



MISSION STATEMENT

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception serves as the Mother Church of the Catholic faithful in northern Colorado. Through its beauty and service to the people of God, and its fidelity to the Gospel and the shepherds of the Church, it illuminates the local community and greater Denver area with Christian faith, hope and love.



SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

HOLY MASS

Saturday: Anticipated
4:30 pm

Sundays: 6:30 am
8:30 am
10:30 am
12:30 pm
(Spanish/English)
6:30 pm

Daily: Monday - Friday
7:00 am
12:10 pm
5:30 pm

Saturday: 7:00 am
12:10 pm

CONFESSIONS

Daily: Monday - Friday
6:30 am
11:30 am

Saturday: 6:30 am
3:00-4:00 pm



CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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Denver, CO 80203-1914
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THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION





"May the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception long stand, its spires an expression of the questioning, upturned face of humanity, its chimes an eternal call to the spirituality that stirs within us, and its doors a haven to the weary-hearted in search of hope and rest!"

- Rocky Mountain News, 1912



ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

There are many treasures in the Cathedral, including the original Kimball 3,000 pipe organ, the Carrara marble main altar and statues, the historic bells and the original ivory Stations of the Cross; however the most stunning and overwhelming feature are the 75 stained glass windows produced by the Royal Bavarian Art Institute, established by Mr. F. X. Zettler of Munich, Germany.

- The east and west transept windows are created from over 20,000 pieces of colored glass each. The west transept window depicts the declaration of the Immaculate Conception of Mary by Pius IX, with eight separate panels showing the doctors of the Church who supported this belief.
- The east transept window depicts the Council of Ephesus where the doctrine of "Mater Dei", Mary, the Mother of God, was declared and the eight doctors of the Church who wrote of this doctrine.
- The rose window above the organ depicts St. Cecilia and seven musical angels.
- The mysteries of the Rosary are reflected in the apse and chapels around the main altar.
- The Joyful Mysteries are grouped in the left transept and chapel, the Sorrowful Mysteries above the high altar, and the Glorious Mysteries in the right transept and chapel. Additionally there are scenes from the life of Jesus, including the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

HISTORY



The roots of the parish of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception were in the founding of St. Mary's Church by "Fr." Machebeuf in 1860 at 15th and Stout Streets. It became the first cathedral in 1868 when Machebeuf was made vicar apostolic of Colorado.

With the continued growth of the Catholic community, Bishop Nicholas C. Matz made the construction of a grand cathedral a priority in 1890. During turbulent financial times, funds were acquired and lost, but finally ground was broken in 1902, at the present site of Colfax and Logan Streets. Due to additional financial delays, the cornerstone was laid on July 15, 1906, and an energetic young priest, Fr. Hugh McMenemy took on the project of building the cathedral. Through his leadership and the financial and managerial talents of the Cathedral Building Committee, a prominent group of Denver's citizens, the Cathedral was completed and dedicated on October 27, 1912.

The cruciform cathedral inspired by French Gothic architecture was designed by Leon Coquard of Detroit, and completed by Denver architects, Aaron Gove and Thomas Walsh. It is 195 feet by 116 feet in length and width with a vaulted ceiling rising 68 feet above the slightly sloping nave.

The bell spires were capped at 210 feet in 1911. The foundation is of Gunnison granite; the exterior walls Indiana limestone; and much of the interior structural marble is from Marble, Colorado. The finest Carrara marble from Italy was used for the altars, pedestals, statues, pulpit, and bishop's throne and communion rail.



Pope John Paul II elevated the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to the status of minor basilica on December 24, 1979 in recognition of its outstanding architecture, history and its role in the daily life of the faithful. Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass at the Cathedral on August 13 and 14, 1993 during his visit to Denver for World Youth Day.



Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. was installed as the 7th Bishop of Denver on April 7, 1997 and Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Denver was appointed 6th Rector in March 2001.