

Preserving St. Laurentius

A Neighborhood Perspective



Photo by Byrn Ashburn

As a professor of architecture I have seen how important buildings like these are to their neighborhoods. Don't let short-term private profit outweigh the long-term public benefit.

-Don Choi, via the St. Laurentius petition

Philadelphia cannot afford to lose another piece of its history. Hold this owner accountable and do not allow demolition. SAVE this church!

-Janis Benstock, via the St. Laurentius petition



Photo by Michael O'Reilly

Please don't allow for the destruction of this priceless piece of our local history. Once it's gone people will ask, "how did we allow this to happen?"

-Joseph Miniardi, via the St. Laurentius petition

The loss of this historic landmark would be another devastating blow to Philadelphia's historic cityscape! Preserve this building and the generations of Philadelphians' stories that are associated with it!

-Michael Emmons, via the St. Laurentius petition

Save this historic building! These pockets of history tucked into the urban fabric is what makes communities unique and desirable to live in. We don't want another poorly built multi-unit box.

—Oliva Kaufmann via the St. Laurentius petition

Please keep this beautiful building standing in Fishtown. It brings beauty to the neighborhood and will help to show developers they need to care about communities over dollars.

—Abigail Lalonde via the St. Laurentius petition

Demolition is a cowardly response to the challenges this precious church presents. St. Laurentius deserves better, and so does the community.

—Sydelle Zove, via the St. Laurentius petition

There has to be a better answer than tear it down.

—Karen O'Hara, via the St. Laurentius petition



Photo by Brian Dragon



I've lived in so many spots around Fishtown now, and I always navigate by the twin spires of St. Laurentius. The world needs many things right now, but this building is a piece of beauty in an increasingly ugly, profit driven landscape.

The twin spires of St. Laurentius fill one window of my bedroom when viewed down the little hallway from my studio



All photos and quotes by long-term Fishtown resident and business owner, Gillian Chadwick

Can't believe that we are still trying to convince people that this historical Church should stand for many more years to come. Please consider our plea. Save St Laurentius!

—Pat Kruse, via the St. Laurentius petition

This sounds like a typical developer bait and switch. Do not allow it!

—Mary South, via the St. Laurentius petition

Philadelphia cannot be a “World Heritage City” while allowing unnecessary demolitions, particularly of historically designated properties.

—Laura Keim, via the St. Laurentius petition

Philadelphia needs to take control of historic preservation before there is nothing left to preserve. I want my city to stop being a sell out.

—Christopher Simmons, via the St. Laurentius petition



I want the beautiful building to be fixed and used as it was supposed to be from the beginning.

—Patricia Nelson, via the St. Laurentius petition



There's no way this beautiful church should be torn down!
Photos and quote by long-term Fishtown resident and business owner, Mike Parsell via the St. Laurentius petition

Besides the historic and cultural value to the city of Philadelphia, which should be enough, the church is attached to a school that is needed by the community. A demolition on this scale would create undue hardship for the students, not just because of the risk and dangers of demolition on such a scale but because of lead dust, rodents and cockroaches, and potential water issues that go along with demolitions. Yes, the church needs repaired and its state is not safe as is but demolition will create further unsafe conditions as well. The archdiocese needs to be held accountable for their actions as they still reap the benefits from the proceeds the attached school generates. The city needs to hold the archdiocese accountable and responsible for immediate repairs.

-Brooke Savitski, via the St. Laurentius petition



Photo by Brian Dragon