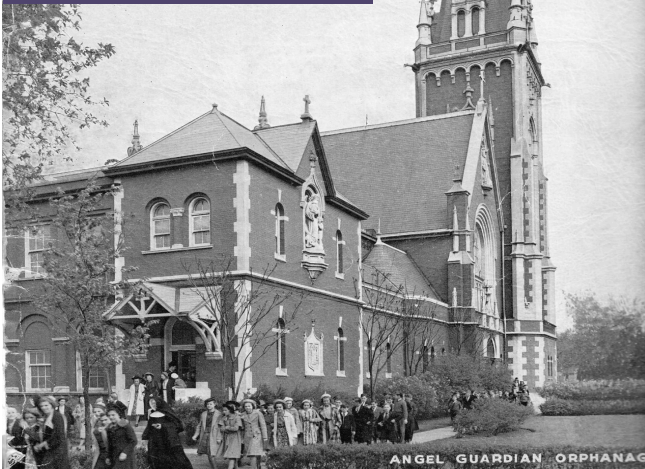


Historic ties to
West Rogers Park
since the late 1800s



St. Henry's & Angel Guardian...

Blessed Stepinac was originally named St. Henry's because it was built for worshippers from Luxembourg. A cornerstone marks the date of its consecration on April 16, 1905. By then, this had become the third location of the parish for the German-speaking community. Adjacent to St. Henry's was the growing complex of Angel Guardian Orphanage and a school, which at the time, was supported by the German parishes of Chicago.

In 1928, George Cardinal Mundelein approved plans for St. Henry Church to be turned over to the Angel Guardian orphanage in exchange for land on Hoyne where a new St. Henry church and school would be constructed. Old St. Henry's became the official chapel for the orphanage. A two-story structure was designed by architect Henry J. Schlacks and built adjacent to the church on October 27, 1929. Today, this area serves as the rectory and living quarters of the clergy. The church remained one of the tallest buildings in North Town for many decades.

By the early 1970s, the church became home to Catholic worshippers of the Croatian community in Chicago. Today, the neo-Gothic structure bears the original stained-glass windows, wood-carved columns and decorative tower and gargoyles from 1905.

Blessed Alojzije Stepinac Croatian Catholic Mission

www.blessedstepinac.com

6346 N. Ridge Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60660

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WEEKLY MASS 7:00 pm
SATURDAYS: 6:00 pm
SUNDAYS 9:00 am & 10:30am

Come Pray With Us...

As your priest, and friend, I call upon you to share in the Mission's apostolate and work - be active and informed, and be spiritually and socially alive. Get involved in our community!

We are a family, on a mission together. It is a journey of faith with the ultimate purpose and goal - to reach our eternal Home in heaven. To attain this goal, we must BELONG. We must walk together as brothers and sisters.

I remind all of our members and their families to love their homeland, their culture, their history, language, folklore and to be dedicated to their Catholic faith. Our Franciscan Spirit of humility, simplicity, poverty and care for all of God's creation is something we strive to pass on to many generations after we are long gone.

Remember -- God loves YOU.

Fr. Paul, O.F.M., Pastor



Blessed Alojzije Stepinac

Croatian Catholic Mission

Serving the community since 1972



Erected in 2008, a statue of Blessed Stepinac sculpted by Croatian sculptor Vid Vučak.



Our Mission

We, the Catholic Community of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac Mission, are a family united by faith in Jesus Christ.



Embracing our baptismal call, we journey together on our pilgrimage of faith to bring about the promise of God's Kingdom in our midst.

Therefore we:

- ◆ Celebrate God's presence in the Sacraments, the Sacred Scriptures, and the Tradition of the Church.
- ◆ Proclaim and witness the Good News.
- ◆ Nurture our faith through prayer, sound education and sharing our blessings.
- ◆ Serve all with justice, love and peace in the name of the Lord.

We celebrate a Franciscan spirit and Croatian heritage that have enriched the parish throughout its long history.



Designed by VeraLuca Media, 2013



Church choir, 1977

Our History

Three Croatian Dominican priests, the late Father Hijacint Eterović, Father Ivo Plenković and Father Nikola Dugandžić, arrived in Chicago in the early 1970s to begin a new mission for the Croatian community living in the northern part of the city.

In November of 1972, the first Croatian Catholic Mission was established by the Dominican priests and soon they opened the Dominican House on 1628 W. Morse Avenue to officiate mass and groups, including a chapter of the Croatian Catholic Union.

On September 30th in 1973, John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, granted permission for the Dominicans to officiate a Croatian-language Mass at St. Jerome's. Around 80 Croatian parishioners celebrated the inaugural Mass in the basement of St. Jerome's on Lunt & Paulina. By 1974, the first church board was formed.



In 1975, the Croatian priests moved their flock to St. Henry's Church on Devon and Ridge (our present location) and re-named it "Angel Guardian Croatian Catholic Mission" because of the historic orphanage. Over the years, the mission helped foster and preserve the Catholic faith and Croatian heritage for more than 500 families.

Pope John Paul II beatified Croatian Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac in 1998 and shortly thereafter, our mission was re-named Blessed Alojzije Stepinac Croatian Catholic Mission. A special Mass was officiated by Cardinal

Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago.

Over the years, other Dominican priests and nuns assisted at the parish including Sister Alberta, Sister Maja, Sister Jelka, the late Father Hrvoje Blaško, Father Frano Prcela, Sister Ozana, Sister Barbara and Sister Tadija.

In 2006, the Croatian Franciscan Holy Custody of North America took over administering the church. Father Ivica Majstorović became the parish's first Franciscan pastor. In January 2013, Father Paul Maslach replaced Father Ivica.



What to see...

Most of our stained glass windows are original pieces installed in 1905 by famous European artisans of F.X. Zettler from Munich, Germany. Written in German, the windows depict scenes from the life of St. Henry.



Two large portraits displayed above the sides of the altar, one of "Blessed Alojzije Stepinac" and the other "Queen of Croatia" were painted by local Croatian artist and parishioner Ivan Mikan.



In 1919, 101 young male parishioners served in WWI. A monument was erected in their honor and stands outside the north end of the church. Adjacent to the church is St. Henry's Cemetery, which includes the graves of mostly Germans, some Croatians and the famous "Cracker Jack" sailor boy. It is one of few surviving churchyards in the City of Chicago.

IN TE DOMINE SPERAVI

I Place My Trust in You My Lord
U Tebe Se Gospodine Uzdam

Life motto of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac

