

Tridentine Community News

January 20, 2019 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

Detroit's Great Church Architects of the 20th Century Part 1 of 2

The early 20th Century was a golden era for church construction in metro Detroit and Windsor, as in much of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States, Ontario, and Quebec. As waves of immigration caused the population of cities in these regions to soar, demand for churches to serve those new residents also grew.

Just as Duncan Stroik, William Heyer, and James McCrery are nationally known as some of our current era's most prolific architects of traditionally-styled churches, back in those days a number of architects won commissions across the continent. Among them was Ralph Adams Cram, who designed St. Florian in Hamtramck and St. Mary of Redford. His firm, based outside of Boston, continues today as Cram & Ferguson and still designs traditional churches.

Lesser known is the homegrown talent that designed so many beautiful churches. Indeed, a majority of the historic churches we still enjoy in our region today were projects undertaken by locals. Let's look at a few notable Detroit-based architects and their works:

Harry J. Rill made his mark on the east side, designing St. Paul on the Lake and the adjacent Grosse Pointe Academy Chapel, both of which opened in 1899. He also designed the now-demolished St. Francis Italian Church near Eastern Market. The Grosse Pointe Academy, an independent private school, was originally the Academy of the Sacred Heart, sister to the Bloomfield Hills school. Both were founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. [Grosse Pointe Academy Chapel photo at top by Don Davenport]

Diehl & Diehl designed Gesu, St. Brigid, St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Montefalco, Centerline St. Clement, and finished another architect's design of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.



Arthur DesRosiers designed St. Hugo of the Hills' Stone Chapel in Bloomfield Hills [center photo by Oakland County Latin Mass Association] and St. Alphonsus in Dearborn [bottom photo], both English Gothic style, and St. Ladislaus in Hamtramck. His son Louis is an accomplished architect of homes and office buildings today, but no churches.

More local architects will be featured next week.

Fr. Lankeit at OCLMA and St. Benedict

Fr. John Lankeit, Rector of Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral in Phoenix, Arizona, will celebrate the 9:45 AM High Mass on Sunday, January 27 for the Oakland County Latin Mass Association at the Academy of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Bloomfield Hills. He will also attend the 2:00 PM High Mass – which we hope to make a Solemn High Mass – for the St. Benedict Tridentine Community at St. Alphonsus in Windsor. Fr. Lankeit is visiting Detroit for two weeks, taking an in-depth training session from Extraordinary Faith on the Traditional Latin Mass, which he intends to introduce at his cathedral this year.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 01/22 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Ss. Vincent & Anastasius, Martyrs)

Sat. 01/26 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr)

