

W E L C O M E T O

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

**one of the oldest Catholic faith communities
in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.**

The West End was annexed in 1894 when it became part of Atlanta. In 1903, several Catholic women successfully lobbied church leaders to form a parish. They tired of traveling by trolley to downtown's Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for religious services. The first parish Mass was celebrated on June 13, 1903 in a home on nearby Lawton Street.

The historic "Wren's Nest" was the cornerstone of Catholicism here. In the early years, nearly two dozen families worshipped together. Today, more than 400 families worship here, almost all African-American.

This corner lot with a cottage was purchased in 1903 for \$3,250, worth about \$80,000 in 2015. This building was dedicated in January 1924.

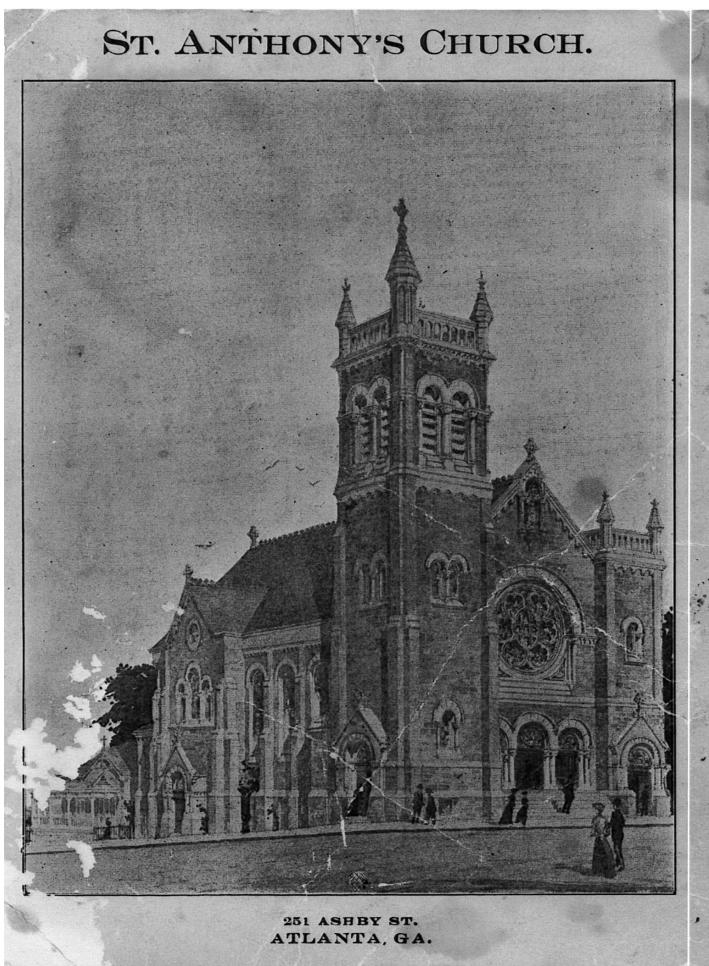
A parish school opened on Ralph David Abernathy in 1912, but it closed about a dozen years ago due to declining enrollment.



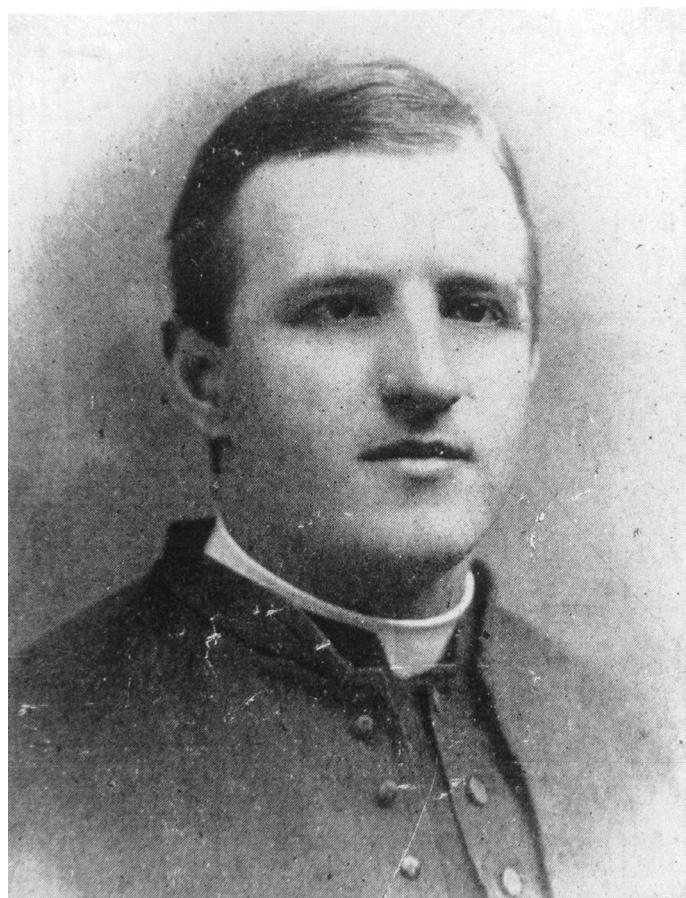
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

The stained glass tell stories from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and legends of St. Anthony. There are nearly 24 windows designed in the so-called Munich style.

You may recognize some of the biblical stories. One of interest is on the lower left side, Moses encounters God with the burning bush. On the top right side is the stirring depiction of the resurrected Jesus. You'll see the name of husband of an early parish benefactor, Joel Chandler Harris, author of Uncle Remus tales.



Circa 1920s



Rev. Oliver Napolean Jackson
first pastor

About our patron. Portuguese-born, St. Anthony of Padua aspired to go to Morocco. Enroute his ship was blown off course and ended up on the shores of Sicily. He served out his ministry in Italy. He was known as a great preacher and inspired people with his genuineness of gospel living. His sermons focused on presenting Christianity in positive ways, not focused on proving people wrong.

Two windows tell legends of St. Anthony. On the right, the story is when people wouldn't listen to him, he'd take his message anywhere else. Here he stands on the shore as fish listen to his powerful words. On the left, the story is told of wealthy merchants who doubted tenets of the Catholic faith. St. Anthony aimed to convince them about the power of the Eucharist. It was wagered for them to not feed their donkeys for days. At the end, they would offer the animal food and St. Anthony would bring the Eucharist. In the window, the donkey is seen kneeling in homage to the Eucharist and ignoring the food.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Some items of interest in the church sanctuary

The large carved marble piece is called a reredos, which is an ornamental wall behind an altar. It shows Jesus on the left and St. Anthony of the right. Below, is a depiction of the Last Supper.

The red candle is commonly seen in Catholic and Christian churches. In Catholic tradition, the sanctuary lamp signals that consecrated communion bread remains from a previous celebration of the Lord's Supper. Many bow or genuflect toward the golden tabernacle, a special place to hold the consecrated bread.

Two private chapels are here for prayer and contemplation. One the left, is the St. Mary Chapel. One the right, is the St. Joseph Chapel. Tradition has he died surrounded by Jesus and St. Mary. A window depicts him on his death bed as he is the patron saint of a good death.

Turning around you'll see a lovely rose window above the choir loft. St. Francis is once again contemplating the infant Jesus. To the left, is a smaller window celebrating musicians. It depicts St. Cecilia, patron of musicians, King David, credited with writing the Psalms, and Pope Gregory the Great, who authored the Gregorian chant.

To Hear Our Choir

please use your smartphone to go
to: <http://bit.ly/StAnthonyChoir2>
(start at 1 minute)
or scan the QR code.



Thank you for visiting us. You are welcome to return.

Enjoy the rest of the Streets Alive Festival.