

## Historic St. Josaphat Church is Detroit's Home for the Black Madonna

In the most central position above the High Altar of our venerable old church, hangs a copy of the miraculous icon kept in the monastery on Jasna Góra, in the city of Częstochowa, in Poland. It is a painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Częstochowa also known as the Black Madonna.

Our painting was executed by Professor Valery Elias Radzikowski of the Royal Academy in Kraków at the turn of the century. It was commissioned for the recently built church by its pastor Father John Rządowski. Before being sent to its new home in America the painting was taken to Częstochowa and touched to the original miraculous icon.

Here at St. Josaphat Parish we trust that the Black Madonna will always watch over our church and protect it and us and so we turn to her in prayer every Thursday and offer a perpetual novena of Masses and prayers to her.

Recently we have established a Black Madonna Guild in the parish. This is a spiritual society. Enrolled members of this society are remembered at the fifty-two Thursday Masses celebrated throughout the year and in the novena prayers and benediction that follow the Mass. The required donation is \$50 for EACH NAME SUBMITTED. This entitles that person to a one-year enrollment and fifty-two Masses. Renewals take place on the Feast of the Black Madonna, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, but names may be added throughout the year.

The Mass is the greatest of all prayers known to humanity. The Blessed Virgin was the greatest and most perfect of all our dear Lord's disciples! We honor Christ by honoring His mother during our perpetual novena prayers. We can also demonstrate an authentic Christian love for our brothers and sisters by having the Holy Mass offered for their intentions.

We hope many will take advantage of this opportunity and not only submit names to be remembered in prayer but also attend these special Masses on Thursdays in our church. No other intentions but those of the guild will be taken for those days.

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Please enroll the following persons in the St. Josaphat, *Black Madonna Guild*. I have included with this request an offering of \$50 for every name I have submitted.

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Name(s) of person(s) making the request:

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