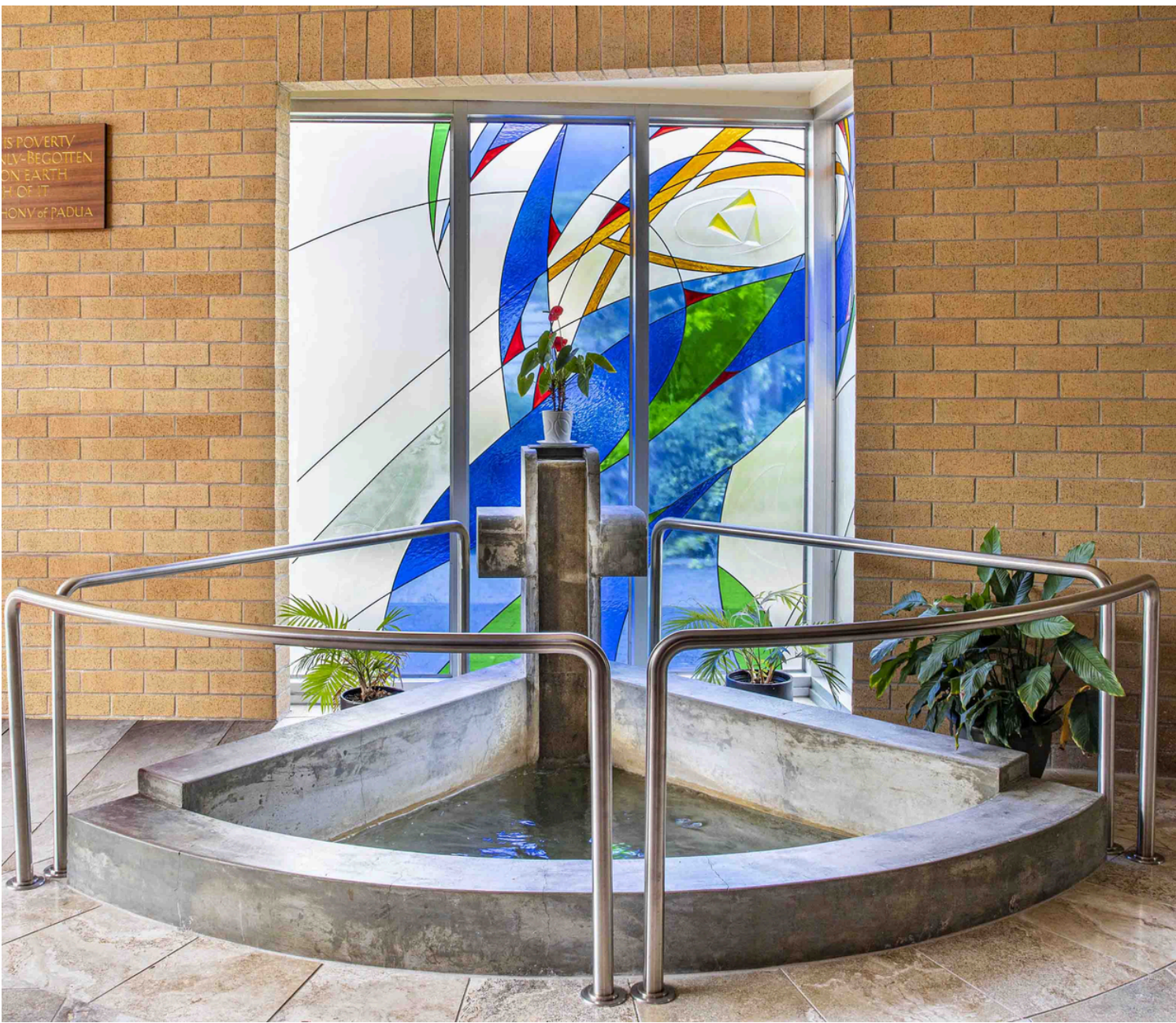
The current St. Anthony Church Building was masterminded by Fr. Michael Maslowsky, designed by Nancy Merryman and Diana Moosman of Robertson Merryman and Barnes Architects and constructed in 1999. Fr. Mike came to a greater understanding of architecture while studying in Rome and didn't think that the reconfiguration of churches after Vatican II worked liturgically nor aesthetically (cf The Oregonian, Apr 30, 1999, by Randy Gragg). When brainstorming about possible layouts for St. Anthony Church, he sketched out an idea of a floor plan using two yogurt cups in his dialogue with the architects. They used it to design a traditional church nave with two arms on either side that embrace the congregation.



All of the artwork was donated by people outside the parish. We would never have the high level of art within our parish if it weren't for these donations. In addition, all the art was made by artists who had never done religious art before. Fr. Mike said that this made them unconstrained in their designs and open to capture the symbolism that he had in mind for each respective piece.



The Narthex: The first arm (or curved wall) draws one into the narthex/vestibule of the Church. On the left is a statue of our Patron Saint, Anthony of Padua, and a quote by him.



Baptismal Font

This is the focal point of the narthex. It is a full immersion baptismal font made out of concrete that was designed by Fr. Maslowsky. The metal railings were added as a safety precaution in December of 2018. Baptismal Stained Glass Window: The window that graces the Baptismal Font with light was designed by Robert Middlestead, an artist from New Zealand. In Baptism, the Holy Spirit breathes new life into us, making us a new creation. The Holy Spirit was present in the beginning and was the active agent when God created all things. "Spirit" in Hebrew also means breath or wind. The smooth, curved, swirling pattern of the stained glass window is an allusion to the Spirit which is like the wind that "blows where it wills" (John 3:8) and moves with meaning and purpose. One can possibly see a sail in the window catching some of that wind. The colors evoke the colors of creation: the blue of the sky and water, the green of terra firma.

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the name of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is captured by 3 Yellow Triangular Shapes. Twelve Red Triangles (all 12 in photo above) represent the tongues of fire that came down on the 12 Disciples when the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost. Finally, it appears that the artist placed an orange colored "A" in the window for Anthony (an interpretation...). Maybe this signifies that we, St. Anthony Parish are caught up in the Holy Spirit, have been enlivened by God's Spirit and are being guided by the Spirit's counsel.

THE CROSS

We are baptized into the death of Christ (Romans 6:3). Submerging in the water represents death-death to sin. Then we rise to new life when we rise out of the water. We die to the "old person" and are born again as a new creation. The cross of Jesus represents this death and it is Jesus' death on the cross that liberates us from sin and gives us new life.



Finally, for the Jews, the Temple was their Holy Place. It was Holy because it was where God dwelt. When the Babylonians destroyed the Temple in 597 BC, the Prophet Ezekiel explained that God abandoned the Temple before its destruction. Then he prophesied that God would return to purify the Temple, to dwell with them again. At this time water would flow forth from the side of the Temple for the renewal of the earth. One could say that this is fulfilled in Jesus who is the new/true Temple of God who at his death, water flowed from his side. When one is in the church, one can hear the flowing of the water from the Cross in the Baptismal Font. This reminds us of the flowing water, the life giving water that Jesus gives us. It is reminiscent of the conversation that Jesus had with the Samaritan Woman at the well. Jesus told her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water (fresh, flowing water)...Everyone who drinks of this water (well water) will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:10, 13-14).

more to follow!