

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

-Start out from the right side of the foyer once you enter the Mission Church.

VISITORS CENTER:

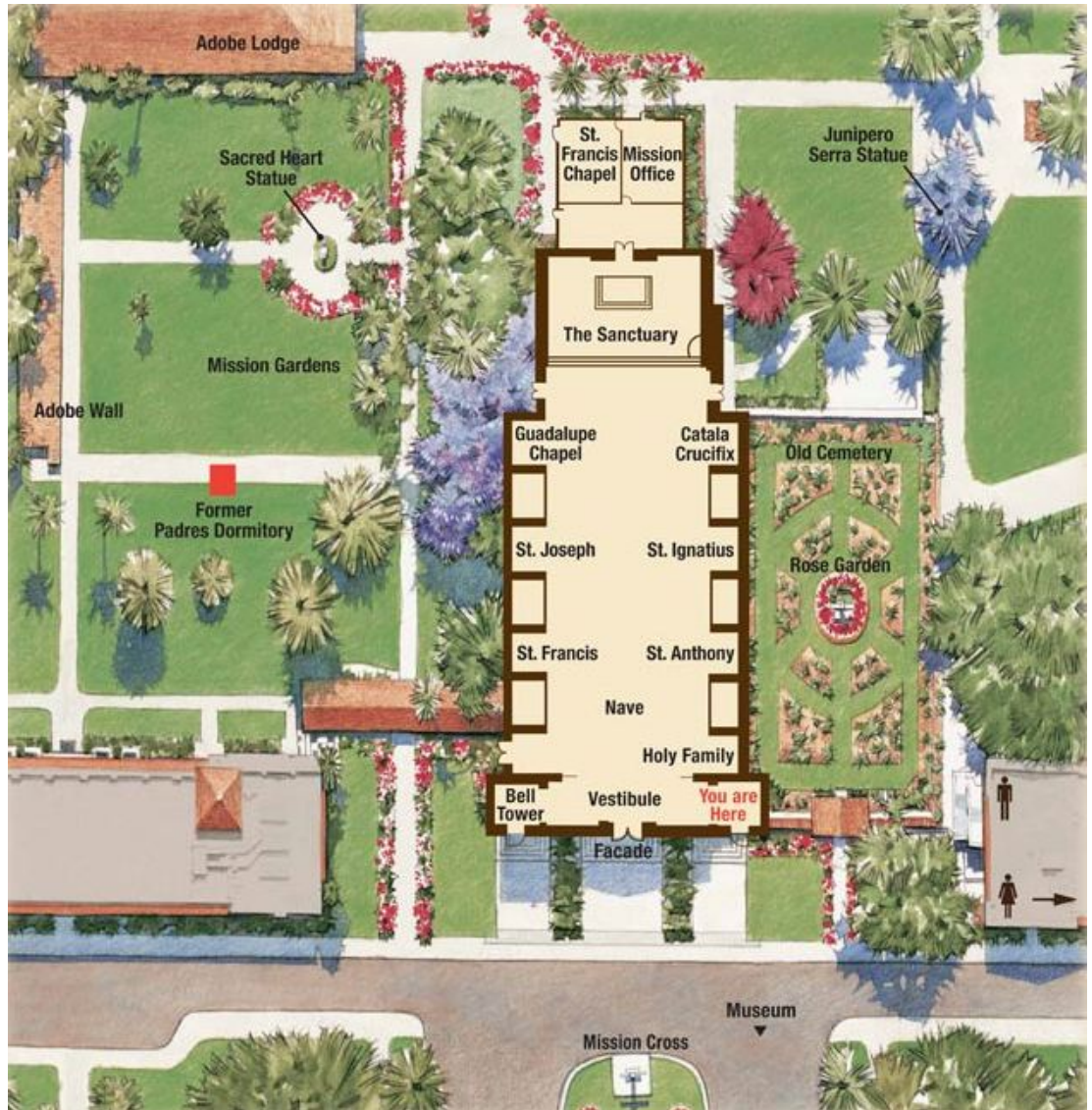
Take note of the informative tapestries that explain the origins and current features of this historic mission. Several wall plaques surrounding the entry door commemorate Santa Clara students/faculty that have died in wars.

VESTIBULE: The 3 dates etched into the center of the tile floor commemorate: 1777 (founding date); 1822 (relocation to this site); and 1928 (dedication of present building). The marble holy water fonts were gifts from the class of 1887. A wall plaque commemorates the De Anza Expedition.

-Now walk through the curtains and find yourself in the nave of the church. Head all the way to sanctuary.

NAVE: The main floor (140ft. x 48ft.) is flanked by 7 side chapels and 6 confessionals/storage rooms.

SANCTUARY: This area houses the main altar and pulpit. Next to the pulpit is a mission era statue of the Virgin Mary. The High Altar ceiling and reredos are exact replicas of the 1825 church. The reredos holds statues of Archangel Michael (top), the Virgin Mary (left), St. Clare (center), St. Joseph (right), and oval paintings of St. Francis and St. Dominic. The large wall paintings on either side of the reredos, painted by Candelario Rivas in 1931, represent St. Francis and St. Anthony. The frescoed ceiling represents Heaven, majestically ruled by the Holy Trinity and celebrates four doctors of the Catholic Church. The letters IHS are Greek for the name of Jesus. A mission era statue of the Swedish St. Gertrude is mounted on the left side of the proscenium arch.



-To continue, head right along the north wall of the nave.

CATALA CRUCIFIX: This life size crucifix, carved in Mexico and brought to the Mission in 1802, was thankfully saved from the 1926 fire. It is called the Catalá Crucifix, after Padre Magin Catalá, an early Franciscan padre revered by the Ohlone. To the left of this chapel is the headstone for Fr. John Nobili, S.J., the founder of Santa Clara College.

ST. IGNATIUS: This chapel is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit Order. To the left of this chapel is the headstone for James Murphy, son of the pioneer family that founded the City of Sunnyvale and one of the first students to attend Santa Clara College.

ST. ANTHONY: This chapel honors St. Anthony of Padua, the first follower of St. Francis. On the side hangs a portrait of St. Cajetan (Cayetano in Spanish), an Italian Renaissance church reformer and contemporary of St. Ignatius.

HOLY FAMILY: The former baptistery. This impressive painting painted by Riva Giuseppe Bergamo in 1889 portrays the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph juxtaposed with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It originally graced the altar of the adjacent brick student side chapel and was saved from the 1926 fire.

-To continue, cross the nave and head to the south wall, working your way back to the sanctuary.

ST. FRANCIS: This chapel is dedicated to St. Francis and has statues of St. Collette and St. Francis of Solano, both salvaged from the 1926 fire. A mission era statue of St. Francis adorns the center. The display within the reredos of the altar houses a relic of St. Junipero Serra, founder of the 21 Missions of Alta California.

ST. JOSEPH: This chapel honors St. Joseph, stepfather of Jesus and patron saint of SCU. It is also the original site of Fr. Catalá's private cell. The current mission building is much wider than the original and it was here that the padre's wing would have attached to the previous adobe structure.

GUADALUPE: This chapel is dedicated to "Our Lady of Guadalupe" and features a direct reproduction of the famous image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's sarape. Above is a smaller, much older painting of "Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners", one of the more notable mission era artifacts salvaged from the 1926 fire, along with the two statues that represent Mary's parents, St. Joachim and St. Ann. To continue the tour, head outside the front doors and head to the Mission Cross.

-Head back towards the foyer and outside the main doors to continue. Straight ahead you will find the Mission cross.

MISSION CROSS: Contained within the base of the standing cross is reported to be a sample of the original 1777 cross that was moved from site to site. It is encased for its protection.

-Looking back at the Mission, you'll find the following points of interest:

FAÇADE STATUES: The statues on the façade are bronze replicas of the earlier pear wood statues carved in Oberammergau, Germany. From the left to right, they are: St. John the Baptist, St. Clare, and St. Francis. These statues replaced the original frescoes that adorned the 1825 façade.

MISSION SANTA CLARA DE ASIS

BELL TOWER: Not open to the public – the tower holds 3 bells that date to the Mission period (cast 1798, 1799, and 1805). A 4th Bell was donated in 1929 by King Alphonso XIII of Spain and is now displayed in the DeSaisset Museum's California History Exhibit.

HITCHING POSTS, CARRIAGE STEPS, AND MEMORIAL CROSSES: This marble step assisted dismounting passengers arriving by stagecoach/carriage. 2 nearby cement hitching posts were used to tie up the horses. The 8 wooden crosses memorialize the "Martyrs of El Salvador"; 6 Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter who were murdered in 1989 for their public support of the poor. Walk to the left to reach the Mission Gardens.

-To continue, head down the path to the left of the Mission, and into the Mission Gardens.

THE WISTERIA ARBOR: This plant is over 140 years old, and continues to permeate the campus with its fragrant scent every spring.

FORMER PADRES DORMITORY: This once extended from the Mission to the Adobe Wall.

THE ADOBE WALL/ADOBE LODGE/OLIVE ORCHARD: Erected in 1822, these are the oldest structures on campus. The Adobe Lodge originally served for food storage. Today, it is SCU's Faculty/Staff dining facility. Beyond the Adobe Wall are living remnants of the ancient olive orchard, which at one time numbered 40 trees. They supplied the early padres with olives and oil. Beyond these trees is a Mill Stone used for processing olive oil and grains. The area adjacent to the Ricard Observatory was the site of the fruit orchard and vineyard.

SACRED HEART STATUE: This statue sits atop the site of the old Mission well.

ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL: This chapel houses the last remains of the original Mission Church adobe wall and floor covering. The chapel is available to view during Mission Office hours only.

-Leaving the main gardens, head to the north side of the Mission.

PADRE JUNIPERO SERRA: This is a life-sized statue of the founder of the 21 Missions.

FORMER STUDENT CHAPEL PORCH: Adjacent to the cemetery wall, and affording a pleasant overview of the cemetery, is the remnant entry porch for a previous red brick student chapel. The chapel burned down in the devastating 1926 fire.

CEMETERY/ROSE GARDEN: These walls outline the gravesites of thousands of Ohlone, Californios, and Anglos buried here from 1822 to 1851. The graves actually extend well beyond these walls.

CORK TREE: This very old tree provided the raw materials for making wine bottle corks.

DE SAISSET MUSEUM: Explore the California History Exhibit on the lower level. (*Hours vary, so you may want to check ahead of your visit by calling 408-554-4528.*)

Thank you for visiting us. We hope your time here was helpful and informative.

Our Mission does not operate a gift shop, but feel free to stop by our Campus Bookstore, located in Benson Center to browse their kiosk of various Mission items.