

23. Medallion on the wall is of HRADCANY (palace and famous Charles Bridge in Prague, the site of the graves of Saints Wenceslaus and Ludmila. The castle, VITUS, the seat of the original government.

24. Stained-glass window is of Saint Ludmila, grandmother of Saint Wenceslaus, pictured with a palm, the old Roman Symbol of victory.

25. Medallion on the wall is BUDEC; Saint Wenceslaus attended school there as a child.

26. Stained-glass window is of saint Adalbert, Bishop of Prague.

27. Medallion on the ceiling is Saint Mark writer of the gospel bearing his name.

28. Stained-glass window in the center of the church is the Resurrection of Christ.

29. Medallion on the ceiling is Saint Matthew, writer of the gospel bearing his name.

30. Medallion on the wall is VELEHRAD. Saints Cyril and Methodius started their missionary work there.

31. Stained-glass window is Saint Cyril, co-missionary of Saint Methodius.

32. Medallion on the wall is SVATA HORA (the Holy Mount). It is the site of a shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the destination of many religious pilgrimages.

33. The painting above the Blessed Virgin's altar is Wenceslaus being killed by his twin brother Boleslav and other henchmen, on the steps of the church where Wenceslaus was going for early Mass.

## St. Ludmila Sculptural Group



The statue in Czech Heritage Park next to the church is of St. Ludmila teaching her grandson, Wenceslaus, from the Bible. The symbolism here is that much like Ludmila took Wenceslaus in as a child and nurtured him, the reverse took place in a sense, 1000 years later. In 1915 a mission called St. Ludmila, was opened for the convenience of those living on the west side and a great distance from the mother church, St. Wenceslaus.

*Prepared by the Class of '48  
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## Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church



*1224 5<sup>th</sup> St SE –Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Construction of the original Saint Wenceslaus Church started in 1874 on the site of the former high school building. Bricks for the church were furnished by parishioners and labor by the men of the parish after their regular working hours. Progress was slow due to lack of funding but the church was finally finished in 1890.

The present church was built in 1904 at a cost of \$33,000. The louvered pipe organ was installed in 1910 and it is still in use today.

Saint Wenceslaus parish is the only Czech National Parish in the City of Cedar Rapids, State of Iowa, and Archdiocese of Dubuque; having no boundaries.

Rich in the lore of Bohemia, Saint Wenceslaus Church is the finest example of Gothic architecture in Cedar Rapids. Murals on the walls and imported stain-glass windows from Czechoslovakia and England depict Czech saints, Czech places of pilgrimage, and Bohemian legends and tales relating to the life of King Wenceslaus.

1. The stained-glass window above the center altar depicts King Wenceslaus prepared to defend his people and his country.
2. The seven symbols around the stained-glass window represent the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Going clockwise from bottom left are Holy Orders, Confirmation, Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and Matrimony.
3. On the ceiling above the altar is a dove representing the Holy Spirit.
4. The painting on the left side shows King Wenceslaus carrying supplies to the poor on the Feast of Saint Stephen, December 26<sup>th</sup>.
5. The painting on the right side of the altar depicts Wenceslaus and two pages preparing bread and wine for Mass.
6. Statues located in front of the three altars are from left to right: Our Lady of Fatima (on pedestal), Blessed Virgin Mary as a small child with her mother, Saint Ann Infant Jesus of Prague Mary, Queen of Heaven  
On the left side of the main altar is

The Immaculate Heart of Mary and on the right side the Sacred Heart of Jesus Adorning Angels are a part of the main altar  
Saint Joseph with the Child Jesus  
Saint Anthony  
Saint Agnes (on pedestal)

7. The Sanctuary Light is always burning when the Blessed Sacrament is present. On this fixture are the Twelve Apostles.

8. The painting above Saint Joseph's altar is of Radislav, a chieftain who rebelled against King Wenceslaus. After seeing a vision of an angel, he knelt in submission and obedience.

Moving to the right....

9. Hanging on the side walls of the church are the Stations of the Cross, seven on each side, depicting the passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10. Medallion on the wall is CHLUMEK, a place of pilgrimage

11. Medallion on the wall is HOSTYN, a shrine in Czechoslovakia honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the hometown of Father Joseph Bata, an assistant under Monsignor August Vojacek, 1913-1915

12. First stained-glass window depicts Saint Methodius, known as the Apostle of the Slavs.

13. Medallion on the ceiling is Saint John, writer of the gospel bearing his name.

14. Large stained-glass window in the center of the church is of the Crucifixion of Jesus.

15. Medallion on the ceiling is Saint Luke, writer of the gospel bearing his name.

16. Medallion on the wall is OLOMOUC, seminary where Monsignor Vojacek was ordained.

17. Stained-glass window is of Blessed Agnes, Czech saint noted for her devotion to Christ in the Eucharist and for her care of the poor. She was canonized in 1989. (Agnes, in Latin, means "lamb".)

18. Medallion on the wall is LEVY HRADEC, home church of Blessed Agnes.

19. Stained-glass window is of Saint John Nepomulene, Spiritual Advisor and Confessor to the Queen of Bohemia.

20. Medallion above the balcony is a heart of thorns, a symbol of the love of Jesus for his people, resulting in His suffering and death.

21. Stained-glass window above the choir loft has been acclaimed as the most beautiful example of rose-window art in the United States, second only to the rose-glass window in the national Chapel in Washington, D.C.

On the left side of the church...

22. Medallion above the balcony is a heart with crown of flowers, the symbol of the love of the Mother of Jesus for us. The sword emphasizes that she shared the suffering of Jesus for us through her love.

