

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Convent, and Rectory

1000 Eliot Street

Detroit

The only Italianate style church in the city, Sacred Heart has served Detroit's oldest black Roman Catholic congregation. Organized black Catholicism in Detroit began when Father Joseph Wuest established a black mission at St. Mary's School in Detroit's "Greektown" area on September 1, 1911. Services took place in a converted classroom for the next three years. In 1914 Father Wuest bought a vacant church building on Eliot and Beaubien streets on the lower east side of Detroit. Black migration to the area significantly increased church membership. Today Sacred Heart continues its historic role as the mother church of black Roman Catholicism in Detroit. [CA 6/6/80, 80001926]