

## **OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH (IN GREEKTOWN) DETROIT, MI**

St. Mary's parish was founded in 1834 by Father Martin Kundig to serve the spiritual needs of the German speaking Catholics from the small farming community of Neustadt. In 1841, Antoine and Monica Beaubien sold the land at St. Antoine and Croghan (now Monroe) Streets, for one dollar, to be used as the site of the new St. Mary's Church. It was consecrated on June 29, 1843.

As the congregation grew, plans were made for a larger church. The old church was demolished and construction of the present church on Monroe Avenue began. Parishioner Peter Dederichs was the architect of the "High Victorian Romanesque" structure, a mixture of several European styles. The cornerstone was laid in 1884, and the edifice was completed in 1885.

The north tower houses three of the four bells from the 1843 church, donated by Antoine and Monica Beaubien. Polished granite columns, originally intended for the State Capitol building, divide the side aisles from the nave and support the walls of the main roof. The altar, dating from 1885, has important saints on the reredos. Two smaller wood altars flank the central one. The stained glass windows were designed by The Detroit Stained Glass Works and date to 1885. The tracker organ was installed in 1990.

St. Mary Parish has been staffed by the Spiritans or Holy Ghost Fathers since 1893. It was previously administered by the Franciscan Fathers from 1872 to 1893 and the Redemptorist Fathers from 1847 to 1872.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-961-8711, Website: [www.oldstmarysdetroit.com](http://www.oldstmarysdetroit.com)

Fr. Godfrey Mgonja, C.S.Sp.

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM

Sunday:

8:30 AM      10:00 AM Latin Novus Ordo      Noon  
10:00 AM Latin Tridentine (3rd Sunday Only)

Daily Mass Schedule:

Tuesday through Saturday 12:15 PM

On 1st Friday - Tridentine Mass 7:00 pm

Confessions are heard 30 minutes before each Mass. Exception is the First Friday Tridentine Mass

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday: 11:00 am to 2:30 pm

Saturday: 11:30 am to 7:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

## **ST. JOSEPH SHRINE (NEAR EASTERN MARKET) DETROIT, MI**

This church was designed in the style of a German hall church by German-born architect Francis Himpler. The idea was to celebrate not only God, but German-American culture, creating a welcoming and familiar place for worship. The church still offers Mass in German.

St. Joseph's was dedicated Nov. 16, 1873, though its spire was not completed until 1892. Nevertheless, its bell tower made the church the tallest building in Detroit when it opened.

Other than a loving restoration for its centennial, this stunning church has not changed much since.

But what truly makes St. Joseph Shrine remarkable is its stained glass, including the earliest known work in North America of the renowned firm Mayer of Munich. The stained glass is so important, in fact, that the church was given the national level of significance by the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. It is the only church in Detroit with that distinction.

As Detroit's Catholic population has decreased, St. Joseph's was clustered with those of nearby Sweetest Heart of Mary and St. Josaphat into the Mother of Divine Mercy Parish.

In spring 2016, a wind storm severely damaged the historic steeple, forcing the church building to close for several months until emergency repairs could be conducted and the steeple's slate cladding could be removed for safety.

That fall, Archbishop Allen Vigneron announced that St. Joseph's would separate from Mother of Divine Mercy Parish to become St. Joseph Oratory. Under this arrangement, the church would be under the care of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest and be dedicated to celebrating the traditional Latin Mass.

In October 2017, a \$2.5 million historic renewal campaign was begun, helping to ensure it would continue to serve the east side. The damaged steeple's wood underlayment was replaced, and real slate and copper were installed by Detroit Cornice and Slate. Work was completed in September 2019.

Perhaps the damage was a blessing in disguise, as the campaign not only raised money but interest in the church. Recently facing closure, now some 600 people regularly attend Sunday services, a far cry from turnout just a few years earlier.

On March 19, 2020, the church was granted the title of "Archdiocesan Shrine," in recognition of the parish's service.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-784-9152, Websites: [www.HistoricRenewal.com](http://www.HistoricRenewal.com), [www.StJosephShrineD.org](http://www.StJosephShrineD.org)

Rev. Canon Jean-Baptiste Commins, Rector

Rev. Canon Stephen Sharpe, Vice-Rector

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: Sundays 7:00 AM Low Mass, 9:00 AM Low Mass, 11:00 AM High Mass, 6:00 PM Vespers & Benediction.

Weekdays 8:00 AM Low Mass & 7:00 PM Low Mass except Wednesdays, Wednesday 12:00 PM Low Mass w/Organ and Motets & Perpetual Novena to St. Joseph. Friday 6:00 PM Holy Hour. Saturday 9:00 AM Low Mass & Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Confessions 30 minutes before every weekday Mass; Sundays 6-6:50 AM, 8-8:50 AM & 10-10:50 AM.

### **SWEETEST HEART OF MARY CHURCH DETROIT, MI**

In 1871, about three hundred Polish families organized [St. Albertus](#) Parish in Detroit. Father Dominic Hippolytus Kolasinski from Krakow, Poland was chosen as pastor. In November 1885, trouble and dissension polarized the parish into two factions which led to Kolasinski's suspension and reassignment. On December 8, 1888, Kolasinski returned to the city. With dissidents from St. Albertus, he formed the Parish of the Sweetest Heart of Mary outside the jurisdiction of the Detroit Diocese. On February 18, 1894, Kolasinski and his congregation were officially received into the Diocese of Detroit.

Shortly after Kolasinski's return, construction began on a church-school building on Canfield Avenue. On June 10, 1889, the congregation dedicated the multipurpose building at Canfield and Russell streets. The building soon proved too small and the Detroit architectural firm of Spier and Rohns were engaged to design the present Late Gothic Revival style building. The cornerstone was laid on June 5, 1892, and on December 24, 1893, the church was officially dedicated.

Reputedly designed by Detroit Stained Glass Works, the south transept window features Jesus working in his father's carpenter shop, while the north transept is dedicated to Saint Vincent de Paul. The Holy Family window was shown at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago and was presented with a special award. The 1894 Austin Organ Opus 2 was restored in 1977 and now has an electromagnet system.

In 2013, Sweetest Heart of Mary joined with St. Josephat to form Mother of Divine Mercy Parish.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-831-6659, Website: [www.motherofdivinemeracy.org](http://www.motherofdivinemeracy.org)

Fr. Gregory Tokarski

Deacon Joseph Lennon

Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM

Sunday ~ TLM 12 NOON

First Sunday of month

Divine Mercy Chaplet 11:00 AM

Benediction 11:45 AM

Third Sunday of month 11:00 AM

Healing Service w/True Cross relic

Last Sunday of month 1:00 PM

St. Philomena Devotion

Friday 12 NOON

Thursday 12 NOON

CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before all Holy Masses

HOLY ROSARY

Sunday 9:25 AM, 11:25 AM

## **ASSUMPTION GROTTO CHURCH DETROIT, MI**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church is a [Catholic](#) church of the [Archdiocese of Detroit](#) located at 13770 Gratiot Avenue in [Detroit, Michigan](#). It is commonly known as the Assumption Grotto Church. The church community was founded in the 1830s, and the present building completed in 1929, designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1990 and listed on the [National Register of Historic Places in 1991](#).

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Complex consists of multiple structures: the church, a convent, a rectory, a cemetery, and the grotto, along with a utilitarian boiler house. A gymnasium and activity building, constructed in the 1960s lies behind the convent behind a vacant area which was previously occupied by a school building.

The church is a basilica-plan [Neo-Gothic](#) structure, faced with limestone and occupies the middle of the property facing Gratiot Avenue. The interior of the church includes altars and communion rails of Italian marble and stained glass windows illustrating scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary and the saints.

The rectory dates to 1918 and lies to the south of the church with the convent to the north dating from the early 1920s. Both are constructed of red brick along with the modest boiler house located next to the convent. A parish cemetery with a variety of monuments spanning from the early 19th century to the present lies east, to the rear of the church. A large statue of [Our Lady of Lourdes](#) stands on the grounds facing Gratiot.

Near the rear of the cemetery is the grotto. The shrine is constructed from imported limestone, and was completed in 1881. Boulders placed around the shrine (as well as in the cemetery) were carried by farmers from all parts of Michigan. Some of the stones and many of the limestone pieces are carved with names and dedications.

When German immigrants first came to Detroit in 1830, they arrived in the middle of a [cholera](#) epidemic. Avoiding the city, they traveled north along Gratiot, settling among a handful of French Roman Catholics families that were descendants of the earliest trappers and pioneers. The parish history is through the Greiner family, a name recognized from monuments in the cemetery and from the street which intersects Gratiot Avenue near the church. (Greiner Street).

John and Catherine Greiner came to Detroit and in the 1830s settled on "Fort Gratiot Turnpike" just across from St. Mary's in the Woods, the log cabin chapel that was the forerunner to our first parish church, the land for which having been donated by the Greiners.

They established a small settlement named Connor's Creek and built a log church at the site where this church now stands. They called the building Kirchen Wald (Church in the Woods), and Redemptionist missionaries offered [Roman Catholic](#) services in the structure. The name was later changed to "Chapel of the Assumption" and later "St. Mary's in the Woods" before being designated the "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church."

In 1847, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church was designated a parish—only the second in what is now Detroit. Thereafter, many family genealogies noted births, marriages and deaths in the second half of the 19th century as occurring at Assumption, Greinerville. In 1852, the first full-time pastor, Father Amandus Van Den Driessche from [Flanders](#), Belgium, was assigned to the church. He began building a permanent brick structure, which was completed by the end of 1852 and sat 500. In 1876, Vandendriessche visited [France](#), and was so impressed by the [Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes](#) that he had a replica of the grotto, designed by Peter Dederichs, created at the church. The grotto was completed in 1881. On April 30, 1882, [Pope Leo XIII](#) signed a proclamation granting partial and plenary indulgences for anyone who visited the Grotto and prayed for the propagation of the faith.

As Detroit grew in the early 20th century, so did the parish. When the 1852 church burned, construction began on a third church in 1907. However, the population continued to grow. To meet the needs of the larger congregation, the Detroit architect Aloys Frank Herman (in a solo work apart from his longterm partnership Herman and Simons) designed the current church that was built in 1928-1929. and dedicated on September 22, 1929.

As a result of the fame of the shrine, the Church of the Assumption began to be known as Assumption Grotto. Mass is held daily, with [Tridentine Latin Masses](#) every day and both Tridentine and Ordinary Form Masses on weekends and holidays.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-372-0762, Website: [www.assumptiongrotto.com](http://www.assumptiongrotto.com)

Fr. John Bustamante

Fr. Eduard Perrone

Fr. Aidan Logan

Deacon James Wilder

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 6:30, 9:30 (Traditional), & 12:00 Noon

Monday-Saturday 7:30 a.m. (Traditional)

## CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before each Mass and Saturday 2:30-3:30 p.m.

### **MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH DETROIT, MI**

The Most Holy Redeemer Church is located at 1721 Junction Street in [Southwest Detroit](#), Michigan, within the [West Vernor–Junction Historic District](#). The church was once estimated as the largest Roman Catholic parish in North America. West Vernor–Junction Historic District is adjacent to [Mexicantown](#) and contains a growing Mexican community and resurgent neighborhood.

The parish was founded in 1880 by [Redemptorist Father](#) Aegidius Smulders, a former chaplain in the [Confederate army](#). Initially the parish served a congregation predominantly of Irish immigrants, many of whom worked in the tobacco factories. Services were held at first, above Patrick Ratigan's general store on West Jefferson Avenue and later in what was then known as Paddy McMahon's Saloon. Church services were held on the first floor, while the second served as a residence for priests. The first church building, a wood-frame structure designed by Redemptorist Brother Thomas, and known as the Little Church on Sand Hill, was dedicated in 1881. A second larger Gothic style church was built in 1896 during the tenure of pastor Benedict Neihart.

As Irish and German residents moved to the suburbs, people of Latin American descent from the Corktown area of Detroit took their place. A Mass in Spanish was instituted in 1960. In 1999, The Redemptorists turned the parish over to the [Archdiocese of Detroit](#). The parish school was started by the [Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#) in 1882. Sisters of the [Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity](#) (SOLT) arrived at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in August 2017 to work in the school and serve the parish. SOLT Seminarians are also in residence at the parish, studying at the nearby Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

Built in 1921, the present church and was dedicated on April 1, 1923. Designed by the firm of [Donaldson and Meier](#), it was constructed in the Roman basilica style with a [Romanesque](#) façade. The church seats about 1,400. A campanile was constructed around 1924 in memory of parishioners who died in World War I.

The stained glass double lancet aisle windows were designed by [Charles Jay Connick](#). Those in the south aisle depict the parables of Jesus, those on the north side, the miracles. The clerestory windows are by the Detroit Stained Glass works. The [Pewabic](#) mosaic floor tile is by [Mary Chase Perry Stratton](#).

The parish contains a longstanding elementary school, along with the [Detroit Cristo Rey High School](#), which has operated since 2008 inside of the building of the former [Holy Redeemer High School](#).

As in the other Southwest Detroit neighborhoods, such as Springwells Village, West Vernor Highway is the main commercial thoroughfare. Churches, parks, recreation centers, and theaters anchor neighborhoods such as the West Vernor-Junction intersection that Holy Redeemer parish dominates.

The Hollywood movie [The Rosary Murders](#) (1987), starring actors [Donald Sutherland](#) and [Charles Durning](#), prominently featured the church and the neighborhood.

- **Parish Information:** Tel. 313-842-3450, Website: [www.holyredeemer.com](http://www.holyredeemer.com)  
Father John Robinson, S.O.L.T.  
Father Anthony Blount, S.O.L.T.  
Father Anthony Spears, S.O.L.T.  
Mass Schedule:  
Saturday: 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Spanish), Noon (Spanish), 6:00 PM (Spanish)  
Monday to Saturday: 8:30 AM  
Monday to Friday: 6:00 PM (Spanish)  
Confession Schedule:  
Tuesday: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM  
Thursday: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Saturday: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

### **BASILICA OF STE. ANNE DE DETROIT, MI**

Basilica of Sainte Anne de Détroit (*Sainte-Anne-de-Détroit*) was founded July 26, 1701 by French colonists in [New France](#), and is the second-oldest continuously operating [Roman Catholic](#) parish in the United States. The current [Gothic Revival](#) cathedral-styled church, built in 1886, is located at 1000 St. Anne Street in [Detroit, Michigan](#), in the Hubbard-Richard neighborhood, near the [Ambassador Bridge](#), and the [Michigan Central Station](#). At one time it was the seat of a diocese that included French (and later British) territory in Ontario, Canada south of the Detroit River.

Historically, the parish congregation has occupied eight different buildings. It was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1976. The main entry to the church faces a grand tree-lined, brick paved plaza. Reflecting demographic changes in the city and region since the 1930s, the present parish is largely Latino in population. On March 1, 2020, [Pope Francis](#) elevated the church to a [minor basilica](#), the 86th such designation in the United States and the third in Michigan.

Ste. Anne's church was the first building constructed in [Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit](#). The vicinity developed as the city of Detroit. [Cadillac](#) and a party of [French](#) colonists arrived at the bank of the [Detroit River](#) on July 24, 1701. They began construction of a church on July 26, 1701, the feast day of [Saint Anne](#) (*sainte Anne*). The parish was founded and named by the settlers in honor of the patron of [France](#), Saint Anne, mother of [Mary](#) and grandmother of [Jesus](#). Nicholas Constantine del Halle, a [Franciscan](#), and François Vaillant, a [Jesuit](#), were the two priests who accompanied the group. Vaillant returned east to [Quebec](#) in the fall.

Local Native Americans set the church on fire in 1703; this destroyed part of the fort including the church, the rectory, and the baptismal records. A new church building was built in 1704. The oldest surviving church records date to this time, with the first record on February 2, 1704, being the baptism of a child born to Cadillac. Father del Halle was kidnapped by local Native Americans, likely the historic [Ojibwe](#) of the area. After his release, as he walked back to the fort, he was shot and killed by an Indian. His remains were buried under the altar of Ste. Anne's; they have been moved four times since to the succeeding new church buildings.

Father Chérubin Deniau was assigned to the parish and began work on a larger church in 1708. This church was outside the fort's palisade. It was burned in 1714 by settlers during a [Fox](#) attack, as they feared it would offer cover to the attackers. The parish did not have a church building for many years after this.

One may have been built by Father Bonaventure Liénard, who was priest here for more than three decades, between 1722 and 1754. Father Simple Bocquet is known to have begun construction of a new church building in 1755, within a year after he arrived. Bocquet served here for nearly 30 years; in 1763 Detroit was part of the French territory east of the Mississippi River ceded to British rule after the latter's victory in the [Seven Years' War](#). After the [American Revolutionary War](#) and establishment of independence, the territory came under United States rule in the early 1800s. An Anglican wedding was recorded in the parish records during this period.

Father [Gabriel Richard](#) was called to Ste. Anne's in 1796. He helped start the school that eventually developed as the [University of Michigan](#), started primary schools for white boys and girls as well as for Indians, and was elected as a territorial representative to the [U.S. Congress](#). He helped initiate a road-building project that connected Detroit and [Chicago](#). He also brought the first printing press to Detroit and started *The Observer*, the Michigan Territory's first newspaper. After his death in 1832, Father Richard was interred under the altar of Ste. Anne's.

In 1805, most of Detroit, including the church, was destroyed in an accidental fire. A new church building was not begun until 1818, and it was not completed until 1828. This church was built at a new location outside the grounds of the old fort but still near the Detroit River, which travelers and traders used. In 1833, Ste. Anne's was designated as the [cathedral](#) for the new Roman Catholic diocese of Detroit; it served in this role until 1848. That year coadjutor bishop Peter Paul Lefevre moved the bishop's throne to St. Peter's Cathedral, today's [Saints Peter and Paul Church](#). Around that time, the old St-Anne's parish registers were stolen. Because of this priceless loss, parish registers are no longer allowed to be freely and easily accessed by the public. Because the registers contain precious information about the founders and history of Detroit and Michigan, researchers have worked to make copies available through digital reproduction in the public domain.

In 1817, many of the remains in the old cemetery were moved to the churchyard of the new Ste. Anne's. In the 1860s, many were moved again to [Mount Elliott Cemetery](#), including the remains of Colonel [Jean François Hamtramck](#). In the 1860s, the 1818 church building was demolished. Furnishings and even the cornerstone were split between the new Ste. Anne's and the new parish of [St. Joachim](#), named after Ste. Anne's husband.

The church design has been attributed to architect Leon Cocquard (27 September 1860 – 26 April 1923), who at the time was draftsman for Albert E. French (3 March 1848 [Prince Edward Island](#) – 1 November 1927), and whose success led to further ecclesiastical commissions in the French Gothic style. Parish records, Detroit building permit number 23, and the final report for the Ste. Anne historic district list Albert E. French as the architect of ultimate responsibility for Ste. Anne de Détroit Catholic Church (1886–1887). French designed the church in the [Gothic Revival](#) style with [flying buttresses](#), expressing the French history of the parish and territory. The church faces a landscaped grand brick plaza, and the main entrance on the north facade includes four [gargoyles](#). Ste. Anne's displays the oldest stained glass in the city of Detroit. Ste. Anne's is listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#). The 1818 church altar and Father Richard's remains are installed in a side chapel of the present church. Other elements from the 1818 church include the communion rail, a statue of Ste. Anne, and the church bell.

Both Ste. Anne and St. Joachim parishes continued French traditions. By the 1920s, increased immigration from the 19th century and other demographic changes resulted in Ste. Anne's having a predominately ethnic Irish-American congregation. Since the late 1930s, its population has become primarily [Hispanic](#). At that time, most Hispanic parishioners were immigrants from [Mexico](#) and [Puerto Rico](#). The first sermon in [Spanish](#) was given in 1940; the last sermon in [French](#) in 1942. A Spanish-speaking priest was assigned in 1946. The parish remains largely Hispanic, more recently bolstered by immigration from Central and South American nations.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-496-1701, Website: [www.ste-anne.org](http://www.ste-anne.org)

Msgr. Charles Kosanke

Fr. John Herman

Deacon Aaron Poyer

Deacon Kenneth Fry

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 10:00am (Spanish), Noon

Monday 5:30pm

Tuesday Noon (Healing Mass First Tuesday of the month only)

Wednesday 7:00pm (Spanish)

Thursday 7:00pm (Spanish)

Confession Schedule:

Thursday: 6:00pm-6:50pm (English/Spanish)

## **SS. PETER & PAUL JESUIT CHURCH DETROIT, MI**

Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church is a [Roman Catholic](#) church located at 629 East Jefferson Avenue in [Detroit, Michigan](#). It is the oldest existing church in the city of Detroit, and was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) and designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1971.

In 1844, Bishop [Peter Paul Lefevere](#), who served as [coadjutor bishop](#) of the [Diocese of Detroit](#), began construction on Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral; the cornerstone is dated June 29, 1844. Francis Letourneau drew the plans and Peter Kindenkens supervised the construction. Construction was completed over four years, as the bishop paid for each stage of construction with cash. The church, of Romanesque Revival architectural style, was consecrated on June 29, 1848, as the cathedral church of the diocese. The original parishioners were predominantly Irish, with some French families attending.

Following Lefevere's death, under [Caspar Borgess](#), the second [Bishop of Detroit](#), the church remained the cathedral until 1877, when he gave the title to the building to the [Jesuit Order](#) with the intention of starting Detroit's first Catholic college. The church then became SS. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church. The Jesuit college eventually became the [University of Detroit-Mercy](#), and UDM's law school still occupies the building adjacent to the church.

The church was altered in 1879 and 1882, completely renovated in 1892, and remodeled again in 1911. A chapel was added to the rear of the building in 1918. Although these alterations changed the look of the church, the original plan has been substantially preserved. The church is still in use, offering Sunday and some weekday Masses.

Saints Peter and Paul Church is a three-aisled church, built of Detroit common brick. The front façade is gabled and topped by a short square [belfry](#). The tower was originally intended to support a tall spire, which was never built. There is a central entrance pavilion, set between arched windows and Ionic pilasters. The pilasters continue along the side, separating the side elevation into seven bays with tall, rounded arch windows. A heavy frieze surmounts the walls.

The interior of the church features hand-carved oak confessionals, a barrel vaulted ceiling painted with murals of the apostles, and an extraordinary [Carrara marble](#) altar designed by [Gustav Adolph Mueller](#) and featuring a bas relief of the crucifixion by Joseph Sibbel. These details were added during later renovations; the organ case is the only surviving original element.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-961-8077, Website: [www.sppjesuit.org](http://www.sppjesuit.org)

Fr. Gary Wright, S.J.

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 11:00am

First Tuesday of the month only Noon

## **ST. FRANCIS D'ASSISI CHURCH DETROIT, MI**

The present church located on the Northeast corner of Wesson and Buchanan was designed by Kastler and Hunter. The corner stone was laid in 1903 and completed in 1905. The church is 230 ft long and 123 ft wide, it has the capacity to seat 1,700 people. It is constructed of Malvern brick with carved Bedford trim. The cost of construction was \$150,000 dollars (Approximately 2 million 1998 dollars) The style of the church is Italian Renaissance. It was the second Polish Parish on Detroit's booming west side. St. Francis D'Assisi Church merged with nearby St. Hedwig Church on July 1, 2013.

When you approach the building, you cannot help but marvel at the craftsmanship and detail that has gone into the church. Ornate Corinthian columns grace the facade. They hold up a triumphal arch with trumpeting angles, all framing the great west window and main entrance. Great carvings of laurels frame small rose windows in the church towers below are the old side entrances that once opened to the choir loft and bell ringer's room.

Three very unique carvings are found on the front facade of the church. To the left of the main entrance is Michael the Archangel, the heraldic symbol of White Russia land once under Polish rule. On the right is the Knight of Lithuania a heraldic symbol of the

Lithuanian lands that once were part of Poland. The last symbol is the White Eagle of Poland herself. A symbol long associated with Polish statehood.

The three symbols are a recurring motif found in many Polish churches of that time. (St. Albertus, in a mural above the right altar, Sweetest Heart of Mary, the great rose window.) They are relics of the January 1863 uprising of Poland against the partitioning powers (Austria, Prussia, and Russia). The Revolutionary Government of the Polish uprising used the symbols as a rallying point. When they are together the symbols meant the hope of the reuniting of the partitioned Poland to its former glory. Given Polish nationalism it would only seem proper to display such symbols.

You enter the church thru a two sets of massive oak doors. The ample vestibule, with rich oak panels and mosaic tile floor. A second set of oak doors lead you into the church. Here you are greeted by a harmonious mix of light, color and texture. The vaulted ceiling is supported by a row of arch columns. Cut into the vaulted ceiling are small stained-glass windows which include a symbol of the church or one of the sacraments. The ceiling contains medallions of Christ at the center on the church, followed by the four evangelists and then the twelve apostles.

The eastern apse is curved and contains copies of Raphael's Ascension, and Murrilo's Immaculate Conception.

The main altar rises from the floor of the sanctuary to just inside the curve of the ceiling.

Everywhere you look inside of the church an image of an angel can be found. From the four larger than life holding up the roof. To the small cherubs found in the ceilings where the lights come down. Even the lighting fixtures are adorned with angels.

On a sunny day the stained-glass windows (Constructed by the Detroit Stained Glass Works 1861-1970, all of the main floor windows depict scenes from the life of the Blessed Mother) of the church are ablaze with color and detail. The windows were made at the Detroit Stained Works. The windows depict scenes from the life of the Blessed Mother. Two rose windows one on the south, depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus and symbols of his passion and death. The north window is the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the symbols of the seven sorrows.

The main altar's prime focus is St. Francis helping the crucified Christ. Other images found on the main altar are the four evangelists, right above the altar table. St. Peter and St. Paul on the next level up. Three medallions are on the altar the center and highest is the face of God the Father. With St. Augustine on the left and St. Gregory the Great on the right. At the top inside the copula of the altar is St. Michael the Archangel. All were picked to reinforce the teaching authority of the church. On the left of the main altar is St. Valentine, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and St. Stanislaus. Further down the church is St. Anne and St. Anthony of Padua. To the right of the main altar is St. Rose, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Hedwig. Further down the church is St. Jude, St. Therese the little flower and St. Joseph.

**Parish Information:** Tel. 313-894-5409, Website: [www.stfrancis-sthedwig.com](http://www.stfrancis-sthedwig.com)

Fr. Bernardo Cruz

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 10:00am

Thursday 7:00pm (Spanish)

Friday 8:30am

Confession Schedule:

Thursday: 6:00pm (English/Spanish)