

# Saint Stanislaus in Milwaukee

*A Polish Immigrant Parish*

*Built, Imperiled, and Restored*

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# 1 A Parish Made More Than Once

Saint Stanislaus did not pass through one age of construction, one age of decline, and one miraculous reversal. It was made repeatedly. Polish-speaking Catholics first made a parish out of shared need, small gifts, and a purchased Lutheran church. Their successors made a monumental church in stages, then enlarged its sanctuary, covered it in marble, raised bells over Mitchell Street, built and rebuilt a school, and sent daughter congregations across Milwaukee. A later generation made the same complex modern for its centennial. Still later, an endangered continuing parish and a growing community attached to the older Roman liturgy were joined under one priestly administration without becoming the same canonical entity. Their alliance made sustained restoration possible.

Saint Stanislaus survived because each crisis produced a new institutional use for inherited fabric. The immigrant parish turned pooled wages into church, school, and neighborhood infrastructure. Its growth dispersed life into daughter parishes. Mid-century modernization preserved a functioning building while obscuring or removing parts of its earlier artistic and liturgical order. Polish out-migration, freeway clearance, school closure, and deferred maintenance then separated a large landmark from the population that had built it. The post-2007 arrangement supplied a complementary answer: the continuing parish had a church and an endangered inheritance; the distinct oratory had clergy, worshippers, volunteers, and a reason to recover that inheritance for use. The result is better understood as institutional and liturgical resurrection through restoration than as architectural rescue alone.

The building itself carries the argument. Its cream brick belongs to Milwaukee. Its twin domes evoke a Central European church landscape that the founders could remember but no longer inhabit. Its marble, bells, school, rectory, mosaic, reconstructed sanctuary, recreated windows, copper domes, and replacement bell clappers belong to different campaigns and different judgments about continuity. Some additions completed an unfinished ambition; some protected an aging structure; some changed the experience of worship; some reversed earlier changes. None can be read honestly as though the church emerged whole in a single year.

That layered history also prevents two easy myths. The first is that ethnic parish life was merely nostalgic. Saint Stanislaus educated children, organized mutual life, administered sacraments on a massive scale, generated daughter parishes, provided a gathering point for labor action, and helped turn Mitchell Street into the center of an urban Polonia. The second is that restoration meant freezing a museum. The strongest evidence of renewal is not decorative splendor but recurrent use: Sunday and weekday worship, catechesis, societies, processions, first Communions, confirmations, sacred music, maintenance, and even pressure for more rooms.

The parish therefore tells two Milwaukee stories at once. It is a record of how poor newcomers built durable institutions in a city whose hierarchy and public life were not yet fully theirs. It is also a record of how an inherited religious place can outlive the residential community that created it, then acquire a new regional constituency without losing the older parish, immigrant, and neighborhood histories embedded in its walls.

## 2 Polonia Before the Parish

The founders came from a Poland absent from the political map. Milwaukee's archdiocesan history identifies many early Polish arrivals with Prussian Poland and other Polish-speaking lands partitioned among empires. A recent Polish scholarly synthesis narrows much of the Saint Stanislaus constituency to West Prussia, Pomerania and Kashubia, and the Poznań region. Those labels mattered. They described imperial jurisdictions, local speech, occupation, and sometimes tensions within the immigrant population; they did not erase a Catholic and Polish consciousness carried into the city.

Milwaukee offered industrial wages, shipping, construction, craft work, and commerce. It also presented a religious problem. Catholic institutions were already strong, but German language and leadership predominated. Polish Catholics could attend existing churches, yet confession, preaching, schooling, societies, and ordinary administration depended on language as well as sacramental availability. The wish for a Polish-speaking parish was therefore neither a rejection of the diocese nor a request for Sunday convenience. It was a bid to create an institution in which faith, family formation, mutual aid, and cultural transmission could operate together.

The South Side became the largest Polish concentration. Modest workers' houses, workshops, saloons, bakeries, butcher shops, and small businesses accumulated around a commercial spine that came to be called the "Polish Grand Avenue." Mitchell Street performed for Polonia something like the role Grand Avenue performed downtown: it

concentrated exchange, display, and public identity. Saint Stanislaus would anchor its eastern end.

Another part of the parish world reached toward the water. Kashubian fishing families from the Baltic coast established a remarkable community on Jones Island during the 1870s. They used inherited fishing knowledge on Lake Michigan and built a village amid an industrial harbor. Parish territory and sacramental records connected many island families to Saint Stanislaus even when mainland Poles treated the Kashubians as socially distinct. The relationship should not be romanticized: the settlement matured after the parish was founded, and not every founder was an island fisherman. Yet Jones Island made the parish's immigrant geography unusually broad, stretching from dense worker blocks to a fishing village at the river mouth.

These immigrants were not blank material awaiting Americanization. They brought devotional habits, feast days, respect for sacred buildings, parish expectations, family networks, and memories of pressure on Polish language and Catholic life. At the same time, they entered a city whose institutions, labor markets, and ecclesiastical government required negotiation. Saint Stanislaus became the place where that negotiation acquired property, records, classrooms, and a public façade.

**Witness:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee, “The Immigrant Church”; UWM Milwaukee Polonia collection; West Mitchell Street Commercial Historic District nomination; Portal Polonii synthesis.

**What it establishes:** The parish emerged within a predominantly Prussian-Polish immigrant stream, an industrial South Side enclave, and a later Kashubian fishing constituency.

**Limit:** Later heritage accounts differ over how many founding families were Kashubian or already lived on Jones Island. The parish and island histories overlap, but their beginnings are not identical.

### 3 Thirty Families and a Purchased Church

Efforts to organize Polish-speaking pastoral care were underway by the early 1860s. A 1931 Milwaukee history says the movement began in 1863 under Father Buczinski; later official and preservation sources consistently use 1866 for formal organization. The Catholic University of Lublin heritage history associates Father Bonawentura Buczyński with that 1866 organizing and explicitly names Rev. T. Węglikowski as the first pastor. A separate Milwaukee Polonia retrospective places Buczyński after him. These later sources supply neither founding minutes nor appointment acts, so organizer and first pastor remain distinct attributed claims. Before a parish of their own, Polish Catholics worshipped among German and Czech congregations and depended on missionary clergy who could serve them in their language.

Later histories remember an organizing committee and household-scale community fundraising, but no founding minutes or subscription ledger were checked for this study. The better-controlled record shows that the community raised enough to acquire a small brick church formerly used by Lutherans at Fifth—then Grove—and Mineral Streets. Bishop John Martin Henni blessed the Catholic use, and the congregation chose Saint Stanislaus, the eleventh-century bishop and martyr of Kraków, as patron.

The first achievement was not architectural originality. It was corporate capacity. Thirty families could collect money, select representatives, transact for property under diocesan authority, sustain worship, and begin records. A reused building made the new parish visible while avoiding the delay and expense of new construction. It also established a pattern that would recur: Saint Stanislaus advanced by adapting an available structure, using it intensely, and replacing or remaking it when the constituency outgrew it.

The term “first” needs discipline. Saint Stanislaus was not the first Catholic parish in Milwaukee, and the checked local records do not establish the first Polish Catholic settlement in the United States. The strongest and most consistent distinction is urban: Saint Stanislaus is widely identified by the Archdiocese, UWM, state preservation records, and the National Register nomination as the first Polish Catholic congregation established in a major American city. It was certainly Milwaukee's first Polish parish.

Growth quickly made the purchased church inadequate. The later parish history reports a congregation of hundreds of families within a few years. Whether a particular count denotes persons, households, registered families, or a retrospective estimate is not always clear. The scale is nevertheless corroborated by what followed: a new site, a monumental church campaign, a school, extraordinary sacramental volume, and successive daughter parishes.

### Claim check: “The oldest Polish church in America”

That formula collapses parish, building, and national chronology. The defensible statement is narrower: the parish was formally organized in 1866, was Milwaukee’s first Polish Catholic parish, and is widely identified as the first urban Polish Catholic congregation in the United States. The present church dates from a later campaign.

## 4 The Church Was a Campaign, Not a Date

By 1872 the community had moved its ambition from reuse to monument. The cornerstone of the present church at Fifth and Mitchell was laid in July. Parish accounts remembered a thirty-dollar assessment on each family—approximately a month of wages for some workers—as the financial base for borrowing and construction. That sum made the church a collective risk: families with little surplus pledged not merely for shelter but for a building that would announce permanence.

Leonard A. Schmidtner designed the church. Later sources identify him with the Polish name Kowalski and a noble title; the documentary basis for every biographical detail remains uneven. His building is more securely read than his legend. Twin towers rise from a cream-brick body; round-arched openings and domes evoke Central European Renaissance and Baroque churches while the preservation inventory classifies the exterior as Romanesque Revival. Later Gothic and Romanizing alterations further complicate any single style label. The church is not a transplanted Polish prototype. It is a Milwaukee composition made from local brick, transatlantic memory, European training, and subsequent campaigns.

A portion was dedicated in 1873 and entered use. Parish histories often call that completion. The federal Historic American Buildings Survey and the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory preserve a more revealing account: major work continued or resumed from 1884 through 1894. The sanctuary was built out, the roof received copper, an organ was installed, and the interior was painted. Henry Messmer designed a substantial 1885 renovation valued in the state record at \$17,000. The church people knew at the end of the nineteenth century was therefore not simply the church opened in 1873.

This staged construction explains apparent contradictions in the record. An 1873 dedication can be real, an 1875 photograph can show a recognizable twin-towered church, and an 1880s campaign can still be principal construction. Immigrant parishes often built as money and numbers allowed. Use began before aspiration was exhausted. Saint Stanislaus grew around worship already taking place inside it.

The fabric also preserved the economy of its makers. Cream City brick placed the church within Milwaukee’s material identity. Copper domes and clocks made it legible at a distance. Four great bells installed in 1894 carried donor names in their bronze, turning gifts into sound over the neighborhood. The largest was reported at about 5,000 pounds; together the four were said to weigh roughly ten tons. Bells did more than ornament towers. They measured days, announced death and feast, summoned worship, and let an immigrant institution occupy civic air.

**Act or record:** Cornerstone, July 1872; partial dedication, 1873; principal later work, 1884–94; Messmer program, 1885; bells, 1894.

**Historical result:** The present church reached recognizable and usable form early, then acquired essential sanctuary, roof, organ, interior, and tower elements through later campaigns.

**Boundary:** The checked sources do not support one all-purpose “completion date.” Costs beyond the 1885 state-record figure remain retrospective or unverified.

## 5 School, Sisters, Rectory, Campus

The parish’s most consequential construction may have occurred outside the church. A national parish without a school could preserve worship in Polish while leaving the daily formation of children elsewhere. Saint Stanislaus began instruction very early and associated it with women religious, eventually the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Sources compete over whether the school began in 1866, 1867, 1872, or 1873, and whether a school building followed in 1873 or 1878. Those dates probably describe different things: informal or parish instruction, organization under a teaching community, and the first dedicated schoolhouse. The surviving evidence does not permit them to be forced into one event.

The institutional purpose is clearer than the disputed first day. Children learned religion and ordinary subjects while moving among Polish, German, and English. The parish's institutional history remembers rapid enrollment growth after religious sisters took charge and repeated enlargement of their residence and classrooms. The school made language transmission routine rather than ceremonial, trained later generations for civic and commercial life, and supplied the parish with choir members, societies, vocations, and family continuity.

Buildings followed enrollment. The earliest frame school gave way to a brick structure in the late nineteenth century. The present four-story school at 1669 South Fifth Street was designed by Herbst and Kuenzli; state preservation records date its plans and construction to 1926. Its Mediterranean or Spanish Revival façade fronted an older rear portion, which explains why the campus can look like one building while preserving multiple campaigns. A parish history's reference to a new school in the early 1930s may concern a later stage or educational expansion, but it cannot displace the dated plans without further archival evidence.

Secondary education expanded the parish's reach beyond its original grade-school role. Saint Stanislaus High School opened in September 1932 with seventy-two boys and girls, all freshmen. A 1946 *Milwaukee Sentinel* report preserved by Marquette University counted four hundred students from thirty-seven parishes, taught by fourteen School Sisters of Notre Dame. The state inventory records the later name Notre Dame High School and a 1947 name change. The campus thus served not only neighborhood children but a wider network of Catholic families. Its classrooms were one more way the mother parish reproduced institutions outside its immediate boundaries.

Rectory and convent projects completed the working complex. An 1882 image caption identifies convent and rectory buildings, while later records show replacement or heavy alteration. In 1963–64 architect Mark Pfaller gave the rectory a new limestone façade and modern interior arrangement, and a connecting ambulatory and chapel joined it to the church. A later oral account called the older rectory razed and replaced; preservation records instead describe extensive remodeling and attachment. Until permit and property files are consulted, “remade” is safer than either extreme.

The campus should be read as an operating system. Church, school, convent, rectory, halls, and service spaces allowed clergy, sisters, children, families, societies, and the poor to encounter one another repeatedly. Its scale also created future vulnerability: when enrollment and neighborhood membership fell, the parish inherited far more masonry, roofing, heating, and maintenance than Sunday worship alone could sustain.

**Witness:** West Mitchell Street National Register nomination; Wisconsin AHI school record HI118139; ICKSP parish history; Notre Dame parish-history catalog.

**What it establishes:** Instruction began early, religious sisters made it durable, and successive school and residential projects turned the parish into an educational campus.

**Limit:** The precise inception of teaching and the first schoolhouse remain disputed. The 1926 plans securely control the present school's principal front campaign; a complete campus property history awaits parish, SSND, city-permit, and archdiocesan files.

## 6 A Mother Parish in Sacrament and Street

Saint Stanislaus grew by dividing. In 1871 Catholics on the East Side organized Saint Hedwig. Saint Hyacinth followed on the South Side in 1883, and Saint Josaphat and Saint Vincent de Paul in 1888. These were not signs that the first parish had failed. They were the ordinary consequence of immigrant growth in a walking city: worship, school, confession, and parish societies had to be close enough to reach before and after long industrial shifts. A daughter parish made Catholic life more local while extending the institutional pattern first proved at Saint Stanislaus.

The scale of demand appears in the parish's 1882 sacramental totals: 96 marriages, 589 baptisms, and 520 confirmations. Those figures cannot be converted directly into a reliable membership count. Baptisms and confirmations measure acts in one year, not unique resident households, and a mother parish could draw people beyond a later boundary. They nevertheless show why one monumental church and one school could not indefinitely serve the whole of Milwaukee's expanding Polonia.

Later accounts call Saint Stanislaus the mother of as many as twenty parishes in Milwaukee and the surrounding area. That formula describes a genealogy more than twenty documented, direct foundations. Some congregations came immediately from Saint Stanislaus; others descended through its daughters or arose in the Polish Catholic world that it had helped make viable. The early sequence is the sounder measure of the claim: by 1888 at least four named

Polish congregations had branched from the original community.

Multiplication changed the meaning of the first parish. Saint Stanislaus no longer had to contain every Polish Catholic in the city in order to remain their point of reference. Its towers marked the eastern approach to Mitchell Street; its school carried language and religion across generations; its bells and ceremonies made Polish Catholic time audible and visible. The daughter churches, meanwhile, carried the same combination of worship, education, societies, and mutual assistance into other neighborhoods. Motherhood meant reproduction, not control.

The parish was also part of the material city. The West Mitchell Street preservation record identifies Saint Stanislaus as the cultural catalyst around which fields at the city's southern edge became Milwaukee's largest Polish neighborhood. Stores, professional offices, meeting rooms, and entertainment followed population toward the church. By the early twentieth century Mitchell Street had become a destination commercial corridor known as the "Polish Grand Avenue." The phrase can sound ornamental; on the ground it meant that an immigrant could encounter sacramental, educational, financial, commercial, and social institutions within a compact district.

Parish life supplied connective tissue among them. The UWM Polonia history describes parish-based associations and meeting halls, as well as practical support for families facing illness, poverty, or the death of a parent. Saint Stanislaus should not be credited with every organization in the district, and institutional histories seldom recover the unpaid labor by which women kept these networks working. The campus nevertheless provided repeated occasions for people to meet, exchange information, collect aid, arrange employment, and turn private need into communal responsibility.

One episode shows the church's civic location without turning it into a party headquarters. During the campaign for an eight-hour workday in May 1886, approximately seven hundred laborers, many of them Polish immigrants, gathered at Saint Stanislaus before walking toward the rolling mills at Bay View. The next day's larger march ended when militia fire killed several people in what became known as the Bay View tragedy. The gathering proves that workers recognized the church corner as a place from which collective action could begin. It does not by itself prove that clergy sponsored the strike, that the parish endorsed every demand, or that every marcher belonged to Saint Stanislaus.

This distinction matters. An ethnic parish was not sealed off from public life, but neither can every action of people assembled near it be attributed to ecclesiastical authority. Saint Stanislaus mattered civically because the immigrant community had already invested the site with trust, visibility, and shared memory. Its public force came from accumulated use.

**Witness:** ICKSP parish history; UWM Milwaukee Polonia, "Catholicism"; West Mitchell Street National Register nomination; Portal Polonii parish synthesis; Wisconsin Labor History Society, "Bay View Tragedy, 1886."

**What it establishes:** The parish's sacramental load, early daughter congregations, social institutions, commercial setting, and use as an 1886 gathering point show a mother parish operating beyond Sunday worship.

**Limit:** The estimate of twenty daughter communities is genealogical and retrospective. The 1882 totals are acts, not a census, and the 1886 assembly does not establish parish sponsorship of the labor march.

## 7 Elaboration and the Politics of Belonging

By the 1890s Saint Stanislaus had become more than a large immigrant church. It was a place successive generations expected to finish. Under Father Gorski in 1894 and Father Szulerecki in the following year, marble began to cover interior brick. The four great bells entered the towers in the same campaign. These additions converted wages and donor gifts into materials meant to outlast their givers, but they did not conclude the work.

The Historic American Buildings Survey places a broader remodeling between 1895 and 1913. A simulated Gothic Revival porch framed the three principal entrances. The shapes around prominent tower windows were recast in a more Romanizing vocabulary. Buttresses appeared along the long walls and received statues of the twelve apostles; a slender flèche rose above the crossing. Inside, Wisconsin marble facing, marble altars, a new pulpit, paint, gold, and other decoration produced the richly layered interior documented in the twentieth century.

That program resists a simple restoration story. The porch, buttresses, apostle statues, flèche, altars, and wall surfaces were themselves later interventions in an 1870s and 1880s building. They became historic not because they were present at the cornerstone but because the parish used, valued, and transmitted them. What later generations called the old church was already the product of several judgments about how an immigrant monument ought to mature.

Elaboration also declared status. In 1872 the building had stood near open land at the city's edge. By 1910 it terminated the view down a dense commercial street. Marble and gold within, and towers, clocks, bells, and statues without, asserted that Polish Catholics were not temporary labor lodged at the margin of Milwaukee Catholicism. They had built schools and parishes, sustained a major sacramental population, and expected an institutional voice proportionate to that contribution.

That expectation was contested. The Archdiocese's own history describes Milwaukee at the center of a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Catholic dispute over ethnic identity, language, and authority. German Catholics had built strong institutions and the first generations of diocesan leadership were German-speaking. Polish Catholics built another extensive network but repeatedly demanded Polish-speaking pastoral leadership and representation in the hierarchy. Pressure to use English came both from within a changing immigrant population and from a wider society suspicious of newer southern and eastern European arrivals.

The controversy was not reducible to Poles against Germans. Generations differed; clergy and lay leaders differed among themselves; arguments about language overlapped with debts, property, pastoral appointments, and competing ideas of American Catholic unity. Nor did a Polish national parish stand outside diocesan government. Its very growth forced sustained negotiation over how cultural particularity would live within one local church.

The appointment of Polish-born Edward Kozlowski as auxiliary bishop in 1913 and his episcopal ordination in January 1914 answered part of a long demand for representation. Local histories place him at Saint Stanislaus as pastor and remember the church as the destination of a large public celebration after his ordination at the cathedral. The crowd estimates repeated in later accounts are not needed to establish the point: the mother parish became the place where Polish Catholics made a diocesan appointment publicly their own. Kozlowski died in 1915, leaving the answer symbolically powerful but institutionally brief.

World War I placed ethnic Catholic life under a different pressure. English gained ground in diocesan schools and public affairs, while Polish Catholics welcomed the reconstitution of an independent Poland in 1918. These developments did not simply cancel one another. Families could become citizens of the United States, educate children increasingly in English, and still treat the recovery of Polish statehood and the patronage of Saint Stanislaus as matters of communal consequence.

The church's mature fabric thus records more than taste. Its layered architecture and the public life around it belong to an era when Polish Catholics were converting numbers and sacrifice into durable recognition. Beauty, language, hierarchy, and belonging were joined because each answered the same question: would this immigrant population remain an object of pastoral accommodation, or become an acknowledged maker of Catholic Milwaukee?

**Witness:** Historic American Buildings Survey WIS-159; ICKSP parish history; Archdiocese of Milwaukee, "A Maturing Church: 1903–1945"; UWM Milwaukee Polonia; later Milwaukee Polonia histories of Bishop Edward Kozlowski.

**What it establishes:** The 1890s–1913 campaigns produced the inherited historic interior and exterior layers, while the demand for Polish representation made Saint Stanislaus a focal point in the wider ethnic politics of the Archdiocese.

**Limit:** HABS cannot assign every alteration to a single year or donor. Kozlowski's appointment and short tenure are official history; his parish assignment and the celebration at Saint Stanislaus come through later local histories, whose crowd estimates are not treated as controlled counts.

## 8 The Mid-Century Parish Remade It Again

Between the world wars Saint Stanislaus changed from an immigrant institution into an inherited ethnic institution. The distinction is important. Children and grandchildren could remain attached to Polish devotions, societies, family memory, and the parish while conducting more of their education and public life in English. The Archdiocese was standardizing Catholic schools and increasing its use of English by the 1920s; a Polish scholarly synthesis dates the language's growing dominance in Sunday preaching at Saint Stanislaus from the 1930s. The parish did not cease to be Polish. Polishness became less dependent on every ordinary transaction occurring in Polish.

The campus continued to absorb investment. The 1926 school front gave the educational complex a modern institutional scale. Parish memory credits Father Jurasinski with redecoration of the church and renovation of other buildings during the Depression. Those projects are significant precisely because money was scarce: maintaining an elaborate

church and school was itself a claim that the first generation's achievement still belonged to the future. The available account does not yet separate each Depression-era repair from the work before or after it.

World War II joined parish devotion to national mobilization. Raymond Punda composed popular novena prayers to Our Lady of Victory. The Archdiocese records that Sister Roman Obremski of the School Sisters of Notre Dame painted a patriotic mural of that title for an outdoor shrine at the church. Prayer for servicemen, Polish Catholic memory, American wartime loyalty, and the teaching ministry of the sisters could occupy the same parish landscape.

After the war, prosperity changed the geography that parishes had helped stabilize. Better wages, education, the G.I. Bill, and road building enabled many Catholic families to move outward. The Archdiocese erected and enlarged suburban churches, schools, rectories, and convents while older urban institutions retained buildings designed for denser populations. Saint Stanislaus entered its centennial with real institutional pride but also with the first conditions of a future mismatch between its campus and its immediate constituency.

Monsignor Punda became pastor in 1958 and began a major church campaign in 1960. Its stated horizon was the parish centennial in 1966; parish memory also connects it to the millennium of Christianity in Poland. The work began before the Second Vatican Council opened and continued while the Council and the first phases of liturgical reform were changing Catholic worship. It should therefore be read as one extended campaign with several motives, not as a single reaction to one ecclesiastical event.

The first phase addressed the exterior. In 1960 the towers were tuckpointed. Their old domes were removed and reconstructed in aluminum-covered steel, then gilded with 23-carat gold leaf. Ten-foot stone crosses were lifted into position, and the tower clocks received new mechanisms and gilded numerals. These were expensive acts of preservation and civic display. They did not erase the skyline; they renewed its most recognizable form with then-modern materials.

A 1962 fire interrupted the interior work, damaging the left side altar and spreading smoke damage through the church. The following years remade the whole complex. In 1963 the Victorian rectory was extensively reconstructed with simpler lines, modern systems, and a new light-stone façade; an ambulatory and chapel connected it to the church. The failing stained-glass windows were also removed as safety and security hazards and replaced by thick dalle de verre panels intended to provide warm, even light. The municipal survey dates that glazing to 1962, while the detailed institutional history places it in 1964; no permit or contract located here resolves the discrepancy.

The sanctuary followed in 1965. Roman travertine covered remaining interior wall surfaces. Material from the high altar was incorporated into a new freestanding altar placed forward in an enlarged sanctuary. The pulpit moved closer to it. Most of the marble Communion rail was removed, and the sanctuary extended approximately fifteen feet into the nave. The baptismal font moved from beside the Sacred Heart altar into the new chapel. An exterior mosaic shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa joined the church to both the parish centennial and Poland's Christian millennium.

Later restoration accounts understandably emphasize what this campaign removed, concealed, or displaced: historic glass, much of the rail, the previous sanctuary floor and arrangement, and parts of the high altar. That loss is real. But the chronology also corrects a morality play in which one generation merely vandalized another's church. Tower masonry needed repair; old glazing was failing; a fire damaged the interior; rectory systems had aged; liturgical expectations were changing; and a centennial parish wanted renewed rather than exhausted buildings. The same campaign could preserve the church as an operating institution and diminish important inherited fabric.

Its deepest effect was to create another historical layer. The gold domes, Czestochowa mosaic, rectory façade, dalle de verre light, travertine walls, and enlarged sanctuary became the church known by a postwar generation. Later restorers would reverse several of those choices while retaining others. Saint Stanislaus had again been made contemporary, and again the result would become evidence.

**Act or record:** Depression-era redecoration; wartime Our Lady of Victory devotion; Punda pastorate from 1958; tower campaign and fire, 1960–62; windows, reported as 1962 or 1964; rectory and connector, 1963–64; sanctuary and centennial work, 1965–66.

**Historical result:** The parish used new materials and a new liturgical arrangement to renew an aging complex for its centennial while retaining prominent Polish devotional and civic markers.

**Boundary:** The parish history controls the project sequence but is not a complete contract or permit ledger. Work began before Vatican II, and the checked record supports neither blaming every alteration on the Council nor denying the consequential loss of earlier fabric.

## 9 A Landmark Separated from Its Founding Population

The centennial campaign did not cause Saint Stanislaus's decline, and it could not arrest the larger forces already changing the South Side. Postwar mobility drew Polish Catholic families toward newer housing and suburban parishes. The North–South Freeway, carrying I-43 and I-94 near the church, cut through the parish world in the 1960s, removed housing, and made an infrastructure boundary out of what had been a connected street landscape. A City of Milwaukee plan describes the road as bisecting Walker's Point; a Polish scholarly account places the route through Saint Stanislaus's parish territory and associates it with the displacement of thousands.

Demographic succession was not simply population loss. Latino Catholics increasingly made the Near South Side their home, and the Archdiocese expanded Spanish-language ministry as the regional Latino population grew. The neighborhood remained a place of immigrant Catholic life, but it was no longer organized around the same Polish institutions or parish attachments. A landmark can remain crowded by city life while becoming separated from the particular residential network that financed its school, societies, and maintenance.

Saint Stanislaus therefore shared a wider urban Catholic contraction. The Archdiocese records that Catholic school enrollment peaked in the mid-1960s and then fell sharply, while older-city parish memberships declined and suburban parishes expanded. At Saint Stanislaus, the parish's own history identifies falling numbers through the 1970s and 1980s. No checked annual series yet shows the exact rate, so the decline should not be reduced to an unsupported membership graph.

The school made the change visible. A 2014 site history dates closure of the Notre Dame High School operation to 1988. The building did not thereby become useless: the later National Register nomination records consolidated Catholic elementary-school service there under Saint Anthony. What ended was the tight identity among one parish, one neighborhood constituency, and one school that had defined the campus for generations.

Fixed costs did not decline with registration. A four-story school, rectory, connectors, church roof, two tall masonry towers, four bells, organ, windows, heating plant, marble surfaces, and extensive exterior envelope continued to demand specialized care. The 1960s campaign had sought durable, lower-maintenance solutions, but aluminum-covered domes and dalle de verre also aged. Roof and masonry work accumulated. Water damage, failing systems, and deferred conservation later appeared alongside the more visible questions of altar, rail, glass, and paint.

This is the setting in which closure became imaginable. A Catholic Herald retrospective says the building fell into disrepair as Polish attendance declined and presents the 2007 decision as an effort to keep it from being shuttered. A 2014 oral site account goes further, recalling that by 2003 the Archdiocese had considered putting the church up for sale. No checked decree, property offering, or archdiocesan minutes confirm that precise proposal. It is best retained as testimony to how threatened the future appeared, not as a completed canonical or real-estate act.

Nor was the church abandoned while danger grew. Worship and pastoral care continued, including service by Franciscan priests before the 2007 transition. The surviving parish still possessed a powerful name, a functioning sacred building, a Polish inheritance, and an Archdiocese unwilling simply to treat the landmark as surplus masonry. What it lacked was a sufficiently large constituency organized around the whole burden and possibility of the campus.

The apparent liability contained an unusual resource. A church configured for hundreds, acoustically and visually suited to solemn worship, stood near regional highways even as its old walking constituency dispersed. Its historic sanctuary had been altered but remained recoverable in part; fragments, photographs, files, marble, furnishings, and skilled memories survived. The problem was not that the building had no possible future. It was that the old relationship among territory, ethnicity, school, and Sunday congregation no longer supplied one by itself.

That distinction prepares the post-2007 history. Saint Stanislaus did not need to be invented again from nothing. It needed a durable use capable of gathering people across a wider geography, clergy able to organize that use, and donors and volunteers willing to treat repair as part of worship rather than as an unrelated preservation campaign.

### **Claim check: “Saint Stanislaus closed, then the Institute reopened it”**

The checked sources support grave demographic and physical decline, an uncertain future, and recollection of a contemplated sale. They do not establish that the parish had been canonically suppressed or the church closed before 2007. Pastoral service continued; the later parish–oratory arrangement must be described as a new use and administration of a continuing inheritance, not a reopening after extinction.

**Witness:** Archdiocese of Milwaukee histories for 1945–2018; City of Milwaukee Walker’s Point plan; Portal Polonii parish synthesis; ICKSP parish history and 2007 apostolate announcement; Catholic Herald, “Honoring Past with the New”; OnMilwaukee 2014 site history; West Mitchell Street National Register nomination.

**What it establishes:** Suburban movement, freeway disruption, demographic succession, Catholic-school contraction, parish decline, and the maintenance burden together endangered the complex while worship continued.

**Limit:** No complete parish membership or finance series was located. The 1988 school closure and 2003 sale consideration come from later reporting; the latter remains an attributed recollection rather than a verified official act.

## 10 One Church, Two Canonical Communities

The decisive intervention of 2007 did not erase Saint Stanislaus Parish and replace it with an Institute institution. It brought two endangered continuities into the same church. The old parish still possessed a functioning church building, a campus, accumulated memory, and obligations that its diminished local membership could no longer easily carry. Milwaukee’s community attached to the traditional Roman liturgy had worshippers and a stable liturgical purpose but was about to lose the borrowed home it used at Saint Mary Help of Christians in West Allis. Before that tenancy, the community had moved among such places as the Cousins Center and a dance hall. One community had inherited place without enough people; the other had gathered people without a permanent place.

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan supplied the institutional hinge. The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest announced on October 15, 2007, that he had invited it to serve the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s traditional Latin Mass apostolate. Mass according to the 1962 Roman liturgical books was to begin at Saint Stanislaus on the first Sunday of Advent. The announcement thanked the Franciscan friars who had served the parish. The archbishop also placed the continuing parish in the Institute’s pastoral care, and the archdiocesan arrangement was subsequently expressed through Saint Stanislaus Oratory. The current institutional history dates erection of the oratory to 2008.

That sequence requires exact language. Saint Stanislaus Parish and Saint Stanislaus Oratory are distinct canonical entities. Archdiocesan reporting in 2018 described the church, rectory, and school as parish property; the current city assessor lists the historic parcel under St Stanislaus Properties LLC. The oratory is the apostolate organized for worship according to the liturgical books of 1962. The Institute serves both; no checked record says that it bought the historic campus, absorbed the parish, or turned parish property into Institute property. At the study cutoff the same Institute canon is styled parish administrator and rector, two offices held by one priest. A parish Mass in English continues on the Saturday vigil, while the oratory’s Sunday and weekday schedule uses the older Roman books. Common clergy, office, bulletin, council work, fundraising, and physical space make cooperation visible, but practical unity does not dissolve juridic distinction.

**Act or record:** Archbishop Dolan’s 2007 invitation and entrustment; ICKSP institutional history; recurring parish-and-oratory bulletins; archdiocesan parish listing.

**Historical result:** The parish continued, while a distinct oratory received a stable home at the parish church and Institute clergy assumed the linked offices of parish administrator and oratory rector.

**Boundary:** No checked record supports suppression of the parish, transfer of ownership to the Institute, or the claim that “the parish became an oratory.” The formal decree itself was not located for this study.

The arrangement did more than allocate Mass times. It aligned the inherited church with a form of worship that made its deep sanctuary, high altar, communion rail, choir loft, organ, sacristies, processional spaces, and extensive vestment collection useful together. Features that had become expensive remnants could again function as parts of an integrated liturgical environment. This affinity did not make every later design decision historically inevitable, nor did it prove that one moment in the building’s past was its only authentic form. It did create a durable reason to research, repair, and use the fabric rather than merely stabilize it.

The people arriving at Saint Stanislaus were not simply neighborhood replacements. The 2018 archdiocesan newspaper found families traveling from as far north as Kohler and as far south as Racine. The revived constituency was therefore regional, assembled by liturgical attachment rather than Polish residence around Mitchell Street. That difference matters. Nineteenth-century Saint Stanislaus concentrated an immigrant population and helped it build a neighborhood. The post-2007 apostolate gathered a dispersed population at an inherited neighborhood landmark. The first pattern sent daughter parishes outward as Polish settlement spread; the second drew households inward

across metropolitan and diocesan distances.

Yet the two populations shared a practical resemblance. Early immigrant families assessed themselves, mortgaged their future income, donated bells and marble, and supplied labor because worship required a place. The newer community likewise funded capital work, volunteered for cleaning and construction tasks, recovered furnishings, and organized repeated benefits. The resemblance is not genealogical—most present worshippers cannot be presumed descendants of the founders—but institutional. A stable congregation again treated the building as a common obligation rather than an attractive commodity.

This also clarifies what “resurrection” can and cannot mean. Saint Stanislaus was not canonically dead and re-founded. English-language parish worship did not disappear, the Polish foundation was not repudiated, and the oratory did not acquire the parish’s history by substitution. Resurrection here is a historical description of recovered capacity: fuller worship, dependable clergy, new families, organized societies, capital maintenance, and an artistic program directed toward use. The old body remained; a new alliance made it act at scale again.

#### **Claim check: Entrustment is not ownership**

The phrase “under the Institute” is safe only when it describes pastoral care, clerical service, or the oratory apostolate. It is misleading when used to imply that the Institute owns the parish church or that Saint Stanislaus Parish ceased to exist. The continuing parish listing, parish Mass, public property account, and dual title “parish administrator and rector” all require the two-community account.

## **11 Restoration as a Sequence of Uses**

Restoration began as soon as the new arrangement supplied both a program and a constituency. It was not one contract, and it did not return the building to a single untouched “1872 original.” The church of 1872 had itself been enlarged and elaborated through 1894 and altered repeatedly thereafter. The post-2007 work selected among those layers. It recovered a sanctuary ordered to the high altar, preserved much of the marble accumulated in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, reversed the visual darkness of the centennial-era windows, repaired the mid-century tower structures with a different metal skin, and adapted service rooms for a much larger liturgical operation. Its most defensible description is researched continuity: historical evidence, surviving fragments, current ritual requirements, safety, maintenance, and donor capacity were made to answer one another.

### **11.1 Sanctuary, furnishings, and music**

The first campaign began in 2008 with the space most immediately implicated in worship. The freestanding altar installed during the centennial renovations was removed; the high altar was reconstructed; the sanctuary line and floors were rebuilt; a marble communion rail and choir stalls were introduced; and older vestments and furnishings were recovered for service. These were not isolated decorative gestures. The 1962 liturgical books require coordinated movement by celebrant, ministers, servers, and choir, while sung solemn worship depends on adequate places for each. Moving the sanctuary back from its projection into the nave also restored spatial depth between rail and high altar.

The organ followed in 2011–12. Pipes were cleaned and regulated, the action, bellows, and control system were rebuilt, and a console formerly made for the minor seminary was installed. This intervention illustrates the broader method: preserve the historic sound-producing body where possible, replace failed operating systems, and incorporate a compatible element from another Catholic institution. The restored instrument supported Gregorian chant and polyphony, while the later reworking of the choir loft in 2017–18 added stairs, cabinetry, and furniture for regular rehearsal and service rather than merely improving a view.

The priests’ sacristy was restored in 2013–14. Work exposed and refinished inlaid wood floors and conserved cabinetry. The connecting chapel made in the 1960s was repurposed as a servers’ sacristy, a place for a reserve tabernacle, storage for altar furnishings, and housing for a relic collection entrusted to Saint Stanislaus. Again, restoration was partly a change in operational capacity. A solemn schedule needs vesting, storage, preparation, and circulation spaces that visitors seldom see.

## 11.2 Recovered color and a new window cycle

The windows required historical reconstruction under unusually poor evidentiary conditions. The nineteenth-century glazing had been removed during the 1962–64 campaign, and the checked project account says no adequate photographs of its designs were known. Pieces of the earlier glass recovered in the mid-2010s supplied colors and material clues. Artists could therefore work from physical evidence without pretending to reproduce an undocumented image cycle exactly. Beginning with two sanctuary windows in 2015, the project replaced the thick *dalle de verre* panels with traditional leaded stained glass. The new program depicts the Immaculate Conception and Saint Stanislaus in the sanctuary; Marian apparitions and saints occupy the nave; Marian scenes form the rose window; and saints connected to music and priesthood appear near the choir and confessionals.

The sanctuary and interior campaign reached a ceremonial threshold during the parish’s 150th-anniversary weekend in September 2016. Paint schemes were recovered or reconstructed from earlier designs, statues and ceiling art were renewed, and marble long obscured by paint was cleaned. Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI celebrated Benediction in a packed church on September 24. On September 25 Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry celebrated a pontifical Mass and consecrated the rebuilt main altar. Consecration mattered historically because it joined building work to the act for which the work had been undertaken: the altar was not unveiled as an exhibit but set apart again for sacrifice.

Window installation continued beyond that anniversary. The last major phase placed glass in the bell towers in October 2021, completing a six-year sequence. Those tower panels incorporated many recovered pieces from the earlier windows and were lit from within. Thus even the most conspicuous new work contains actual remnants rather than merely an imitation of age. The project both reversed a mid-century intervention and preserved matter rescued from what that intervention had replaced.

## 11.3 Envelope, towers, grounds, and rectory

Interior beauty could not secure the church if water continued to enter its exterior shell. By the late 2010s the aluminum-clad tower domes built during the centennial campaign had deteriorated. Removal began in December 2018; the 2019 exterior program reconstructed the domes and sheathed them in copper, repaired roofing, cleaned and tuckpointed cream brick, and addressed the tower crosses. New wooden exterior doors followed historical designs. Gardens, walks, stairs, and site edges were repaired as parts of the same approach to the whole setting. Contemporary roofing documentation records a project extending from December 2018 through December 2019, a useful check against accounts that collapse the highly technical work into a single installation day.

The choice of copper is a good measure of restoration’s layered character. Copper recalled an earlier roof material and promised a far longer service life than the deteriorated mid-century cladding, but the towers beneath were not simply returned to their nineteenth-century construction. The project conserved a landmark by joining inherited form to present engineering. Historic-district controls and city review also meant that exterior decisions belonged to a protected streetscape, not to the congregation alone.

New chandeliers installed in 2019 recreated the scale and rhythm of older lighting while using more efficient and serviceable equipment. Rectory interiors had been restored by 2020 through work on plaster, wood floors, cabinetry, paint, and fixtures. That work recovered surviving domestic craftsmanship and made the clergy residence viable; it should not be confused with proof that every part of the 1963–64 exterior remaking was reversed. In 2023 scheduled maintenance found the iron clappers of the four great bells worn flat after generations of use. Replacement clappers restored tone and volume, while the originals were displayed in the Marian courtyard. The intervention preserved the bells by replacing the parts meant to strike them.

**Witness:** Institute project history and dated restoration reports; 2016 anniversary account; 2017 city preservation record; 2018–19 roofing account; 2021 tower-window report; 2023 parish bulletin.

**What it establishes:** A phased campaign addressed sanctuary, organ, sacristies, paint, marble, stained glass, choir loft, lighting, domes, roof, masonry, doors, grounds, rectory, and bells between 2008 and 2023.

**Limit:** Promotional phrases such as “original glory” and “complete restoration” express project aims, not a finding that every 1872 condition was recovered. Total project cost and a consolidated contract archive were not located.

The work was also a social project. Capital gifts, benefit dinners, parish campaigns, volunteer labor, professional designers, artists, preservation officers, contractors, Institute clergy, and an Institute clerical oblate acting as project

manager all appear in the surviving accounts. Archbishop Listecky's 2016 presentation of the papal *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal to Abbé George Baird recognized that practical coordination. No single benefactor, cleric, or firm can plausibly carry the whole story. Restoration succeeded because technical work could be divided into fundable stages while ordinary worship continued.

By the 2022 commemoration of 150 years since the present church's building campaign, an Institute report could call the preceding decade a complete restoration. That phrase accurately marks the achievement of an integrated church, grounds, and rectory campaign; it cannot mean that conservation ended. Bells still needed work in 2023, ordinary roof and masonry cycles continue, and the site's renewed population created demands beyond the historic campus.

In March 2024 Saint Stanislaus announced plans to acquire two commercial buildings across Fifth Street, made possible by an anonymous gift. The state inventory identifies the principal corner building as the 1888 Paul Noe Meat Market, designed in a Queen Anne vocabulary by Alfred C. Clas; the expansion announcement referred to robust work from the 1980s rather than supplying a complete fabric chronology. The city assessor records that St Stanislaus Properties LLC purchased 501–505 West Historic Mitchell Street on October 17, 2024, for \$875,000. The announced program would supply classrooms, meeting rooms, and additional parking, while removing paint from Cream City brick, repairing parapets, roof, masonry, windows, and façades, and replacing interior mechanical systems. It designated anticipated fundraising dinners in 2024 and 2025 as part of the renovation plan and projected twelve to eighteen months of work. City records show Historic Preservation Commission approval for replacement brick facing in July 2025 and a Board of Zoning Appeals special use for a religious assembly hall in September, subject to permits and occupancy certificates. Those approvals establish progress, not completion. No checked source through July 19, 2026, establishes that the renovation was completed or that every proposed use opened; the acquisition is therefore a fact of expansion, while the proposed rehabilitation remains a plan whose completion awaits documentation.

## 12 The Evidence of a Church in Use

Fresh paint cannot demonstrate parish resurrection. Use can. Saint Stanislaus after 2007 again generated the recurring acts by which a church becomes an institution rather than a preserved shell: scheduled Masses and confessions, sacramental preparation, choirs and servers, processions, catechism, adult formation, societies, meals, pilgrimages, cleaning, fundraising, and continual repair. The evidence is uneven—news reports celebrate events more often than they publish complete annual statistics—but several independent snapshots show that the new capacity endured beyond an opening season.

A 2018 report in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's newspaper recorded a 63-percent rise in Sunday Mass attendance between 2007 and 2014. Parish administrator Canon Benoît Jayr reported 691 worshippers on the immediately preceding Sunday. Those numbers are not a current census, and the article does not provide the underlying weekly series, but they establish a large change during the first seven years. They also disclose its geography: families traveled from Kohler to Racine, and one interviewed household came from Oconomowoc. Saint Stanislaus had become a regional destination located in, but not demographically confined to, the old South Side Polonia.

Later sacramental events show formation across generations. Seventy-eight young people from the oratory received Confirmation from Milwaukee Auxiliary Bishop Jeffrey R. Haines on October 28, 2023. Thirty-one children received first Communion at the May 2024 solemn High Mass; twenty-five did so on May 3, 2026. These are event counts, not enrollment totals, and they should not be combined as a trend line. Their significance is simpler: the restored sanctuary, rail, sacristies, classrooms, clergy, and catechists were serving large cohorts of children and adolescents, not only heritage tourists or adult liturgical enthusiasts.

Associational life widened the evidence. The published program has included an Altar and Rosary Society, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Holy Name Society, young-adult gatherings, boys' and girls' groups, adult choir, Friday adoration, catechism, social hours, and pro-life prayer. More than one hundred men attended the Holy Name Society's Advent retreat in December 2024. The Holy Name Society's 2026 calendar includes monthly meetings and luncheons, a book sale, Lenten retreat, food and charitable work, a pilgrimage, Corpus Christi, and an all-parish picnic. The forms differ from the nineteenth-century Polish sodalities and mutual-aid associations, but their institutional function rhymes: repeated small gatherings make attachment durable between Sundays.

The restoration also recovered public movement. In June 2026 hundreds attended Corpus Christi and followed the Blessed Sacrament five blocks along Mitchell Street from Saint Stanislaus to Saint Anthony, where Benediction concluded the procession. The route joined two surviving South Side Catholic landmarks and placed worship again in

the street. This was not the same civic world in which parish bells ordered an overwhelmingly Polish neighborhood or workers assembled before the Bay View march. It nevertheless showed a religious community able to occupy public space collectively rather than retreat inside a rescued monument.

Sacred music supplies another measure. Organ rebuilding, choir-loft work, an adult choir, directors and organists, Gregorian chant, polyphony, and the labor of weekly rehearsal together convert restoration expense into repeated practice. The same is true of processional furnishings, old vestments, choir stalls, sacristies, relic storage, and the altar rail. Their historical value does not reside only in age. They form people in coordinated work—sewing, singing, serving, cleaning, arranging, rehearsing, and learning ceremonial roles—that cannot be reduced to attendance counts.

**Witness:** 2018 *Catholic Herald* attendance report; official 2023 Confirmation, 2024 retreat and first-Communion, and 2026 first-Communion and Corpus Christi reports; current program and society pages.

**What it establishes:** Attendance grew substantially in the early years, later cohorts received sacraments, societies met repeatedly, and hundreds participated in a 2026 public procession.

**Limit:** Event publicity is selective. These records do not establish a complete membership series, neighborhood residence, retention, household income, ethnic composition, or a reversal of South Side population loss.

The surviving Polish identity is neither total nor fictive. The church remains dedicated to Poland's martyred bishop; donor names remain cast into the bells; the exterior mosaic of Our Lady of Częstochowa still marks the centennial and Polish millennium; anniversary events have included Polish food, music, and dance; and the building itself continues the founders' most expensive public statement. Yet most oratory worship is organized by the universal Latin books of 1962, and the constituency is regional rather than demonstrably Polish. Continuity therefore lies more securely in custody and use than in an unproven claim of ethnic sameness.

Nor did renewal eliminate the parish. The continuing English Saturday vigil, the public account of parish property, and the archdiocesan listing prevent the history from becoming a story of one liturgical community displacing another. The parish-and-oratory arrangement permits overlapping identities: an old parish can retain its juridic and immigrant continuity; the oratory can conduct a distinct apostolate; one clergy team and one building can serve both. That structure may appear almost invisible to a visitor, but it is precisely what allowed new life without the fiction of a new foundation.

Expansion is perhaps the strongest material sign that rescue became growth. Restoration initially asked how a diminished community could keep too much building. The 2024 purchase across Fifth Street asked how a growing parish-and-oratory operation could obtain enough classrooms, meeting space, and parking. The inversion is striking, but the evidence boundary remains important: acquisition proves confidence and need; announced renovations do not prove completed occupancy. A responsible history can recognize the changed question without borrowing the future tense as a finished fact.

**Claim check: What the revival statistics prove**

The attendance report and dated sacramental events establish substantial and recurrent use. They do not prove that the residential neighborhood recovered its former Polish Catholic density, that every participant belongs to the parish rather than the oratory, or that growth continued at a constant rate. Saint Stanislaus's resurrection is best located in institutional capacity and liturgical action, not in an inferred demographic census.

## 13 What Saint Stanislaus Preserved

Saint Stanislaus survived neither by remaining unchanged nor by abandoning its past. Thirty immigrant families first converted an available Lutheran church into a Polish Catholic institution. Their successors converted wages into a monumental church, then into sanctuary, bells, marble, schoolrooms, convent and rectory; converted a crowded mother parish into daughter congregations; and converted ethnic solidarity into education, worship, association, and public presence. Each success altered the problem inherited by the next generation.

The present church embodies those conversions rather than one pure founding moment. It opened before it was finished, acquired its most celebrated interior in later campaigns, underwent another comprehensive remaking for the parish centennial, and survived demographic change with the marks of all those judgments. The mid-century work should not be reduced to vandalism: it repaired dangerous fabric, answered fire, modernized living and worship spaces, and celebrated Polish Catholic endurance. The later restoration nevertheless recovered depth, color, material,

sound, and ceremonial capacity that those interventions had hidden or removed. Honest preservation can acknowledge both purposes.

Decline likewise had no single cause. A mother parish had already sent families into new neighborhoods and parishes. Postwar mobility pulled later generations outward; freeway construction removed buildings and severed streets; Mitchell Street's commercial and ethnic center changed; parish and high-school enrollment contracted, with Notre Dame High School reportedly closing in 1988; and a large complex accumulated deferred work. The result was an imbalance between inherited scale and local institutional capacity, not proof that the founders' project had been futile.

The 2007–08 parish-and-oratory arrangement corrected that imbalance without pretending to restore nineteenth-century Milwaukee. The continuing parish brought a historic church and campus, stewardship obligations, memory, and an archdiocesan bond to the arrangement. The distinct oratory brought a regional congregation ordered around the traditional Roman liturgy. Institute clergy held linked but distinct offices and coordinated worship, formation, fundraising, and repair. Because the building's historic form served that liturgy, conservation and mission reinforced one another. Restoration became a mode of pastoral work; pastoral growth supplied the means and reason for further restoration.

That reciprocity is the deepest meaning of Saint Stanislaus's resurrection. The high altar was rebuilt in order to be consecrated and used. The organ was rebuilt in order to accompany singers. The sacristies were repaired in order to vest clergy and servers. Windows recovered light and iconography; domes and masonry kept out weather; new clappers let the old bells address the neighborhood again. First Communion, confirmations, retreats, societies, and a five-block Corpus Christi procession then showed the fabric operating as an ecclesial body. The church did not become alive because it looked old again. It looked whole because a community needed it to live.

The story remains unfinished. Current activity does not recreate the old Polonia, erase neighborhood loss, resolve every archival contradiction, or guarantee every announced expansion. Restoration creates future maintenance obligations. A regional congregation must continue relating to the place and people around it. The parish and oratory must remain historically and canonically distinguishable even when their common life is seamless. Those are not defects in the resurrection claim; they define its real scale.

Saint Stanislaus finally preserves a pattern more durable than any one style. Catholics with limited means identify a need, bind themselves to one another, build more than they can finish at once, hand the unfinished work forward, and discover that inherited form can serve people whom the builders never imagined. On Historic Mitchell Street, immigrant sacrifice became masonry; masonry became endangered inheritance; inherited space became the home of a new apostolate; and use made preservation possible again. The continuity is not sameness. It is a succession of communities accepting responsibility for what they received.

## A Scope, Method, and Historical Coordinates

### A.1 Subject, place, period, and governing question

This account concerns Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish, the church and parish campus associated with it, and the distinct Saint Stanislaus Oratory now served by the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. The church's current public address is 524 West Historic Mitchell Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204; the state inventory also records it as 1681 South Fifth Street. The present school is recorded at 1669 South Fifth Street. The ecclesiastical jurisdiction is the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The narrative begins with Polish immigration and organizing efforts reported by 1863, treats 1866 as the formal parish foundation, and follows the institution and its buildings through 19 July 2026. Its center is the near South Side and the Mitchell Street campus. Jones Island, daughter parishes, the Bay View labor march, suburban migration, and the regional reach of the oratory enter only where they explain the parish's constituency or use. This is not a complete history of Milwaukee Polonia, every daughter parish, the Institute, the traditional Latin Mass, the parochial-school system, or the West Mitchell Street commercial district.

The governing question is how an immigrant congregation repeatedly converted limited resources into durable religious infrastructure, why that infrastructure became endangered after the residential Polish constituency dispersed, and how the post-2007 conjunction of a continuing parish and a distinct 1962-Missal apostolate enabled renewed use and restoration. "Resurrection" is an analytical description of renewed institutional, liturgical, and material life. It is not

a claim that the parish had been canonically suppressed and re-erected.

## A.2 Terms and status boundaries

| Term                                                | Use in this account                                                                                                                                                     | Boundary                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Parish</b>                                       | Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish, founded in 1866 and still separately represented in current archdiocesan and local records.                                  | The historical national-parish setting is not projected into a present canonical classification that no checked decree establishes.                                             |
| <b>Oratory</b>                                      | Saint Stanislaus Oratory, the distinct community centered on worship according to the 1962 Roman Missal and served by the Institute.                                    | “Oratory” does not rename the parish, transfer parish property, or make the parish and apostolate one canonical person.                                                         |
| <b>Care /<br/>entrustment</b>                       | Archbishop Timothy Dolan’s 2007 invitation to the Institute to serve Milwaukee’s traditional-Latin-Mass apostolate at Saint Stanislaus and the later local arrangement. | It is not a claim that the Institute owns the church complex. A 2018 archdiocesan-newspaper account says the parish owns the church, rectory, and school; no deed was examined. |
| <b>Parish<br/>administrator and<br/>rector</b>      | The paired offices used on the current Saint Stanislaus page for the priest leading the parish and oratory.                                                             | Common leadership and a shared building do not erase the two-entity distinction.                                                                                                |
| <b>Traditional Latin<br/>Mass / 1962<br/>Missal</b> | The liturgical apostolate served by the Institute.                                                                                                                      | Current terminology is used except when reporting a dated source’s older label; this history does not determine present liturgical law or faculty.                              |
| <b>Polonia</b>                                      | Milwaukee’s Polish and Polish-American communal world, especially its South Side concentration.                                                                         | It does not imply that all residents shared one regional origin, class, politics, or degree of Polish identification.                                                           |
| <b>Mother parish</b>                                | A historically generative parish from which numerous Polish congregations were organized or populated.                                                                  | It is institutional kinship, not permanent authority over daughter parishes.                                                                                                    |
| <b>Restoration</b>                                  | The post-2007 program of structural repair, liturgical reordering, artistic reconstruction, and campus renewal.                                                         | “Original” and “former glory” are source language, not proof of exact return to one fixed 1873, 1894, 1913, or pre-1960 state.                                                  |

The checked ICKSP historical page places care of the parish in 2007 and erection of the oratory in 2008. A 2018 *Catholic Herald* feature instead says the oratory was canonically established in 2016, while the documented 2016 event was the parish’s sesquicentennial and consecration of the rebuilt main altar. No erection decree was located. This account therefore reports the institutional 2008 chronology with the discrepancy visible; it does not assign an unverified day or decree number.

### A.3 Evidence classes and method

| Evidence layer                                          | Representative witnesses                                                                                                                                             | What it can and cannot establish                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Material and preservation record</b>                 | Historic American Buildings Survey WIS-159; Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory; 2018 National Register nomination; City of Milwaukee preservation records  | Controls addresses, observed fabric, architects, broad project periods, district status, and some alterations. A survey may repeat tradition, use approximate dates, or describe only the fabric visible when surveyed.          |
| <b>Ecclesiastical and institutional record</b>          | Archdiocese of Milwaukee histories and parish map; ICKSP invitation, history, restoration, schedule, and event pages; campaign records                               | Establishes published acts, self-description, schedules, named projects, and dated institutional activity. It is not an independent financial, architectural, demographic, or canonical audit.                                   |
| <b>Contemporary and retrospective historical record</b> | John G. Gregory’s 1931 city history; the 1941 memorial volume identified by HABS; the catalog record for the 1966 centennial history; UWM’s Milwaukee Polonia essays | Supplies near-contemporary synthesis, institutional memory, and urban context. Later commemoration may compress building campaigns or magnify superlatives. The 1941 and 1966 volumes were not available in full for this study. |
| <b>Modern reconstruction and reporting</b>              | Portal Polonii; <i>Catholic Herald</i> ; OnMilwaukee; Wisconsin Labor History Society; restoration-firm and roofing-trade accounts                                   | Tests immigrant origin, public life, decline, canonical distinction, fundraising, and technical work. Attributed recollection remains recollection; a contractor portfolio documents its own work, not the whole history.        |

Claims were checked across independent source families wherever the record allowed. A dated physical survey controls a later institutional caption about a building date; an official current listing controls a journalist’s shorthand about present status; and an official act controls later memory of what the act did. Agreement among dependent parish retellings was not counted as independent corroboration. Quantitative snapshots are retained only with their date and source; they do not create a continuous membership series.

The narrative distinguishes building stages rather than assigning one false completion date. It also separates four related but nonidentical events: organizing a parish, occupying a first reused church, laying the present church’s cornerstone, and completing later campaigns. The building ledger that follows records the controlling evidence and the qualification for each major project.

### A.4 Disputes, absences, and negative findings

- **Foundation.** Gregory reports organizing begun in 1863; official and preservation accounts consistently use 1866 for formal organization and acquisition of the first church. Both dates are retained for different acts.
- **National superlative.** Saint Stanislaus is securely Milwaukee’s first Polish parish and is widely described as the first Polish Catholic congregation in a major American city. “Oldest Polish church in America,” “third Polish parish,” and “first Polish school” depend on whether parish, building, urban setting, continuous operation, language, or formal school organization is being counted. No broad national superlative is treated as settled.
- **Present church.** The cornerstone was laid in July 1872 and part of the church was dedicated or occupied in 1873, but HABS identifies 1884–94 as the principal later building period. “Completed in 1873” is therefore too simple.
- **School.** Sources give 1866, 1867, 1872, or 1873 for the beginning of instruction or school organization, and 1873 or 1878 for a first schoolhouse. The present principal school front is securely tied to Herbst and Kuenzli plans dated 1926, not merely to an “early 1930s” recollection. Parish, School Sisters of Notre Dame, permit, and property files remain to be collated.
- **Bells.** The detailed parish history places the four great bells in 1894; a 2018 feature says 1882. No foundry contract or contemporary installation notice was located, so 1894 is used with the contrary date preserved here.

- **Rectory.** Sources variously call the 1963–64 work complete remodeling, a new façade and interior, or replacement of the old rectory. The National Register record identifies a 1964 rectory. Without permit and deed files, “remade in 1963–64” is the safest description.
- **Golden domes.** The institutional history gives a detailed September 1960 tower reconstruction; state and later accounts associate the golden replacements with the early 1960s or the 1966 centennial. The campaign is dated 1960 within a broader 1960s program, not reduced to one imprecise anniversary date.
- **Window evidence.** The municipal survey dates installation of the dalle-de-verre glazing to 1962, while the detailed institutional history gives 1964; no checked permit or contract resolves the difference. Parish, contractor, and journalistic accounts agree that fragments of the removed earlier glass informed the new windows but place their discovery around 2014 or 2015 and describe custody differently. The material discovery is secure; its exact date and chain of custody are not.
- **Decline.** Out-migration, freeway construction, demographic change, school closure, and deferred maintenance are repeatedly reported. No complete annual census, sacramental series, school-enrollment series, or audited maintenance ledger was located. The reported 1988 school closure and 2003 consideration of sale rest on later journalism and oral recollection.
- **Canonical record.** The 2007 ICKSP invitation is public. No archdiocesan decree erecting the oratory, deed, parish reclassification act, or complete administrative agreement was located. The distinct parish/oratory structure is supported by the current public record and the 2018 property explanation, not reconstructed beyond them.
- **Restoration finance and expansion.** No audited total cost for the full restoration was found. A 2024 announcement describes planned acquisition and a twelve-to-eighteen-month renovation of two buildings. The city assessor records the purchase in October 2024, and 2025 preservation and zoning approvals establish progress toward rehabilitation and religious-assembly use. No checked source through the cutoff establishes completion or an occupancy certificate.
- **Excluded false lead.** The Newberry Foreign Language Press Survey item “Parish Schools: The St. Stanislaus Kostka School” concerns the Chicago parish, despite references to sisters from Milwaukee. It supplies no evidence for the Milwaukee school and was excluded.

No founding minutes, full sacramental register, original construction contract, complete permit file, 2008 decree, or comprehensive parish archive was available online. Those absences delimit the account; they are not filled by inference.

## A.5 Rights, currentness, and review state

The publication consists of project-created synthesis and focused paraphrase. It reproduces no third-party photograph, plan, stained-glass design, decree image, newspaper passage, modern liturgical text, archival scan, or direct or literary translation. Linked source pages, scans, designs, and photographs retain their own rights; citation does not relicense them. The Polish Portal Polonii material supplies only factual synthesis independently supported elsewhere and is paraphrased under its stated copyright boundary. An internal work-specific distribution review checked quotations, translation, embedded links, source-site restrictions, and fonts and found no incorporated third-party media or copied passage requiring a separate permission basis; this is not independent legal or rights review.

Historical and mutable online records were checked through 19 July 2026. Current staff, Mass times, property use, campaign totals, planned expansion, and canonical or liturgical arrangements can change after that date. This is a source-audited historical study, not an archdiocesan act, parish history issued by the parish, title opinion, financial audit, preservation specification, or canonical advice. Independent historical, architectural, Polish-American, and canon-law review remains outstanding.

## B Building and Campus Ledger

The ledger distinguishes construction, alteration, reported damage, and planned work. A date in the first column identifies the best-supported project period, not a claim that every component was completed that year.

| Date                           | Building act or physical state                                                                                                                                                         | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1866</b>                    | Thirty families acquired and adapted a small brick church formerly used by Saint Stephen's Lutheran congregation at the northwest corner of Grove—now South Fifth—and Mineral Streets. | Gregory (1931), the National Register nomination, state inventory, and parish history agree on reuse. This was the first parish church, not the present Mitchell Street building.                      |
| <b>Early 1870s</b>             | The parish acquired the Fifth-and-Mitchell site and financed a much larger church, remembered through a thirty-dollar family assessment and borrowing.                                 | Parish and later press accounts supply the assessment. No subscription ledger, deed, loan instrument, or final project cost was examined.                                                              |
| <b>July 1872</b>               | Cornerstone laid for the present church, designed by Leonard A. Schmidtner.                                                                                                            | HABS, Wisconsin AHI HI27246, Gregory, National Register nomination, and parish history converge. Later titles and biographical stories about Schmidtner are less secure than the building attribution. |
| <b>1873</b>                    | A portion of the cream-brick, twin-towered church was dedicated and entered use.                                                                                                       | Gregory and institutional histories use 1873 as dedication or completion; HABS shows that essential work continued later.                                                                              |
| <b>1870s</b>                   | Early parish instruction acquired dedicated school space; Gregory dates a schoolhouse to 1878, while parish accounts give 1873 and other sources attach earlier dates to instruction.  | The discrepancy likely separates teaching, organization, and building, but no checked record resolves the sequence.                                                                                    |
| <b>1884–94</b>                 | Principal later church campaign: sanctuary built out, roof covered with copper, organ installed, and interior painted.                                                                 | HABS WIS-159 is the controlling physical-history source. The range prevents the 1873 dedication from being mistaken for final completion.                                                              |
| <b>1885</b>                    | Henry Messmer designed a substantial renovation valued in the state inventory at \$17,000.                                                                                             | Wisconsin AHI HI27246. The checked digital record does not itemize every component.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1894–95</b>                 | Interior brick walls were progressively faced with Wisconsin marble; four large bells were installed in the towers according to the detailed parish history.                           | Parish history gives 1894 and 1895 for marble stages and 1894 for the bells. A 2018 feature gives 1882 for the bells; no foundry record was checked.                                                   |
| <b>1895–1913</b>               | Gothic Revival entrance surround, revised tower-window archivolt, side buttresses with apostle statues, crossing flèche, marble altars, pulpit, and further interior elaboration.      | HABS records the campaign but cannot divide all work by year. Later style labels describe layers, not one original scheme.                                                                             |
| <b>Late 19th–early 20th c.</b> | Successive school, convent, rectory, and service buildings turned the site into a working campus.                                                                                      | Historic images, Gregory, HABS, parish history, and the National Register nomination establish a changing complex. A complete parcel-by-parcel chronology remains unavailable.                         |
| <b>1926</b>                    | The principal four-story school front at 1669 South Fifth Street was built to plans by Herbst and Kuenzli, dated 16 February 1926; an older rear portion remained.                     | Wisconsin AHI HI118139 and the National Register nomination control the date and architect. The institutional phrase “early 1930s” is not used as the construction date.                               |
| <b>Early 1930s</b>             | Church and parish buildings were redecorated or renovated during the Depression.                                                                                                       | The parish history supplies the broad campaign. It does not identify every contract, room, or cost.                                                                                                    |

| Date        | Building act or physical state                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1932–47     | Saint Stanislaus High School opened in September 1932 with seventy-two freshmen; a 1946 report counted four hundred students from thirty-seven parishes; the state inventory records a 1947 change to the later Notre Dame High School name. | Contemporary <i>Milwaukee Sentinel</i> report preserved by Marquette University and Wisconsin AHI HI118139. Enrollment figures are dated snapshots; educational expansion is not conflated with construction of the 1926 school front. |
| 1960        | Twin towers tuckpointed; deteriorated dome structures removed and reconstructed in aluminum-covered steel, gilded with 23-carat gold leaf; crosses, clocks, and clock mechanisms renewed.                                                    | The ICKSP parish history gives the detailed 1960 sequence and September lifting of the towers. State and later records associate the golden domes more broadly with the early 1960s or 1966 centennial.                                |
| 1962        | Fire damaged the left side altar and caused smoke damage throughout the church, delaying interior work.                                                                                                                                      | Detailed institutional history. No fire-department report or insurance record was located.                                                                                                                                             |
| 1962/64     | Earlier stained-glass windows removed because of reported deterioration and security concerns; inch-thick dalle de verre glazing installed.                                                                                                  | The City of Milwaukee survey says 1962; institutional history says 1964. No checked permit or contract resolves the date. Contractor and later press accounts document fragments from removed glass but not a complete survival.       |
| 1963–64     | Rectory comprehensively remade with modern interior arrangements and a concrete or limestone-facing treatment; ambulatory and chapel connected rectory and church.                                                                           | Parish history, National Register nomination, and later reporting agree on a major project but differ over remodeling versus replacement. “Remade” preserves that uncertainty.                                                         |
| 1965        | Roman travertine added to remaining interior walls; high altar dismantled or incorporated into a freestanding altar; pulpit moved; most communion rail removed; sanctuary extended into nave; baptismal font moved to new chapel.            | Institutional history supplies the sequence. Later sources sometimes describe all changes generically as “post-conciliar,” but the dated campaign had maintenance, safety, centennial, artistic, and liturgical dimensions.            |
| Mid-1960s   | Exterior mosaic shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa installed as a parish-centennial and Polish-Christian-millennium memorial.                                                                                                                 | Institutional history. Its promotional size superlative was not independently measured.                                                                                                                                                |
| 2008 onward | Freestanding altar removed; high altar reconstructed; sanctuary location and floor recovered; marble communion rail and choir stalls introduced; historic furnishings and vestments returned to use.                                         | ICKSP history and 2016 <i>Catholic Herald</i> reporting. Components accrued in phases; the checked record does not support one single completion day or exact return to an untouched original state.                                   |
| 2011–12     | Organ pipes cleaned and regulated; action, bellows, and control system rebuilt; another console installed.                                                                                                                                   | Detailed ICKSP parish history. No organ-builder contract or opus record was found in the checked set.                                                                                                                                  |
| 2013–14     | Priests’ sacristy restored, including inlaid wood floor and cabinetry; 1960s chapel adapted as server sacristy, reserve-tabernacle location, and storage.                                                                                    | ICKSP parish history. The reported relic collection is a custodial use, not a building-ownership claim.                                                                                                                                |

| Date                           | Building act or physical state                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2014/15–21</b>              | Historic fragments and other visual evidence informed a new stained-glass program; sanctuary, nave, rose, choir-loft, confessional, and baptistery windows installed in phases, replacing dalle de verre.                                | ICKSP history and restoration page, Conrad Schmitt portfolio, and 2016 reporting. Sources differ on discovery year; the institutional history dates completion to 2021.                                                                               |
| <b>2016</b>                    | Interior repainted from historical evidence; concealed marble cleaned and restored; rebuilt main altar consecrated during the parish’s 150th-anniversary weekend.                                                                        | ICKSP history and anniversary record; <i>Catholic Herald</i> documents design research and phased fundraising. Consecration is a liturgical act distinct from the oratory’s disputed erection date.                                                   |
| <b>2017–18</b>                 | Choir loft redesigned; cabinetry, furniture, and new stairs added.                                                                                                                                                                       | ICKSP parish history. This is distinct from the 2011–12 organ mechanism work.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>2018–19</b>                 | Tower domes removed and rebuilt in copper; exterior brick cleaned and tuckpointed; roofs repaired; historically patterned wood doors installed; gardens, walks, and stairs renewed.                                                      | ICKSP history and Chrystine Elle Hanus’s roofing-trade account, which dates the roofing project from December 2018 to December 2019. Copper replaced the failing 1960 aluminum-covered structures.                                                    |
| <b>2019/20</b>                 | New energy-efficient chandeliers installed in designs intended to harmonize with the church; restored rectory rooms displayed as complete by 2020.                                                                                       | ICKSP prose dates chandelier installation to 2019 while a caption says 2020; the same history captions the restored rectory library 2020.                                                                                                             |
| <b>2023</b>                    | Scheduled maintenance found the striking ends of all four great bell clappers worn flat; replacement clappers restored tone and volume, and the originals were displayed in the Marian courtyard.                                        | Saint Stanislaus parish bulletin, 29 July–6 August 2023. The replaceable striking parts were renewed; the nineteenth-century bells themselves remained in service.                                                                                    |
| <b>March 2024</b>              | Parish and oratory announced planned acquisition and renovation of two attached buildings across Fifth and Historic Mitchell for classrooms, meeting rooms, and parking, with an estimated twelve-to-eighteen-month construction period. | ICKSP announcement. It establishes intent, proposed scope, and an anonymous gift; later city records separately establish acquisition and approvals.                                                                                                  |
| <b>September 2024 snapshot</b> | Archdiocesan Love One Another campaign page still identified grounds irrigation and exterior lighting as parish priorities.                                                                                                              | Dated campaign record, not a total restoration budget. Its figures do not establish the aggregate cost of work since 2008.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>17 October 2024</b>         | St Stanislaus Properties LLC purchased the 501–505 West Historic Mitchell Street parcel for \$875,000.                                                                                                                                   | City of Milwaukee assessor record, tax key 4620625000. The property record establishes the transaction and ownership name, not the internal relationship of the LLC to the parish or completion of renovations.                                       |
| <b>Jul.–Sept. 2025</b>         | City bodies approved replacement brick facing within the historic district and a special use for a religious assembly hall.                                                                                                              | Historic Preservation Commission record and Board of Zoning Appeals minutes. The special-use approval required permits and occupancy certificates within one year; approval is not proof that rehabilitation or occupancy was complete by the cutoff. |

## C Historical List of Pastors

This is the most complete succession recoverable from the checked public record, not a list of every priest who served at Saint Stanislaus. The early sequence comes from retrospective Polish-American histories; from 1890 onward, selected annual editions of the *Official Catholic Directory* provide year-specific witnesses. Checked original pages are distinguished from searchable-text collation, which remains a finding aid rather than image verification. A directory year is not an appointment decree, so nonconsecutive witnesses are not turned into continuous tenure. Assistants and priests in residence are omitted unless they disclose a transition. The table retains administrators, an “Unassigned” status, unresolved intervals, and the parish–oratory office distinction rather than manufacturing a gapless line of pastors.

The compact loci below resolve through the linked references: **KUL**, the Catholic University of Lublin heritage history’s account of the 1866 organizer and first pastor; **MP**, the Saint Stanislaus succession paragraphs in the Milwaukee Polonia retrospective; **IPH**, the pastor chronology in the Institute’s “History of St. Stanislaus”; and **OCD**, the Saint Stanislaus parish entry in the named annual *Official Catholic Directory* edition. **CH18**, **AM20**, and **ICH** identify the 2018 *Catholic Herald* account, the 2020 archdiocesan handbook Saint Stanislaus entry, and the Institute’s current Milwaukee clergy block.

| Period or witness                                                                    | Name or status                           | Office / affiliation | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1866–ca. 1867</b>                                                                 | Rev. T. Węglikowski                      | First pastor         | KUL explicitly names him first pastor; MP supplies the approximate period. No appointment act was located.                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Ca. 1867–68</b>                                                                   | Rev. Bonaventure (Bonawentura) Buczyński | Pastor               | MP places him after Węglikowski; KUL associates him with the 1866 organization, while John G. Gregory, vol. 2, p. 902, independently reports that organizing began under him in 1863. Neither supplies an appointment act.              |
| <b>Ca. 1868–70</b>                                                                   | Rev. J. Jaster                           | Pastor               | MP, early succession paragraphs. Retrospective evidence only; no appointment act was located.                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1870–75</b>                                                                       | Rev. John Rodowicz                       | Pastor               | MP, early succession paragraphs. Exact appointment and departure dates were not independently verified.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>1875–76</b>                                                                       | Rev. Xavier (Ksawery) Kralczyński        | Pastor               | MP, early succession paragraphs. The name and dates vary in English-language renderings.                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>1876–ca. 1883</b>                                                                 | Rev. Hyacinth (Jacek) Gulski             | Pastor               | MP, early succession paragraphs. Exact appointment and departure dates were not independently verified.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Ca. 1883–1894</b>                                                                 | Rev. Hipolit (Hippolyt) Górski           | Pastor               | MP supplies the retrospective period; OCD 1890, Saint Stanislaus entry, printed p. 82, scan n107, lists H. Gorski first.                                                                                                                |
| <b>Retrospective succession from 1895; checked directory witnesses 1897 and 1912</b> | Rev. Paul Szulerecki                     | Pastor               | MP calls him the eighth pastor beginning in 1895; OCD 1897, Saint Stanislaus entry, printed p. 65, scan n150, and OCD 1912, printed p. 98, scan n209, list P. Szulerecki first. The sources do not supply a checked departure boundary. |

| Period or witness                                                        | Name or status                       | Office / affiliation                                    | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1913</b>                                                              | Rev. Anthony Lex, J.U.D.             | Administrator                                           | OCD 1913, Saint Stanislaus entry, printed p. 99, scan n210, explicitly prints “adm.”                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Checked directory witness 1914; 1915 search-text alignment</b>        | Most Rev. Edward Kozlowski, D.D.     | Pastor and auxiliary bishop                             | OCD 1914, Saint Stanislaus entry, printed p. 101, scan n226, lists Bishop Kozlowski first; IPH identifies him as pastor. Search text aligns the 1915 entry, whose target image was not reliably located.                                      |
| <b>Checked directory witnesses 1916, 1934, and 1935</b>                  | Rev. Louis Jurasinski                | First-listed priest; pastor in retrospective succession | OCD 1916, printed p. 99, scan n234; OCD 1934, printed p. 98, scan n161; and OCD 1935, printed p. 76, scan n135, list him first. MP supplies the pastor title. No appointment decree or continuous annual series was inspected.                |
| <b>Checked directory witnesses 1936 and 1940; 1939 search-text lead</b>  | Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Wenta      | First-listed priest; pastor in retrospective succession | OCD 1936, printed p. 77, scan n138, and OCD 1940, printed p. 108, scan n185, list him first. MP supplies the pastor title. Search text aligns 1939, but its target image was not reliably located; no exact appointment boundary is assigned. |
| <b>Directory witnesses 1941 and 1957</b>                                 | Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bernard M. Kobelinski | First-listed priest; pastor in retrospective succession | OCD 1941, printed p. 112, scan n199, and OCD 1957, printed p. 127, scan n290, list him first; MP supplies the pastor title. The 1958 edition instead records a transition.                                                                    |
| <b>1958 transition witness</b>                                           | Rev. Edward F. Czajkowski            | First-listed priest; office not printed                 | OCD 1958, Saint Stanislaus entry, printed p. 131, scan n296, lists Czajkowski first and Raymond A. Punda second. IPH says Punda became pastor in 1958, so the edition remains a transition snapshot rather than a contradictory tenure.       |
| <b>IPH succession in 1958; checked directory witnesses 1960 and 1979</b> | Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raymond A. Punda      | Pastor                                                  | IPH gives the 1958 succession; OCD 1960, printed p. 135, scan n278, and OCD 1979, printed p. 527, scan n592, list Punda first. These are not an inspected appointment-and-departure pair.                                                     |
| <b>Checked directory witnesses 1980 and 1987</b>                         | Rev. James R. Czachowski             | First-listed priest; office not printed                 | OCD 1980, printed p. 534, scan n601, and OCD 1987, printed p. 535, scan n622, are the checked Saint Stanislaus witnesses. The precise appointment date, canonical office, and intervening continuity were not recovered.                      |

| Period or witness                                                      | Name or status                           | Office / affiliation                                                              | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Checked directory witness 1988; 1989 search-text alignment</b>      | Rev. George M. Rebatzki                  | First-listed priest; office not printed                                           | OCD 1988, printed p. 542, scan n641, lists him first. Search text aligns 1989, but its target image was not reliably located.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Checked directory witnesses 1990 and 1996</b>                       | Rev. LeRoy A. Petta                      | First-listed priest; office not printed                                           | OCD 1990, printed p. 574, scan n669, and OCD 1996, printed p. 666, scan n897, are the checked Saint Stanislaus witnesses. Intervening continuity is not inferred, and the 1997 entry was not recovered for reliable checking.                                |
| <b>1997</b>                                                            | Unresolved interval                      | —                                                                                 | OCD 1997 search: no usable Saint Stanislaus entry recovered.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Checked directory witness 1998; 1999–2000 search-text alignment</b> | Unassigned                               | Directory status                                                                  | OCD 1998, printed p. 692, scan n845, prints “Unassigned.” Search text aligns that status in 1999–2000, but the target images were not reliably located. The word does not imply an absence of visiting or sacramental ministry.                              |
| <b>2001–03</b>                                                         | Unresolved interval                      | —                                                                                 | OCD 2001–03 search: no usable Saint Stanislaus entries recovered.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2004 unverified finding-aid lead</b>                                | Rev. Ronald E. Kotecki                   | Administrator in search text                                                      | OCD 2004 searchable text prints “Admin.,” but the target image was not reliably located. This is retained as a lead, not a verified roster year.                                                                                                             |
| <b>Checked directory witness 2005; 2006 search-text alignment</b>      | Rev. Luis Pacecho-Sanchez (printed form) | Administrator                                                                     | OCD 2005, printed p. 759, scan n924, prints “Luis Pacecho-Sanchez, Admin.” The unverified 2006 search text instead prints “Pacheco-Sanchez”; without a second checked source, that apparent correction remains a lead rather than the roster’s primary name. |
| <b>2007–08 unverified finding-aid lead</b>                             | Rev. Anthony Cirignani, O.F.M.           | First-listed priest in search text; office not printed                            | OCD 2007–08 searchable text names Cirignani. The images were not reliably located, and the lead overlaps the announced 2007 transfer to Institute care; no parish office or verified roster year is assigned.                                                |
| <b>2009–11 unverified finding-aid lead; reported overlap in 2011</b>   | Rev. Canon Olivier Meney                 | First-listed priest in search text; Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest | OCD 2009–11 searchable text names Meney but the images were not reliably located. The 2011 lead overlaps the later report that Jayr began serving that year, so publication lag or an intra-year change remains possible.                                    |

| Period or witness                             | Name or status         | Office / affiliation                                                                   | Evidence and qualification                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reported since 2011; current at cutoff</b> | Rev. Canon Benoît Jayr | Parish administrator and oratory rector; Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest | CH18 reports service since 2011; AM20 and ICH explicitly give the paired offices. The unverified 2011 Meney search-text lead prevents assignment of a handoff day. |

A later Milwaukee Polonia retrospective calls Rev. Joseph Chylewski pastor during Father Szulerecki's incapacity. The 1913 directory instead names Anthony Lex administrator, while the checked 1914 directory places Chylewski after Bishop Kozlowski and unverified 1915 search text aligns that order. Without an appointment act or parish clergy ledger, Chylewski is not entered here as a confirmed pastor. Likewise, first position in a directory entry is evidence only of first-listed public status in that edition; it is not silently converted into a canonical title where the edition prints none.

## D Dated Timeline

The final column distinguishes a recorded event from the later witness that reports it. Approximate ranges and disputed dates remain explicit.

| Date             | Event or development                                                                                                                                            | Witness and boundary                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1840s–60s</b> | Polish-speaking migrants, many from Prussian-ruled Polish lands, enter Milwaukee's industrial and service economy; South Side settlement grows.                 | Archdiocese, UWM, National Register, and Portal Polonii syntheses; regional origins were plural.                       |
| <b>1863</b>      | Organizing of a Polish Catholic congregation is reported as begun under Father Buczinski.                                                                       | Gregory's 1931 city history, p. 902; later official histories use 1866 for formal foundation.                          |
| <b>1866</b>      | Thirty families formally organize Saint Stanislaus, acquire a former Lutheran brick church at Fifth and Mineral, and establish Milwaukee's first Polish parish. | Official, preservation, and later historical accounts converge; no founding minutes were checked.                      |
| <b>1866–78</b>   | Polish parish instruction begins and receives dedicated school space.                                                                                           | Sources attach 1866, 1867, 1872, or 1873 to instruction and 1873 or 1878 to a school-house; exact sequence unresolved. |
| <b>1871</b>      | Saint Hedwig becomes Milwaukee's second Polish parish, serving a constituency for whom Saint Stanislaus was distant.                                            | Gregory, UWM, and Portal Polonii; first clear daughter-parish phase.                                                   |
| <b>July 1872</b> | Cornerstone laid for the present Saint Stanislaus Church at Fifth and Mitchell.                                                                                 | HABS, AHI, Gregory, National Register, and parish history.                                                             |
| <b>1873</b>      | A portion of the present church is dedicated and placed in use.                                                                                                 | Gregory and institutional memory; principal construction continues in 1884–94.                                         |

| Date         | Event or development                                                                                                                                   | Witness and boundary                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1870s        | Kashubian fishing settlement develops on Jones Island, with many families connected sacramentally to Saint Stanislaus.                                 | Archdiocesan and Milwaukee Polonia histories; island and parish foundations are not identical events.                                             |
| 1882         | Parish history reports 96 marriages, 589 baptisms, and 520 confirmations in the year.                                                                  | Institutional retrospective; definitions and original registers were not audited.                                                                 |
| 1883         | Saint Hyacinth is organized as Polish settlement expands on the South Side.                                                                            | UWM and contextual parish histories; evidence of Saint Stanislaus's generative rather than merely centralized role.                               |
| 1884–94      | Principal later construction completes sanctuary, copper roof, organ, and painted interior.                                                            | HABS physical history; demonstrates why 1873 is a use date, not a universal completion date.                                                      |
| 1885         | Henry Messmer designs \$17,000 in renovations.                                                                                                         | Wisconsin AHI HI27246; digital record gives value without full schedule.                                                                          |
| 4–5 May 1886 | Polish workers gather at Saint Stanislaus before marching toward the Bay View rolling mill; militia fire the next day kills seven people.              | John Gurda account hosted by Wisconsin Labor History Society; gathering place does not establish parish sponsorship of the strike.                |
| 1888         | Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Josaphat are among the Polish congregations formed as settlement spread.                                               | UWM and Polish-parish histories; daughter institutions had their own founders and later histories.                                                |
| 1894–95      | Four great bells and successive marble work mark a major interior and tower campaign.                                                                  | Detailed parish history; one 2018 feature dates bells to 1882, so installation year remains source-dependent.                                     |
| 1895–1913    | Entrances, tower windows, buttresses and apostle statues, crossing flèche, marble altars, pulpit, and decoration reshape church exterior and interior. | HABS; individual years within the range cannot all be recovered.                                                                                  |
| 1914–15      | Auxiliary Bishop Edward Kozłowski is associated with Saint Stanislaus during his brief Milwaukee episcopate.                                           | Later Polish institutional history; a full episcopal-residence and event chronology was not reconstructed.                                        |
| 1926         | Present principal school front built to plans by Herbst and Kuenzli dated 16 February.                                                                 | Wisconsin AHI HI118139 and National Register nomination; controls over an “early 1930s” parish recollection.                                      |
| 1931         | John G. Gregory publishes a city history preserving the 1863 organization, reused first church, 1873 dedication, and 1878 schoolhouse chronology.      | Near-contemporary synthesis, not a founding document.                                                                                             |
| 1932         | Saint Stanislaus High School opens with seventy-two freshmen, boys and girls, and grows into a regional South Side Catholic school.                    | A 1946 <i>Milwaukee Sentinel</i> retrospective preserved by Marquette University; school-program history is distinct from the 1926 building date. |
| 1941         | A parish diamond-jubilee memorial volume is produced.                                                                                                  | HABS cites the volume; it was not examined in full here.                                                                                          |

| Date                   | Event or development                                                                                                                                                        | Witness and boundary                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1947</b>            | The state inventory records the school's name change to Notre Dame High School.                                                                                             | Wisconsin AHI HI118139; the building had already housed secondary instruction since 1932.                                       |
| <b>1950s–60s</b>       | Expressway clearance and postwar suburban mobility disrupt South Side residence and accelerate Polish dispersal from the old parish neighborhood.                           | National Register context, Portal Polonii, and later reporting; no annual parish census was found.                              |
| <b>1958</b>            | Raymond A. Punda becomes pastor and prepares an extensive centennial renovation.                                                                                            | Institutional history.                                                                                                          |
| <b>1960</b>            | Towers and domes rebuilt, gilded, and reset; clocks and masonry renewed.                                                                                                    | Detailed institutional chronology; other inventories use broader early-1960s or 1966 dating.                                    |
| <b>1962</b>            | Fire damages a side altar and smokes the church interior.                                                                                                                   | Institutional history; no fire report checked.                                                                                  |
| <b>1962/64</b>         | Old stained glass is removed and dalle de verre installed.                                                                                                                  | The City of Milwaukee survey says 1962; institutional history says 1964; no checked permit or contract resolves the difference. |
| <b>1963–64</b>         | Rectory remade; ambulatory and chapel join it to church.                                                                                                                    | Parish and preservation records; remodeling-versus-replacement language remains unsettled.                                      |
| <b>1965–66</b>         | Travertine, freestanding altar, relocated pulpit and font, reduced rail, extended sanctuary, and Częstochowa mosaic complete the centennial-era remaking.                   | Institutional history; the campaign combined maintenance, safety, commemorative, artistic, and liturgical judgments.            |
| <b>1966</b>            | A 31-page parish centennial history is produced.                                                                                                                            | Notre Dame Archives catalogs the volume; it was not examined in full here.                                                      |
| <b>1970s–80s</b>       | Parish numbers decline and the building's future becomes uncertain.                                                                                                         | Institutional history and later journalism; no complete quantitative series located.                                            |
| <b>Reported 1988</b>   | Notre Dame High School closes; the building later remains in consolidated Catholic elementary-school use.                                                                   | OnMilwaukee retrospective and National Register nomination; no school-board or archdiocesan closing act checked.                |
| <b>Reported 2003</b>   | Sale of the church is described as under archdiocesan consideration.                                                                                                        | 2014 OnMilwaukee oral-history feature; not supported here by a contemporaneous sale file.                                       |
| <b>15 October 2007</b> | ICKSP announces Archbishop Timothy Dolan's invitation to serve the traditional-Latin-Mass apostolate in Milwaukee, with Sunday Mass at Saint Stanislaus to begin in Advent. | Contemporary institutional announcement; it records invitation and planned ministry, not transfer of title.                     |
| <b>2007–08</b>         | Parish placed in the Institute's care; institutional history dates erection of Saint Stanislaus Oratory to 2008; restoration begins.                                        | ICKSP history. A 2018 feature instead gives 2016 for canonical establishment; no decree located.                                |

| Date                               | Event or development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Witness and boundary                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2008 onward</b>                 | Sanctuary and high altar reconstructed, floor and rail renewed, and historic liturgical furnishings recovered in phases.                                                                                                                                | ICKSP and <i>Catholic Herald</i> ; no single completion date.                                                                    |
| <b>2011–12</b>                     | Organ restored.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Institutional history; scope detailed in building ledger.                                                                        |
| <b>2013–14</b>                     | Sacristy and former connecting chapel restored and adapted for current service.                                                                                                                                                                         | Institutional history.                                                                                                           |
| <b>2014/15–21</b>                  | Reconstructed stained-glass windows installed in phases using historical evidence and surviving fragments.                                                                                                                                              | Parish, contractor, and press records disagree slightly on discovery date; completion reported in 2021.                          |
| <b>2016</b>                        | Interior decorative and marble restoration advances; 24–25 September sesquicentennial observances include Benediction with Archbishop Jerome Listecki and a pontifical Mass with Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry, who consecrates the rebuilt main altar. | Contemporary ICKSP anniversary account; parish anniversary, not church-building sesquicentennial or oratory-erection proof.      |
| <b>2017–18</b>                     | Choir loft redesigned and renewed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Institutional history.                                                                                                           |
| <b>9 November 2018</b>             | West Mitchell Street Commercial Historic District entered in the National Register; church, school, and rectory are contributing resources.                                                                                                             | Wisconsin AHI and National Register record. District contribution is not an individual National Register listing for the church. |
| <b>December 2018–December 2019</b> | Copper-dome and roof campaign proceeds with masonry, doors, and site restoration.                                                                                                                                                                       | Professional roofing account and institutional history.                                                                          |
| <b>2019–21</b>                     | Chandeliers, rectory interiors, and final stained-glass phases complete major visible portions of the program.                                                                                                                                          | Institutional history; ongoing maintenance means restoration has no final terminal date.                                         |
| <b>19 November 2022</b>            | Saint Stanislaus observes the 150th anniversary of the present church's 1872 building campaign.                                                                                                                                                         | ICKSP event notice; distinct from the parish's 150th anniversary in 2016.                                                        |
| <b>July–August 2023</b>            | All four great bells receive replacement clappers after scheduled maintenance finds the original striking ends worn flat; the original clappers are retained for display.                                                                               | Contemporary parish bulletin; maintenance of working bells, not replacement of the bells.                                        |
| <b>28 October 2023</b>             | Auxiliary Bishop Jeffrey Haines confirms seventy-eight young faithful at the oratory.                                                                                                                                                                   | Contemporary ICKSP report; a sacramental event and activity snapshot, not a resident-parish census.                              |
| <b>17 March 2024</b>               | Parish and oratory announce planned acquisition and renovation of two nearby buildings for classrooms, meetings, and parking.                                                                                                                           | Institutional announcement; later public records establish purchase and approvals, but not completed renovation.                 |
| <b>20 September 2024</b>           | Love One Another page reports \$11,705 pledged against a \$36,183 parish goal and names irrigation and exterior lighting needs.                                                                                                                         | Dated archdiocesan campaign snapshot; not a total restoration cost.                                                              |
| <b>17 October 2024</b>             | St Stanislaus Properties LLC purchases 501–505 West Historic Mitchell Street for \$875,000.                                                                                                                                                             | City assessor transaction record; proves acquisition, not finished rehabilitation or occupancy.                                  |

| Date                              | Event or development                                                                                                                                                                       | Witness and boundary                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7 July / 11 September 2025</b> | Historic Preservation Commission approves replacement brick facing; Board of Zoning Appeals grants special use as a religious assembly hall subject to permits and occupancy certificates. | Official city records. These are rehabilitation and use approvals, not a completion certificate.                                                  |
| <b>3 May / 4 June 2026</b>        | Twenty-five children receive first Communion; hundreds participate in Corpus Christi Mass and a five-block procession to Saint Anthony.                                                    | Contemporary ICKSP event reports; evidence of recurrent use and regional community, not proof of neighborhood demographic reversal.               |
| <b>19 July 2026</b>               | Historical and mutable-status cutoff.                                                                                                                                                      | Current schedule, staff, public status, campaign, and expansion evidence checked to this date; independent specialist review remains outstanding. |

## E References

The general online corpus was checked 19 July 2026; pastoral-succession sources were added or rechecked 21 July 2026. Source descriptions identify the role for which each item was used; a link to a scan or image does not imply permission to redistribute it.

### E.1 Buildings, preservation, and public records

- Historic American Buildings Survey. *St. Stanislaus Church, 524 West Mitchell Street, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin*, HABS No. WIS-159. Written historical and descriptive data, six-page Library of Congress scan. Principal control for the 1884–94 and 1895–1913 campaigns and for observed architectural fabric; its architect folklore is not treated as established fact.
- National Park Service and Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office. *West Mitchell Street Commercial Historic District*: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 2018, reference no. 100003103. Used for immigrant and commercial setting, campus building dates, mother-parish role, and the church, school, and rectory as district contributors.
- Wisconsin Historical Society, Architecture and History Inventory. “524 W Historic Mitchell St (aka 1681 S 5th St),” HI27246. Used for church address, style classification, architects, 1872 date, 1885 Messmer renovation, later additions, and district listing. The record itself marks some national superlatives as suppositions.
- Wisconsin Historical Society, Architecture and History Inventory. “1669 S 5th St,” HI118139. Used for the present school, 1926 plans, Herbst and Kuenzli attribution, and Mediterranean or Spanish Revival classification.
- Wisconsin Historical Society, Architecture and History Inventory. “501 W Historic Mitchell St (aka 501–503 W Historic Mitchell St),” HI119314; and “505 W Historic Mitchell St,” HI111374. Used for the two contributing commercial buildings in the expansion parcel: the 1888 Paul Noe Meat Market by Alfred C. Clas and the 1904 Paul Noe Investment Building by Ferry & Clas.
- Wisconsin Historical Society. “West Mitchell Street Commercial Historic District.” State and National Register summary; used with the nomination and property records for listing context.
- City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission. Certificate-of-Appropriateness record concerning Saint Stanislaus, 18 May 2017. Used to confirm municipal preservation review within the historic district.
- City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission and UWM Cultural Resource Management. *Milwaukee Houses of Worship, 1920–1980: An Architectural and Historical Survey Report*. 2023. Used for the city’s 1962 date for dalle de verre and the wider surveyed record of mid-century religious-building alterations; the institutional history instead dates the glazing to 1964.

- City of Milwaukee Assessor’s Office. Historic Mitchell Street property search, entries for the historic 524 West parcel and tax key 4620625000 at 501–505 West Historic Mitchell Street. Used for the recorded name St Stanislaus Properties LLC, the 17 October 2024 sale, and the \$875,000 price; the public account is not a title opinion or proof of the LLC’s internal relationship to the parish.
- City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission. Meeting record for 7 July 2025, file 250353, replacement brick facing at 501 West Historic Mitchell Street. City of Milwaukee Board of Zoning Appeals, minutes, 11 September 2025, item 34, BZZA-25-00265. Used for preservation and religious-assembly approvals; neither is treated as a completion or occupancy certificate.

## E.2 Parish, archdiocese, oratory, and current use

- Archdiocese of Milwaukee. “The Immigrant Church.” Used for Polish migration from partitioned lands, industrial setting, Jones Island Kashubians, and Saint Stanislaus’s place in Milwaukee Catholic history.
- Rev. Steven M. Avella, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. “A Maturing Church: 1903–1945”; “The Church in a Bold New Age: 1945–1962”; and “The Church in a Time of Transition and Change: 1962–2018.” Used for Polish ethnic and episcopal disputes, increasing use of English in Catholic schools, the wartime Our Lady of Victory shrine at Saint Stanislaus, postwar suburban mobility, Latino ministry, the mid-1960s school-enrollment peak, and older-urban-parish contraction alongside suburban growth.
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee. “Parishes” map and directory. Current public listing used as one control on the continuing parish identity; mutable after the cutoff.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “A Brief History of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr.” Detailed institutional chronology used for foundation memory, the pastor sequence from Bishop Edward Kozłowski through Monsignor Raymond Punda, sacramental snapshots, bells, 1960s campaigns, decline, 2007 care, 2008 oratory date, and restoration phases. Its compressed school, succession, and completion dates are tested against contemporary directories and preservation records.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Milwaukee, the Institute’s New Apostolate Location.” 15 October 2007. Contemporary announcement of Archbishop Timothy Dolan’s invitation and planned Advent beginning at Saint Stanislaus.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “St. Stanislaus Oratory.” Current address, Mass schedule, groups, and paired “Parish Administrator and Rector” designation; mutable after the cutoff.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Restoration: Stained Glass.” Used for the window program’s subjects, phases, and replacement of dalle de verre.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Glowing with Grace: Tower Windows Installed.” 2 October 2021. Used for completion of the final stained-glass phase and incorporation of recovered fragments in the tower windows.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “St. Stanislaus Celebrates 150th Anniversary.” 2016. Used for the 24–25 September observances and consecration of the rebuilt main altar.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “150th Anniversary of the Building of St. Stanislaus Church.” 9 December 2022, reporting the 19 November observance. Controls the distinction between the building’s 1872 anniversary and the parish’s 1866 anniversary.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Confirmation at St. Stanislaus Oratory, Milwaukee.” 13 November 2023, reporting seventy-eight confirmations on 28 October.
- Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish and Oratory. *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost* bulletin, 29 July–6 August 2023. Used for replacement of the four worn bell clappers and display of the original clappers in the Marian courtyard.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Breaking News: St. Stanislaus Campus Is Expanding!” 17 March 2024. Used only as a plan for acquisition and renovation; completion was not inferred.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “First Holy Communion at St. Stanislaus Oratory, Milwaukee,” 16 May 2024, reporting thirty-one first communicants on 5 May; and “Men’s Advent Retreat at St. Stanislaus Oratory,” 9 December 2024, reporting more than one hundred participants on 7 December. Dated activity snapshots, not membership totals.

- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Holy Name Society.” Current mission and program page used as evidence of recurrent associational activity; mutable after the cutoff.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “Papal Medal Given to Clerical Oblate.” 21 January 2017, reporting Archbishop Listiecki’s 4 December 2016 presentation of the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal to Abbé George Baird for his restoration-project work.
- Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. “First Communion at St. Stanislaus,” 7 May 2026; and “Corpus Christi at St. Stanislaus,” 10 June 2026. Event counts are activity snapshots, not a demographic series.
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Love One Another campaign. “St. Stanislaus, Milwaukee.” Campaign status through 20 September 2024 and stated irrigation and exterior-lighting priorities; not used as an aggregate restoration budget.

### E.3 Pastors and pastoral leadership

- Catholic University of Lublin, Polish Churches in the USA. Saint Stanislaus Church, Milwaukee, parish history. Used for Father Bonawentura Buczyński’s 1866 organizing role and the explicit identification of Father T. Węglikowski as first pastor. The accessible page does not supply the later early succession.
- Milwaukee Polonia Project. Saint Stanislaus historical retrospective. Used as a secondary local-history witness for succession, name variants, and the retrospective pastor titles attached to Fathers Szulerecki, Jurasinski, Wenta, and Kobelinski. It is not an appointment record; its claim that Father Joseph Chylewski became pastor conflicts with the checked 1913–14 directory sequence and is not treated as settled; 1915 is only an unverified alignment lead.
- M. H. Wiltzius Company and P. J. Kenedy & Sons. Selected editions of *The Official Catholic Directory*: 1890, printed p. 82; 1897, p. 65; 1912, p. 98; 1913, p. 99; 1914, p. 101; 1915 finding-aid text; and 1916, p. 99. Used for the Górski and Szulerecki witnesses, Anthony Lex’s explicit administration, Bishop Kozłowski’s first-listed position, and the transition to Jurasinski. Original images were checked at every linked page-specific locus; 1915 remains an unverified search-text alignment.
- P. J. Kenedy & Sons. Selected editions of *The Official Catholic Directory*: 1934, printed p. 98; 1935, p. 76; 1936, p. 77; 1939 finding-aid text; 1940, p. 108; 1941, p. 112; 1957, p. 127; 1958, p. 131; 1960, p. 135; and 1979, p. 527. Used for checked Jurasinski, Wenta, Kobelinski, Czajkowski, and Punda witnesses; 1939 remains an unverified search-text alignment.
- P. J. Kenedy & Sons. Selected editions of *The Official Catholic Directory*: 1980, printed p. 534; 1987, p. 535; 1988, p. 542; 1989 finding-aid text; 1990, p. 574; 1996, p. 666; 1998, p. 692; 1999 finding-aid text; and 2000 finding-aid text. Used for checked Czachowski, Rebatzki, and Petta witnesses and the checked 1998 “Unassigned” status. The 1989 and 1999–2000 alignments remain unverified; the 1997 entry was not recovered for reliable checking.
- P. J. Kenedy & Sons. Selected editions of *The Official Catholic Directory*: 2004 finding-aid text; 2005, printed p. 759; 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; and 2012. The checked 2005 page explicitly identifies the administrator and prints the surname “Pacecho-Sanchez.” Unverified 2006 search text instead supplies “Pacheco-Sanchez”; all names and offices drawn only from finding aids in this group remain unverified because their target images were not reliably located. No usable 2001–03 entries were recovered.
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee. *Archdiocese of Milwaukee Handbook 2020*, Saint Stanislaus entry. Used with the current Institute page and 2018 *Catholic Herald* account for Canon Benoît Jayr’s paired offices of parish administrator and oratory rector; the 2018 account also reports that he had served since 2011.
- Internet Archive. *Official Catholic Directory* collection search. Used to record the unsuccessful 1997 and 2001–03 Saint Stanislaus entry searches. These negative results are evidence gaps, not proof of vacancy.

### E.4 Immigration, neighborhood, education, and public life

- John G. Gregory. *History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin*, vol. 2 (Chicago–Milwaukee: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1931), 902. Used for the 1863 organizing effort, former Lutheran church, 1873 dedication, 1878 schoolhouse, and early Polish parish expansion.
- John Dale. “Catholic School Has Reached Capacity,” *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 11 February 1946, preserved by Marquette University’s Children in Urban America project as “St. Stanislaus High School: 400 Students from 37 Parishes

Enrolled.” Used for the September 1932 opening, coeducational and regional enrollment, 1946 school scale, and School Sisters of Notre Dame faculty; article and student essay are not reproduced.

- University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries Digital Collections. “Milwaukee Polonia”; John Gurda, “Introduction”; and Tim Cary, “Catholicism.” Used for South Side geography, the first-urban-congregation description, mother-parish network, and the educational, associational, and mutual-support functions of Polish parishes.
- City of Milwaukee Department of City Development. *Walker’s Point Strategic Action Plan*, chap. 1, “Introduction”. Adopted in 2015 as an amendment to the Near South Side Area Plan. Used for the Polish and later Latino immigrant setting and the plan’s finding that Interstate 94 construction in the 1960s bisected the neighborhood.
- Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II, Portal Polonii. “Parafia św. Stanisława Biskupa i Męczennika w Milwaukee / St Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish, Milwaukee.” Polish-language scholarly heritage synthesis used, where independently supported, for Prussian-Polish and Kashubian origins, occupations, daughter parishes, freeway displacement, and post-2007 renewal. No source wording, image, or direct or literary translation is reproduced; the site’s material remains copyrighted.
- Wisconsin Labor History Society. “Bayview Tragedy, 1886,” including John Gurda, “When Bay View Strike Turned to Bloodshed” (originally *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 30 April 1995). Used for the Polish workers’ 4 May gathering at Saint Stanislaus and the 5 May shootings; no parish endorsement is inferred.
- University of Notre Dame Archives. “Parish Histories: WI.” Catalog record for *St. Stanislaus, 1866–1966*, 31 pages, call number PPHC106/CAPH034. Used to identify a material archive gap, not for claims from an unexamined volume.

## E.5 Restoration practice, reporting, and decline

- *Catholic Herald*. “Honoring Past with the New.” 17 March 2016. Used for contemporary restoration scope, window-fragment recovery, parish-based fundraising, attendance snapshot, and project participants’ attributed explanations.
- *Catholic Herald*. “St. Stanislaus Keeps Tradition While Moving Forward.” 18 July 2018. Used for displaced Latin-Mass-community context, regional constituency, Canon Benoît Jayr’s reported service since 2011, attendance change, and the explicit parish/oratory and property distinction. Its 2016 oratory date conflicts with the institutional 2008 chronology and is not silently harmonized.
- Bobby Tanzilo. “Urban Spelunking: St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.” OnMilwaukee, 24 September 2014. Used cautiously for an on-site physical tour and attributed recollections of school closure, threatened sale, decline, and 2014 attendance; these are not archival acts or audited statistics.
- Conrad Schmitt Studios. “St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish & Oratory.” Contractor portfolio used for the historical-design method, paint investigation, glass fragments, and scope of decorative and stained-glass work; promotional conclusions are not treated as independent community measurement.
- Chrystine Elle Hanus. “Resurrected Roofing.” *Professional Roofing*, 1 February 2022. Used for the December 2018–December 2019 tower-roof project and technical copper-work sequence.

## E.6 Known archival witnesses not examined in full

HABS cites a *Diamond Jubilee Memorial Volume of St. Stanislaus Church* (1941), and the Notre Dame catalog identifies the parish’s 31-page 1866–1966 centennial history. Neither full text was available for claim checking. Founding minutes, sacramental registers, deeds, construction contracts, city permit files, School Sisters of Notre Dame records, the oratory-erection decree, and an audited restoration ledger remain priority archival targets. The Newberry Foreign Language Press Survey item about “The St. Stanislaus Kostka School” was examined and excluded because it concerns Chicago, not Milwaukee.

**Last revised (UTC):** 2026-09-24T14:59:29Z