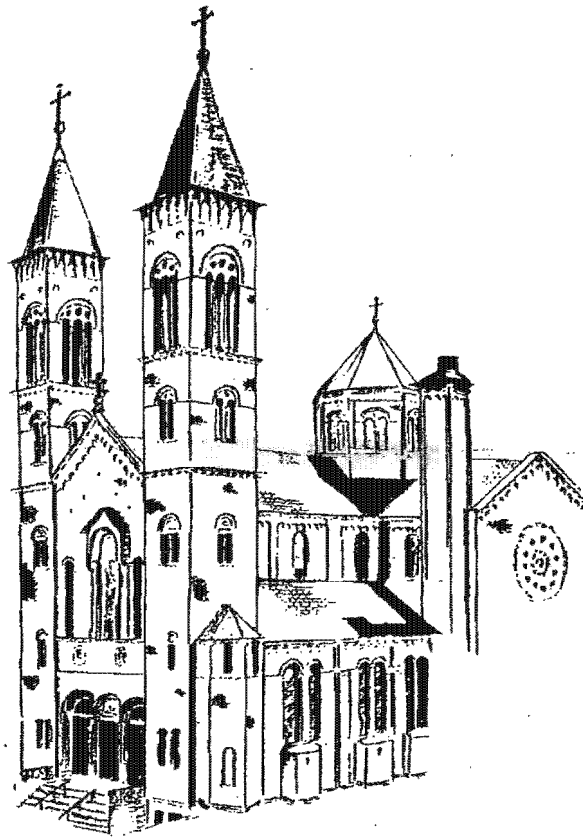


Our Lady of the Angels Parish

225 37th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15201

www.oloa.org



St. Augustine Church
Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Our Lady of the Angels Parish was established on October 30, 1993. The parish is composed of the former St. Mary Church on 46th Street (Irish parish established in 1853), St. Augustine Church on 37th Street (German parish established in 1863), St. John the Baptist Church on Liberty Avenue (Irish parish established in 1879), and Holy Family Church on 44th Street (Polish parish established in 1902). Our Lady of the Angels Parish now serves the people of Lawrenceville with just the one worship site at St. Augustine Church.

The parish is under the pastoral care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. The Capuchins had staffed St. Augustine Parish since 1873 and have served the new parish of Our Lady of the Angels since its inception. The Capuchins are followers of the First Order Rule of St. Francis of Assisi. They derive their name from the long, pointed hood of their habit. The "cappuccino" coffee drink is named after the friars, as is a species of monkey in Central and South America with brown fur similar to the Capuchin's habit. In the spirit of St. Francis, the friars seek to be a brother to everyone. That is why the current pastor goes by Brother John.



The cornerstone of St. Augustine Church was laid in 1899 and the church was dedicated in 1901. Standing on the front steps of the church, you can look to the right and see the cornerstone, which contains the names of the Capuchins stationed at the parish at the time, along with members of the parish, copies of local newspapers, postage and war stamps of the United States, coins, photographs and various relics and medals. Looking directly above the cornerstone, you will notice the tower which houses the bells of St. Augustine. On November 29, 1900, the bells were brought in procession to the church, drawn by horses. The four bells in the tower are: The St. George Bell (5500 lbs.), the St. Mary's Bell (3000 lbs.), The St. Joseph's Bell (1800 lbs.) and The St. Raphael's Bell (750 lbs).

In the vestibule of the church, you will notice three pictures to the right of the center door. The first picture is of St. Benno's Church in Munich, Germany. The architectural firm of Rutan and Russell were employed to sketch the plans for the new St. Augustine Church and John T. Comes (from the firm) did the actual sketches to follow the design and Romanesque architecture of St. Benno's. The second picture is of St. Fidelis Church (also known as the Cathedral of the Plains) in Victoria, Kansas, which was modeled after St. Augustine Church (the third picture).

Walking into the body of the church and turning to the left, you will see the St. Anthony Chapel in the corner, which is reserved for private prayer. In the chapel, you will see the Shrine of St. Anne, brought to the church from the former St. Mary Church on 46th Street.

As you walk out of the chapel, you will notice a picture of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, or “Padre Pio”. There is also a statue of him to the left of the front outside steps of the church. St. Pio, a Capuchin Saint, was canonized in 2002 by Pope John Paul II.



The stained glass windows are from Austria and are original to the church. The first window is St. Rose of Lima, the first American Saint.

The second represents St. Barbara, Virgin and Martyr, who is especially called upon for the grace of a happy death.

The third window represents St. George the Knight, with the vanquished dragon at his feet.

The fourth window represents St. John, Apostle and evangelist.

The fifth window represents St. Peter, Prince of apostles.

The sixth window depicts St. Michael conquering Satan.

The seventh window is a picture of St. Francis asking of Christ, through the intercession of Mary, for the great Portinucula Indulgence.

The eighth window contains the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Stations of the Cross, which begin at this point in the church, are a devotion following the way of Christ’s Passion and Death. These stations are paintings by the Mayer Company of Germany. Through the generosity of the parishioners they were cleaned and restored in 2012.



To your right you will notice the Baptismal Font. Near the Font is a statue of St. John the Baptist, brought to the church from the former St. John the Baptist Church on Liberty Avenue.

Looking at the front of the church, you will notice the majestic altars. All of the altars were from the original St. Augustine Church on Butler Street and were carved by the Capuchin Brothers Eleutherius, Hilarion and Elzear. The beauty of the altars is enhanced by statuary. The first altar on the left bears a statue of St. Francis, with the next altar containing Mary, the Blessed Mother of God. The main altar houses statues of the Archangel Raphael with Tobias on the left, and St. Lawrence, the deacon, on the right. The center of the main altar contains the Risen Christ. The two altars on the right bear statues of St. Joseph and St. Anthony.

Standing in the front center of the church, looking straight up, you will notice the large dome. The four triangles at the base of the dome depict the four evangelists, Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each evangelist is pictured with a symbol particular to their life and work – an angel, a winged lion, an ox, and an eagle, respectively.

Looking to the rear of the church, you will see the choir-loft extending out above the inner doors. The pipe organ, built by Roosevelt of Baltimore in 1884, was transferred from the old church and greatly improved by Roosevelt's successor, Adam Stein.

To your left, the bejeweled image of Mary entitled "Our Lady of Czestochowa" is from the former Holy Family Church on 44th Street.



Next to this image of Our Lady of Czestochowa is a statue of St. Conrad. Conrad was the porter (doorkeeper) for St. Ann's Friary in Altoetting. This friary was attached to a shrine in honor of Mary and was a popular place of prayer. He performed this ministry for forty years, and often took care of the poor by giving food and alms. In addition to welcoming friars and visitors, Conrad had the opportunity to send many people on their way. He was one of the last friars to say goodbye and promise prayers for the three young friars who were going to the "missions" in America. The ministry of Fr. Hyacinth, Br. Eleutherius and Bro. Matthew here in Pittsburgh was truly blessed by this humble saint's prayer.

The first window near the St. Anthony Altar shows us the Archangel Gabriel announcing to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she is chosen to be the Mother of God.

The second window is a depiction of what the Gospel tells us of Jesus embracing and blessing the little ones.

The third window depicts the Biblical narrative regarding the archangel Raphael and the young Tobias with the fish.

The fourth window is St. Paul the Apostle. The demolished idol at his side reminds us of the zeal of this "Apostle to the Gentiles" in preaching Christ crucified and over-throwing the altars of the false gods.

The fifth window represents St. Stephen, the first martyr.

The sixth window represents St. Edward the Confessor, King of England.

The seventh window represents St. Catherine, virgin and martyr.

The eighth and final window represents St. Elizabeth, Countess of Thuringen, giving alms to a beggar.

You will also notice detailed frescoing in the rear of the church, painted by Arthur Thomas. The fresco on the left (facing the rear of the church building), vividly illustrates the passing of the Old Law and the acceptance of the New. The fresco on the right is an illustration to the famous prayer of praise in honor of St. Anthony composed by St. Bonaventure.

Finally, throughout the center of the church are Franciscan-themed frescoes. Each of these paintings represents an incident in the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare. These were painted in 1913.