

External Prospectus of the Mother Church

The façade of the Mother Church, of greater architectural and scenographic value than the other religious buildings in the city, is organized on two orders.

The lower one in late Baroque style, with a central portal decorated with coupled columns and two side doors, surmounted by two oval niches, where the statues of Saint Peter and Saint Paul are placed, dates back to the early nineteenth century.

The upper order, in Art Nouveau style, with more decorative elements, with a central window surmounted by a rose window and two sides niches, all closed by a tympanum, was built only in 1913 on a design by Engeneer Luciano Franco from Carlentini. He had designed many palaces and squares in Catania such as Piazza Giovanni Verga.

The Bell Tower

The 40-meters-high bell tower was designed by the architect Giovanni Formica, who, around the thirties, had Emilio Greco as a pupil.

Its construction was completed in 1933 by the Anzaldo Brothers and by the handwork of Francesco Turco. The Spire above the Belfry is adorned with precious colored Caltagirone Ceramics.

Location and History

Ecclesia Maior S. Mariae

The mother church of Carlentini is a treasure chest that bears prestigious signatures of architects, painters, sculptors, including Emilio Greco, one of the great sculptors of the twentieth century. Now beautiful and bright, after the restoration works following the earthquake of 13 December 1990, the church stands majestically with its façade near Piazza Armando Diaz and next to the War Memorial, in Piazza Vittorio Veneto.

It is the first church to be built after the foundation of Carlentini. The works would last several years if in 1627 its completion was still requested as stated in the documents. Destroyed by the earthquake in 1693 it was rebuilt on the same site. Very little is known about the old church which was probably smaller than the present one and with a single nave.

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The image shows the cover of a book titled "Living Heritage Carlentini and Its...". The cover is red and white. At the top, there are three logos: "Italia Nostra", the coat of arms of Carlentini, and "PRO LOCO CARLENTINI ETS". Below the logos is a small image of a stone wall. The main title "Living Heritage Carlentini and Its..." is in white text on a red background. Below the title is a list of contents in white text on a red background:

- History
- Churches
- Monuments
- People
- Community

On the right side of the cover, there is a "Table of Contents" section with a small image of a stone wall. The text in this section reads: "This eBook in Progress is about the Territory and Heritage of Carlentini from its prehistorical origins with the village square on the ruins of the old hill to the presentation of the Museum of Ancient Trades and Traditions which bears the precious material history of our Community." Below this, there is a list of contents in white text on a red background:

- The Village of Scutilla between history and legend
- The Greek town of Leontini
- The Castrum Velut
- The Church of Crocifisso
- Charles V. Defensive Wall and the paved mosaics
- The Museum of Ancient Trades and popular traditions



Mother Church

The beauty and majesty of this church is a jewel set in the heart of the city of Carlentini.



Did you know that...? A few curiosities



The first Chandelier and the Wooden Chandeliers of the 1940s

The large chandelier with crystal prisms was donated in 1907 by the Carlentinesi who emigrated to America.

The Chandelier



Rebuilt in several phases, the Mother Church has three naves and is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, whose effigy is placed in a niche above the main altar. The building has Baroque, Neoclassical and Art Nouveau influences.

The central apse is flanked by the chapels of the Holy Sacrament on the left and of Santa Lucia on the right.

In the presbytery there is a valuable wooden choir. The last room is reserved for the baptismal font, closed by a wrought iron gate.

The Organ

The organ rich in paintings and sculptures that is located above the portal of the central entrance was built at the expense of a noble benefactor, judge Materazzo.

Madonna with Child

Francesco Gramignani, a painter from Palermo who studied in Rome, painted both Madonna with Child and Santa Lucia after he moved to Catania in the second half of 18th Century.

Santa Lucia

The historian Sebastiano Pisano Baudo tells how Santa Lucia on January 15th 1741 was brought to Madonna of Roccadia Church and then she fulfilled the miracle of the rain so becoming Patron Saint of Carlentini.

The Organ



In the left aisle there are the altars of the Madonna del Rosario, of San Giuseppe, of the Addolorata, and of the Dead Christ, of the Sacred Heart of the Madonna delle Grazie and of Santa Rita.

The left-aisle is reserved for the Crucifixion and Ascension, of Sant'Antonio Abate, of Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino, and of San Francesco di Paola.