

St. Casimir Church Art and Symbolism



St. Casimir Parish

PARISH HISTORY

Polish immigrants founded St. Casimir Parish in 1898. The parish is located at the corner of Dunham and Webster Streets in South Bend and has been staffed since its founding by the Congregation of Holy Cross. The main hall in the school building was used as the church until the present church was built in 1924. In 1913 an infamous riot occurred due to a dispute between the Bishop H.J. Alerding and parishioners. An Associate Pastor encouraged parishioners to insist that the Bishop name him Pastor. The Bishop refused and appointed Rev. Stanislaus Gruza, C.S.C. When Fr. Gruza arrived with a police guard to take possession of the parish, a melee ensued that is called Krwawa Niedziela (Bloody Sunday). Fr. Gruza and later Fr. Stanislaus Gorka, C.S.C., set about rebuilding the parish. The existing church building was planned to emphasize the parish's ties to the Roman Catholic Church. The church has Romanesque architecture with Italianate chandeliers. The exterior is red brick in a traditional Polish style. The architects of the church design are Worthmann and Steinbach of Chicago. Columbia Plate Glass Window Company of Milwaukee crafted the stained glass windows. St. Casimir Parish is the center of a neighborhood that initially was populated largely by Poles along with some Hungarians, Belgians and Swedes. After World War II, some southern whites and blacks migrated to the neighborhood. Since the 1960's, a large number of Mexicans have arrived and settled.

TABERNACLE AND MAIN ALTAR

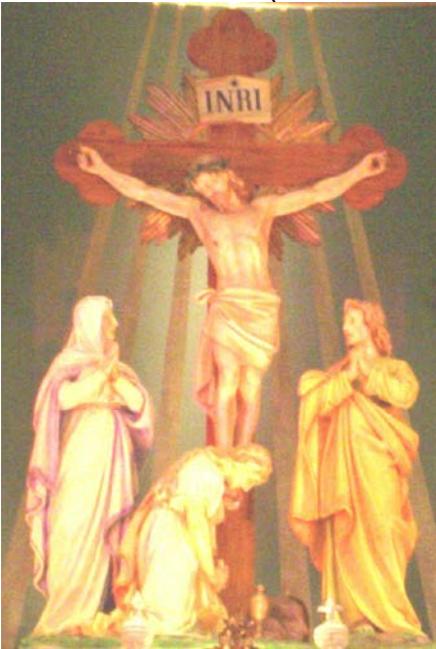


TABERNACLE

The crucifixion of Christ is depicted above the Tabernacle. The bottom left and right of the tabernacle show the alpha (A) and omega (\Omega), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.



The bottom middle of the tabernacle shows the Lamb of God sitting on the book with seven seals mentioned in Revelation. “Then I watched while the Lamb broke open the first of the seven seals...”
(Revelation 6:1)



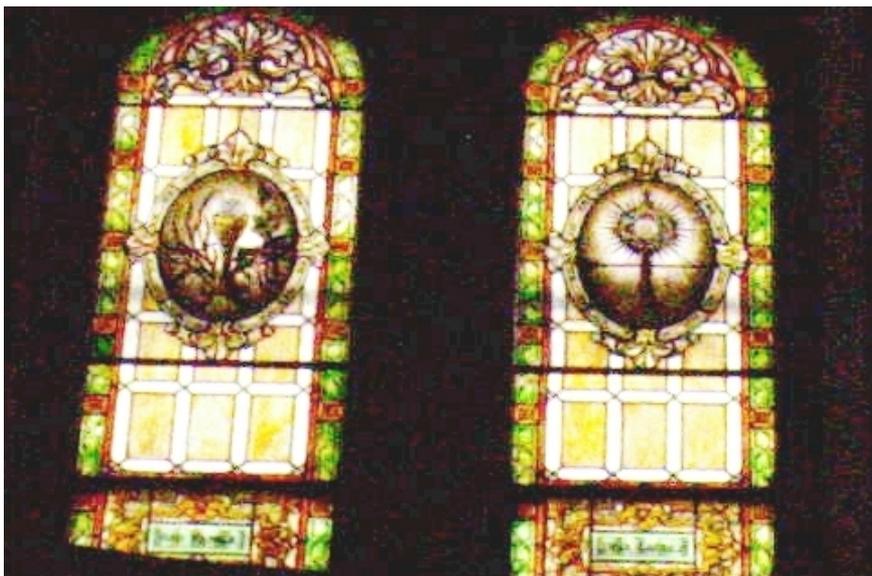
At the foot of the cross are Mary Magdalene, Mary wife of Clopas, and either Salome (in synoptic Gospels) or Mary mother of Christ (in John). “At that time Jesus cried in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”” (Mark 15:34)



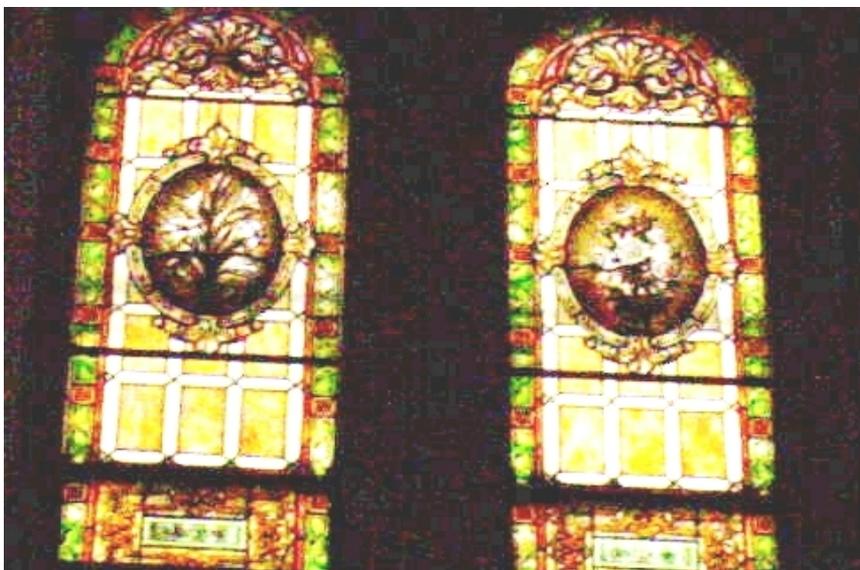
MAIN ALTAR

This altar was formerly at St. Stephen Church in South Bend. A depiction of the Last Supper is in the center. “When the hour arrived, he took his place at table, and the apostles with him. He said to them: ‘I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer I tell you, I will not eat again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’... Then, taking bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: ‘This is my body to be given for you. Do this as a remembrance of me.’ He did the same with the cup after eating, saying as he did so: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.’” (Luke 22:14-20)





Windows above the tabernacle depict the Chalice and Eucharist at left, the Monstrance at right



Windows above tabernacle depict Easter lilies

BAPTISMAL FONT



“I confess I did not recognize him, though the very reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel... When you see the Spirit descend and rest on someone, it is he who is to baptize with the Holy Spirit.” (John 1:31,33)

The windows in the former Baptistery depict a Fount of Spiritual Regeneration and Baptismal Fount



MARIAN SIDE OF CHURCH



ST. MARY ABOVE SIDE ALTAR

St. Luke's Gospel tells the stories of the Annunciation by the angel: "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed art you amongst women." (Luke 1:28) Mary was also present at the first miracle at the wedding at Cana, at the crucifixion, and at the resurrection.



MIRACULOUS INFANT OF PRAGUE

This statue of the infant Jesus was first venerated at a Carmelite church in Prague. A devotion to the infant Jesus took origin in the heart of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross: "...unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 18:3)



SAINTS ANNE AND MARY

Traditionally considered to be the mother of Mary.

Her spouse and the father of Mary was St. Joachim. A legend says that an angel appeared and told them that they would have a child. Anne dedicated this child, Mary, to God just as Hannah dedicated her child, King Samuel, to God in the First Book of Kings. Her feast day is July 26.



SAINT THERESA OF LISIEUX (died 1897)

She was a French Carmelite. She chose to be a contemplative nun because of the missionary role of prayer, particularly for priests. She said shortly before her death at age 24: "I feel that my mission is about to begin... my mission of making people love God as I love him, of teaching them my little way." After her death her older sister compiled her biography. She is the patroness of foreign missions. Her feast day is October 1.



ST. JUDE

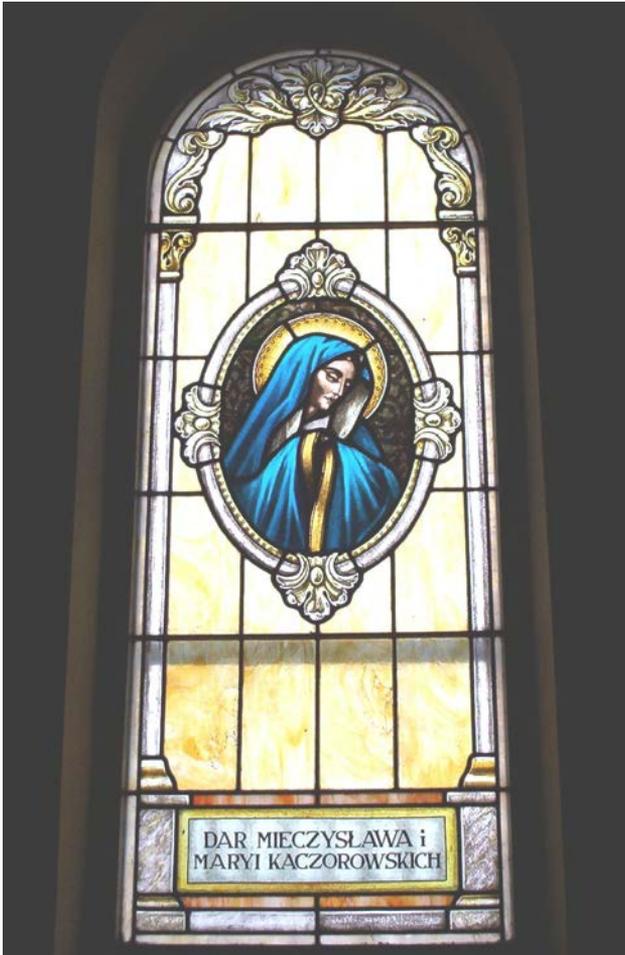
He was one of the twelve Apostles and a relative of Christ. He asked Christ at the Last Supper why He would not manifest himself to the world after his Resurrection. He authored a letter to the Churches of the East that stressed perseverance in harsh conditions. For this he is the patron of desperate cases. He is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia. His feast day is October 28.



REPLICA OF THE PIETA

Depiction of Mary and Christ after Christ is taken down from the cross. The original statue by Michelangelo is in the Vatican in Rome.

“Afterward, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate’s permission to remove Jesus’ body. Pilate granted it, so they came and took the body away.” (John 19:38)



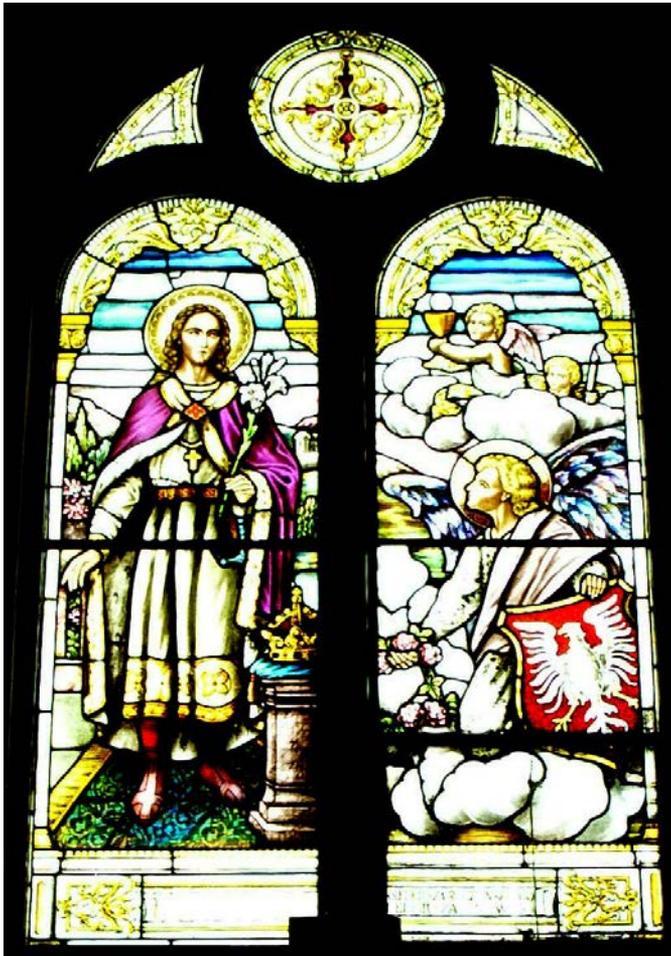
SORROWFUL MOTHER

“Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, ‘Woman, there is your son.’ In turn he said to the disciple, ‘There is your mother.’ From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care.” (John 19:25-27)



CHRIST CRUCIFIED ON THE CROSS

“...then they crucified him and divided up his garments by rolling dice for them to see what each should take. It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription proclaiming his offense read, ‘The King of the Jews.’” (Mark 15:24-26)



SAINT CASIMIR (1461-1484)

He was the son of the king of Poland. In his teens he led an army to the Hungarian border but turned back, refusing for reasons of conscience to cooperate further with his father's plans for a military take-over that would have put him on the throne of Hungary. Austere, studious and devout, he died of consumption. This window depicts St. Casimir holding a lily of peace with his crown set aside. His feast day is March 4.



SAINT DOMINIC (1170-1221)

He was the founder of the Dominicans. The Dominicans are a worldwide order dedicated to formation of good preachers through holiness, asceticism, deep study and sound doctrine, familiarity with the spirit of the times and also its errors, and the full disciplined use of gifts of temperament and other talents. This window depicts St. Dominic receiving the first rosary from Mary and Christ. His feast day is August 8.



RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

“Jesus said to them: ‘...this younger son collected all his belongings and went off to a distant land, where he squandered his money on dissolute living... Coming to his senses at last, he said: ‘How many hired hands at my father’s place have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving!’... ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you, I no longer deserve to be called your son.’”
(Luke 15:11-21)



SAINT STANISLAUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR (1030-1079)

He was the Bishop of Krakow Poland. He excommunicated King Boleslaus II of Poland because of his oppressive rule and evil life, but paid for it with his life. This window shows Stanislaus about to be martyred by King Boleslaus while celebrating Mass. His feast day is April 11.



BLESSED MOTHER OF LASALLETTE (1846)

The Blessed Mother appeared to two young peasant children in the village of LaSalette in southeast France in 1846. She told the children that there should be repentance for widespread lack of faith or she would not be able to hold back the wrath of her Son. Many miracles have taken place in the glen where Mary appeared.



SAINT JOHN CANTIUS (1030-1079)

He was Dean of philosophy and professor of Sacred Scripture at the University of Krakow in Poland. His mortified, prayerful life was also characterized by a special love of the poor. He gave his scholars this advice: "Fight false opinions, but let your weapons be patience, sweetness and love. Roughness is bad for your own soul and spoils the best cause." His feast day is December 23.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

“At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people.” (Daniel 12:1)

“Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon... The huge dragon, the ancient serpent known as the devil or Satan, the seducer of the whole world, was driven out; he was hurled down to earth and his minions with him.” (Revelation 12:7-9) Michael means ‘who is like God?’ His feast day is September 29.



ST. PETER

Enthusiastic, often courageous and many times impulsive, Christ made him the head of the Church, “on this Rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”. He led the early Church at the Council of Jerusalem.

He was crucified in Rome, by his own desire with his head downwards, because he did not believe himself worthy to die like Christ. His feast day is June 29.



ST. PAUL

On the way to persecute Christians in Damascus, he saw a bright light and heard the voice of our Lord say “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” From that time forward, he was a tireless missionary for Christ. He influenced the Church to preach the Word to gentiles. He was author of the earliest New Testament writings; his writings explain the Christ and his mission. His feast day is June 29.



ST. VERONICA

According to Church tradition, Veronica lived in a house on the road to Calvary. Christ passed her home bearing the cross during His passion. Moved with compassion, Veronica wiped the sweat of His face in her veil. She found that His likeness was imprinted on the linen. This scene is remembered in the 6th of the Stations of the Cross. Her feast day is July 12.



ST. RITA OF CASCIA

After the death of her husband and children, she became an Augustinian nun at Cascia in Italy. She was a mystic. After her death many miracles were attributed to her intervention and she became known as the “Saint of the Impossible”. Her feast day is May 22.



ST. FLORIAN

He was a Roman officer who was martyred during the reign of Diocletian. After making a bold confession of Christian faith, he was twice scourged, half-flayed alive, set on fire, and thrown into the Enns River with a stone around his neck. His feast day is May 4.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

He was from a wealthy family but sought to rebuild the Church through his examples and preaching of poverty and generosity and meekness. He was ingenious in finding ways to spread this message. His intense prayer culminated in the bestowal of stigmata, the wounds of Christ, upon his body. His feast day is October 4.



ST. ROSE OF LIMA

Daughter of a conquistador, she was the first canonized Saint from the New World. Not allowed to enter a cloister, she lived at home in as much seclusion as she could manage and became a mystic. During a long illness she prayed: "Lord, increase my sufferings- and with them increase your love in my heart." Her feast day is August 30.



ST. GERTRUDE

She was a Benedictine nun at Helfta in Germany. She had a vision of Christ at age 25. This vision allowed her to see the joy that Christ took in dwelling within her. Christ told her: "I want your writings to be indisputable evidence of my goodness." She wrote **Herald of Divine Love** and **Spiritual Exercises**. Her feast day is November 16.



ST. VALENTINE

A Catholic priest, he helped fellow Christians during the Roman persecutions. He was arrested, beaten and beheaded in 270. A Martyrology attributed to St. Jerome states: "In Africa, Valentine and twenty-four soldiers, martyrs." His feast day is February 14. The custom of choosing 'valentines' dates to the 14th century belief that on that day every bird chooses a mate.



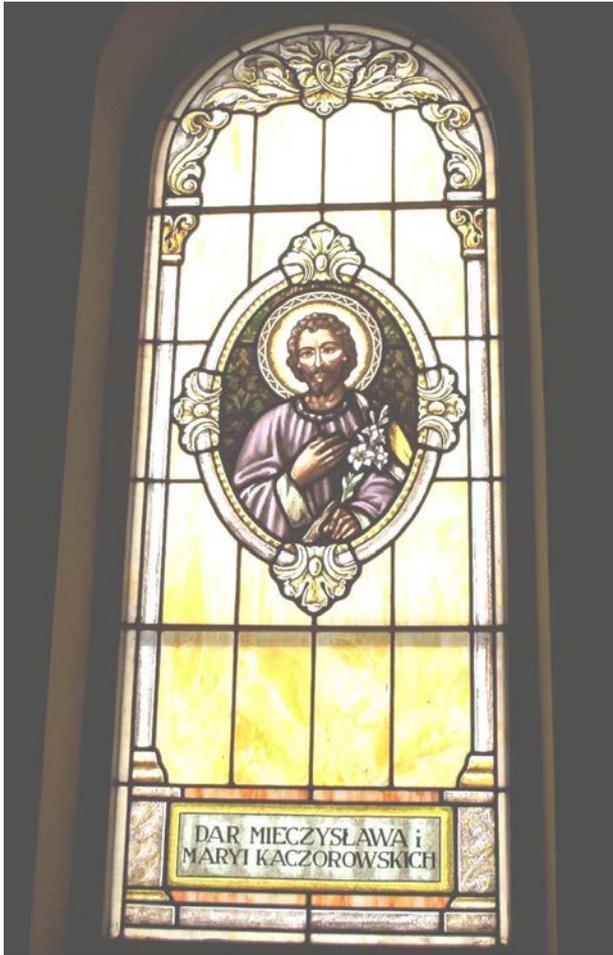
ST. HYACINTH

A Dominican missionary called 'The Apostle of Poland'. He received the habit from St. Dominic. He preached in Poland, Pomerania, Denmark, Prussia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Russia, China and Tibet. He is venerated as an apostle of the Slavs and a patron of Poland. He died in 1257; his feast day is August 17.

ST. JOSEPH SIDE OF CHURCH



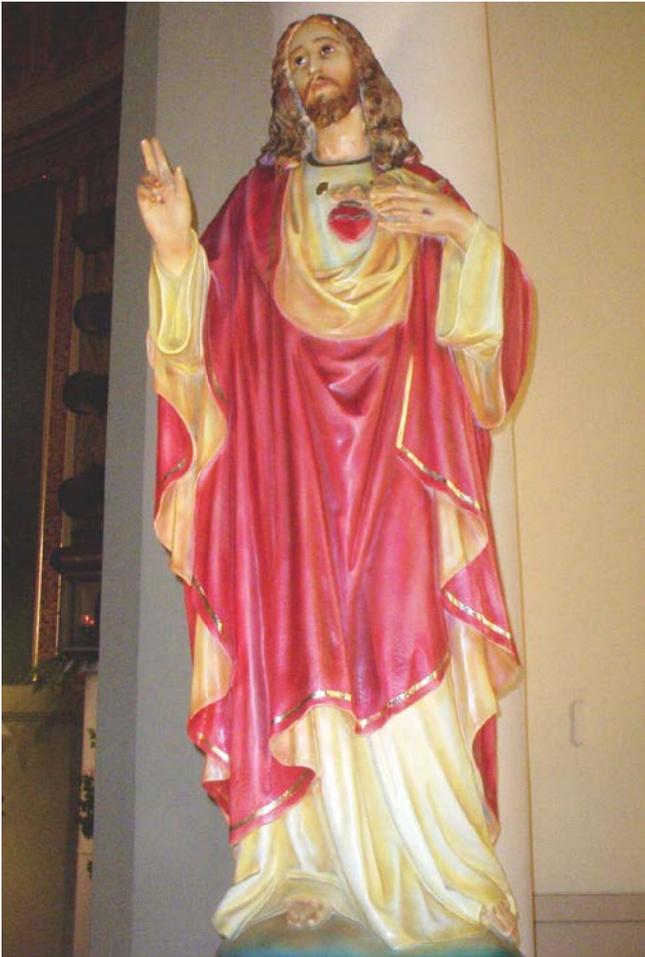
ST. JOSEPH ABOVE SIDE ALTAR



ST. JOSEPH

Foster father of Christ and husband of Mary. St. Teresa of Avila wrote: "To other saints our Lord seems to have given grace to help men in some special necessity; but to this glorious saint, I know by experience, he has given grace to help us in all."

The feast of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, is March 19 and of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1.



SACRED HEART OF CHRIST

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, my loved one in whom I delight. I will endow him with my spirit and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will his voice be heard in the streets. The bruised reed he will not crush; the smoldering wick he will not quench until judgment is made victorious. In his name, the Gentiles will find hope.” (Matthew 12:18-21, Isaiah 42:1-4) Feast of the Sacred Heart is on June 18.



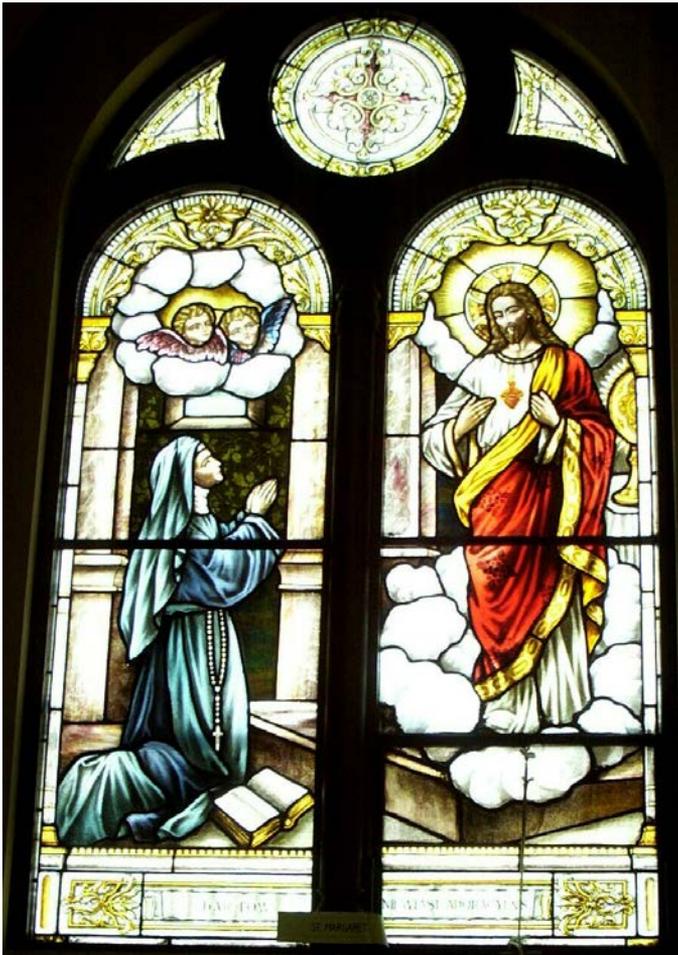
ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA (1195-1231)

He was born in Portugal. He initially joined the Augustinians. In 1221 he transferred to the Franciscans in the hope of becoming a martyr after the death of five Franciscan martyrs in Morocco. He was called the 'Hammer of the Heretics'. When the heretics would not listen to him, he preached to the fishes for the glory of God and the delight of the angels. He was canonized less than one year after his death. His feast day is June 13.



**BLESSED BROTHER ANDRE BESSETTE, C.S.C.
(1845-1936)**

When he came to the Holy Cross Brothers in 1870, he carried a note from his pastor saying, "I am sending you a saint." He was sickly and could not read or write; but was accepted into this teaching congregation. After his vows, he became a porter in Montreal. His devotion to St. Joseph caused him to continually raise money for a church. At age 93 he supervised placement of a statue of St. Joseph on the unfinished church. His feast day is January 6



ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE (died 1690)

She was a Visitation nun and a mystic. “My sovereign Master showed me that my soul was the blank canvas on which He wished to paint all the details of his life of suffering...” She received revelations about the Sacred Heart of Christ that she should atone for mankind’s sins by frequent reception of communion and an hour vigil prayer on Thursday nights. Her feast day is October 17.



HOLY FAMILY

Christ, Mary and Joseph are an example of family life. "...when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him the customary ritual of the law, he took him in his arms and blessed God in these words: ' Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word...' The child's father and mother were marveling at what was being said about him." (Luke 2:27-33) The feast of the Holy Family is on a Sunday in December.



SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

St. Luke records that she was a notorious sinner, but felt great sorrow for her evil life. When Jesus was at supper, Mary Magdalene came to weep at his feet and then dried them with her hair. Christ said: "Many sins are forgiven her, because she has loved very much." He then said: "Your faith has saved you, go in peace." She was present at the Crucifixion and at Christ's empty tomb. Her feast day is July 22.



SAINT STANISLAUS KOSTKA (died 1568)

He was the son of a Polish Senator and a Jesuit novice. His father opposed his entering the Jesuits and threatened to expel the order from Poland. Because of his persistence, St. Francis Borgia, the General of the Jesuits, accepted him. He died at age 17 shortly after having a vision of the Blessed Mother. His feast day is November 13.



SAINT THERESA OF LISIEUX (died 1897)

She was a French Carmelite. She chose to be a contemplative nun because of the missionary role of prayer, particularly for priests. She said shortly before her death at age 24: “I feel that my mission is about to begin... my mission of making people love God as I love him, of teaching them my little way.”

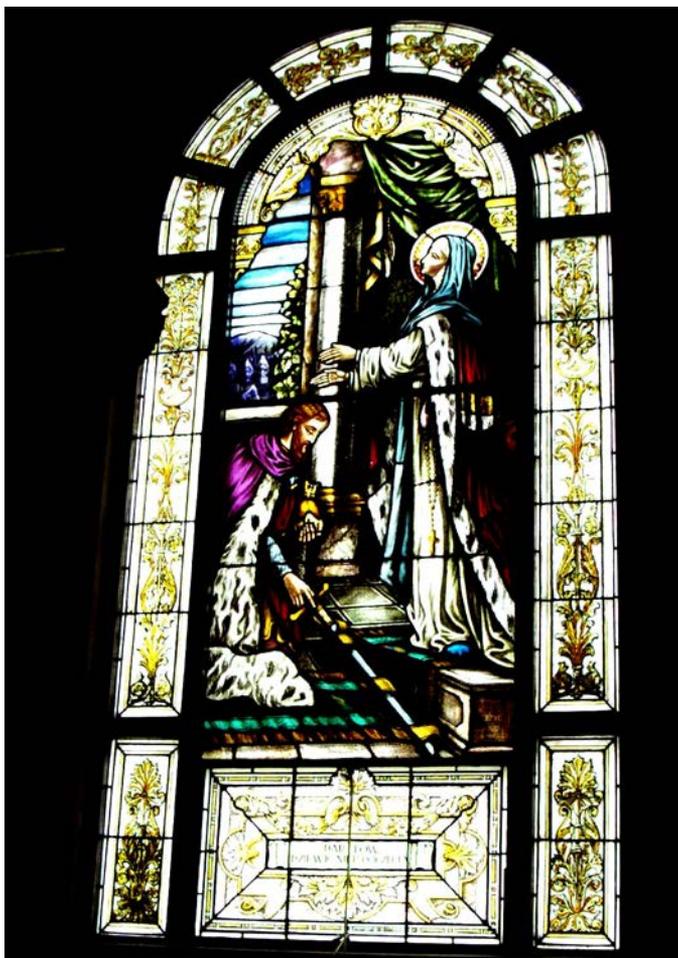
After her death her older sister compiled her biography. She is the patroness of foreign missions. Her feast day is October 1.



SAINT ADALBERT OF PRAGUE (956-995)

Born in Bohemia to a noble family, he became the second Bishop of Prague. Because of conflict with the Duke of Bohemia, Boleslaus II, he fled to Rome.

The pope ordered him back to Prague where he founded an abbey. He later traveled to Prussia to Christianize the pagans. There he was killed on suspicion of being a Polish spy. His feast day is April 23.



SAINT HEDWIG (died 1243)

She was Duchess of Silesia. Born in Bavaria, she was the daughter of nobility and aunt of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. At age 12 she married Duke Henry of Silesia, a member of the Polish royal family. They had seven children. She fostered monastic institutions and introduced the mendicant orders to Silesia. On her husband's death she entered the Cistercian convent of Trebnitz. Her feast day is October 16.



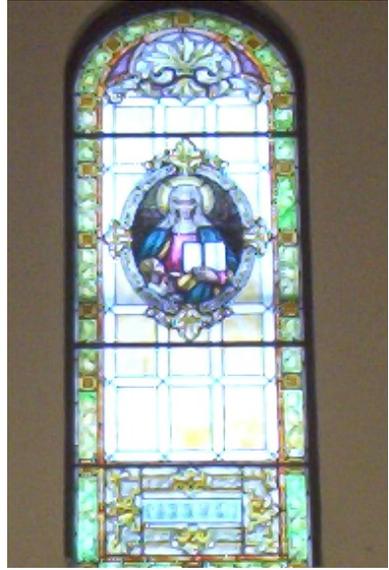
GUARDIAN ANGEL

According to tradition, a Guardian Angel protects each person from evil and guides us to good thoughts, works and words. “No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent, for to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.” (Psalms 91:10-12) The feast day of Guardian Angels is October 2.



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ST. ANNE

St. Anne is traditionally considered to be the mother of Mary. Her spouse and the father of Mary was St. Joachim. A legend says that an angel appeared and told them that they would have a child. Anne dedicated this child, Mary, to God just as Hannah dedicated her child, Samuel, to God in the First Book of Kings. Her feast day is July 26.



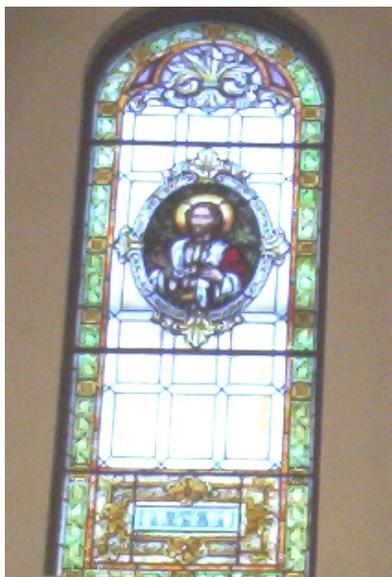
ST. BRONISLAWA

A Polish nun, she had a vision of the Blessed Mother carrying the body of St. Hyacinth to heaven. She is patroness of a happy death and a good reputation. Her feast day is August 29.



ST. HELENA

Daughter of an innkeeper, she married a Roman general. Their son, Constantine The Great, became Emperor and in 312 he legalized Christianity. She converted to Christianity and worked to spread the faith through almsgiving. At age 80, she made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to direct the building of a large church. Her feast day is August 18.



ST. WENCESLAUS

Son of the Duke of Bohemia and grandson of St. Ludmilla, she educated him in the faith. At age 15 he became Duke and re-established Christianity in the land. Seven years later, in 929, his brother, Boleslaus, assassinated him before mass. His last words were: "May God forgive you, brother." His feast day is September 28.



ST. STEPHEN OF HUNGARY

Son of the Magyar chieftain Geza, Stephen succeeded him as leader. Raised a Christian, he built churches and defeated the pagan counter-reaction. He was anointed King of Hungary in 1000 and received the cross and crown from Pope Sylvester II. His feast day is August 16.



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Born in 1347 in Siena Italy, she joined the Dominicans. While at prayer, Christ and Our Lady appeared to her. Christ put a ring on her finger to mark her union with him. She worked to return the papacy from Avignon in France to Rome, and heal the schism that this had caused. She wrote a mystical work, *Dialogue of St. Catherine*. Her feast day is April 30



ST. AGNES

A Roman maiden, during a persecution she refused to renounce her faith. They then had her thrown into a brothel to humiliate her; but an angel protected her. Threatened with burning at the stake, she prayed: "I bless thee, O Father of my Lord Jesus Christ." The flames died out. She was beheaded in 303 at the age of thirteen. Her feast day is January 21.



BLESSED CHESTER

He was the son of nobility and possibly St. Hyacinth's brother. St. Dominic received him

into the Dominicans. He

preached in Poland, Silesia, Pomerania and

Bohemia and was spiritual adviser to St. Hedwig. He became

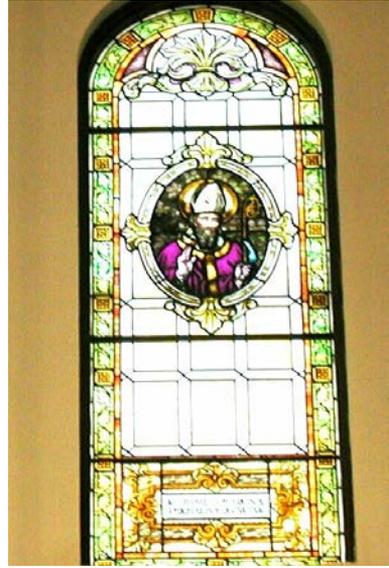
provincial of the Polish Province of the

Dominicans. His prayers were credited

for the defeat of the invading Mongols at

Wrocław in 1240. His

feast day is July 17.



ST. MARTIN I

Elected Pope in 649 without the consent of Emperor Constans II. He convened a synod that

condemned the

monotheistic heresy against the orders of the

Emperor. The Emperor had him exiled to Crimea

in 655 where he starved to death after three

months. He is the last

pope to have been martyred. His feast day

is April 13.



ST. DAVID

His mother was St. Non. After his ordination he studied under St. Paulinus and is credited with founding 12 monasteries. He was made Bishop of Menevia in Wales. His last words to his flock were: "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith, and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me." His feast day is March 1.



ST. CECILIA

She was forced her into marriage with Valerian, a Roman pagan. She is the patron of music because on her wedding day, she sang to God in her heart. Later, her husband was baptized and upon his return home, he saw her kneeling with an angel at her side. The angel crowned them with roses and lilies. She was martyred in 180. Her feast day is November 22.

FRONT OF THE CHURCH



“... you are ‘Rock,’ and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 6:18-19)



Rose window above choir loft with depiction of Divine Providence at its center

ANGELS



Angelic choir on the stairs to the choir loft



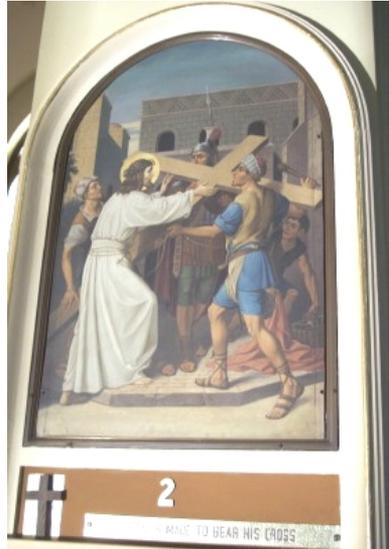
“Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests.’” (Luke 2:13-14)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A traditional Lenten devotion that recounts the events during the Passion of Christ is the Stations of the Cross.



Station 1: Christ is led before Pilate



Station 2: Christ is made to bear his cross



Station 3: Christ falls for the first time



Station 4: Christ meets his mother



Station 5: Simon is made to help Christ



Station 6: Veronica wipes Christ's face



Station 7: Christ falls for the second time



Station 8: Christ speaks to the women of Jerusalem



Station 9: Christ falls for the third time



Station 10: Christ is stripped of his garments



Station 11: Christ is nailed to the cross



Station 12: Christ dies on the cross



Station 13: Christ's body is taken down from the cross



Station 14: Christ body is laid in the tomb

CREST AT EAST VESTIBULE DOOR



“Boże Zbaw Polske” (God deliver Poland) is the motto below this crest. On the oval around Mary and Christ is written “Regina Polonae Ora Pro Nobis Jesus Maria” (Queen of Poland Pray for Us Jesus Mary)

EXTERIOR OF THE CHURCH



STATUE OF ST. CASIMIR

St. Casimir, Prince of Poland, is a patron of Poland and Lithuania. He was born to Casimir IV and Elizabeth of Austria in the Royal Palace at Krakow on October 3, 1458. He served as Vice-royal from 1479 to 1483. Although he could have led a life of riches, he chose holiness, charity and study. Because he refused to lead an army into Hungary in an unjust cause, he was confined to the castle of Dobazi. Piety inspired him to write a hymn to the Blessed Mother. He died on March 3, 1484 at the Court of Grodna. He was buried in Vilna Lithuania. A copy of his hymn was buried with him.



ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA

Statue is at the east transept. See page 35



ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX

Statue is at the west transept. See page 36



**THE CROSS AND
SACRED HEART OF
JESUS**

See page 14 and 29



**ANGEL AND CROWN
OF CHRIST THE KING**

“He will shepherd them with an iron rod; it is he who will tread out in the winepress the blazing wrath of God the Almighty. A name was written on the part of the cloak that covered his thigh: ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’ Next I saw an angel standing on the sun. He cried out in a loud voice... ‘Come! Gather together for the great feast God has prepared for you!’”
(Revelation 19:15-17)



ANGEL AT PRAYER



**CROWN OF THORNS
NAILS OF CRUCIFIXION**

“...then they wove a crown of thorns and put it on him, and began to salute him, ‘All hail! King of the Jews!’” (Mark 15:17-18)



LAMB OF GOD

“I saw a Lamb standing, a Lamb that had been slain.” (Revelation 5:6)



PELICAN

According to legend, pelicans fed their young with their own flesh. The pelican symbolizes Christ feeding us.



EUCHARIST

“Every time, then, you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord...” (Corinthians 11:26)

BELL TOWER



Angels and cross at top of bell tower



STANISŁAW



KAZIMIERZ



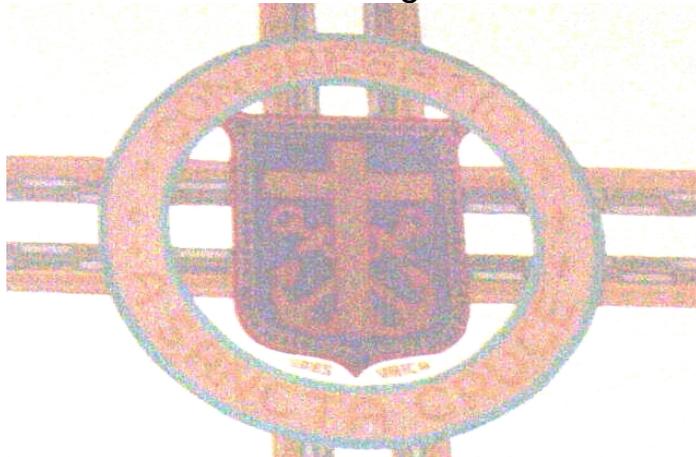
ANTONI

Three bells occupy the bell tower. Stanisław weighs 1500 pounds, Kazimierz 800 pounds, and Antoni 450 pounds.

CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS



The seal of the Congregation of Holy Cross shows a cross and two anchors. “In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straight-forward, children of God beyond reproach in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation—among whom you shine like the stars in the sky while holding fast to the word of life.” (Philippians 2:14-16) The Congregation of Holy Cross has staffed St. Casimir Parish since it’s founding.



APSE ABOVE TABERNACLE



St. Casimir is depicted to the left and St. Stanislaus Kostka to the right of Christ enthroned in heaven. St. Casimir has his crown at his feet in deference to Christ. Twelve apostles are below Christ with the symbol of the Holy Spirit in the middle. Symbols of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are to the left and right. The symbol of Divine Providence is above. “A throne was standing there in heaven, and on the throne was seated One whose appearance had a gemlike sparkle as of jasper and carnelian. Around the throne was a rainbow as brilliant as emerald.” (Revelations 4:2-3)

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