Leadership and Thanks

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Annual Meeting Co-Chairs

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Our Event Committee

Special thanks to our teachers
Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School in Houston

Aneta Odolski
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Ola Szalewska
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Ela Moskal
Samantha Reichert
Ewelina Reichert

Elaine Mazurek Stephens
Website and additional event support

Jennifer S. Martinez – Awards and support

Become a Member

Help bring our Polish community together.
Read our annual report at pactx.org.

Thank You for Joining Us

Visit www.pactx.org for annual reports, membership, and ways to get involved.

Mark your calendar for the next PACT Annual Meeting and Program
Saturday, November 13, 2027
Venue and city to be announced.

POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS

POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS

2026 Annual Meeting

Program

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Our Lady of Częstochowa Catholic Church
1731 Blalock Road • Houston, Texas



Celebrating Polish Heritage Together

PACT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2011. We further knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs, and statewide events, and facilitate networking among Polish interest groups in Texas.

2026 Lifetime Award Recipients

With sincere gratitude, we honor your dedication and lasting contributions to the Polish community. Your service keeps our heritage thriving and inspires future generations to carry it forward.

Krysia and Stasiu Aponiuk
Cleo and Wanda Bench
Maryann Ciaston
Michael Kurtin
Bruno J. Maciejeski
Adam and Antonina Mazewski
Barbara and Thomas Ostrowski
James Smock
Al J. Snider
Elzbieta and Edward J. Winiarski
Elzbieta Wojchejowaska
Julian Yezak

Polish Progressive Lodge 2336 and Kościuszko Lodge 165

Historical Recognition
Pauline Gorka and Anna Greensage

Schedule of Events

Parish Hall unless otherwise noted

8:30 a.m. · PACT Annual Membership Meeting

Members and selected guests.

10:00 a.m. · Opening Ceremonies

Welcome by master of ceremonies Professor Jim Mazurkiewicz, PACT President and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland. American and Polish national anthems by Samantha Reichert, reading of proclamations, and a welcome from Our Lady of Częstochowa Catholic Church by Father Mariusz Lis.

10:45 a.m. · Bread and Salt Ceremony

Presented by the event chairs and officials.

10:50 a.m. · Walking Procession to the Church

Participants assemble for the procession.

11:00 a.m. · Holy Mass

Procession featuring traditional costumes, holy icons, and bread and salt. Hymns by soloist Samantha Reichert and organist Richard Kline.

12:15 p.m. · Group Photograph

Outside the church.

12:20 p.m. · Meal Blessing

Father Mariusz Lis.

12:30 p.m. · Lunch

12:45 p.m. · Parish History

History of Our Lady of Częstochowa Catholic Church, presented by Samantha Reichert.

1:00 p.m. · Keynote Address

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Houston, ***Jarosław Łasiński***

1:15 p.m. · Wawel Dance Group

Polonez performance.

1:30 p.m. · Polish School Performance

Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School in Houston.

1:45 p.m. · Polish Texan Lifetime Achievement Awards

Award presentations and sponsor acknowledgments.

2:15 p.m. · Wawel Dance Group Babcia Wawel

2:30 p.m. · Heritage Contest Awards

3:00 p.m. · Babcia Wawel

3:15 p.m. · Polish Organization Introductions

3:30 p.m. · Silent Auction Closes

Tabletop displays and heritage contest viewing.

3:30–5:00 p.m. · Social Hour and Networking

Tabletop displays, Polish hors d'oeuvres, heritage contest presentations, and the poster exhibition celebrating 250 years of United States–Poland relations, sponsored by the Consulate General of Poland in Houston.

4:00 p.m. · Formal Program Adjourns

Closing remarks; thanks to sponsors and the committee; announcement of next year's event details. Social activities continue until 5:00 p.m.

Polish Culture and Heritage Contest

Special thanks to the young participants for creating these wonderful displays and sharing their Polish heritage. Congratulations to the winner!
Special thanks to Dagmara Szymanska-Zyglicki for chairing this project.

Our Lady of Częstochowa Catholic Church

Our Lady of Częstochowa Catholic Church grew from Houston's Polish community's desire to worship in its native language and preserve its faith and traditions. On July 13, 1982, Bishop John L. Morkovsky established the Polish Catholic Pastoral Mission, entrusted to the Society of Christ, with Father Wojciech Baryski as its first pastor. The community purchased property at 1731 Blalock Road in March 1984, and an existing building was dedicated as its church that August. On October 1, 1994, the mission became a nonterritorial parish, welcoming Catholics from throughout the Houston area.

Under Father Jerzy Frydrych's leadership, parishioners devoted four years to planning, fundraising, and constructing the present church, which Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto dedicated on August 26, 2001. Their efforts created a lasting home for worship, education, and fellowship. Heartfelt thanks go to the Polish community and its friends, whose generosity, hard work, and steadfast support helped build this cherished gathering place and continue to sustain its mission.

Today, under the leadership of Father Mariusz Lis, the parish remains a thriving center of Polish religious and cultural life. Monthly events, community gatherings, two annual Polish festivals, and celebrations of Polish historical milestones bring generations together. The parish supports the Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School in Houston and the much-loved Wawel and Babcia Wawel dance groups. Treasured traditions include Święconka—the blessing of Easter baskets—Pasterka, the traditional Christmas Midnight Mass also known as the 'Shepherds' Mass,' and Christmas Day Mass. These celebrations connect families to their Polish roots while welcoming friends of all backgrounds. Learn more at **www.polishchurchhouston.com**

Our Supporters

With sincere thanks to the organizations, businesses, and individuals whose generosity makes this gathering possible.

Diamond

Dr. Steven Brass

Platinum

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Houston
Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey

Gold

Polish Home, Inc.
Progressive Lodge 2336
The Maciejeski Family · Ewa Thompson

Silver

Polish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas (PolCham)
The Ostrowski Family

Bronze

Elaine Mazurek Stephens · Anete Krozel · John Zientek · Mazewski-Dryden Family · Michael J Kurtin

Special Contributions

Polish bread · Krysia Aponiuk | Photography · Stan Aponiuk
Entertainment · Wawel Dancers, Babcia Wawel, and Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School in Houston
250th anniversary poster display · Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Houston
Our Lady of Częstochowa Polish Catholic Church and Father Lis
Thank you for providing the Parish Hall and celebrating Mass.

2026 PACT Scholarship Winners

Chloe Cureton
Waller High School
Williams Baptist University

Brady McClure
Poth High School
University of the Incarnate Word

Eryka Marshall
Texas A&M University

Antoni Krakowiak
Texas A&M University