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## **MORE TICKETS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP TOUR ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

**DETROIT** – Due to popular demand, more tickets are available for the Detroit Historical Society's Historic Houses of Worship tour on **Monday, November 3**. The tour will feature the following churches: **Cass Community United Methodist, St. Aloysius Roman Catholic, Christ Church Detroit, St. Peter & St. Paul Jesuit, and Sweetest Heart of Mary Catholic.**

**Cass Community United Methodist Church** was founded at Cass and Selden in 1883 on land purchased from Cass Farms, a fast growing, affluent area of Detroit. Architects Malcomson and Higginbotham designed the Romanesque Revival style church in 1891. The building's exterior presents a medieval effect with its heavy limestone masonry and a large, square tower where the two streets converge. The interior is in the form of a Greek cross. The Johnson tracker-action organ, built in 1892, is the largest 19<sup>th</sup> century organ in Michigan.

The building that first housed **St. Aloysius** parish was built in 1860 and originally dedicated as the Westminster Presbyterian Church. **St. Aloysius** moved into the building in 1873. The current church was dedicated in 1930. The French and Italian Romanesque style building is constructed of solid granite and stone. The Stations of the Cross on the main level are pure Carrara marble and were personally carved by Salvatore Roni, the famous Italian sculptor.

**Christ Church Detroit** was founded in 1845 by a group who decided that St. Paul's Church, now St. Paul's Cathedral, was too crowded. The founding families included Campau, Trowbridge, Brush, and Sibley. The original building was a small wooden structure. The present church, designed by London architect Gordon W. Lloyd, is constructed of limestone and dressed sandstone trim. The Victorian Gothic style building was consecrated in 1863 and completed in 1880. The oldest set of chimes in the city can be found in the church's tower.

**St. Peter & St. Paul Jesuit** is the oldest congregation in Detroit still worshipping in its original building on its original site. The land was purchased from Antoine Beaubien in 1843. The cornerstone was laid in 1844 and the church was completed four years later. The exterior of the Renaissance style building is made of local brick. The frescoes above the high altar and the baptismal font date back to 1848. Henry Erfen, a well-known builder of organs in New York

built the organ in 1848. It was dismantled in 1974 and later rebuilt. Today, the organ retains most of the original pipes from 1848.

The Polish were the largest ethnic group to make Detroit home. Their first parish was St. Albertus at St. Aubin and Canfield. In 1888, **Sweetest Heart of Mary** parish was founded. Because of a rapidly expanding congregation, construction on the present church in began in 1890. The two spires and facade were a landmark in old Detroit, and the church features the oldest Austin organ in existence. Today, this Victorian Gothic style building with a seating capacity of 2,400 is most likely the largest in the Archdiocese.

Each tour leaves the Detroit Historical Museum parking lot (Kirby at Woodward) at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. The price, which includes the guided tour, bus transportation, and lunch at one of the churches, is \$30 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$40 for guests. Telephone reservations can be accepted with Visa, MasterCard or Discover Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No tickets will be sold on the date of the tour. For reservations or more information on the Historic Houses of Worship tour series, call **(313) 833-1801** or visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

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