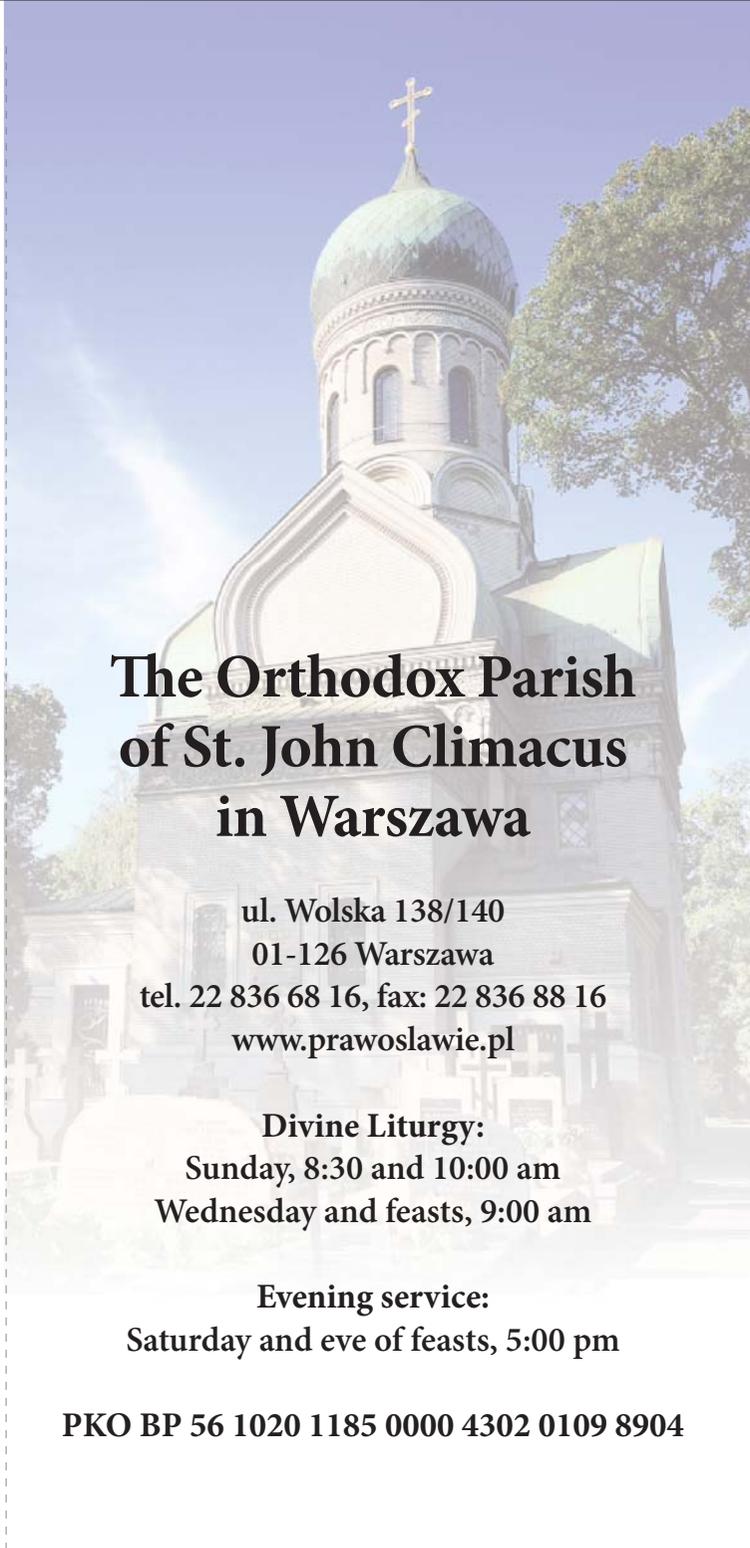


The Orthodox Cemetery of Wola is the greatest Orthodox necropolis in Poland and it is of exceptional historic value (it is registered as a cultural monument). Church hierarchs are buried there along with members of the Orthodox clergy, as well as many outstanding Orthodox personalities, such as Aleksander L. Blok (father of famous poet-symbolist), Sokrates Starynkiewicz – distinguished mayor and architect of the city of Warsaw, famous Russian writers at the turn of the twentieth century – Vladimir Artsybashev and Dmitry Filosofov, and many, many more persons who deserve to be remembered by inhabitants of Warsaw.

It is the long-standing tradition at the Orthodox parish of St. John Climacus and nearby Roman Catholic Parish of St. Wawrzyniec (Lawrence) to participate in a joint procession on All-Saints Day November 1st. During the procession through the cemetery, the clergy of both denominations pray for the deceased and bless graves.



The Orthodox Parish of St. John Climacus in Warszawa

ul. Wolska 138/140

01-126 Warszawa

tel. 22 836 68 16, fax: 22 836 88 16

www.prawoslawie.pl

Divine Liturgy:

Sunday, 8:30 and 10:00 am

Wednesday and feasts, 9:00 am

Evening service:

Saturday and eve of feasts, 5:00 pm

PKO BP 56 1020 1185 0000 4302 0109 8904



**St. John Climacus Orthodox Church
in Wola
Orthodox Cemetery of Wola**



The Orthodox Church of St. John Climacus was built in the early 20th century at the Wola Orthodox cemetery as designed by Vladimir Pokrovsky. The new temple was funded by the then archbishop Jerome of Warsaw and Vistula diocese (secular name – Elias Egzemplarsky). The founder himself was buried in the church only one month after its consecration that was held on 1 October 1905. His mortal remains were deposited in the crypt church of the Prophet Elias and the Blessed Jerome of Stridon, of which the iconostasis was made by Vladimir Inokyentyev. The decision was taken to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for him each Wednesday (the day of archbishop's death). The tradition has been continued up to the present day.

The life of Wola Orthodox community – and of entire Warsaw – was dramatically disrupted by two world wars in the 20th century. The majority of houses in Wola district burnt down during the Warsaw Uprising. Thousands inhabitants of this district lost their lives. The entire clergy and inhabitants of the parish house were killed with the then parish priest, archimandrite Theophan Protasiewicz. Choristers, as well as more than a dozen of the faithful and inhabitants of nearby houses, who had found shelter in the church basement or in the parish house, also died. At that time children from the parish orphanage and its staff were brutally murdered, except for the current parish priest

Mikołaj Lenczewski, who as a young boy along with his father Fr Mikołaj Lenczewski (senior) was staying with Metropolitan Dionizy in Sosnowiec. Names of those killed are listed on the commemorative plaque attached to the church wall.

The Orthodox church of St. John required renovation after the war damage; however, the complete refurbishment of its main dome and facade was not carried out until 1964. Two years later a choir gallery in the main church was constructed. Facade of its barrier was adorned with a painting Christ in the Desert. Over the years 1973–1980, the church walls were embellished with frescoes and stained-glass windows as designed by professor Adam Stalony-Dobrzanski. The wall paintings were done together with Mr. Sotiris Pantopoulos. Renovation the lower church was completed in 1977 - it was enlarged and its walls were covered in frescoes painted by an outstanding artist of Cracow Academy of Fine Arts, professor Jerzy Nowosielski. The construction of a new parish house was initiated a year later and it was completed by 1982. Parrish offices and cemetery administration as well as religious education rooms are located there. In 1987 a bell tower designed by a civil engineer Michal Sandowicz was build by the church.

Following the canonisation of New-martyrs of Chelm and Podlasie held in Chelm on 7–8 June 2003, a reliquary with relicts of priest-martyr Bazyli Martysz were placed in the church. The saint was murdered in Teratyn in the Chelm region in 1945.

In 2005, the parish celebrated the centenary of its temple. The main anniversary celebrations were held on October 2nd. Earlier, on January 2nd after the Divine Liturgy His Eminence Sawa, Metropolitan of Warsaw and all Poland consecrated new bells purchased with funds donated by clergy and parishioners.

Many Orthodox Church hierarchs visited the Orthodox church of St. John Climacus – Patriarchs of Constantinople, heads of other local autocephalous Churches, state leaders and officials as well as other outstanding personalities.

The Orthodox church of Wola is modelled after Orthodox churches of Rostov of 16th and 17th century.

Around its dome there are ornaments in old Russian style. Its carved oak iconostasis designed by Aleksander Muraszka, an artist from Kiev, has a great artistic value. In the first tier of the iconostasis there is an icon of the Annunciation and icons of four Evangelists placed on the central, Royal Doors. Over the Royal Doors, there is a Pochaev Icon of the Mother of God in a gold, starred frame, which is greatly venerated by the Orthodox. On the right-hand side of the Royal Doors there is an icon of Christ the Saviour, and an icon of St Jerome of Stridon on South or Deacon's Doors; on the left-hand side of the Royal Doors – an icon of the Mother of God, and – an icon of St. John Climacus on North Deacon's Doors. Icons of Christ Acheiropoietos (Made without hands) and The Last Supper were placed over the Royal Doors. The next two tiers of the iconostasis contain icons of the Holy Trinity, Apostles Peter and Paul, St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom, St. Alexandra, St. Nicolas. In the Orthodox church of Wola there are particularly venerated Kazan icon of the Mother of God and an icon St. Nicolas. In 2001, the icon of the Mother of God was put into a beautifully carved frame, designed and made by a master carpenter Wojciech Szmeja.

