



SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

2942 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

This parish was founded in 1855 and the first church was built in 1858. The present church was constructed between 1875 and 1880 in the Victorian Gothic style to designs by Patrick C. Keely. The building suffered a catastrophic fire in December of 1972, which destroyed most of the interior, with the exception of the organ. The church was reconstructed and reopened in 1976. The tower houses a twenty-bell chime cast by the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1895.

The first organ in the present building was constructed in 1871 for the earlier church by the Pilcher Brothers of Chicago, opus 125. The present organ was built by Frank Roosevelt, successor to Hilborne L. Roosevelt, New York City, New York, in 1891 as opus 494. The instrument features two manuals, twenty-six ranks, with tracker-pneumatic key action, mechanical coupler and combination action. Manual compass is 58 notes; pedal compass is 30 notes, with a flat pedalboard. The Organ Historical Society has honored the instrument with its Historic Organ Citation. The organ awaits a thorough restoration project.

Opus 494 from 1891





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Specification of 1891 Frank Roosevelt opus 494:

GREAT (Manual I, Enclosed with Swell, except where marked *)

- 16 Double Open Diapason (wood and metal—58 pipes)*
- 8 Open Diapason (metal—58 pipes)*
- 8 Viola di Gamba (metal—58 pipes)
- 8 Dulciana (metal—58 pipes)
- 8 Doppel Flöte (wood—58 pipes)
- 4 Octave (metal—58 pipes)
- 4 Hohl Flöte (wood and metal—58 pipes)
- 2-2/3 Octave Quint (metal—58 pipes)
- 2 Super Octave (metal—58 pipes)
- 8 Trumpet (metal—58 pipes)

SWELL (Manual II, Enclosed)

- 16 Bourdon Treble/Bass (split knob, wood—58 pipes)
 - 8 Violin Diapason (metal—58 pipes)
 - 8 Spitz Flöte (metal—58 pipes)
 - 8 Stopped Diapason (wood—58 pipes)
 - 4 Gemshorn (metal—58 pipes)
 - 4 Flute Harmonique (metal—58 pipes)
 - 2 Flageolet (metal—58 pipes, replacement knob says Piccolo)
- III
- 8 Cornet (metal—174 pipes)
 - 8 Cornopean (metal—58 pipes)
 - 8 Oboe (metal—58 pipes)
 - 8 Vox Humana (metal—58 pipes)
 - Tremulant

PEDAL

- 16 Open Diapason (wood—30 pipes)
- 16 Bourdon (wood—30 pipes)
- 8 Violoncello (metal—30 pipes)

COUPLERS

- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal
- Swell to Great
- Swell to Great Octaves

ACCESSORIES (Pedal Movements):

- Great No. 1 (with setter pedal)
- Great No. 2 (with setter pedal)
- Great No. 3 (with setter pedal)
- Swell No. 1 (with setter pedal)
- Swell No. 2 (with setter pedal)
- Swell No. 3 (with setter pedal)
- Full Organ
- Great to Pedal Reversible
- Balanced Swell Expression Pedal
- Bellows Signal



Left: the left jamb with elegant, angled, terraced drawknobs.

Right: the spare, durable keydesk and original pedal-board of the Frank Roosevelt Opus 494 still in fine condition.

