

Sacred Heart Mission



**11652 S. Church Street
Chicago, IL 60643**

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

4:00pm

Sunday

8:30am & 10:00am

Parish Office

Phone:

773-233-3955

Email:

info@chicagosacredheart.org

www.chicagosacredheart.org

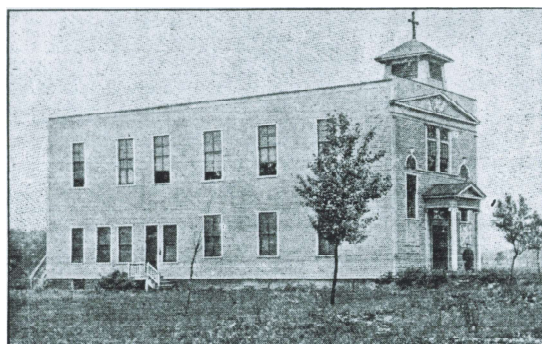
www.facebook.com/ChicagoSacredHeart

www.instagram.com/ChicagoSacredHeart

*Front cover image by Jack Simmerling, 1969
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Updated 10/6/2024

Sacred Heart Mission, founded in 1892, originally served the French Canadian Catholics who lived on the southwest side of Chicago and worked at the Purington Brickyards. The first church structure, located at 123rd and Rexford Street, in Alsip, Illinois, was pastored by Rev. J.A. Milot. When this church was destroyed by fire, services were held at Liberty Hall on the grounds of the Purington Brickyard, in Blue Island, Illinois. The new church, constructed at the present location, 11652 S. Church Street, in the Morgan Park section of Chicago, was dedicated on December 11, 1904. In the early years the parishioners clad the church with overfired bricks called Jharmas which had been rejected at the brickyard. The first pastor assigned to Sacred Heart was Rev. Louis Demers; he served from 1904 to 1912.



Sacred Heart, circa 1904

Rev. Raymond deNorus, a French priest born in Saintes, France, immigrated to the United States in 1909 at age 36; he served as pastor from June 1912 to June 1935. Rev. deNorus actively promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and had a reputation as a healer. Oral history reports indicate he had connections to Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, France. The hand-shaped plaster monolith, to the left of the main altar, is said to depict the Grotto at Lourdes where the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have visited Bernadette and where subsequent miracles occurred.





The church was adorned with crutches (upper right corner of photo) and thanksgiving medallions (along the ceiling beams), testifying to the cures attributed to Rev. deNorus. Photo taken prior to 1935.



Christmas at Sacred Heart, after the church's first interior simplification; photo taken some time between 1938 and 1941.



Sacred Heart, 2019

Rev. John F. McNally became pastor in July 1944. The main Gothic altar was replaced by a simple background of drapes and wallpaper which covered the stained glass windows of Saints Peter and Paul. The Grotto altar, to the left, remained much the same. The right altar was simplified with a drape valance and became the present Sacred Heart Adoration altar.



Sacred Heart Adoration altar, 2019

The present remodeling was done in the late 1950's and set the tone of the Mission as it is seen today. At that time, Rev. McNally bought the property to the south which includes the present parking lot. After Rev. McNally's death in 1963, there was speculation as to whether the Mission might close since larger and more active parishes dominated the area. But in the goodness and wisdom of God's plan, this was not to be. Rev. Kenneth Borchardt accepted the pastorate in 1964. He, along with his little Schnauzer, Judy, breathed a new love and vitality into the Mission, while still maintaining its quiet, humble simplicity and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

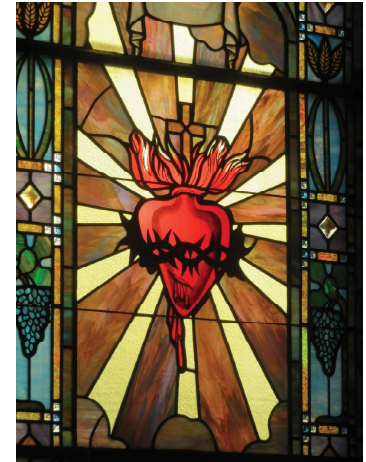


Stained glass detail, 2019



Sacred Heart, 2019

Rev. Borchardt retired in 1978 and Sacred Heart was closed in January 1979. Members of the congregation formed the Save Our Shrine (SOS) Committee which worked tirelessly with the great help of the Catholic and Protestant communities of Beverly and Morgan Park to attain the reopening of Sacred Heart.



Stained glass detail, 2019

In November 1982, Cardinal Joseph Bernadin reopened Sacred Heart with the understanding that it would become a Mission of Holy Name of Mary, where Rev. Anthony Vader was the pastor. Starting in late 1982, extensive restoration work on the church began and was completed in Spring of 1983.

After the 1982 reopening and the 1983 restoration, the community of Sacred Heart continues as a Mission of Our Lady of Kibeho Parish, located at Holy Name of Mary Church. Sacred Heart functions with the assistance of volunteers.

Sacred Heart Mission remains an active Catholic place of worship.