

Welcome

Welcome to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Thank you for your interest in our church. The following is a brief history of our church community and its buildings.

Parish History

Old St. Mary's Parish was founded in 1887 in what was then the city of Albina, Oregon. A church was built on the site of the current church that year and served the parish until it was moved around the corner to what is now the parking lot where it was modified and used as a school. The current church was constructed in 1890.



The Immaculate Heart parish community has grown and changed as the demographics of the surrounding community has grown and changed. The original parish was founded by mostly those of



German and Irish descent. During the 1940's and 1950's the parish welcomed the many African Americans, many of whom came to Portland to work

in the shipyards as part of the WWII war effort. Today the parish is truly a multi-cultural parish and serves a community with members from Europe, Asia, Africa as well as African-American, Asian-American, and South & European American.

Architecture

The church building itself is a fine example of Victorian Gothic Revival Architecture reminiscent of English and French Gothic cathedrals. The building is a wooden structure. The exterior is entirely clad in galvanized metal panels mimicking brick and stone. Most of this metal cladding is original. Some of the panels were damaged in the 1980's and were replaced. Interestingly the panels can still be purchased so the replaced panels blend perfectly with the original panels.



The interior is a light filled room consisting of a central nave and two side aisles and features soaring gothic arched ceilings made of lath and plaster supported by wooden columns. The fine altar piece is of painted carved wood and is centered in a semicircular apse.

The two side altars, similar in style to the main altar feature beautiful icons commissioned by the Lienert family and installed in 1987. The icons feature images of several saints including St. Martin de Porres, the patron saint of social justice and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a Mohawk Indian.



Daylight enters the church through a series of beautiful stained glass windows installed shortly after the church was built. These windows were restored through donations of the parishioners in 2003.

The rectory, to the church to the north, was constructed in 1887 in the Victorian Gothic style but it has been greatly modified retaining few of its original features.



The brick school building to the north on the corner of Williams and Morris was constructed in 1949 and served as the parish school until it closed in 1987. It is currently occupied by the Ivy School, a state funded Montessori school.

Parish Services

Immaculate Heart offers regular worship services including daily and Sunday Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Marriage & Baptism. In addition we have a St. Vincent DePaul food distribution service. We also offer AA & NAA. Finally we host Pearls of Wisdom, an elder group.