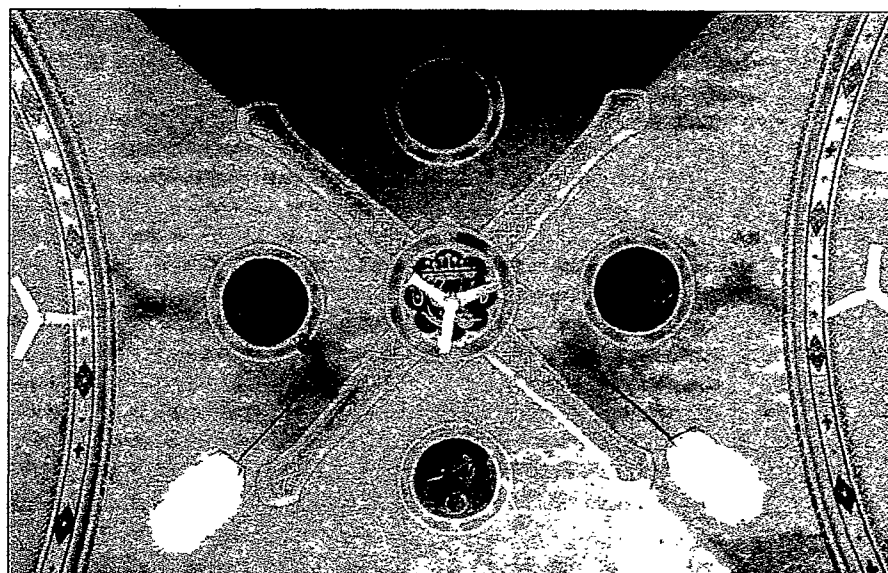


Church restores its beauty

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

The ceiling of Rochester's St. Stanislaus Kostka Church will be renovated and repainted with the help of a \$25,000 matching grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

matching grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy for repair and reconstruction of its copper cupola and four copper domes. This is the fourth such grant to St. Stanislaus since 1993 from the conservancy, a private, not-for-profit, Manhattan-based group, which has funded the restoration of churches. Previous grants to St. Stanislaus funded restoration of a stained glass window, a tower and examination of the cupola. The latest St. Stanislaus grant is part of the conservancy's \$1 million Robert W. Wilson Sacred Sites Challenge fund, which offers matching grants to churches.

Urbanic said the parish needed to make repairs to safeguard the structure of the ornate church, which was dedicated in 1907. The church's exterior has been designated a Rochester landmark. By the 1990s, however, tiles had occasionally fallen to the ground from the church's tower; water had damaged masonry; and leaks in the church's main and sacristy roofs were among the many structural problems plaguing the church, according to campaign information.

Urbanic said the parish originally had planned on raising a half-million dollars, but reached that goal within

15 months of announcing the campaign. Since the campaign started, St. Stanislaus has raised approximately \$650,000 to restore the church, she said.

"We were able to do a lot of extra work because the fundraising went so well," she said.

According to her report, the church has repaired its roof, chimney, electrical circuitry, plumbing, and stained-glass and basement windows, and has painted the exterior wood surfaces and restored interior artwork. Urbanic noted that parishioners, ex-parishioners, Polish community organizations and others have donated to the campaign. Donations have come from people in the United States, Poland, Canada and Australia, she said.

Park in need of renovation

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

ROCHESTER — A small downtown park containing a section of the former St. Joseph Church remains closed to the public while its owner, the Landmark Society of Western New York, grapples with projected renovation expenditures.

St. Joseph's Park, located on Pleasant Street near Franklin Street and North Clinton Avenue, is marked by a mammoth steeple/bell tower, along with two attached walls—the only remains of a 1974 fire that destroyed St. Joseph Church. The park has been operated by the city of Rochester since 1980. Yet the facility, which is normally closed during the winters, was also locked this past summer due to safety concerns.

"Over time we might lose some of the stones. We're getting little pieces of mortar falling out now," explained Henry McCartney, executive director of the landmark society.

McCartney said repairs to the 156-year-old structure would cost at least \$50,000. In addition, \$9,000 would be needed for a study on the feasibility of making the repairs. The landmark society won't invest any money, McCartney said, until it can meet this spring with city officials and property owners from the St. Joseph's Park area.

"There has been talk that area would redevelop and St. Joseph's would be an entry into a new development—a courtyard to an apartment complex, or an entry into a commercial development," McCartney said. "I think it should be a major resource for that part of the city. It was, and still is, kind of innovative space. If that area's got a future, it's got to revolve around St. Joseph's."

McCartney emphasized that the landmark society would only sell the St. Joseph's building with the understanding that it be preserved. In the meantime, he said, "We will be owners as long as our ownership is needed to ensure it's taken care of."

The landmark society, a non-profit group, relies on donations from its members, as well as foundations and government resources. McCartney said if the society does continue ownership, it might hold a fundraising campaign to cover renovation work.

The stars are returning to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rochester, thanks to an overwhelmingly successful restoration and repair campaign that has been going on since 1998.

The hub of Rochester's Polish Catholic community, St. Stanislaus has been making extensive repairs to its church, which was built in the first decade of the last century. As 2003 looms, the parish is on the verge of completing the restoration, which will be capped next year by the repair of its cupola and replacement of its four copper mini-domes, as well as the restoration of its interior nave ceiling.

When the ceiling of the church's nave was originally painted in the 1920s, it featured the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, separately portrayed at each of the four ends of a cross. In the center of the cross was the Lamb of God, and the cross was on a blue background with golden stars. When the ceiling was repainted in 1963, the artist painted over the stars, and changed the ceiling's design so that the cross formed an "X" between the saints' portraits, according to Kathy Urbanic, chairwoman of the church's restoration campaign and a historian of the Rochester Polish community.

The parish wants to restore the ceiling to its original design, she said, and will use the services of artist Henry Swiatek, who also restored the mural of the church's choir loft and its altar of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the "Black Madonna," who is Poland's patroness.

"Henry will work from old photographs to recreate the original design of the ceiling: a rendering of the dome of heaven featuring a deep blue sky with stars of gold leaf," Urbanic wrote in a recent report on the restoration. "(The) cross motif, unifying the murals of the four evangelists and symbolizing the church's mission to spread the Gospel to the four corners of the earth will be restored."

As part of its campaign, St. Stanislaus recently obtained a \$25,000

Holiday Special
4 Glass Block Windows Installed \$398
 Includes 4 windows 32"x14"
 2 vented and 2 solid. Fully insured.
Energy Efficient • Private • Secure
VanGuard
Glass Block Co.
 Over 10,000 basement windows installed
749-3265 • 538-6926

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 114 No. 11, December 12, 2002
 Published weekly except the first Thursday in January and the last Thursday in December. Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1136 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, 585/529-9530. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, NY.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624

Mr. Dominic's ✂
Smoke-free, dining room
 (off street parking available)
 Delicious appetizers, soups, veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken, fish, and homemade pasta

10% Senior Discount on regular priced dinners with this ad!

Mr. Dominic's wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11-2
 Dinners Daily from 4:00 - 9 p.m.

4699 Lake Ave.
(585) 865-4630
 www.mrdominics.com