

Old San Miguel Mission



Mission

We strive to bring people closer to God.

Vision

We, the faith filled members of San Miguel Parish and its Missions, a part of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, find strength, unity and grace in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. As the voices and hands of Jesus in our time, our purpose is to express God's grace by offering Christian love and service to each other and to everyone we meet. We reach out to the world in prayer, action and deeds in unity with the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

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In 1598 Don Juan de Oñate, as a representative of the King of Spain led 400 colonists north up the Rio Grande via what became the *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (The Royal Road to the Interior) to settle what became New Mexico. After many difficulties passing through the *Jornada del Muerto* (Journey of the Dead), they sought aid at the Pilabo pueblo - now the City of Socorro. Oñate named the pueblo *Socorro* (help) for the assistance given the travelers. As the party continued north, two Franciscan priests remained at the pueblo to serve the natives. They founded what became the mission *Nuestra Señora del Socorro* (Our Lady of Perpetual Help).

A small church was built and later rebuilt on the present site between 1615 and 1626 when the Church formally recognized the mission. Following establishment of the mission, Spain established the Socorro Land Grant of 17,002 acres, centered on the Church. During the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, the church was attacked and most of the settlers and natives abandoned the area. The church remained in ruins for some time. In 1692, Don Diego de Vargas apparently was sheltered within the walls while traveling north to Santa Fe in advance of the "Reconquista" (reconquest) of New Mexico by the returning Spaniards.

By the early 1800s settlers had returned and the ruined church was rebuilt (renovation no. 1) A tradition has it that during an Apache raid the villagers took refuge within its protective walls when the attackers were unexpectedly frightened off by the apparition of a winged man above them wielding a great sword. Not long after, the parish and church were renamed San Miguel in honor of the Archangel Saint Michael.

The San Miguel church was reconstructed along classic pueblo lines with a flat roof and the sanctuary higher than the nave where an open air clerestory illuminated the altar with sunlight. The lighted remnant is still visible.

1880



It is probable that in 1851, about 250 years after Oñate had joined in celebrating the first Mass at the Pilabo Pueblo, Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy would have visited the church, while journeying from Mexico via the Camino Real to Santa Fe. Bishop Lamy briefly visited San Miguel again on April 25, 1864, and was welcomed by its Pastor, Fr. Benedict Bernard.



By 1869 at least one bell had been installed in the newly added French style towers (Note ladder to choir loft behind left tower). The tolling bell of the north tower was added sometime later. By 1900, the towers had been modified again. Stained glass windows replaced the original windows of the pueblo style and a pitched roof had been installed. (Renovation #2)



In 1879, the Sisters of Loretto came here from Kentucky, following their former bishop (Lamy), and were granted a building near the church to establish a parish school. The nuns operated the Mount Carmel School for 91 years with as few as 100 pupils. By 1900, there were over 210 pupils.

Near the same time, a "side chapel" was added to the north side of the church by *Los Caballeros Catolicos de San Miguel* (The Catholic Knights of Saint Michael) a group of parish men. (renovation no. 3).



Later in the 1900s, the San Miguel façade and towers were remodeled into the Spanish mission style. By mid-century, larger stained glass windows with the present motif had replaced the earlier windows. A San Miguel window was added above the church entrance to cast its colors into the choir loft. (renovation no. 4).



In 1973 a full renovation of the church interior brought the side chapel into architectural conformity with the rest of the church. A straight, internal stairway to the choir loft was replaced with a spiral staircase (renovation no. 5).

To respectfully accommodate the many ancient graves of parishioners buried in the front of the church, a courtyard was constructed in 2003. Two years later, appropriate tombstones were added along with a large cross. (renovation no.6)



We invite you to wander throughout our entire site, understanding that this is a living, dynamic active church. Please avoid entering the sanctuary of the church. The map and legend on the reverse side will aid you in finding many of our treasures. Sometimes you may find parishioners engaged in devotions, or we might be celebrating mass while you are present. Feel free to remain in the church and join us in worship, but please respect our religious activities.

San Miguel Parish Mission Churches, along the Rio Grande



- 1615 Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro (renamed San Miguel by 1815), Socorro
- 1831 San Jose, Luis Lopez
- 1835 La Sagrada Familia, Lemitar
- 1838 San Lorenzo, Polvadera
- 1847 San Antonio, San Antonio
- 1892 Santa Rita, Riley
- 1892 St. Mary Magdalene, Magdalena
- 1894 San Juan Bautista, Kelly
- 1941 San Antonio, Alamillo
- 2004 St. Patrick Newman Center, Socorro

Sons & Daughters of San Miguel

Most Reverend Robert F. Sanchez,
10th Archbishop of Santa Fe
Parents: Prescilla (Fortune) and Julius Sanchez
Socorro

Rev. Leo Fay
Parents: Beryl (Stewart) and Leo Fay
Socorro

Rev. Patricio (Pat) Lopez
Parents: Dulcinea (Gonzales) and Patricio Lopez
Socorro

Rev. Flavio Santillanes
Parents: Genoveva (Valenzuela) and Manuel
Santillanes
Lemitar

Rev. Marvin Winston Archuleta, SF
Parent: Amelia (Castillo) and Daniel Archuleta
Lemitar

Rev. Charles Chavez
Parents: Concha (Baca) and Filimon Chavez
Socorro

Rev. Bruce Wellems, NMIMT Student
Parents: Roberta and Thomas Wellems
Placitas

William Robert Aufill III; Benedictine
Rev. Ambrose Bennett
Parents: Senaida (Gonzales) and William Robert
Aufill Jr.
Socorro

Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross
Angeline Ann McIntyre - Sr. Alexandrine (later
Sr. Angeline Ann)
Alexandria Manuela McIntyre - Sr. Rose Anthony
Mary Agnes McIntyre - Sr. Ignatius
Parents: Manuela (Montoya) and John McIntyre
San Antonio

Juanita Torres - Sr. Assisi
Parents: Luz (Torres) and Adolfo Torres
Socorro

Sylvia Sedillo - Sr. Sylvia
Parents: Martina (Silva) and Roque Sedillo
Socorro

Margaret Sanchez - Sr. Liberata
Parents: Leanore (Montoya) and Pablo Sanchez
Lemitar

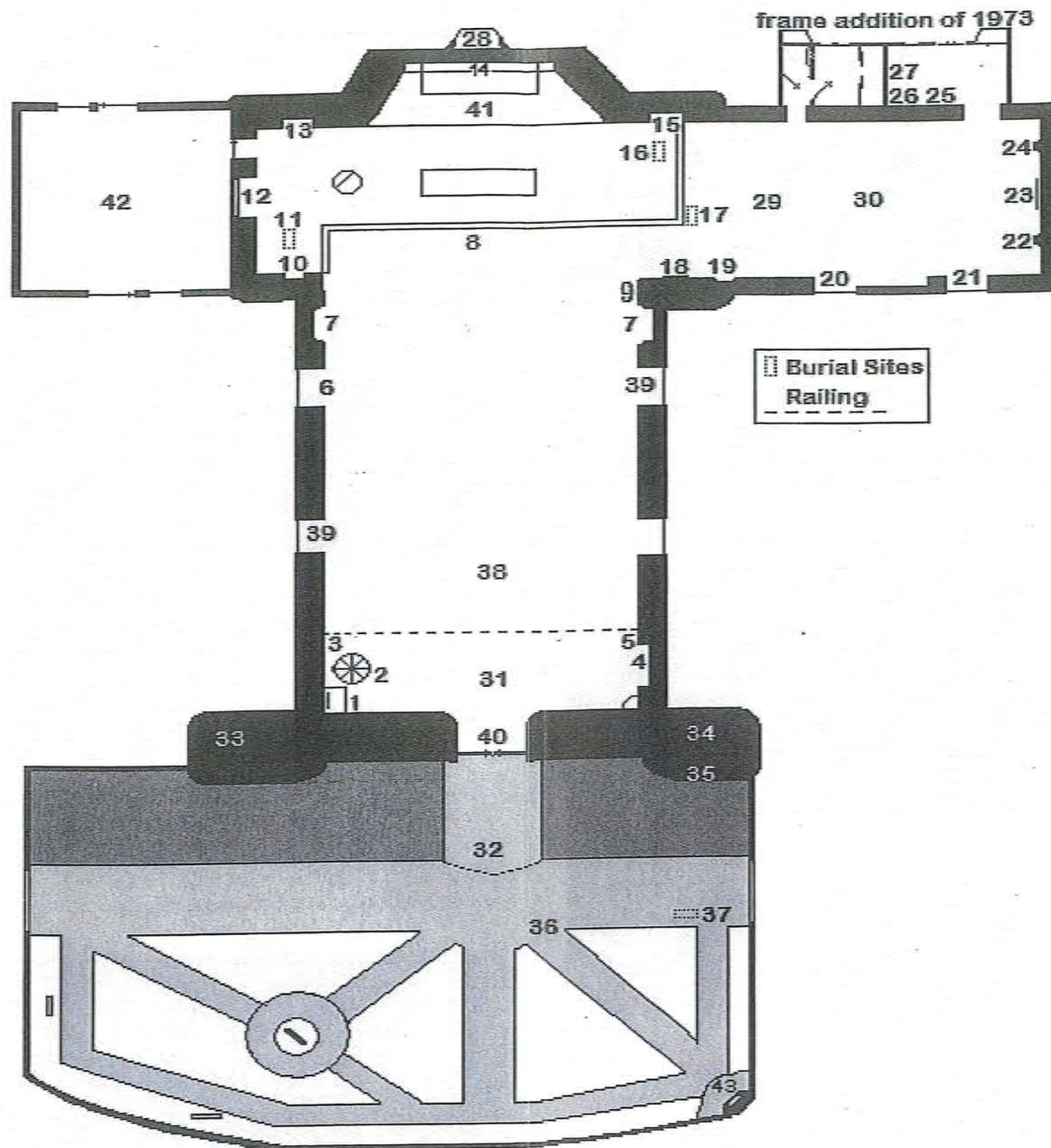
Lutgard Garcia - Sr. M. Berchman (called Sr.
Juanita by her students)
Parents: Josefa and Juan Garcia
Alamillo

Sisters of Charity

Rose Pino - Sr. Joseph Elizabeth
Sylvia Pino - Sr. Rose Gonzaga (later Sr. Rose)
Parents: Isabel (Montoya) and Joseph Pino
San Antonio

Dominican Sisters

Mariana Rivera - Sr. Mary Ramon (later Sr.
Mariana)
Parents: Gertrude (Romero) and Miguel Rivera
Socorro



- Exposed stone foundation. May be part of Pilabo Indian temple (or of the original church) circa 1598
- Circular staircase and choir loft railing added during the year of 1973
- Door in south wall of choir loft used to create a large *nicho* (niche); Note hand hewn plank floor and wall pilasters; see photos of ladder for entrance to the loft
- Ambry with Holy Oils and an antique San Antonio statue from the San José Mission Church at Luis Lopez
- Patrón de la Misión de San Miguel* (Mission Patron, Saint Michael)
- El Santo Entierro* - Jesus in the Tomb.
- Memorials and statues for Doña Guadalupe Baca, *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* (Our Lady of Guadalupe) and Don Pedro Baca, *San Pedro* (Saint Peter)
- Clerestory window electrified during renovation; Vigas, corbels and plank ceiling restored in 1973, once supported earthen insulation of the flat roof; The Romanesque French-style Tabernacle Altar

- and Altar of Sacrifice - as well as Ambo, chairs and frames surrounding the statues - reflect the French influence of our first archbishop, Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, 1850-1888
- Irregular, slopping walls, unique to early New Mexico mission churches; indications were found of a pulpit having been in this area and a color difference and charring of adobe in the lower 48" of wall was noted during renovation - this area may be older
- Nuestra Señora de Lourdes* (Our Lady of Lourdes)
- Grave of Reverend J. Brun - Pastor 1893-1902
- Likely 1598 door opening to rectory, part of original west wall; notice charred matter on lintel
- Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro* (Our Lady of Perpetual Help); above, Mary's heart, is pierced by the sword (Luke 2:35)
- Crucifixion scene and the Way of the Cross in side chapel, donated in memory of soldiers who served during WW II

- El Sagrado Corazon de Jesus* (Sacred Heart of Jesus); His heart bears the mark of the lance (John 19:34)
- Grave of Rev. Benedict "Benito" Bernard; Pastor 1863-1882
- Grave of Rev. Philip Martin; Pastor 1902-1919
- Santo Judas Tadeo* (Saint Jude Thaddeus)
- World War II Memorial Plaque
- Cristo Resucitado* (Risen Christ)
- Santo Judas Tadeo* (Saint Jude Thaddeus)
- Santa Teresa de Lisieux* (Saint Teresa of Lisieux)
- Painting of *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* (Our Lady of Guadalupe)
- San Jose* (Saint Joseph)
- Nuestra Señora de Perpetuo Socorro* (Our Lady of Perpetual Help); Greek iconic style
- Antique statue of *Patrón de la Misión de San Miguel* (Mission Patron, Saint Michael); Made in Spain or Italy, between 1900 and 1930
- San Miguel Parish World War II Veteran's Roster
- Nuestra Señora del Montaje Carmel* (Our Lady of Mount Carmel); originally located in the grotto on the grounds of Mount Carmel School in 1952
- Side Chapel of adobe added to the main church; constructed by *Los Caballeros Catolicos de San Miguel* (The Catholic Knights of Saint Michael) in late 1800s
- Side Chapel vigas and corbels carved and installed during renovation by Socorro's Larry Van Landingham
- 1973 Excavations by Museum of New Mexico archeologists, in 1973, discovered this native burial site
- Position of old portal (see 1915 photo)
- South bell is the "Call to Worship Bell" cast in 1869 by J. G. Struckstede & Bro.
- North bell is the "Tolling Bell"
- Location of church office during pastorate of Rev. Peter Pelzer, 1919
- Burial area of early parishioners; courtyard and *Campo Santo* (Holy Ground) re-established in 2003
- Burial site of last governor of Territory of New Mexico, Manuel Armijo, 1865
- Apparent burial site of about 200 parishioners as written in "Socorro The Oasis" by F. Stanley
- Stained glass windows replacing the earlier large windows during the pastorate of Monsignor Joseph Mueller, 1944-1949; the earliest windows that were smaller and higher provided protection during attacks
- Stained glass window above main doors - *Patrón de la Misión de San Miguel* (Mission Patron, Saint Michael) - updated in 2008
- Ceiling vigas over Apse were covered with tin Circa 1915-1920, and uncovered during the 1973 renovation
- Sacristy where clergy and lay ministers prepare for celebration of Mass
- Statue of *San Miguel* (Saint Michael) placed at the completion of the new courtyard wall in 2006

Catholic Practices

Catholicism is marked by openness to all truth and is universal in that it is common to all throughout the world. The major grouping of Catholic rites throughout the world is Roman, Alexandrian and Antiochian; from which the Byzantine came, and in total they create within Catholicism over 20 liturgical rites.

Angelus: A prayer honoring the Incarnation by the Blessed Virgin Mary, said three times with church bells rung - to start the day, at noon, and to end the day. CCC 2562-2564

Genuflection; Bending the knee (Luke 22:41) as an act of faith and reverence in the presence of Jesus. CCC 1378

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: The experience of prayer, song and worship, before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. CCC 1418

Blessing: Sanctifying something or someone under the care or service of God (1 Tim 4:4). CCC 1078 - 1083, 1678

Fast and abstinence; Fasting is the refraining from food between meals and consuming less food during the meals. Abstinence is refraining from meat. CCC 2043 - St. Thomas Aquinas said abstinence is one-third of the practice of temperance with *sobriety* and chastity.

Holy Mass: The earliest Christians celebrated *Eucharista* (giving thanks); the first certain use of Missa (dismissal) - still the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice- was with St. Clement (d. 397A.D.) because the catechumens (not yet Christians) were, and are still, formally dismissed. CCC 2042

Novena: A cycle of nine days, or weeks, of a devotion of prayer; recognized formally since 1713. CCC 2725

Sacramentals: Acts and objects which do not produce sanctifying grace, but have the virtue to drive away evil and induce us to have recourse to the divine. CCC 1677

*CCC - The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Please refrain from flash photography during ceremonies in the church.