St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

4640 Canal Street

Like many churches and synagogues in New Orleans, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church has a peripatetic history. The original Mortuary Chapel on Rampart Street (now Our Lady of Guadalupe Church) was originally dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua. In 1915 Archbishop Blenk closed the Mortuary Chapel and directed the beloved Father Lorente to create a new parish near the cemeteries. It was named St. Anthony of Padua Church by the Dominican fathers who presided there.

The present-day churchreplaced the original wooden structure in 1923, and what a spectacular building it is! Its Spanish Colonial Revival exterior is elaborately carved, and the interior includes a soaring coffered ceiling, beautiful marble columns, and ornate decoration. The marble altar, featuring mosaics with symbols of the four evangelists in the canopy, was installed in the 1950s.

The stained glass windows are in the 19th-century Munich pictorial style, resembling oil paintings in their detailed shading and composition. They are unsigned and date to the construction of the church. The archives of the Emil Frei Studio of St. Louis (a very familiar name to New Orleans stained glass aficionados) mention a 1950 inquiry as to insurance value of stained glass windows designed by Emil Frei. Stephen Frei, president of the firm, recalled during a phone call to Pame Tanner, member of the Stained Glass Art in Sacred Places tours, that the windows date to the late 1920s. The similarity of the window frames argues for their being installed as a set. Frei windows of Incarnate Word Church, dating to the late 1920s, are similar but more modest.

The large windows are lifelike depictions of scenes from the New Testament and the lives of saints while clerestory windows portray the Mysteries of the Rosary.

*Visited*

*September 18, 1994*

*October 23, 2011*

**Windows**

Left side

St Theresa of Lisieux (Little Flower) 1837-1897

St Ann (mother of Mary)

St Dominic (in black and white) and St Francis of Assisi (in brown*)*. *According to legend they met in Rome when both were trying to gain approval for new religious orders. The Vatican of 1216 is depicted in the background. This is my command.*

St Catherine of Siena (Doctor of the Church). *She was a tertiary in the Mantellate Dominican Order, had the stigmata, furthered peace between the city states and the church, and was mystically wedded to Christ.*

The Magi. *The* *three wise men visit the infant Jesus*

Pius V (Dominican Pope). *In 1570, the Turks were threatening the Christian fleet in the Bay of Lepanto. He asked that the rosary be said to save the fleet. This window depicts Pope Pius Vs description of the victory over the Turks (in the background) during a meeting with a cardinal (October 7, 1572). The first Sunday in October is still celebrated as Rosary Sunday.* Medallion: Papal keys of Peter

Blessed Imelda Lambertini (Patroness of First Communicants). *She lived in a convent from early childhood and wanted to receive Holy Communion. At the time, Communion was not given to children under 12 years old, so she was constantly denied the privilege*. *The morning of her 12th birthday, the Host miraculously left the hand of the priest and went to Imelda. Her joy was so great that she died almost instantly. That is why she, a child, is the Patroness of First Communicants, even though she is not a saint.*

St John the Baptist baptizes Jesus

Right side

*Confessional / Reconciliation Room*

Young Jesus in the Temple. Did you not know that I must be about my fathers business? (Luke 2:49)

St. John the Baptist, *called the Precursor to the Messiah. All the four canonical Gospels address his role. He preached in the Jordan Valley, and the lamb at his side symbolizes the Lamb of God.*

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274).  *Italian Dominican priest. Doctor of the Church and the Patron of the Catholic Schools.*

St Vincent Ferrer (1350-1419). *A powerful preacher who believed that the end of the world was at hand. Consequently he is pictured with a trumpet, because of his powerful call to repent.*

The Crucifixion*. This window is similar to the crucifixion window at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Rampart Street.*

St Teresa of Avila *. Depicted here is her vision of the boy Jesus. In the vision, she asks,Who are you? Jesus says,I am Jesus of Teresa. She replies,I am Teresa of Jesus.*

St Anthony of Padua. *Patron of this parish. This window portrays St Anthonys vision of Jesus as an infant, whom he was privileged to hold.*

**Clerestory Windows**

*Windows L2-L9 and R9-R2 depict the Mysteries of the Rosary.* *Read them in a counter-clockwise direction, beginning with L2.*

Above Altar

L1 Symbols of the Eucharist: wheat and grapes R1 Symbols of the Eucharist

Joyful Mysteries

L2 Annunciation: Holy Spirit and the lily (symbol for Mary)

L3 Visitation: Rose with cross in the center

L4 Nativity

L5 Presentation in the Temple

L6 Finding Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

L7 Agony in the Garden

L8 Scourging at the pillar

L9 Crowning with thorns

Glorious Mysteries

R2 Crowning of Blessed Virgin Mary

R3 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

R4 Descent of the Holy Spirit

R5 Ascension of Christ

R6 St. John the Evangelist (symbolized

by the eagle)

R7 Phoenix (symbol of resurrection)

Sorrowful Mysteries (continued)

R8 Crucifixion

R9 Carrying the Cross

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