

**The Detroit News – Tribune – April 28, 1901 (*This article refers to the second large church that was built in 1890 and razed in 1961 – Tom W.*)**

### **Artistically Decorated Church**

**As a specimen of pure Romanesque architecture, St. Casimir's church, corner of Myrtle and Twenty-third streets, is unique in this city. There is nothing of the composite order of architecture about it, but the Romanesque idea prevails even in the minutest details. During the past four months the clergy in charge, Frs. Gutowski and Herr, have been laboring to have the interior so ornamented as to be in keeping with the exterior. There is an absence of bright colors, which merely dazzle the eye, and of tawdry meaningless designs, which usually serve no other purposes than to cover up so much wall space. The prevailing tints, buff on the side walls and cream on the arches, harmonize beautifully, and make a most pleasing background for the designs. The ceiling is divided into panels of majestic proportions, and each panel is the setting for a finely executed work on canvas. The panel above the northern transept contains the "Coronation of the Blessed Virgin"; the corresponding one on the south is taken up with a finely-executed representation of the "Resurrection of Christ". The other panels are filled with pictures of evangelists and apostles. The ceiling of the great central dome is finished in Italian sky blue, which harmonizes with a singularly agreeable effect, with the light buff effects just below. The massive pillars and pilasters in the interior of this church are finished in Sienna marble. The elaborate Corinthian capitals are finished in heavy gold leaf, varied with a design on each side in alto-relievo. Among the various designs are papal coat-of-arms, that of Poland, the United States, and the seal of the state of Michigan. At the base of the walls, just above the wainscoting, is a series of mural tablets extending all the way around the church. Each tablet has a background of light green, and is set in a frame of very ornamental stucco work in roses, with effects still more heightened by a profusion of heavy gilding. There are ninety of these tablets, and they are designed to serve for memorial purposes.**

**A corps of artists have been steadily at work upon the improvements for five months, and a ton and a half of white lead has been used in the work. The pillar and plaster marbleizing work was done by Mehling & Sons. The artist is L. P. Stenzier. This is his first work of any considerable magnitude. To bring out the artistic effects still more prominently a very elaborate system of electric lighting has been installed. Each dome has its circle of electric lights, and also the grand arch over the altar. Each Corinthian capital is also encircled with a crown of lights and the row of mural tablets has a corresponding row of electric lights extending the whole way around the church. When these lights – numbering nearly 1000 – are turned on, the effect is very fine. The floor of the sanctuary is tastily tiled.**