

The Cathedral of the Madeleine

10

331 E. South Temple

Built 1899-1909

Open to the public M-F, 7:30 am - 9 pm,
Sat. & Sun., 7:30 am - 7 pm. Guided tours
available Fridays at 1 pm and Sundays at
1:30 pm.



Photo by Griffin Photo Design

Peering down at you from The Cathedral of the Madeleine's tall towers are eight, long-necked monsters. These strange creatures carved in stone are called *gargoyles*. People have been putting gargoyles on cathedrals since the Middle Ages. Some gargoyles worked as drain pipes. Others were carved to tell religious stories or frighten away evil spirits. Eventually, gargoyles became a tradition and were put on cathedrals and other buildings as decorations.



Photo by Design Corps

Look for a large round window above the entrance to The Cathedral of the Madeleine. What does the pattern of the stone lines, or *tracery*, in the window remind you of? This kind of window is called a *rose window* because it is shaped like a flower. Be sure to go inside the cathedral and see the brilliant stained glass in the rose window.



Photo courtesy of The Cathedral of the Madeleine

The Cathedral of the Madeleine took many years to complete. Finishing the massive, gray sandstone exterior took ten years. Fine craftsmen spent another three years creating the beautiful wood carvings and murals on the interior.

Compared to the cathedrals constructed in Europe during the Middle Ages, The Cathedral of the Madeleine was built very quickly. Because of wars, plagues, and lack of money, some of the great cathedrals of the Middle Ages were under construction for more than 100 years!

To learn more about how cathedrals were built in the Middle Ages, read *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction* by David Macaulay.

Draw a gargoyle of your own.

