CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is considered to be one of the most spectacular cathedrals in the country. Situated on the highest peak in Newark next to Branch Brook Park, the French Gothic structure covers 40,000 square feet, an area equal to that of London's Westminster Abbey. It is larger than the renowned St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Sacred Heart Cathedral was built over a 55-year period, beginning at the turn of the twentieth century. The land was purchased in 1871 for $60,000. The cost of the edifice, initially estimated at $1 million, rose to $18 million. Most of the funds were raised through large donations and church collections throughout the Archdiocese. It was dedicated on October 19, 1954.

The Cathedral Basilica features hand-carved decorations of wood, stone, and marble imported from countries around the world. Its stained-glass windows, crafted in Munich, Germany, are considered among the finest in the world. The fourteen bells in the west tower were cast in Padua, Italy, and tested by Vatican bell experts. The sanctuary's carved woodwork and pews are Appalachian oak. Both a state and national historical landmark, the structure boasts massive bronze doors, imported from Rome, and an altar carved from Italian Pietra Santa marble.

The five ambulatory chapels arching the main sanctuary are designed to honor the ethnic groups prevalent in the Archdiocese of Newark at the time of the construction of the Cathedral: the Irish Chapel honoring St. Patrick; the Italian Chapel honoring St. Lucy Filippini; the German Chapel honoring St. Boniface; the Slovak-Magyar Chapel honoring St. Stanislaus; and the Chapel of St. Anne, which honors saints of Hispanic, African and Asian heritage.

Behind the altar is the most impressive chapel of all. The Lady Chapel, dedicated to Our Lady of Grace, has an altar crafted from Carrara marble and three brilliant chandeliers of hand-cut crystal.

A little-known fact about the Cathedral Basilica is that four former bishops of Newark are interred in its crypt.

The 34-foot rose window, in the gallery over the main entrance, is the second largest such window in the Western Hemisphere. The granite exterior was lighted on Christmas Eve in 1986, making the Cathedral visible on the night horizon. With its 232-foot twin towers, taller than Notre Dame in Paris, and its great copper spire, soaring 260 feet skyward, the Cathedral Basilica represents a beacon of hope to all who look upon it.

Pope John Paul II visited the Cathedral on October 4, 1995 and presided at Evening Prayer. He is the first Pope to visit New Jersey and his presence in this church was a tribute to all who sacrificed to make its completion a reality. It was during his visit that the Holy Father designated the Cathedral a Minor Basilica.
Holy Cross

Father (Joseph) D. Graue (above) has been pastor of Holy Cross for five years and has never ceased to be amazed by the diversity of the parish in the heart of Harrison's business district.

Among its 600 families are those who have lived in the Hudson County town since they were born—such as Portuguese, Patrician, and Polish families who are the St. John Xaviers, Divine Word, and Sacred Heart parishes. The last one coordinates the Fatima street processions in May and October in the city.

The present church was finally completed and dedicated in 1980. With bell towers were added in 1988, the church was a Gothic Revival style in the 1880s. The present church is the third building to occupy the site where the church stands. The first church was the name of the Fatima street processions in May and October in the city.

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