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May 5 - 6, 2012

6th Annual

Polish Festival

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church - Houston, Texas

Dear Parishioners, Friends & Guests,

We most graciously welcome you to our annual Polish Festival and we thank you for your support for the previous five years! If you've been here before, you noticed today that our old parish hall has disappeared and there's a green space in its place. The great silent auction is now found in our beautiful new parish hall and our church can now be seen from Blalock Road. Your support of the Polish Festival has played a large role in making all this possible. Please enjoy the food and entertainment we bring to you today. Our parish song and dance troupes have practiced all year to present to you authentic Polish songs and dances. Be sure to try the wonderful traditional Polish cakes and pastries. Stop by the silent auction and don't forget to buy some raffle tickets for a chance at some great prizes. We have booths selling Polish art and handicrafts we think you'll like. Feel free to visit our beautiful church. So relax, enjoy the day and thank you for coming to celebrate with us!

The 2012 Festival Committee

Introduction to Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish

Not unlike members of other nationalities, Poles emigrated to America and to other parts of the world for political and economic reasons. In the twenty-first century, one-fourth of the people whose roots trace back to Poland live outside the borders of Poland. While searching for a better life, Poles brought along their Polish cultural heritage which included a strong Roman Catholic tradition. They thus became missionaries of the Faith. Poles remain attached to their roots in a very special way, and they tend to take for granted that without understanding one's roots one cannot fully develop one's spirituality and creativity. In order to lead a creative life, Poles have to position themselves in accord with their Polish and Catholic roots.

The religious and communal history of the Polish people in Houston is a story of people who emigrated in extremely difficult circumstances, yet did not sever their ties to Catholicism and to the Polish culture. The knowledge of this double heritage is the most precious gift we can offer to young Houstonians of Polish background.

The Polish Parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa has become the center of Polish religious, cultural, and social life in Houston. The Polish Parish is a place where Polish values are proclaimed and upheld and also a place where Poles and non-Poles can express fully their fidelity to God. We are not in any sense a closed community, and we welcome all ethnic groups in our church. A key Polish value is openness to the universal mission of the Church, and thus we try to make our church a place in which our friends and neighbors of non-Polish background can feel comfortable practicing their Catholic faith and expressing their piety and identity.

www.houstonpolishfestival.org

Parish grounds

not to scale

