

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Established in 1989, Oakland Catholic High School continues to educate young women in the tradition of schools such as Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Sacred Heart High School, and St. Paul Cathedral High School.

Part of a 155-year legacy in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, our alumnae serve as leaders in their communities, around our nation, and the world.

Oakland Catholic's mission is to provide a value-oriented, college-preparatory education rooted in the Catholic tradition. It seeks to establish an atmosphere that regards the teaching of the Church as a catalyst for a lifetime of action. The Oakland Catholic educational experience develops ethical, responsible, and competent leaders who are globally conscious.

Aware of the dignity of the students in its care, Oakland Catholic fulfills its mission by developing the intellectual, spiritual and personal potential of each student. With an average population of 550 students, the school is large enough to furnish a variety of course offerings and unique programs, but small enough to provide individual attention.

The student population hails from 54 different school districts, five counties and different countries, and is diverse in many ways: 4% international, 24% minority, 74% from the suburbs, and 25% non-Catholic. Students are able to share perspectives and bond as one school community.

With a retention rate of over 90%, Oakland Catholic High School provides a nurturing, caring environment where students are members of a dedicated school community committed to growth in *Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service*.

The school community comes together as one school—Oakland Catholic High School.




Oakland Catholic
H i g h S c h o o l
Spirituality, Scholarship, Service

144 North Craig Street · Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.682.6884 · OaklandCatholic.org

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A GUIDE TO THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

*in the Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel
in Honor of St. Joan of Arc*

ABOUT THE STAINED GLASS

After more than four years of careful planning and with a generous donation, Oakland Catholic installed stained glass windows in the Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc.

The windows, which feature representations of the Holy Spirit and the Risen Christ, also showcase more than a dozen inspirational, extraordinary women canonized by the Catholic Church.

“We chose to represent these particular saints and holy women for their faith, honor, selflessness and courage as well as their academic gifts.”

“The women featured on our windows were accomplished scholars, teachers, philosophers, scientists, soldiers, and writers. Each figure connects in some way to the history, mission, and identity of Oakland Catholic High School.

We sought to create an inspirational, educational, and global panorama of holy women as a means of providing a visible display of how we are all called to holiness.”

MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC
President of Oakland Catholic

The stained glass windows were designed and installed by Hunt Stained Glass, with the original design drawn by the late Nicholas Parrendo, complete artwork created by his daughter, Celeste, and execution of the project managed by his son, David.

See inside for more information.





The Holy Spirit

Represented on the left as a dove, a symbol of God's peace and mercy, and on the right as flames to indicate the strength and fiery passion of faith.



St. Faustina Kowalska

Known as the Secretary of God's Mercy, her diary, *Divine Mercy in my Soul*, has become the handbook for devotion to the Divine Mercy. Having mercy on others and herself is a key element to a young woman's development.



St. Gianna Beretta Mollo

Trained as a pediatrician, she aided the Saint Vincent de Paul group in their outreach to the most vulnerable, including her own unborn child, even when she faced terminal cancer. A laywoman, she employed her talents in medicine to impact those less fortunate.



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Praised for her care of the forgotten, she gave her life to helping the poorest of the poor. She made a great impact by performing many simple and small acts of tender love for thousands.



St. Joan of Arc

The patron saint of Oakland Catholic High School, she bravely countered stereotypes and public perception of females to lead a French army and turn the tide of the 100 Years War.



St. Katharine Drexel

The second American-born saint, she became a nun at the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Pittsburgh in 1889 and dedicated herself to helping Native Americans and African Americans. She is viewed by many as the woman who started the Catholic Church on the road toward racial integration.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

The first American-born saint, she founded the Sisters of Charity, the order connected with Sacred Heart High School, and opened the first free Catholic school in the country.



The Blessed Mother

The *Blessed Virgin Mary* is the Mother of Jesus Christ, and the Mother of all who follow her Son.



St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Also known as brilliant philosopher Edith Stein, she is depicted holding a cross. A convert to Catholicism, she implored the pope to denounce the Nazi Regime. She died in Auschwitz.



St. Hildegard of Bingen

A medieval abbess, she defied the limitations of women in her day. Highly intelligent, she was known as a polymath, musician, poet, illuminator, philosopher, theologian, and visionary. She advised popes, kings, and bishops. The musical notes depicted are authentic representations of one of her many compositions.

The attention to detail—the star of David in the halo of Edith Stein, the lightening of colors as your gaze moves upward toward God and heaven, and the original notes of St. Hildegard's composition—all contribute to the artistry and educational value of these windows.



The Risen Christ

It is the Christian belief that God raised Jesus after his crucifixion as first of the dead, starting His exalted life as Christ and Lord. His resurrection is the guarantee that all the Christian dead will be resurrected at Christ's parousia.



St. Mary Magdalene

Shown here holding palms, she is revered as one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a true example of God's mercy and grace. A strong woman, she became one of Christ's most devoted disciples.



St. Jeanne Jugan

Also known as Sister Mary of the Cross, she founded the Little Sisters of the Poor and dedicated her life to helping the elderly. She's shown here holding a basket of loaves to feed the poor.



St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Known as The Little Flower of Jesus, she wrote *The Story of a Soul* in 1898. She is one of the most popular saints because of her simple and practical approach to spiritual life.



St. Catherine of Siena

One of the first female saints to be named a Doctor of Church, she was a scholastic philosopher and theologian known for her wisdom and writings.



St. Agatha Lin Zhao

A Christian educator in China, she was imprisoned for her refusal to denounce her faith. While imprisoned, she advocated on behalf of other prisoners. She became a martyr under Mao.



St. Marie Alphonsine Ghattas

Born in Jerusalem in 1847, she dedicated her life in the Middle East to the education of young girls of Arab descent, fighting for female literacy, and co-founding the Congregation of the Sisters of the Rosary.



Venerable Catherine Elizabeth McAuley

Born in 1787, she founded the Religious Sisters of Mercy, a congregation dedicated to education and social service. Mercy Sisters lived in a convent where our chapel now stands and taught at St. Paul Cathedral High School.



St. Josephine Margaret Bakhita

Born in Sudan, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery by Arab slave traders at a young age. After years of suffering at the hands of over a dozen masters, she was declared free because of advocacy of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. She chose to become a nun, sharing her story of transformation through suffering.



St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The first Native American to be canonized, she is the patroness of ecology, the environment, and people in exile.