

**Sacred Heart
Catholic Church
34th Street at Bull**

Organized by the Benedictines, the parish of Sacred Heart was established south of Forsyth Park in Savannah's Victorian District.

Father Oswald Moosmueller, a missionary from Europe, was the first pastor. Although the date of the parish's first Mass is uncertain, the first corner-stone was laid in October, 1880, on a corner lot at 31st Street and Habersham. The green frame building was identified by a gilt cross on its facade. A two-story annex was soon built to accommodate a parochial school. There the Sisters of Mercy taught as many as 125 children, both African-Americans and whites.

By the turn of the century, Sacred Heart Parish had grown rapidly, necessitating the purchase of an entire block of land nearby, bounded by Bull, Whitaker, 33rd, and 34th streets. Meanwhile, on the old church property, the parish's educational facilities continued to expand, including the founding of the Benedictine Military School with an enrollment of 21 boys. (The school was located on Abercorn Street from 1905 and 1963, when it moved to Seawright Drive on Savannah's south side).

The cornerstone of Sacred Heart's current edifice was laid in December, 1902, and contained a document inscribed in Gothic lettering by the church's architect, the Reverend Father Michael, O.S.B. The supervising architect was W. Hyman Witcover, who also designed Congregation B'nai B'rith's former synagogue on Montgomery Street and City Hall on Bay Street.

Constructed of red pressed brick with white Georgia marble trim, Sacred Heart's facade is balanced by twin spires. The architecture is Gothic Revival. Twin angel statues flank the stained glass window mounted above the front entrance.

The sanctuary's stained glass side windows portray an Angel Guardian and various saints, including Saint Patrick robed in vivid green. Crafted in Munich, Germany, the windows replicate those from Belmont Abbey which were exhibited at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

An arched, vaulted ceiling stretches overhead. Oak pews, wainscot, and narrow board flooring complement the nave's marble trim, found in the floor of the narthex, side and center aisles. The high altar, installed during a 1973 renovation, is also marble. The organ is located in the balcony above the front entrance.

"Higher Ground" is available at many local bookstores & gift shops.

WHO ARE THE SAINTS ON OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS?

The Guardian Angels:

The guardian angels offer continuous praise to God and serve him as messengers and ministers, and their special mission to guard all people on earth. Faith teaches us that each of us has a Guardian Angel who watches over us and protects us during our life here on earth. They help us stay on the right path, and when we go wrong, they help us to rise again

Saint Gregory

Young Gregory's father was very rich. When his father died, Gregory gave all the money he inherited to the poor. Then he went to a monastery and became a monk. He prayed, studied hard, and when the Pope in those days heard about this bright young man he called Gregory to Rome. He made him a Deacon and sent him on important errands to kings and generals. One day in the market place Gregory saw some English slave boys who did not believe in Jesus. He hoped that some day they would be Catholic Later Gregory became Pope. He remembered the boys. He sent Saint Augustine to England to tell the people about Jesus. He sent priests to convert the Spanish and French. He even converted the men who came to destroy Italy. Gregory wrote many books which are still read. He taught people how to sing by songs called the Gregorian Chants.

Saint Patrick

Patrick was born in the year 387. At sixteen he was captured by pirates and sold as a slave to a chief in Ireland. While tending sheep in the mountains, he prayed much. After six years, a voice from heaven told him to go back to his own country. First he went to Rome where he became a priest. He was then sent to England, but after some time he begged the Pope to send him to Ireland. The pope made him bishop and then sent him as a missionary to Ireland. One of the pagan kings arrested Patrick. When he saw the miracles worked by Patrick, he said, "tell us about your God, he has given you great power." "There is but one God answered Patrick ("in three Persons: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit." Picking up a green shamrock he said "Even as here are three leaves on this one stem, so there are three Persons in one God." After that he was allowed to preach the faith everywhere in Ireland.

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga

Aloysius lived in the castle of the Gonzaga family in Italy. As a little boy he spent some time with his father in the army. There he picked up bad language. His mother scolded him and taught him what a terrible thing it is to offend God, He began to love prayer. At twenty Aloysius signed away his right to the lands of the Gonzaga family and became a Jesuit novice.

Aloysius' fellow students loved him because he was kind and willing to help them. In Rome he took care of sick people in a hospital and before long him himself was ill. Aloysius never reached the priesthood; he passed away quietly before the crucifix where he found strength to suffer. He was only twenty—three years old. He is the patron of young people.

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

Elizabeth was the daughter of the king of Hungary. At the age of fourteen she was married to Louis of Thuringia, a German prince. They had three children. Under the guidance of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service of the poor and sick. Seeking to become one with the poor, she wore simple clothing. Daily she would break bread to hundreds of the poor in the land. They loved her and called her "Dear St. Elizabeth". One day Elizabeth was carrying bread for the poor when her husband met her. He saw only roses in her hand. After her

husband's death Elizabeth worked hard to support her family because she was mistreated by her husband's family. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis, where she spent the rest of her years caring for the poor in a hospital. She died at the age of twenty—four. She is the patroness of hospitals.

Saint Bernard

Bernard was born in a castle in Burgundy, France. In school he studied theology and Holy Scripture, and at age sixteen he joined a monastery of the Cistercian Order where he became a priest. With twelve other monks he founded the Abbey of Clairvaux. The poor and weak sought Bernard's protection; bishops, kings, and popes asked his advice. Though he was very busy he never forgot that his main duty in this world was to lead a holy life. Bernard is known for his writings and has the title of Doctor of the Church. He was devoted to Jesus Crucified and to the Virgin Mary.

Saint Boniface

Boniface was born about the year 680 in Devonshire, England. From the age of thirteen he was educated in the Benedictine monastery of Exeter; where later he became a monk. For a number of years he studied and became a teacher in the diocese of Winchester. At the age of thirty he was ordained a priest. In 716 he was sent of Friesland to preach to the people there who did not know God, but his first attempt was unsuccessful and he returned to England where he became abbot of his monastery. In 719 he asked Pope Gregory II to return to Friesland. He ended his fruitful career by martyrdom in Friesland where he preached the Faith.

Saint Leo the Great

Leo became pope at the time the Vandal and Huns were fighting the Christians of Europe. Leo called together all the bishops and priests of the Church to discuss the problems the Christians were facing. This gathering was called the Council of Chalcedon. Because of the powerful leadership of Leo and the preaching of the truth by his priests and bishops, the Vandals and Huns, whose leader was Attila, stopped fighting. Leo had saved Europe.

Saint Michael, Archangel

Michael is one of the Archangels. He is a warrior of God. Once upon a time long ago, the bad angels made war in Heaven. They cried, "We will not serve!" Michael and the good angels drove out the evil army who was led by Lucifer. Michael is the friend and protector of all those who love God and follow Jesus Christ. He is always on the side of the right and good.

Saint Walburga

Although she is English Walburga is honored in many parts of France, Germany and the Netherlands. She was educated at the monastery of Wimborne in Dorset where she afterwards became a nun. Walburga lived at the time of Saint Boniface and assisted him by founding convents in the newly evangelized districts of Germany. After her death Walburga's fame spread because of a miraculous oil which contains a healing power – which flows through an opening in the rock on which her relics are kept. In art she is sometimes represented holding three ears of corn, with which she is said to have cured a girl afflicted with over eating.

Researched by the students of Sacred heart School with the help of Sisters Leonard and Bernice

