

Friday, August 17th – Feast of St. Hyacinth, Patron of Poland and our Neighboring Polish Parish!

Best Wishes of God's Abundant Blessings to our neighbors on McDougall Street! Friday is the feast of your patron saint – Hyacinth or Swiety Jacek! Hyacinth or Jacek in Polish is a form of the name Jan or John. This great Polish saint was a Silesian, born in 1185 in the village of Kamień na slasku located in the diocese of Wrocław, southwestern Poland. He was from the noble Odrowąż family.

In 1217, St. Hyacinth traveled to Rome with his brother the Blessed Czeslaw and his uncle Ivo Odrowąż, then Bishop of Kraków. In Rome St. Hyacinth began religious studies and in 1220, in the church of St. Sabina, he received the habit of the Dominican's from the Order's Founder – St. Dominic. At this time his brother Czeslaw also joined to further the work of the Dominicans.

St. Hyacinth was sent by St. Dominic to Kraków to organize a cloister for the order connected with the church of the Holy Trinity. This became the center in Poland from which the Dominican Order sent out its preachers all over Poland and to the neighboring regions that had still not heard the good news preached to them. St. Hyacinth is believed to have journeyed extensively in his order's missionary endeavors. It is for this reason that he is referred to as the Apostle of Poland. He is always portrayed holding the Holy Eucharist and a small figure of the Blessed Virgin, which he is said to have rescued from a church in Kiev just before it was burned by infidel Tartars. He died in 1257 and is buried in Krakow in the Dominican Church of the Holy Trinity.

St. Hyacinth Parish in Detroit was founded in 1907. It was the ninth Polish Roman Catholic Parish to be organized in the city of Detroit, being broken off from Sts. Albertus and St. Stanislaus Parishes. The founding pastor was Rev. Sylvester Kolkiewicz. The present church was built 1922-23 by the second pastor, Fr. Francis Baweja for \$300,000. It is built in a very unique Byzantine-Romanesque style. From its very beginning St. Hyacinth parish conducted a grammar school staffed by the Felician Sisters. Like all the other parishes in the old Polish section of Detroit, St. Hyacinth Parish has faced many challenges including the closing of its school, still the unwavering devotion and fidelity of its parishioners keeps the parish going strong! This year is their centennial!

Happy Feast Day!

Why a Pierogi Festival?

There is absolutely NO dish more closely associated with Polish country cooking than pierogi. The concept of a stuffed dumpling is known in many different guises throughout the world. At a Chinese restaurant you can order steamed pork or vegetable dumplings. The Russians call them piroshki, the Ukrainians call them varenki, and in Jewish cooking they are called kreplach. In Lithuania and northeastern reaches of Poland they are called kołduny. The Italians call them ravioli and everyone loves their delicious flavor. Making Pierogi requires much time and care. They are simple food for simple people, the kind of people who founded Sweetest Heart of Mary Church over 100 years ago and the kind of people who keep it alive today! They can be stuffed with a multitude of fillings but they are made with love to be shared with special people. While we will never share our secret recipes for them with you we feel they are the perfect food for our festival and we sincerely hope you enjoy them!

Smacznego!