

Father Czeslaw M. Krysa

Currently rector of St. Casimir Church in "Kazimierzowo" (Kaisertown) in Buffalo, Fr. Krysa has revived many Polish faith traditions among different generations there. Fr. Krysa is also an author, and educator, guiding Polish-Americans in rediscovering their own family legacies of traditions through workshops on religious ritual practices, and through publications.

His work to encourage an appreciation of Polish-American traditions in the church, the community, and the home, extends throughout the U.S. He has authored an extensive and very popular book entitled "A Polish Christmas Eve: Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song," and is working on a book and video series about Polish Easter traditions. Most recently, he created a bilingual hymnal of Polish religious hymns based on his translations.

After his ordination in 1980, he served as parochial vicar at Saint John Gualbert R.C. parish, Cheektowaga, and has been active in many Polonian organizations. In 1984, Fr. Krysa was assigned by the Buffalo Diocese to the faculty of Graduate School of Theology at Orchard Lake. Fr. Krysa has also taught at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. He holds a Doctorate of Sacred Liturgy in Rome.

Fr. Krysa specializes in popular religious devotion and the celebrations of the domestic church. He is a master artist in Polish pisanki, traditional "written" Easter eggs.

Fr. Krysa received the Oskar Kolberg Award, the highest ethnographic honor awarded by the Polish Ministry of Culture. He was twice named Citizen of the Year by the Am-Pol Eagle newspaper and by the Town of Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival Committee for his efforts in propagating the Polish American heritage on the Niagara Frontier. Fr. Krysa is also the recipient of the Michigan Heritage Award from Michigan State university Museum for his contribution in the dual categories of traditional artist and community leader.