

Pioneer Parishioners Ludwig Marent

The magnificent 8-foot sugar pine sculpture of the body of Christ that we see above our altar was created by talented artist and long-time parishioner, Ludwig Marent. He says, "It was commissioned by Father Lacey before the church building was finished in 1963." Ludwig adds, "Father Lacey wanted it to be a 'Triumphant Christ' figure and we were all pleased with the finished sculpture."

Other Marent art at St. Matthias includes the carved plaster mural of "Christ and the Children" that adorns the preschool building. He also carved the donor recognition plaque for Father Lacey Hall and is completing one for our newly renovated church.

Additional local work includes a 10-foot Crucifix, two 18-foot statues (one of the Blessed Mother and one of St. Joseph) as well as Stations of the Cross for Holy Name Church and copper doors for Good Sheppard Church.

Ludwig Marent was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1932. He says, "My father was an accomplished artist with a local street named after him." But when it came time for Ludwig to prepare for a career, he was encouraged to learn a skill that could be used to help rebuild the war-torn country. He pursued cabinet-making by undertaking a 3-year apprenticeship, followed by another 3-year apprenticeship in wood-carving and sculpting with an artist/professor who specialized in religious artwork.

Looking to see his brother, who lives in Los Altos, Ludwig traveled to California for a visit. Upon discovering that there were more opportunities here, he sent for his childhood sweetheart, Emily, and they married in 1960. "We have two daughters with artistic talents and three grandchildren," Ludwig proudly says.

After time working in local cabinet-making shops, he built their Redwood City family home with a studio and concentrated on his art. Currently, he is continuing a project of carving Class Shields for Dominican University. Each graduating class presents a Shield to the University for display on campus. So far, Ludwig has created 47 shields.

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