



Iglesia del Santo Ángel Custodio

Angel Custodian Church

ENG





“Iglesia mayor del Santo Ángel Custodio” - Parish Church of the Angel

In the “*Iglesia mayor del Santo Ángel Custodio*” (Parish Church of Saint Angel Custodian), “*the Angel*”, its exterior stands out with its large dome covered in blue tiles, characteristic of the Valencian baroque. Its interior is rich in frescoes, altarpieces and jewels such as the large processional cross from the 16th century, which is probably from the chapel of the manor house of the Dukes of Segorbe.

The current temple began to be built in 1634, with a project by the architect Tomás Lleonart and his collaborator Tomás Planes. During the 17th century, a single-nave church was built, with chapels between buttresses. The bell tower and the sober doorway date from this period, as well as the canvas representing “*Our Lady of the Angels*”, attributed to Jerónimo Jacinto Espinosa, which surely served as the main altarpiece in the early church. Between 1739 and 1747, the temple was enlarged, adding side naves covered with domes, the transept and the main chapel. Shortly afterwards, José Vergara, the most important painter of the 18th century in Valencia, painted the fresco “*The Glory of the Angel Custodian*”, the main section of the chancel, popularly known as “*Heaven*”. His brother, Ignacio Vergara, sculptor, also worked in the church, building the main altar. Other frescoes stand out, such as the “*Stigmatization of Saint Francis*”, over the Franciscan chapel of “*Seglar and of the Holy Family*”, over the main door, represented with the hermitage in the background, right at the entrance to the “*Font de Sant Josep*” (Saint Joseph’s Spring). On the sides are painted two medallions: the saints “*Abdón*” and “*Semén*”, protectors of agriculture. The “*Nativity*” on the main altarpiece, a work of Joaquín Oliet Cruella, also stands out. The pendants of the domes, over the side chapels, are also decorated with frescoes, the work of José Vergara's school.