595 Third Street, NW is the location of Holy Rosary Church which has served the religious needs of Italians and Catholics in the city since 1913. From a small informal chapel in a rented house in a neighborhood called Swampoodle, the congregation grew rapidly and in 1919, the cornerstone of the present building was laid; the full church opened in 1923. In later years, an auditorium and bell tower were added. In 1981, Casa Italiana, a cultural center, opened next door to Holy Rosary Church. There is as social hour at the center each Sunday after mass. And every Sunday, in addition to services in English, there is mass in Italian. Holy Rosary Church is a tangible and potent symbol of the many and substantial contributions Italian Americans have made to the Nation’s Capital.

_This D.C. History Minute is brought to you by C.R. Gibbs and the Historical Society of Washington D.C._

**Holy Rosary Church**

www.historydc.org