

The Sunday News, Detroit, December 21, 1890

## THE NEW ST. CASIMIR'S

DEDICATION SERVICES WILL BE HELD TODAY.

An imposing Structure in which the Round Arch, the Dome, and the Pillars of Byzantine Architecture are Exemplified - Flourishing West Side Parish

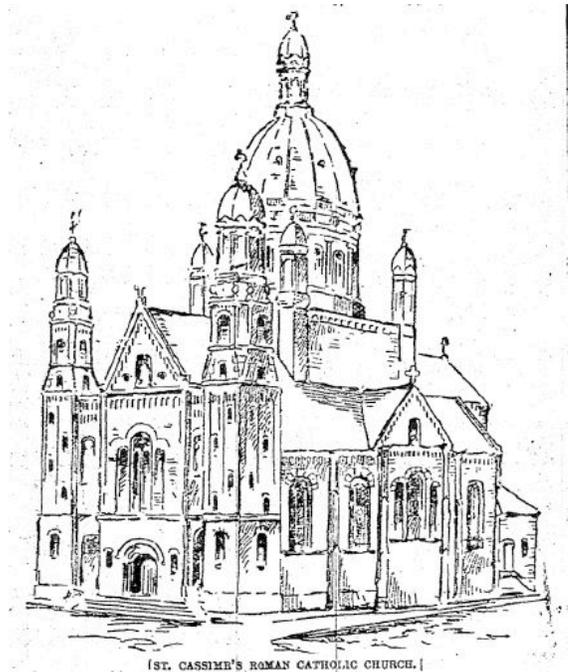
The new church at the corner of Twenty-third and Myrtle streets, erected by the Catholic Parish of St. Casimir, will be dedicated this morning. The service will be made the occasion of an imposing demonstration on the part of the Polish population of the city.

The hour set for the beginning of the ceremony is 10 o'clock. At 8 o'clock a number of west side societies, which will attend the dedication in a body, will leave the St. Casimir school house, marching by way of Twenty-third street and Michigan Avenue to Woodward Avenue, and then to the Grand Circus Park. Here they will be joined by various societies from the east side proceeding thence to Bishop Foley's residence on Washington Avenue. The chief marshal of the procession will be John Golombiewski, and nearly all the societies will be accompanied by a band of music.

The bishop will be escorted to the church and on his arrival there high mass will be begun. The St. Boniface choir, under the direction of Prof. Grimm, and supported by an orchestra, will furnish the music. The discourse in the Polish Language will be delivered by Rev. Fr. Byzewski, vicar of St. Casimir's parish. In addition to Rector Paul Gutowski and his vicar, the bishop will be assisted in the dedication ceremonies by the following clergy: Frs. Dempsey, Hennsert, Schreiber, Dean Friedland, Joseph Dombrowski, the director of the Polish seminary, and three alumni of the institution, C. Rochowski of St. Albertus; Madrzejewski, of St. Josaphas'; Lewandowski and Grinenholz, of Milwaukee, and Lange and Zylia, of Chicago. The Societies which will join in the parade are these;

Knights of St. Casimir, Benevolent Society of St. Casimir, St. Rochus' society, Sacred Heart of Jesus society, St. Stanislaus Rostka, Young Men of St. Aloysius, the St. Josaphas and St. Valentine societies of St. Josaphas' parish, and the St. Vaclaw Bohemian society. At the close of the ceremony dinner will be served the officiating clergy and others at the rectory.

The founder of St. Casimir's parish was its present pastor, Rev. Paul Gutowski. Being compelled to leave his native country on account of the so-called May laws, he came to Detroit in 1882. Bishop Borgess at once made him the spiritual leader of the Poles on the west side. There were but 80 families to whom he ministered at first, and the parish property consisted of a few vacant lots on the open prairie. Through the energy, devotion and earnest work of the good Father Paul, however, the parish made rapid progress. His parishioners came to recognize him as their friend as well as religious guide. A good American citizen as well as a patriotic Pole, he gained the attachment and respect of a great many friends of all nationalities in



[ST. CASIMIR'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.]

that section of the city. During the first year of his pastorate he was able to build a temporary church and school house on Twenty-third street, near Myrtle, at a cost of \$8,000. Then in May, 1885, he began the erection of a dwelling for the sisters in charge of the school, which was completed at a cost of about \$2,800. A parish house, begun in March, 1886, and which cost \$5,000 was the next improvement.

Preparations for the erection of the new house of worship, which will be dedicated today, were begun over three years ago. In October, 1887, Fr. Gutowski commissioned architect Henry Engelbert, of this city, to prepare a design. Mr. Engelbert was the architect of St. Albertus', St. Francis' and St. Josafas' in Detroit and has built churches in Chicago and other American cities. The plans for St. Casimir's were completed in February 1889, and met with the approval of the pastor and leading parishioners. The contracts were let in March, 1889. That for the stonework was awarded to John Begrin & Son, at \$17,174; the carpenter work to August Fritz for \$11,800; cut stonework to Felix Meier for \$7,703; cast iron work to the Russel wheel and foundry company for \$1,250; wrought iron work to C. DeCroupet, for \$1,400; slate and metal work to the Detroit slate and roofing company for \$3,722, the plastering to John H. Lawrie & Co, for \$4,800 and the stained glass work to G. Misch, of Chicago, for \$2,200. J. Wawrzyiakowski, of Milwaukee furnished the pews for \$1,800, and A. Osebold, of this city, the altars, pulpit and other furnishings at a cost of \$3,400. The entire cost of the structure, exclusive of the site, is about \$60,000.

The architecture of the church is in the style of the Byzantine Romanesque of the 12th and 13th centuries – something not often seen in this country. It has a large central dome with corner towers. Its extreme length is 140 feet, width through transepts 90 feet, height of ceilings 40 feet, and height to center dome inside 92 feet. Within a space of 140 by 90 feet there are but four supporting columns.

These sustain the roof and the center dome, 36 feet in diameter and measuring 172 feet to the top of the cross outside – an architectural accomplishment which is said not to be surpassed anywhere in the United States. The height of the towers is 134 feet. The foundations and basement story are built of stone, the superstructure being of brick, with Berea stone trimmings. The roofs are of Pennsylvania slate, and the dome and towers are entirely covered with galvanize iron. With a view to future frescoing, the inside wall and ceilings are finished in stucco and granulated work, richly ornamented and molded. The woodwork is of oak, black walnut, maple, ash, and yellow pine, finished in oil. The heating will be done by the direct radiation, hot water system of E. A. Cook & Co., of Rochester. The whole building will be lighted with incandescent electric lamps. The seating capacity is estimated at 1,650, including galleries.

There are now about 980 families in the parish, and even this new church of large capacity is insufficient to the need. Another new church and school house, under the jurisdiction of St. Casimir's and belonging to it, is now being erected on the corner of Buchanan street and Wesson avenue. It will cost \$16,000, and will be completed in a few weeks. (Editor's note - That church is St. Francis of Assisi).