



Saint Ann and the Virgin

Edwin Howland Bashfield (1848–1936)

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Completed in 1924, this mural on canvas was hung over the altar in a small church in Chappaqua, New York, built in 1906 when the Rev. Dr. Clendenin was pastor. Following renovations to the church, it was removed to clear a space for a stained glass window. It was then deeded to the Clendenin family who had it completely restored. In December 2002, it was donated to Saint Ann Church by Bruce E. Clendenin of Leesburg, Virginia, grandson of the Rev. Dr. Clendenin.



ST. ANN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

How We Came to Be Called “St. Ann”

Have you ever wondered, as you enter Saint Ann’s with your fellow parishioners, how and why our church was named after Mary’s mother? To find out, let’s travel in an imaginary time machine positioned at the Wisconsin Avenue entrance:

After we set the date to 1865, at the end of the Civil War, and step out, a very different looking Tenleytown surrounds us. Wisconsin Avenue is called the Rockville-Georgetown Pike. There is no church. There are farmlands and just a very few stores and establishments to serve the Tenleytown population of about 500 people. There is a very small community of Catholics in this mostly Protestant neighborhood. And those Catholics who wanted to attend Mass and receive the Sacraments had to embark on a long, often muddy, bumpy buggy ride to the nearest church: Trinity in Georgetown.

Living just at the outskirts of Tenleytown, in what is now the Rosedale Estate in Cleveland Park, was an extraordinary woman, Anne Green. A Catholic convert, she witnessed the massing of troops at Fort Reno, the casualties of the Civil War, and the emergence of Tenleytown as a growing center of commerce. We are lucky to know her thoughts through those turbulent times because, in the 1950s one of her great-great grandsons found her diary in a desk he inherited.

Though records of the exact founding of Saint Ann’s are sketchy, we do know that Anne Green used her influence and respected position in the community to coalesce a group of Catholics to petition for a church to be erected in Tenleytown in 1868.

Newspaper articles of that time describe her as the “foundress,” “patroness” and “most ardent advocate” for a Catholic church to be located in Tenleytown. Our first church was named Saint Ann’s to, of course honor the mother of Mary, but also as a nod to the faithfulness and perseverance of Anne Green. A portrait of Anne Green was placed in the cornerstone of the second Saint Ann building in 1902. Unfortunately, when this church was torn down to construct our present building, her portrait was lost in the rubble.

Though that portrait no longer exists, we should be thankful for the fruit of her faithfulness—our St. Ann parish—and the community that has evolved as a result.

Prayer Asking the Intercession of
Our Parish Patroness,
St. Ann

Good St. Ann, you were especially favored by God to be the mother of the most holy Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Savior. By your power with your most pure daughter and with her divine Son, kindly obtain for us the grace and the favor we now seek. Please secure for us also forgiveness of our past sins, the strength to perform faithfully our daily duties and the help we need to persevere in the love of Jesus and Mary. Amen.



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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Established 1869 #StAnn150