

THE ORGAN

The pipe organ was built by Harry Milliman and installed in 1929. We are currently in the midst of an organ restoration project, which includes replacing many parts and cleaning the nearly 2000 pipes. This will ensure the organ can continue to suport the music at our liturgies for decades to come.

The 4 windows in the loft are dedicated to musicians. St. Cecilia, patron of musicians, and King David, the Royal Psalmist, are in the center. Angels with trumpet and lyre are on each side.



‘BE WELCOMING’ SCULPTURE

Outside, on the east side of the cathedral, there is a Timothy Schmalz sculpture that was donated to the diocese in 2023.



Take a look at both sides of the sculpture and you will see the artist’s inspiration from Hebrews 13:2. “Be welcoming to the stranger, many have entertained angels unawares.”

SCHEDULE

Daily Mass

Monday-Friday at 12:10pm
Saturday at 8:00am

Weekend Mass

Saturday at 4:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am & 11:00am

Rosary

Monday-Friday at 11:45am
Saturday at 7:30am
Sunday at 8:00am

Reconciliation

Wednesday 10:30-11:30am
Saturday 2:30-3:30pm
or by appointment

Holy Hour

Monday 5:00-6:00pm
Bishop presides when he is able

Adoration

Friday 10:00-11:30am



If you would like to make a donation to help maintain this historic and holy place, scan the QR code and select “St. Ambrose Cathedral (building)” in the drop down menu. Thank you!

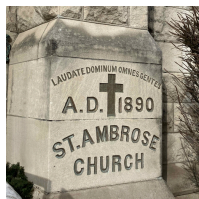
St. Ambrose Cathedral

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THE BUILDING

The very first St. Ambrose church was built in 1856 nearby on 6th and Locust Streets and served all of SW Iowa. In 1890, ground was broken at 6th and High Streets to build the current St. Ambrose Church. The church opened in 1891.



On August 12, 1911, the Diocese of Des Moines was established and St. Ambrose was designated as the Cathedral. The first bishop was Bishop Austin Dowling.

A few different renovations have taken place since then to make the cathedral what it is today.

THE BISHOP'S CHAIR



The word “**cathedral**” comes from the Latin word, “**cathedra**”, which means Bishop’s chair. Only the Bishop will sit in this chair. St. Ambrose Cathedral is the Bishop’s home parish in the Diocese of Des Moines.

THE ALTAR

The altar was constructed from travertine marble shipped from Italy. The altar contains a relic of St. Ambrose.



SAINT ANNE'S CHAPEL



The chapel is named after St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her statue is on the north wall and a prayer is written along the ceiling.

The round stained glass window in the chapel depicts the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Piety, Fortitude, Knowledge, and Fear of the Lord

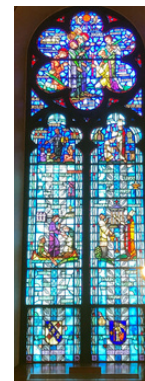
The altar, ambo, and chair were used by St. Pope John Paul II when he celebrated Mass at Living History Farms in 1979.

The **tabernacle** is also located in the chapel. The lit red candle symbolizes that Jesus is present in the most Holy Eucharist.



A **relic** of the True Cross is inset in the wooden cross. This cross is normally located in the walkway to the chapel.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



Sanctuary Windows:

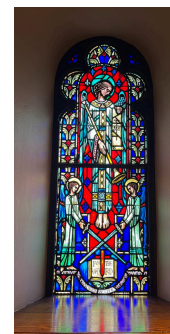
- The 10 windows above the cathedra depict the life of Christ.

Rosette Windows:

- The 6 rosette (rose-shaped) windows tell the history of the Catholic faith being brought to America.

Lancet Windows:

- The lancet (spear-shaped) windows depict different patron saints.
- The 2 windows on either side of the altar are:
 - (on the west) Doctors of the Western Church: St. Ambrose and St. Augustine
 - (on the east) Doctors of the Eastern Church: St. Basil the Great and St. John Chrysostom



Vestibule Windows:

In the vestibule, see if you can find:

- The 12 Apostles
- The 4 writers of the Gospel
- Guardian Angels
- 4 Horsemen of Apocalypse
- Satan

For a video tour of the stained glass windows, scan the QR code:

