

The restoration continues since the necessary repairs started in 2011.

The Ambo was redesigned, it is not original to St. Stanislaus Kostka, but was secured from a church that had closed and refurbished to combine with the sacred furnishing of the sanctuary. The Altar of Sacrifice (below) was taken from the high altar of what was the lower church and rebuilt to match the Altar of Repose. Both the Ambo and the Altar of Sacrifice were a joint work of the artisan Stefan Niedorezo, Tomasz and Marigorzata Sawczuk.



During the restoration in 2011, the original pews were rebuilt, maintaining the original ends, but redesigning the interior benches. The open backs with no book holders adds to the spaciousness and beauty of the nave, void of clutter. The stationary kneelers serve to preserve sacred silence during the celebration of the *Sacred Mysteries*.



For the first time in its history St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish has an outdoor sign, listing the church's information and services. There is also a driveway connecting the parking lot to Nobel St.

St. Stanislaus Kostka: First Polish Church in Chicago



In 1867, thanks to the efforts and generosity of thirty Polish families, the first Polish parish in Chicago was founded. The cornerstone to the current building was laid in July 1, 1877.

The church was designed by the architectural firm of Patrick C. Keeley of Brooklyn, NY. He also built Holy Name Cathedral.

The church is built in a Romanesque style with white brick and stone trimming. It is 200 feet long, 80 feet wide, and its tower and cupola rises 200 feet above street level. The jewel of this "old-world renaissance" church is the elaborate baroque styled altar where the Blessed Sacrament is reposed.

The original cupolas were added to the towers in 1892. Unfortunately, the south cupola was destroyed by lightning in 1964. The north cupola was rebuilt in a simpler style in 2002. A statue of St. Stanislaus Kostka carrying baby Jesus is at the top of the church.



By 1908 the church's furnishing and iconography were completed and in that year electrical lighting was installed.

The oak doors to the entrance of the church are the work of Krzysztof Kalata in the old work technique of the Polish Highlanders.

St. Stanislaus Kostka is the parish that moved an expressway. She was set for demolition to make room for the Kennedy Expressway in the 1950's and in 2010 faulty trusses threatened the total collapse of the roof which nearly led to the church's demise yet again. Divine Providence averted the forces pushing against the life of this parish.

As with the life of faith, the restoration of the edifice of the church is a work in progress. In gratitude for the past and living the present, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish is ever conscious of the future need for historical connections.

Find Us



St. Stanislaus Kostka/ ★ the Sanctuary of The Divine Mercy is centrally located and easily accessible from all parts of Chicago. The church is located just west of the Kennedy Expressway 194. Exit at Division St, travel one block west to Noble. The church is located 2 blocks north of Division Street on Noble.

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA PARISH
the SANCTUARY of THE DIVINE MERCY
1327 N. Noble St. (at Evergreen Ave.)
Rev. Anthony Buś, C.R., Pastor

Parish Office
1351 W. Evergreen Ave.
Chicago, IL 60642
Hours: M-F 9 a.m. -Noon, 1:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Telephone: 773-278-2470
Fax: 773-278-9550
E-mail: ststansk@comcast.net
www.ststanschurch.org

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA
PARISH

the SANCTUARY of THE DIVINE MERCY



Self Guided Tour

"Along the frenetic Kennedy Expressway, in the heart of Chicago, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church/ the Sanctuary of The Divine Mercy, stands as a sign of contradiction, a light to the world, an oasis of life-giving water calling all of God's people to find peace by turning with trust to The Divine Mercy."

Fr. Anthony Buś, C.R.

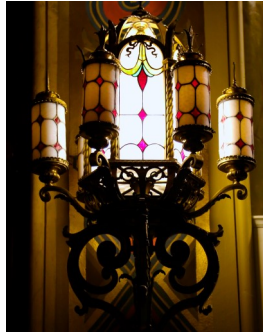
Sacred Space...
...in the Heart
of Chicago



www.ststanschurch.org

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church / the Sanctuary of The Divine Mercy ...

The barrel-vaulted ceiling running above the central aisle of the nave was included in the interior restoration of the parish in 2011 by Daprato Rigali Studios. *Daprato Studios* was the original artisan of the parish. The refurbishing recaptures the original colors and design of the ceiling.



The Tiffany styled chandeliers and sanctuary lamps, designed in St. Louis, Missouri, were installed in 1908.



The murals bordering the vaulted ceiling in the upper part of the nave tell a story depicting the life of the parish's patron saint, St. Stanislaus Kostka.



To each side of the church, the stained glass windows, depicting the *Fifteen Mysteries of the Holy Rosary*, were designed and created by Professor Franz Zettler of the Royal Bavarian Institute of Art in Munich, Germany. They were imported and installed in 1903.

The *Stations of the Cross* or *Via Dolorosa* – the fourteen images along the walls of the nave were restored in 2009 by Malgorzata Sawczuk.



To the right side of the church, The iconic monstrance, *Our Lady of the Sign, Ark of Mercy* was carved and sculpted from linden wood in the parish rectory's attic art studio by the Polish master artist, Stefan Niedorezo. Gold was gilded into the image by Malgorzata Sawczuk. The monstrance is an artistic rendition of images that appear in the *Book of Revelation*. Blessed by Francis Cardinal George in 2008, the monstrance is hailed as the world's largest.

The image of *The Divine Mercy* comes from Vilnius, Lithuania and is a replica of the original image displayed for veneration in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius. This was a gift to St. Stanislaus Kostka by Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Rector Emeritus of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and Vice Postulator Emeritus for St. Faustina's Cause of Canonization.



Opposite the iconic monstrance, alongside the northern wall of the nave is the statue of the *Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik*. The statue was carved and sculpted by the parish artisan Stefan Niedorezo. The image was blessed by Blasé Cardinal Cupich during the 150th Jubilee Mass on The Divine Mercy Sunday, April 21, 2017.



The baroque styled high altar, *The Altar of Repose*, because it holds the tabernacle where the *Blessed Sacrament* is reposed, was installed in 1904. The restoration of the *Altar of Repose* is a joint work begun by Tomasz and Malgorzata Sawczuk and is being completed by Jakub and Rose Niedorezo. Above the altar are images of saints deeply ingrained in Polish history – from left to right: St. Hedwig, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, St. Casimir, St. John Cantius, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Andrew Bobola, Blessed Czeslaw, St. Hyacinth, and Blessed Bronislawa.



The oil painting above the sanctuary is named *The Triumph of the Risen Lord*. Commissioned in 1895, the painting is the work of Count Tadeusz Zukotynski, one of Europe's foremost religious artists. In the Spring of 2019 it underwent a much needed restoration.

...Sacred Space in the heart of Chicago

Two shrines alongside the sanctuary of the church are shrines to the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary. They represent the two large immigrant communities to the parish – the founding of the parish by the Polish immigration is represented by the icon of *Our Lady of Czestochowa* and the 1960 Hispanic immigration by the icon of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*.



The stained glass window above the balcony overlooking the choir loft is an image of St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians. The organ was built by Johnson & Son Organ Company of West-



field, Massachusetts in 1881 and rebuilt and enlarged to it's current state in 1927 by Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois. The organ is comprised of 49 ranks of pipes numbering over 3,000 pipes, 4 divisions and 4 manuals (keyboards).

