

St. Michael Archangel Catholic Church

St. Michael Archangel Catholic Church, where Easter Mass was livestreamed in Spanish this year, demonstrates well the adaptability of the region's Catholics. Formed in 1881 as a mission of St. Mary's-on-the-Flats, the area's first Catholic Church, the congregation of St. Michael Archangel opened the tallest church building in Cleveland in 1892 at the intersection of



Scranton Road and Clark Avenue. St. Mary's, founded by Irish immigrants in 1826, welcomed German speakers in the mid nineteenth century. St. Michaels was a German "nationality" parish until 1948. In the 1950s a quarter of the congregants at St. Michael were of German descent. In 1971 its neighborhood had become largely Hispanic and it celebrated its first Spanish-language mass. Its move to bilingual masses, in English and Spanish, showed the continuing evolution of Tremont and the near west side as evolving communities with churches associated with specific ethnic groups.

The neighborhood is home to, among others, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Saint Andrew Kim Korean Catholic Church, and Spanish Assembly of God Church. All of these churches offered their congregants the familiarity of their native cultures, even as they helped them root themselves in Cleveland. The languages of the neighborhood may change, but the faith remains. To see images of many of Cleveland's ethnic churches, visit [Digital Cleveland Starts Here](#) on the WRHS website!