Distinctive in both purpose and style, St. Michael and All Angels Church in Fort Rouge stands as a testament to the faith and perseverance of Winnipeg's only High Anglican parish.

This relatively small congregation has withstood financial constraints and two fires to retain a fine example of a Norman (or Romanesque) church in a city where Gothic designs are more prevalent among early Anglican structures.

Impetus to form the parish arose among local Anglicans dissatisfied with the contemporary practices of their denomination. They supported the Oxford Revival Movement within the Church of England, preferring forms of worship that more closely reflected the Catholic aspects of their spiritual heritage.

Winnipeg's turn-of-the-century residential growth south of the Assiniboine River provided an
opportunity to establish a church that would meet these needs. Religious services began in 1889-91 in temporary facilities, followed in 1904 by construction of a modest mission on Hugo Street North and Mulvey Avenue under the auspices of All Saints Anglican Church. By 1910, St. Michael and All Angels was formally established as the second oldest Anglo-Catholic parish west of Toronto.

Its one-storey, stone church on the northwest corner of Hugo and Mulvey across from the original mission site was designed by Henry William Greene and built in 1920 by the Claydon Company for $22,500.

Little is known of Greene prior to his arrival in Winnipeg in 1912. He worked as a draftsman for two local firms before obtaining his architect's licence in 1914. He designed several schools in rural Manitoba, as well as St. Jude's Anglican Church and King George V School in Winnipeg, then moved to Hollywood, California in 1924.

Consistent with the Norman style, Greene's design of St. Michael and All Angels Church features round-headed openings, two square towers, and an emphasis on the east end of the building. All elevations are finished with broken-course, rock-faced limestone. They rise to a two-part roof, including a clerestory with numerous openings that contribute to a well-lit and spacious interior. Pilasters along the south and north facades lead to a crenellated parapet.

The east wall has two extensions, the larger of which encloses the apse; the other contains a chapel. Both have stained glass windows and are topped by crosses. A wooden cupola also stands on the roof near the large extension. The main tower at the southwest corner of the building has a round archway with a plain, wooden round pediment and a recessed entrance. A second, smaller tower is behind the apse and chapel sections of the building.

The majority of windows are round-headed with smooth-cut, limestone lug sills, radiating stone heads, wooden surrounds, and coloured glass. Double windows along the east and south facades are embellished with small Tuscan order columns. There is a plain Catherine-wheel window with multicoloured glass in the west gable.
The airy interior has vaulted ceilings supported by Romanesque concrete pillars. There is a wide central aisle leading to a marble altar. A wooden altar from the 1904 mission church is in the adjoining chapel.

Because of a lack of funds, the rear part of the interior was not completed during initial construction. It remained closed off until Father William C. Turney joined the parish in 1930. With the help of members of the congregation, he finished the interior that year. A rectory was added in 1932. The complex, which was consecrated in 1957, also includes two rear halls, one of which is the original frame mission.

Fires in 1959 and 1970 resulted in significant repairs. Interior changes included new acoustic plaster walls, replacement of some pillars, new curved ceiling arches, stuccoing, and new fixtures.

Father Turney served the congregation until 1961. He subsequently was at the Dynevor Boys' School prior to his death in 1963.