

HISTORY

The history of the wooden church of the Holy Cross is connected with a legend from 1434. It was written down, among others, by father Paweł Ruszel in the 17th century. Henryk, a merchant from Gdańsk, upon his arrival in Lublin visited the Dominican church of St. Stanislaus where the relics of the True Cross were kept unguarded. The merchant succumbed to the temptation and stole the relics, but when he left the city walls carrying his loot, the horses refused to obey and would not move. The merchant took this as a warning, returned the relics to the Dominican church and at the place of the miracle he founded the



church of the Holy Cross as a form of compensation and atonement. The church was erected outside the city by the high road from Lublin to Cracow. The existence of the church is confirmed in the document „Transsumpta privileg...” from 1511 concerning the dispute between the city and the Bridgettine Order over the narrowing of the public road between the church cemetery and a stone statue.

In 1603, father Tomasz Josicki, a canonic priest, inspected the church on behalf of bishop Bernard Maciejowski. He described the church as wooden, with a ridge turret, surrounded by an arcade covered with a separate roof. A sacristy was adjacent to the

chancel from the northern side. According to the inspection files, the property of the church was modest. The church adjoined the cemetery, in the northern part of which there was an ossuary.

It was noted during the inspection that the vicars needed to administer the sacraments to the convicts and to escort them to the place of execution. The commentary probably regarded the city gallows which was located near the church to the north-west.

Despite the good condition of the wooden church, it was replaced by a brick one, built in 1603-1623 and founded by the burghers and city authorities of Lublin. The founders wanted patronage over the church and



Photograph from 1952.



Fragment of the pulpit decoration in the central nave.

objected to the exclusive care of the vicars. They argued that they bought the land for the original church from the Bridgettines and made a significant financial contribution to the construction of the new church.

Probably, the conflict was settled in favour of the city representatives, but in the subsequent years there were many disputes regarding patronage rights. The plan and the design of the church at that time remain unknown. Iconographic sources from the 19th century present it as a building with the body similar to the churches built in the Lublin renaissance style.

Year 1697 is an important date in the history of the church of the Holy Cross. That year, Vicar general of the reformed Dominican order, Ignacy Wardziński, got the consent of the bishop of Cracow to establish a monastery by the church.

After the monastery's dissolution in 1800, Austrian authorities took over the monastery buildings and transformed them into barracks. The church was adapted for utility rooms and lost its religious meaning. Filip Dąbek's painting "Wjazd generała Zajączka do Lublina" ("The

Entry of general Zajączek to Lublin") from 1826 depicts the church as a building with a separate lower semi-circular chancel and covered with gable roof.

After World War I, the so-called Koszary Świętokrzyskie (Świętokrzyskie Barracks) became the property of the Catholic University of Lublin. The church of the Holy Cross was restored to its sacral function, and the area in and around the church was cleared up. During this period a need to rebuild the church arose. The task was undertaken by Marian Lalewicz. The works on the architect's project, however, started only in 1934.

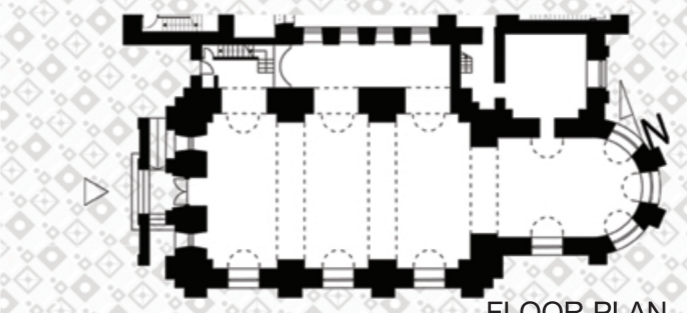


WESTERN ELEVATION EASTERN ELEVATION



SOUTHERN ELEVATION

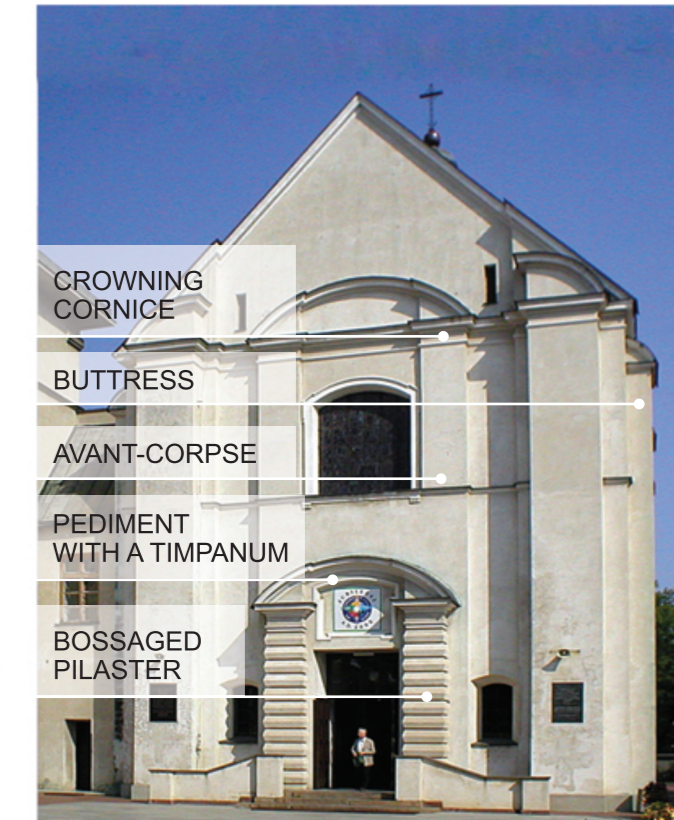
Materials from KUL



FLOOR PLAN
Drawn by Magdalena Szabala

ARCHITECTURE

The church designed by Lalewicz has preserved its form to this day. It is an oriented church on the plan of an elongated rectangle with a semicircular chancel. The facade is symmetrical, two-storey, with the accentuated central axis crowned with a triangular gable. On the central axis there is a shallow two-storey **avant-corps**. The main entrance to the church consists of a portal with two **bossaged pilasters** supporting a broken pediment closed with **segmental arch**, in the **tympantum** of which there is rectangular panel. The upper storey is flanked with pilasters that lift the pediment which is closed with a segmental arch. Between the pilasters there is a large rectangular window with a molded frame, crowned with a segmented arch and containing the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa.



CROWNING CORNICE

BUTTRESS

AVANT-CORPSE

PEDIMENT WITH A TIMPANUM

BOSSAGED PILASTER

**University Church of John Paul II Catholic
University of Lublin,
Church of the Holy Cross**

Address: ul. Idziego Radziszewskiego 7
20-039 Lublin
Tel: 81-445-43-13

Holy Mass:

Sundays and holidays:
8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 17:00, 19:00, 20:30
(during public holidays
and in July, August and September
there is no service at 9:30 and 17:00)

Weekdays:

7:00, 8:00, 12:30, 19:00
(during public holidays and in July, August
and September there is service at 12:30)

Holy Mass is broadcast:

- every day at 8.00 – intention of the Mass: KUL's benefactors
- additionally all university and faculty events upon prior arrangement.



PLEASE DO NOT FORGET
THAT YOU ARE IN CHURCH.
DO NOT VISIT/TOUR DURING THE SERVICE.
ACT WITH RESPECT, WHISPER
WHEN NECESSARY.

Text: Olga Pikul; Publisher: City of Lublin –
Graphic design: Renata Sidor, City Monument Conservator
Magdalena Szabala, Monika Tarajko Lublin 2017
Edited by K. Czerlunczakiewicz, 1st Edition
H. Maćcik, M. Trzewik
Photographs: P. Maciuk, H. Maćcik, O. Pikul
Transaltion: Dominika Bugno-Narecka



On the sides of the portal there are narrow windows. The vertical composition of the pediment consists of wide double pilasters flanking the facade. The back sections of the pilasters are crowned with returns of the cornice and the pediment. The front sections of the pilasters are coped with detached quarter-circular side segments of the pediment. Horizontal divisions are made by cordon cornice in the facade and in the finial around the whole body of the church. The church is covered with gable roof, lined with copper sheet. In the middle of the ridge there is a ridge turret on the octagonal plan, crowned with a gourd-like helmet.

Triaxial southern elevation of the church is decorated with slender buttresses with quarter-circular small roofs. Rectangular windows in southern wall are analogous to the large window in the facade. There are four narrower windows in the chancel, similar to those in the facade, i.e. with a molded frames and segmented arches. They are decorated with colourful geometric stained glass. On the northern side of the chancel there is a small sacristy crowned with the gable in the shape of a segmented arch with bossaged pilasters on the sides of the elevation. The northern wall of the church is adjacent to the university building.

The only remains of the 17th century church are probably the lower parts of the walls.

INTERIOR

The old furnishing of the church was not preserved. In this situation, while rebuilding the church, M. Lalewicz, commissioned by the university authorities, designed also new neobaroque interior. The architect's designs, however, were only realised to some extent. The works were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II.

In 1962, Jerzy Nowosielski, a prominent Polish artist with experience in sacral arrangements, designed a polychrome for the university church. The adamant design which assumed byzantine paint layer was not accepted by the university authorities and consequently not realised.

The present interior has two naves, northern matroneum (supported on three arcades) and a choir gallery with organs. The central nave is covered with barrel vault with lunettes and architectural elements such as lesenes and crowning cornice. The aisle is narrower than the central nave and has four windows on each floor which overlook the former monastery courtyard. The walls of the central nave are



BARREL VAULT
WITH LUNETTES

MATRONEUM



Photo by Andrzej Korycki.

decorated with polychrome illustrating Pope's John XXIII Encyclical „Pacem in terris” concerning peace between all nations based on truth, justice, love and freedom.

Eugeniusz Mucha was involved in the painting. He worked on the polychrome with a group of experts in 1963-1965.

It is worth mentioning the full-body solid figure of crucified Christ adorning the chancel wall. The statue was made by Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz in re-pousassaged iron plate.



Unrealised polychrome by Jerzy Nowosielski, 1962,
Starmach Gallery.

In the chancel arch wall there is a tabernacle (northern side) and altar with the image of Our Lady with the Child (southern side). Both elements were designed by Zbigniew Jarnuszkiewicz, Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz's brother, and made of bronze. The chancel walls are decorated with sandstone panels used in an irregular horizontal arrangement. Some of them contain bas-reliefs depicting old Christian symbols. On the northern side of the church, on the pillar between the first and the second bay, there is a stone pulpit with carved balustrade depicting Jesus' parables. In the aisle above the altar stone there is a sculpture depicting the Holy Family.



ACADEMIC CHURCH
OF THE HOLY CROSS

