



CHAPEL

Welcome to the Jeffrey '80 and Elizabeth Phelan Chapel of the North American Martyrs

Designed as an iconic structure to greet students on their daily arrival, The Chapel is meant to be a welcoming presence when approached from the main campus. The strong yet simple geometry, enduring materials, and soaring ceilings have been chosen to provide a spiritual anchor for the Jesuit High School Campus and to provide a symbolic progression from dynamic campus life to a more contemplative sacred space.

A simple, folded plane provides shelter. Braced by a tangled web of steel that has been likened to a crown of thorns, the purity of the surface is unbroken save for colorful embossed recesses to capture natural light. A single aperture in the roof provides a passage for the mount upon which the cross is held aloft, and cascades light along its surface into the sanctuary, thus leading the eye of the parishioner upwards and outwards to share the sky with the simple, unaffected cross.

Portals to the sanctuary flow between curving walls from a semicircular ambulatory which is contained by a collage of translucent glass prisms. Colored to refer to the seasons of Catholic liturgy, and illuminated by the course of the sun, the prisms paint an ever-changing pattern on the walls of the sanctuary.

The design is based on geometric principles which date to the beginnings of sacred architecture. Arcs, axes, and alignments have been carefully orchestrated to create a subtle yet inevitable path towards the sanctuary, and from there, towards the altar. Yet, in recognition of our multicultural society and the treasure of individuality, the plan gathers, rather than focuses the paths of those who come to worship. Seating up to 350 people, the sanctuary is large enough for school liturgical services while a smaller devotional Lady Chapel allows for individual prayer, contemplation and small group devotion.

Good to know...

- **Designed by**
Hodgetts + Fung Design & Architecture
- **Dedicated in** fall of 2014