



Restoration

During the parish's 175th Anniversary, 2002-2003, a major restoration project was begun which included slate roof repairs, tower restoration, repointing and cleaning the exterior stone, window and glass restoration, and interior plastering and painting. The ceiling decoration in the sanctuary was extended to the altar rail and lighting was added throughout the church. All work was accomplished through the generosity of our parishioners who are dedicated to preserving the beauty of our church with the care and spirit envisioned by our forebearers.



St. Louis Roman Catholic Church

Brief History

On January 5, 1829, eighteen years before the Diocese of Buffalo was founded, Louis Stephen LeCouteulx de Chaumont, French nobleman and first Catholic to reside in Buffalo, gave the land on which St. Louis Church stands.

The first church was erected from hand hewn lumber and was opened in 1832. It was called "Lamb of God." This was the first permanent Catholic Church in Western New York. A new brick church, built in a federalist style, replaced it in 1843 but was destroyed by fire on March 25, 1885. The fire originated in the German American Music Hall, which was located across the street, and spread rapidly to engulf the church. Thereafter the parishioners worshipped in a temporary church for four years.

Completed in 1889, the present church was designed by architect William Schickel of the New York firm of Schickel and Ditmars. Built in a continental gothic style of the 14th Century, it is patterned after the Cathedral of Cologne. The exterior is of Medina red sandstone. The ground plan is cruciform with nave, sanctuary and transepts. The nave is divided by magnificent columns of polished granite with richly carved stone capitals.

Contact

www.stlouisrcchurch.org

Phone: 716-852-6040

Fax: 716-853-9225

Email: stlouischurch@verizon.net

Church Address:

780 Main Street (at Edward)

Buffalo, NY 14202

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00PM (Sunday Liturgy)

Sunday 8:30AM, 10:30AM & Noon

Weekday 8:00AM & 12:05PM

Holy Day 8:00AM & 12:05PM

Holy Day Eve 4:30PM

Confessions Saturday 3:15-3:45PM

Rectory Address:

35 Edward Street

Buffalo, NY 14202

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00AM – 3:00PM



Architectural Self Guided Tour





Architecture

The vaulted ceiling is richly groined with ribbing having bosses of foliage of various designs at their intersection. The principal front on Main St. is designed on grand proportions. The chief tower, which rises to a height of 245 feet, is reportedly regarded as the highest open laced spire in the country. There are two side towers each 128 feet high. The seating capacity is approximately 1,900 making it one of the largest churches in the Diocese.

Of special interest on the exterior tower is the massive Seth Thomas Clock. It was the gift of Hon. Elbridge G. Spaulding, the "Father of the Greenback" who resided directly across from the church.



Church Dimensions

The dimensions of the Church are: exterior length 234 feet; exterior width 134 feet; height from ground to ridge roof; 105 feet; length of transept, 120 feet. The nave is 42 feet wide and 75 feet high in the clear. The side aisles are 19 feet wide and 36 feet height with clear height at the intersection of the nave and transept 76 feet.

The organ of St. Louis Church was built in 1903 by the W.W. Kimball Company of Chicago, Illinois, as their Opus 3329. The organ was

designed in consultation with John B. Singenberger, and the appearance of the façade is the work of architects Schickel and Ditmars.

One of the oldest Kimball instruments still in its original home, it retains 98% of its original pipe work, its original two bi-fold bellows and its patented wind chests. Added stops were carefully blended into the style of the original design.

The raised pulpit was designed by Edward Hager Co. and features an ornately carved canopy. Reliefs of the four Evangelists were executed by Leopold Schneggenberger. On either side of the reliefs are carved statues of the Doctors of the Church. The Altars of St. Joseph and The Pieta are attributed to sculptor Joseph Sibbel of New York.

On either side of the ornate baptistry located in the south transept are statues of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Francis of Assisi each carved from a single block of wood by local sculptor Heinrich Schmitt.

The richly carved side altars which depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary continue the theme of the main tower of the church. On either side of the statue of the Sacred Heart are the patron saints of the donor, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Gerard. On either side of the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are the statues of St. Charles Borromeo and St. John the Divine. The altar rail is of Australian marble.

The High Altar, the gift of the estate of Emma Lang, the daughter of a local wealthy brewer, Gerhard Lang, is the creation of both architect William Schickel and sculptor Joseph Sibbel. A life size statue of St. Louis by Sibbel is surmounted in a niche above a beautiful ebony cross with the likeness of our crucified Lord in ivory. On either side of the Tabernacle are two large mosaics

executed by the Lutz Co. The one on the left represents Abraham about to sacrifice his son Isaac and the other on the right represents the offering of Melchisedech. The High Altar is crowned with a splendid rendition of the main tower of the church.

The magnificent stained glass windows in the sanctuary were made by the Royal Munich Art Institute. The windows above the High Altar consist of 7 panels depicting significant events in the life of St. Louis IX. Born in 1214, he was made king at the early age of 11. He led the seventh crusade and is credited with enshrining the "true crown of thorns" at Sainte Chapelle in Paris which he had built for the purpose of housing the sacred relic. He died on a crusade near Carthage in 1270. The window on the left side of the Altar of the Sacred Heart portrays the Baptism of Christ and the window on the right side of the Altar portrays the Annunciation. Both are from the Royal Art Institute of Munich.

The stained glass windows in the nave, clerestory and transept were made by Ferdinand Riester and Gottfried Frohe of the Buffalo Stained Glass Works, who had won honors at the Paris Exposition at the time the church was nearing completion in 1889. The clerestory windows employ natural themes of oak clusters, pomegranate, lilies and other flowers. The windows above the entrances make splendid use of opalescent art glass. Facing the Altar, the nave windows on the left are: Conversion of St. Paul, St. Francis Xavier, St. Francis DeSalles and St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, The Penitent Woman and Jesus, St. Odilia and St. Elizabeth of Thuringia. On the right are: Conferral of the Keys to St. Peter, St. Boniface, St. Augustine and St. Gregory the Great, St. Dominic, St. Anthony the Hermit and St. Rose of Lima and St. Genevieve of Paris.