Holy Ghost Catholic Church

(St. Katharine Drexel Parish)

2015 Louisiana Avenue

Established in 1915 to serve the Uptown black population, Holy Ghost was the third black Catholic church in the city. The present structure, in the Romanesque Revival style with elements from other European and American styles, is the work of the Diboll and Owen architectural firm. It was dedicated in 1926 and replaced two earlier frame churches. St. Katharine Drexel, who helped finance the creation of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church and Xavier University, made a generous contribution to the construction of Holy Ghost Church.

From the founding of the church until 2008, priests from the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans) led the church. Now the parish is an archdiocesan church.

In October 2008, Holy Ghost Church formally merged with St. Francis de Sales Church to form St. Katharine Drexel Parish, with Holy Ghost serving as the host church. In addition, worshipers from nearby Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes churches, which had been suppressed because of declining membership, also joined St. Katharine Drexel Parish.

A simple and serene interior contrasts with the twelve bright sanctuary windows by the Oidtmann Studio. In each, the central figure is surrounded by a frame representing carved Gothic stones. Identical backgrounds unify the windows, which were installed as a set.

The H. Oidtmann studio was founded in Linnich, Germany, in 1857 by a medical doctor and also produced the windows at St. Louis Cathedral. The family continues to operate the studio, which is the worlds oldest maker of stained glass.

The organ was built for this church by Reuter Organs of Lawrence, Kansas. It is that firms Opus 217, dated to 1926, and contains five ranks of pipes available on two manuals.

**Windows**

Apse

Menorah Holy Ghost

Bread and wine Holy Eucharist

Sanctuary

St. Theresa Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Assumption of the Virgin Annunciation

Descent of the Holy Spirit Visitation

Crucifixion Adoration of the Shepherds

Jesus and the Little Children Circumcision

Adoration of the Magi Jesus Preaching in the Temple

Vestibule

Symbols for Evangelists Symbols for Evangelists

Matthew and Mark Luke and John

Shields of the Holy Ghost Order and the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Choir loft:

Angel with violin and St. Cecilia with organ pipes

King David with harp and Angel with lute

*Toured*

*March 1993*

*September 2001*

*April 2018*

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