

*St. John the Baptist  
Roman Catholic Church*

DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN



**1926 - 2001**



*Side Altar ~ Blessed Mother*

# *Dedication . . .*

*... to the founders who in 1926 saw the need for a Church and initiated the request for a parish to be started and to all who donated the land and funds to follow through.*

*... to the priests and sisters for their labor of love in serving the adults and children of the parish through church services and school teaching.*

*... to those who from that humble beginning continued their services to the Parish to bring it to what it is today.*

*... to the Catholic Church in Detroit of which we are a part, and which is celebrating this year the 300th anniversary of its founding.*

*... to our country, the United States of America, who has suffered a devastation on September 11, 2001, that it has never before experienced. May we as Church and Country work together to right the wrongs and to bring world peace.*

*... to our present "Parish Family" who continue to do the work of the Lord and implement our MISSION STATEMENT:*



*~ Our Statement Is Simple ~*

*WE ARE HERE TO GET TO HEAVEN,  
AND TAKE AS MANY PEOPLE WITH US AS WE CAN,  
BY LIVING OUT THE VIRTUES OF  
FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY.*



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST R.C. CHURCH**

26123 McDONALD  
DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN 48125  
(313) 292-9693

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we celebrate 75 years of accomplishments in the Lord's vineyard, we must stop to say thank you.

We must thank the pioneers who met in 1926 and planned a new parish in an area with few paved streets.

We must thank Mr. Lukasiewicz who donated the 12 LOTS for the parish.

We must thank the first pastors who worked here without benefit of a rectory. As time went on, the pastor even lived in the first school building.

We must thank the parishioners who PLEDGED their hard earned money especially during the GREAT DEPRESSION of 1929/1930.

We must thank the Religious who became teachers in our school for a "Pittance".

Even the LAY teachers are owed a word of thanks for their sacrifices.

The CHURCH is people not buildings; even though we need both. We have had many great people responsible for 75 years of accomplishments whose real value can only be rated by God, Himself.

We thank all our faithful members who sacrifice each week, even each day (some), for their Lord and Church.

Young and old help in different ways — silently behind the scenes working quietly.

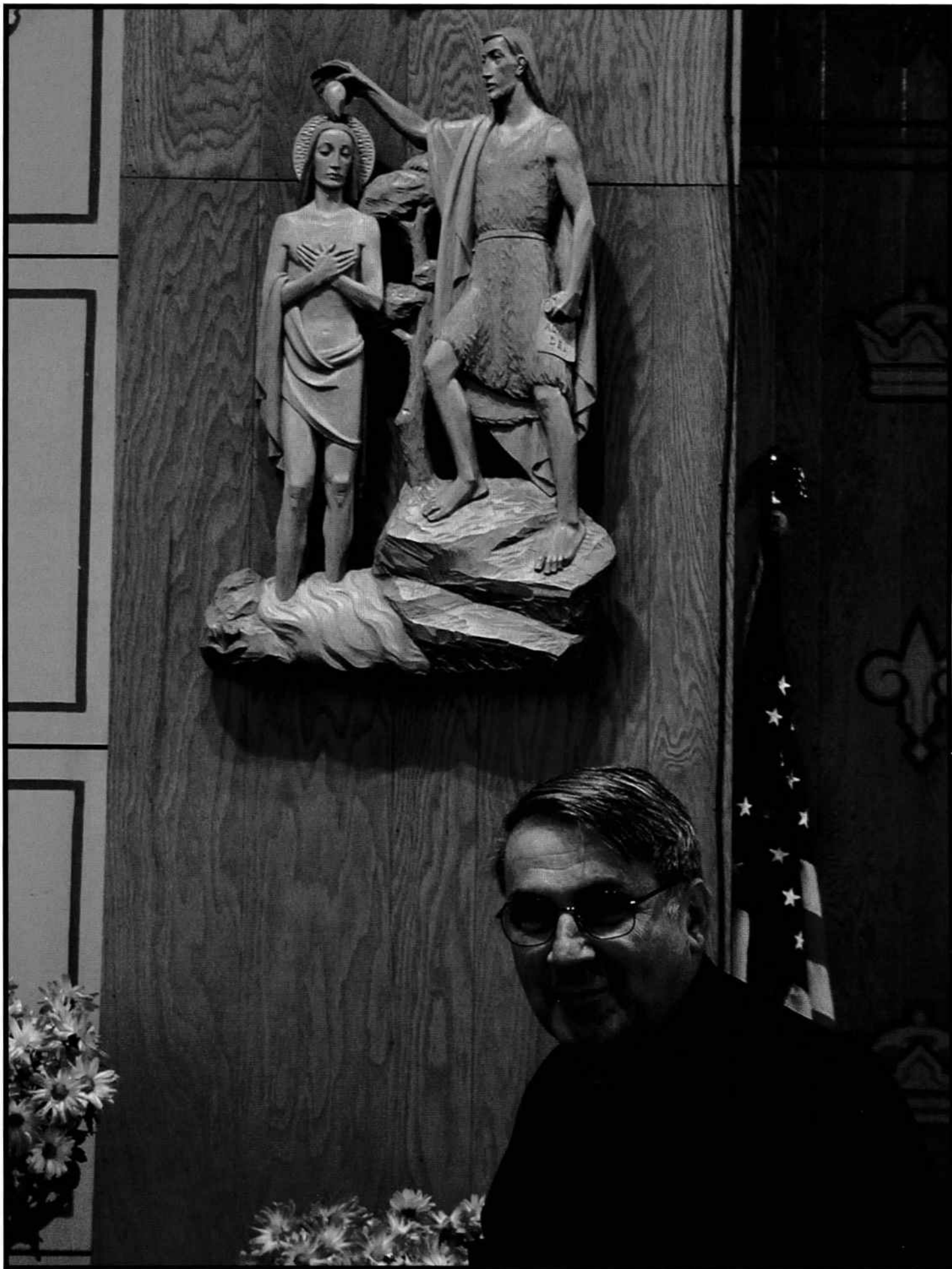
A special thank you to St. Albert the Great Parish for their help, especially with Catechism classes.

May God bless you all in a special way.



Reverend Edwin Balazy, Pastor







His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II

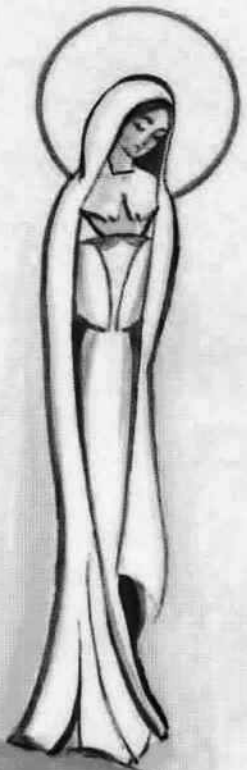
cordially imparts his  
Apostolic Blessing  
to  
the Pastor and Parishioners  
of

St. John the Baptist Church  
on its 75th Anniversary

April 2001

*Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die 17.VI.2000*

*Onor. Pizzato*  
Archiepiscopus  
Elemosynarius Apostolicus



# Congratulations!!!

August 20, 2001

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you many blessings on this the occasion of your **75th Anniversary** as a parish. I have many fond memories growing up there. I was baptized, celebrated my first Communion and was confirmed at St. John the Baptist. I also attended the school from first through seventh grade and have always valued the education I received there. I have been ordained a little over eight years and currently serve as pastor of St. Hedwig Church in Detroit, another parish with a rich Polish tradition.

May your next 75 years be as rich a witness to Christ's saving love in your neighborhood as the first 75 years have been.

Niech pan Bog błogosławi!



Fr. Chris Maus

*St. Sabina*

**M. J. ROMANO**

will / will not be able to attend the  
**75th Anniversary Party for**  
**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church**  
on October 14, 2001.

MaryAnn, Thanks for the invite.  
I have Mass at that time but will try to be at  
Lyskawa afterwards, not for dinner.  
You are 35 years older than St. Sabina!  
Congrats!!!

~ Fr. Romano



*Divine Child*

**FR. JEFF DAY**

will / **will not** be able to attend the  
**75th Anniversary Party for**  
**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church**  
on October 14, 2001.

Thank you for the invitation though!



*St. Martha*

**FR. DON WALKER**

will / **will not** be able to attend the  
**75th Anniversary Party for**  
**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church**  
on October 14, 2001.

Thanks - sorry I cannot attend.  
Congratulations from all our people.  
~ Don



**BISHOP SCHOENHERR**

will / will not be able to attend the  
**75th Anniversary Party for**  
**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church**  
on October 14, 2001.

Thanks for the invite.  
I'm sorry I cannot attend.  
I am already involved in another parish.  
Congratulations! My prayers are with you!



*St. Hedwig*

**FR. CHRIS MAUS**

will / **will not** be able to attend the  
**75th Anniversary Party for**  
**St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church**  
on October 14, 2001.

Wish I could be there!  
God Bless all of you!



*In Celebration*  
*of the Seventy-fifth*  
*Anniversary*

*Saint John the Baptist*  
*Church*



*Ad Multos Annos*  
*October 14, 2001*



*St. John the Baptist Church  
stands as a  
monument to the faith and generosity  
of the many people who have  
given it birth and who have  
sustained it these past  
seventy-five years.*

*We are blessed to have shared so  
much of that history with you.*

*Our best wishes to you as  
you celebrate this festive occasion.*

*Sister Jeanne      Sister Mary Alice  
Sister Katherine      Sister Veroni  
and all the Sisters of St. Joseph  
of the Third Order of St. Francis*





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to the members of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Dearborn Heights as you celebrate your 75th anniversary. This milestone provides a great opportunity to rejoice in your accomplishments and to look back with fond memories at your service to the people in your community.

America has a strong spiritual foundation, and the celebration of faith is central to our lives. It gives meaning to our pursuits and provides us with the strength we need to face the challenges of each new day. I commend your commitment to provide teaching, comfort, and assistance to local individuals and families.

May your community continue to grow in faith and friendship. Also, may the love that you share with others be a reflection of the common values we all share.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a memorable celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".

*As our nation copes with the horrible tragedies  
of the terrorist attacks on September 11th,  
please continue to pray for the families  
and loved ones of the victims.*

*May God bless them all,  
and may God bless America.*





THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

November 23, 2001

Dear Friends:

Lynne and I would like to extend our very best wishes to St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church as you celebrate your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We would also like to recognize Father Ed Balzy, who we understand has been your able pastor for over twenty years.

We commend your congregation's commitment to providing comfort, education and assistance to the local community. May you grow in faith as you continue to offer hope for the less fortunate and may our loving God bless each one of you.

Have a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Cheney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Carol Korte  
75th Anniversary Committee  
St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald  
Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48125-1450



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

DAVID E. BONIOR  
MINORITY WHIP

10TH DISTRICT  
MICHIGAN

October 14, 2001

Father Ed Balazy  
St. John The Baptist  
Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

Dear Friends:

It is my distinguished honor to congratulate you and the parishioners of St. John The Baptist Roman Catholic Church on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 14, 2001.

Under the outstanding leadership of Father Balazy, this landmark occasion truly reflects the hard work and dedication of the entire community to making St. John's a thriving center of worship and activity. From parish festivals and weekly bingos to organizations like the St. Johns Choir, Parish Council and the Rosary Altar Society, St. John's has continued to be a solid anchor for families to come together in prayer and in fun. The faithful know they have St. John's, truly a home for all to worship with hope and love.

Again, congratulations to St. John The Baptist Roman Catholic Church as you celebrate 75 wonderful years of history and worship. My best wishes to you in the future.

Sincerely,

David E. Bonior  
Member of Congress

DEB/re



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JOHN D. DINGELL  
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT  
MICHIGAN

October 10, 2001

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald Avenue  
Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48125

Dear Friends:

It has been brought to my attention that your Parish is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Congratulations!

It is my sincerest wish that your day of celebration will be marked by many wonderful memories. May your Parish continue to be richly blessed.  
With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell".

John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress

sm



CARL LEVIN  
MICHIGAN

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 10, 2001

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald  
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Dear all:

Word has filtered down to Washington that St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Congratulations on this momentous occasion.

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church's commitment to its community has been unparalleled throughout its history. You are a valued asset to your community, and I commend you.

Again, congratulations on your anniversary and best wishes for many more to come!

Sincerely,



Carl Levin



LYNN N. RIVERS  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

October 14, 2001

Dear Father Balazy and Friends of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church:

Congratulations on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church.

From the establishment of the church in 1926 to the present, St. John the Baptist Church has been a vital and steadfast part of Dearborn Heights' Roman Catholic community. You continue to provide support and guidance to your parishioners through diverse programs and outreach.

I send my best wishes for a wonderful celebration and many more rewarding years.

Sincerely,

Lynn N. Rivers

NOT PAID FOR AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE



DEBBIE STABENOW  
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
BUDGET  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2204

October 14, 2001

Father Ed Balazy, Pastor  
St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald Street  
Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48125

I wish to extend . . .

. . . my congratulations to you and your congregation as you celebrate your 20<sup>th</sup> pastoral anniversary and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church.

You have certainly lived up to your mission of providing a loving place of worship for the community since your church was founded in 1926. The families of Dearborn Heights and greater Detroit are fortunate to have your presence among them. I know you will carry on your traditions and community involvement as you continue your mission into the future.

Thank you for your devotion and commitment to meeting the spiritual and community needs of this congregation. May God continue to bless you and I hope you have a wonderful 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

DS:hf

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER





STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER  
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2001

Dear Friends:

As Governor of the State of Michigan, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the members of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, in celebrating your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of dedicated ministry.

This is truly a momentous occasion for your congregation! Since 1926, your commitment to providing moral guidance, as well as spiritual and physical assistance, has made a significant impact on the members of your community and has played an integral role in the strengthening of our state's moral and religious values. I am certain your efforts have helped countless numbers of people lead happier, more fulfilling lives. On behalf of the citizens of our Great Lakes State, thank you. It is my sincere hope that you will continue to serve Dearborn Heights for many years to come.

Once again, congratulations on your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary! May the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding your celebration also serve to renew and inspire the joy you find in your faith, and in your family, friends and community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Engler".

John Engler  
Governor



State Senate  
State of Michigan  
Certificate of Recognition

Awarded to

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

for

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



George Z. Hart  
Senator George Z. Hart

Presented

This 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2001





## Mayor's Office

Ruth A. Canfield  
Mayor

October 10, 2001

Father Ed Balazy  
St. John the Baptist Church  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

Dear Father Ed:

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations on the 75th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Church. While I am sorry I could not attend your ceremony, please accept my best wishes on this important day in the life of your congregation, and your 20-year ministry.

Dearborn Heights is home to over 40 houses of worship from many different faiths and backgrounds. St. John the Baptist Church dates back to 1926, when the first "little white church" was established. The school was built in 1948, and present church was completed in 1955. Over the years, St. John the Baptist Church has ministered to an ever-changing community, and through it all, has been one of the cornerstones of faith in our city.

We are proud of St. John the Baptist Church, and your dedication to our community over these many years. Though you have seen many changes, you have continued to be a loving and proud church community.

You and your congregation have much to be proud of this day. Please accept my best wishes for your continued success, and thank you for making Dearborn Heights your church home for these past 75 years.

Very truly yours,

Ruth A. Canfield





## Parks and Recreation

**Kenneth P. Grybel**  
Director

Ruth A. Canfield  
Mayor

St. John the Baptist Parish  
26123 McDonald  
Dearborn Heights, MI. 48125-1250

September 28, 2001

Dear Father Balazy,

I wish to extend my congratulations to you and the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church on your 75th Anniversary. This is truly a very special occasion, one that each of you can take great pride in. It is very important to the strength of any community that it have strong religious institutions within its boundaries. St. John the Baptist Parish is a reflection of this strength through its commitment of improving the lives of its members for the past 75 years. Keep up your good work and thank you for making Dearborn Heights a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Grybel  
Director  
Parks & Recreation

KPG/ecd





## Fire Department

Glen M. Barnett  
Fire Chief

Ruth A. Canfield  
Mayor

*September 12, 2001*

*St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125*

*Dear Father Balazy and Church Parishioners,*

*I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Dearborn Heights Fire Department to St. John's Church on this special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.*

*This parish is proof through the test of time, that despite its humble beginnings, it provided the foundation for answering the needs of the Catholic community. The establishment of the little white church in 1926 grew and blossomed into a more full-scale parish by 1955 when it became necessary to re-build to accommodate the increasing numbers of parishioners.*

*Garnered with a religious stronghold, St. John's Church addressed the academic and religious needs of the children of the parish and community. With encouragement and support of the parish, they were able to mobilize their resources and met this challenge successfully, when, in 1948, they built St. John's Elementary School.*

*Given St. John's historical significance and their positive impact on the community of Dearborn Heights, it is with great pride and joy, that I extend our appreciation for such an outstanding institution. In addition, we bestow our kudos to Father Ed Balazy, who has led the parish for over 20 years and has renown respect and admiration by peers and parishioners. This year is certainly your jubilee year!*

*Sincerely,*

*Glen Barnett  
Fire Chief*



**Police  
Department**

**Michael Gust**  
Chief of Police

**Ruth A. Canfield**  
Mayor

August 30, 2001

The Dearborn Heights Police Department wishes to congratulate the St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church on the celebration of your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish. You have truly contributed much to our community.

Your long commitment to teaching our citizens the way of our Lord is of great assistance to our Police Department. I'm sure many people have avoided or turned away from a life of crime or alcohol or drug abuse because of your presence.

We wish you continued success and look forward to working together for many years to come. God bless your congregation.

Michael Gust  
Chief of Police





# CITY OF DEARBORN

*Home Town of Henry Ford*

MAYOR MICHAEL A. GUIDO

October, 2001

St. John the Baptist  
Roman Catholic Church  
26123 McDonald  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

Dear Fr. Balazy:

I want to congratulate you and the members of the congregation on the auspicious occasion of St. John the Baptist Parish's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As you celebrate your diamond jubilee, it is only fitting that the City of Dearborn pay homage to your church. I applaud your commitment to improving the lives of the faithful. You have earned the eternal admiration of the community for fulfilling the spiritual needs of Roman Catholics, fostering peace and goodwill and instilling good values while preaching the Gospel to many Dearborn residents over the past 75 years.

I'm happy to join with you, diocese leaders and your parishioners in adding my best wishes on your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. GUIDO  
Mayor

# City of Inkster

Michigan

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Roman Catholic Church is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, under the guidance and spiritual inspiration of Father Ed Balazy; and

WHEREAS, the first church was erected in February of 1926 wherein the first Mass was celebrated on April 4, 1926; and

WHEREAS, we give pause, honor and praise this day for the deep and abiding Christian commitment of those who in faith began this work, and for all those who have given so unselfishly during these many years to help the work grow and thrive, and provide valuable human services where the need was great; and


WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our esteem and best wishes to the members of this congregation on this memorable occasion.

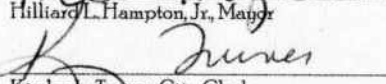
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN, the Mayor and Council of the City of Inkster, do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend this Certificate of Recognition to

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

on the occasion of their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy, productive years in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Inkster to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001.

  
Hilliard L. Hampton, Jr., Mayor

  
Kimberly Turner, City Clerk



# TIMELINE

- 1926**  
Permission granted to form a new parish to be called St. John the Baptist.
- 1927**  
Parish picnic.  
First Eucharistic Congress convenes in Chicago.  
Sanctuary of Our Lady of Victory in New York becomes first Catholic parish to become consecrated as a basilica.
- 1928**  
Permission granted to build a school at St. John's.  
Josemaria Escriva founds Opus Dei in Spain.
- 1929**  
New school of St. John's is built.  
City of Dearborn is established.
- 1930**  
Convent is erected.
- 1931**  
School is enlarged and Sisters of St. Joseph join the staff.
- 1932**  
Rectory is built.
- 1933**  
The Catholic Youth Organization is founded in Detroit.  
Bernadette Soubirous is canonized.  
The Sisters of Saint Joseph, Third Order of Saint Francis staff our school.
- 1934**  
Completion of rectory.
- 1935**
- 1936**  
Edwin Balazy born in Wyandotte.
- 1937**  
Detroit becomes an archdiocese with Edmund Cardinal Mooney as its first leader.
- 1938**  
Parish mission.  
Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit is proclaimed a cathedral for the Archdiocese.
- 1939**  
Pope Pius XI dies.  
Pope Pius XII begins his pontificate.
- 1940**
- 1941**  
Mercy Sisters open Mercy College.  
The parish celebrates its fifteenth anniversary.
- 1942**  
Parish mission.
- 1943**  
Parish mission.  
Altar Society formed.
- 1944**
- 1945**
- 1946**
- 1947**  
Frances Cabrini the first American saint canonized by Pope Pius XII.  
The Felician Sisters open Madonna College in Livonia.
- 1948**  
Convent is purchased for the sisters.  
Ground broken for new school.  
Cardinal Mooney blesses new school.
- 1949**
- 1950**  
Pope Pius XII declares the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.  
Marian Year
- 1951**  
Twenty Fifth Anniversary Mass is celebrated on October 14, 1951.
- 1952**
- 1953**  
Parish fundraising commences for the new church.
- 1954**  
Construction begins on present church.
- 1955**  
Edward Cardinal Mooney blesses the new church.
- 1956**  
Parish mission.
- 1957**  
Father Solanus Casey dies in Detroit.
- 1958**  
Rosary and Altar Societies are joined as one organization.  
Cardinal Mooney enters eternal life.  
Pope Pius XII enters eternal life.  
Pope John XXIII begins his pontificate.
- 1959**  
John Francis Dearden is installed as archbishop of Detroit.
- 1960**
- 1961**  
Birth control endorsed by National Council of Churches.

*(continued on next page)*

**1962**

Segregation of New Orleans parochial schools end.  
Supreme Court rules school prayer is unconstitutional.  
Vatican II is called by Pope John XXIII in Rome.

**1963**

Pope John XXIII dies.  
Pope Paul VI pontificate begins.  
English is used at Mass.  
Elizabeth Ann Seton is beatified.  
City of Dearborn Heights is established.

**1964**

Girls softball championship.

**1965**

Pope Paul VI addresses the UN General Assembly in New York.  
Vatican II sessions end.

**1966**

Parish mission.  
The ban of eating meat on Friday is lifted.

**1967**

**1968**

Catholic bishops condemn artificial birth control.  
Focus Hope started in Detroit as a result of the riots by Frs. Cunningham, Fraser and Eleanor Josaitis.

**1969**

Fr. Mitch enters eternal life.  
Fr. Jerome is appointed interim administrator of the parish.  
Parish committee drafts plan for a parish council.  
Archbishop John Dearden is elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Paul VI.

**1970**

Parish Council at St. John's is established. Twenty nine candidates vie for fifteen positions on the Council.  
Fr. Joseph Karasiewicz is appointed pastor of St. John's.  
New American Bible becomes the first Catholic translation to English from original sources.  
Family films shown at the Music Hall in Detroit.  
Sponsored by priests and proceeds to be used to feed the needy.

**1971**

P.R.C.U.A. Tetry Dance Group formed at St. John's.  
Fr. Joe's Silver Jubilee Celebration.

**1972**

Rosary Altar Sodality sponsors a Feather Party, raffle and Christmas party.  
Parish conducts Forty Hours Devotions.  
School children hold bake sale in the hall.

**1973**

Discussion and work begins for the Parish Golden Jubilee celebration.

**1974**

Booster club raises money for the sports program.  
Legion of Mary organized at St. John's.

**1975**

Club 12 continues to raise funds for the benefit of St. John's school.  
September peace pilgrimages at St. John's in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.

**1976**

Fiftieth anniversary celebration of St. John's.  
Bicentennial celebration of the United States.

**1977**

John Neumann is the first American to achieve sainthood.

**1978**

Pope Paul VI enters eternal life.  
John Paul I is elected to the papacy.  
John Paul I dies after one month into his pontificate.  
John Paul II is elected to the papacy.

**1979**

Fr. Edwin Balazy is appointed pastor of St. John's.  
The Polish Gospel is eliminated at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

**1980**

Fr. Tony Kosnik's Silver Jubilee is marked with a reception in the hall.  
Cardinal John Dearden retires.  
Edmund Szoka replaces Cardinal Dearden as Archbishop of Detroit.  
Golden Anniversary of Scouting.

**1981**

Fr. Karasiewicz enters eternal life.

**1982**

Sister Juanita celebrates her Silver Jubilee as a religious.  
The St. Vincent de Paul Society establishes a conference at St. John's.  
Maximilian Kolbe is declared a saint by John Paul II.

**1983**

Sister Cyrilla celebrates her Golden Jubilee.  
Msgr. Clement Kern enters eternal life.  
Nuclear arms race condemned by Roman Catholic bishops.  
New bishops consecrated at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

**1984**

Sr. Olivia's Golden Jubilee.  
Restoration of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican.

**1985**

Sister Joan celebrates her Silver Jubilee as a religious.  
Teen club reunion.

*(continued on next page)*

**1986**

Sister Olivia enters eternal life.

**1987**

Pope John Paul visits Detroit. Mass is celebrated at the Silverdome. Some parishioners attend.  
Fr. Ed's Silver Jubilee celebrated.

**1988**

Marian Year.  
Cardinal Dearden enters eternal life.  
Archbishop Szoka is elevated to the College of Cardinals.  
Role of women in the Church is encouraged by Catholic bishops with the exception of ordination.

**1989**

Thirty one parishes in the Archdiocese close.  
The beginning of the decline of communism.

**1990**

University of Detroit Mercy is established as a merger between the University of Detroit and Mercy College.  
Cardinal Szoka is appointed by the Holy Father as President of the Prefecture for Economic Affairs.  
Adam Maida is made archbishop of Detroit.

**1991**

Monthly newsletters added to the bulletin.  
Parish's 65th anniversary celebrated with Mass, procession with the Knights of Columbus and reception in the hall.

**1992**

Sister Cyrilla steps down as principal of the school due to poor health.  
Parish festival discontinued.  
St. John's children attend St. Albert's for CCD.  
Fr. Ed celebrates 30 years as a priest.  
Sr. Juanita celebrates 35 years as a religious.  
Abortion rights reaffirmed by the Supreme Court.

**1993**

Sr. Cyrilla celebrates 60 years as a religious at Garfield Heights.  
World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado. Several young people from the parish participate.  
Mustangs finish the season in second place.

**1994**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is issued in French to be followed by other languages.  
Adam Maida is elevated as a Cardinal of the Catholic Church in Detroit.  
Third millennium preparations begin.

**1995**

St. John's school graduates its last class in June as it closes.  
Father Solanus Casey is declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II.

**1996**

St. John's parishioners celebrate the 70th anniversary with a breakfast in the parish hall.  
The St. John's Travelers are established in the parish.  
A showcase filled with memorabilia is set up in the old baptistry.  
Eight members of the Tatro Dancers are used as extras in the film Polish Wedding.

**1997**

Charter school, the Academy of Business and International Studies, opens in the old St. John's.  
Girl altar servers are used for the first time at St. John's.  
Parish celebrates Fr. Ed's 35th anniversary as a priest.  
Mother Teresa enters eternal life.  
Frederic Ozanam is beatified by Pope John Paul II.  
The convents at St. John's are sold.  
A new organ is purchased for the parish.

**1998**

Teen Club reunion.  
Pope John Paul II celebrates twenty years as the Bishop of Rome.  
Edith Stein, a Jewish convert to Catholicism, is canonized.  
Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak is declared a national shrine.

**1999**

Parish Potluck dinner commemorates Fr. Ed's 20 years of service to the parish.  
Sr. M. Cyrilla enters eternal life.  
Padre Pio is beatified by Pope John Paul II.

**2000**

Jubilee Year  
Parish cookbook is published.  
Parish Jubilee preparations begin.  
Statue of Our Lady installed in front of the rectory.

**2001**

The Catholic Church in Detroit celebrates its 300th anniversary.  
The Sisters of Saint Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis celebrate their centenary.  
Vicariate discussions begin regarding parish clustering.  
Chimes installed on September 26th.  
St. John's celebrates its 75th Anniversary on October 14th.  
Tatro Dancers celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

**Sources:**

Make Straight the Path  
Detroit Almanac  
Catholic Almanac  
New Catholic Encyclopedia  
Detroit in its World Setting  
Parish Documents





## *St. John the Baptist*

**T**he feast of the birthday of St. John the Baptist is observed on June 24th. He was born in a city of the hill country of southern Judea about six months before the birth of Jesus. He was the son of Zachary and Elizabeth, a cousin of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was the last of the prophets of the Old Covenant. His work was to prepare the way and announce the coming of the long-expected Messiah. Thirty years after the birth of Jesus, John began his mission on the banks of the Jordan. Many of the Jews, especially the Pharisees, thought that they would enter the Kingdom of God automatically, simply because they were physically descended from Abraham, but John declared in no uncertain terms that this was not so at all. He called upon them to repent sincerely of their sins and to be baptized. The Baptism by water which he administered signified a break with and cleansing from sin. While the multitudes of common people flocked to the Jordan, Jesus also came to be baptized. Although Jesus and John were cousins, it appears that John did not know that Jesus was the Messiah until he saw the Holy Spirit descend upon him at his baptism.

The occasion of dying a martyr soon presented itself. John rebuked Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, the wife of the ruler's half brother. Herod imprisoned John in the fortress of Machaerus. On the occasion of the anniversary of Herod's birth, a feast was given in which Salome, the daughter of Herodias, pleased him by a graceful dance. He swore that he would grant whatever she asked. The girl consulted her mother, who advised her to request the head of St. John. An officer was dispatched to the prison, and St. John was beheaded to satisfy the revenge of a woman. The death of St. John occurred about a year before that of Jesus.





# *St. John the Baptist Parish History*

**I**n 1926, the southwest part of Dearborn Township consisted mostly of farms and unpaved roads.

The nearest parish was Sacred Heart on Michigan Avenue. A few men of Polish descent got together to discuss the possibility of having a church built in their own community in which the liturgy would be celebrated in Polish.

Permission was received in 1926 and so the task of building this new church to be called St. John the Baptist fell to Joseph and Albin Bartos, Mr. Gierlazin, John Lukasiewicz, F. Pietrowski, Thomas Niemczewski, Frank Niemiec and Paul Waske.

Gradually over time, a convent, rectory and school were built as the congregation grew. These dedicated men and women worked very hard during an economically difficult time in our country to have their own place of worship and a school in which their children would be educated.

The Sister of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis joined the staff in 1931 and taught 90 students.

Various organizations were formed such as the Rosary Society, Altar Society, Holy Name and the Young Ladies Sodality. The Rosary and Altar societies merged in 1958. In later years other groups developed such as the Parish Council, Booster Club, Club 12, Tetry Dancers, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Scouts, Legion of Mary, Choir and the St. John's Travelers as the most recent.

In 1995, the school closed due to declining enrollment. The Sisters who taught our children for so many years found jobs in other schools but are still with us working quietly around the church and attend Mass every weekend. We are grateful to them for their many years of service in educating children.

We are also thankful for the priests who have served in this parish. We pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for dedicated lay persons to assist the clergy and religious in church ministries.

We pray that our parishioners will remain faithful to the Gospel and live out the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity as worded in our mission statement.

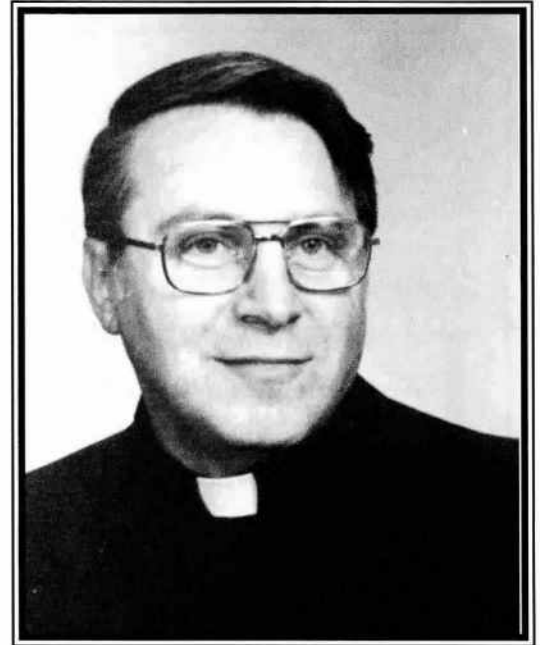
**The following have served as pastors of St. John's:**

- \*Rev. John Bona 1926-1927
- \*Rev. John Hewelt 1927-1930

**The following have served as resident pastors of St. John's:**

- \*Rev. John J. Bartkowiak 1930-1939 (d. 03-09-56)
- \*Rev. Theodore F. Kowalewski 1939-1958 (d. 05-08-65)
- \*Rev. Mitchell Witkowski 1958-1969 (d. 11-23-69)
- \*Rev. Joseph Karasiewicz 1970-1979 (d. 12-13-81)
- Rev. Edwin W. Balazy 1979-

\*Deceased



**Rev. Edwin W. Balazy**  
**Our Present Pastor**  
1979 to .....



**Rev. Joseph Karasiewicz**  
1970 to 1979  
4th Resident Pastor



**Rev. Mitchell Witkowski**  
1958 to 1969  
3rd Resident Pastor



**Rev. Theodore F. Kowalewski**  
1939 to 1958  
2nd Resident Pastor



**Rev. John J. Bartkowiak**  
1930 to 1939  
First Resident Pastor



## Letters

*The following are excerpts from letters written by Fr. John Hewelt, to the Reverend Stephen Woznicki regarding the beginnings of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic parish.*

Detroit, Michigan  
January 23, 1927

My Dear Rt. Rev. Father,

Said first Mass at St. Albertus this morning at 6, and at Dearborn St. John Bapt. at 10:30. At my request, good Fr. Sharpe sent a messenger yesterday P.M. to the colony some 4 miles s.w. of Dearborn, informing them that they would have mass at 10:30.

There were present some 25 men, 25 women and perhaps 30 children. The church was warm. Luckily I took along a chalice and mass wine. After Mass, the committee came to see me in the sacristy. I told them to see me next Sunday and we would confer about the condition of the mission. The church is a neat little chapel of about 200 seating capacity. It is exactly 15 miles from my house to the church. No complete census was ever taken in district. At present, it would be impossible to take it. But the pews could be rented, and in the spring a census, a house to house trip would reveal the status.

No doubt it is a poor mission, but I was favorably impressed.  
Humbly I await your further instructions.

Sincerely Yours,  
John Hewelt

---

Detroit  
May 13, 1928

My Dear Rt. Rev. Father,

Perhaps it is well that I apprise you of our activity at St. John the Baptist. At a parish meeting held today, the parishioners unanimously voted that we build a parish hall, added to which would be two classrooms, as the State School Inspector Mr. Lee, threatens to drive us out of the church.

The Committee will call upon you in this matter, to obtain your authorization. The people are of the opinion that the parish will develop much faster, if we provide a place for entertainments,

and I think, they are right. No doubt the parish hall will be a source of revenue.

The two classrooms under the same roof with the hall would be a precautionary measure. The State authorities forced me to build a school in Warrendale, prohibiting teaching in Church. Mr. Lee wrote me a letter that he will visit me personally in this matter.

The church grounds are paid for now, and on the church building we have \$7000.00 of debt. We have now about 60 paying families. The vacant lots are all purchased by Polish families in Detroit. In course of time I envision there a second Hamtramck.

At present the small parish is beautifully united and full of enthusiasm.

Faithfully Yours,  
John B. Hewelt

---

Detroit, Michigan  
January 1, 1929

My Dear Rt. Rev. Father,

Had a talk today with the Church Committee of our little parish regarding the diocesan obligations. I handed to them the bills but they paid to me only one bill, the collection of the Holy Father.

They requested me to plead with you to remit for this year all the other obligations, if at all possible. The little parish is just now passing through the most crucial period of its existence. It is a fact; these 62 families are doing wonders this year. The Sister's house, its furnishings, and the building of the school and hall take them to the hurting point. May I therefore ask, that you kindly remit the Diocesan tax for this year for the struggling parish of St. John's? They really deserve this kind consideration.

At present, it is the pluckiest little parish in our diocese and, I think, it deserves at present any encouragement.

Sincerely Yours,  
John Hewelt

*(continued on next page)*

Detroit, Michigan  
July 11, 1929

Dear Rt. Rev. Father,

Sometime during May you kindly advised me that Confirmation and the blessing of our new school be postponed until September.

May I respectfully remind you of this again, and humbly ask you, on what Sunday of September we might expect the Solemnity? Any Sunday except the first, will be acceptable, as we would prefer that the Rev. Sister be in attendance. Three or 3:30 p.m. would be the only time suitable for the occasion, as many live scattered on the farms miles away.

Sincerely Yours,  
John Hewelt

---

Detroit, Michigan  
July 23, 1929

My Dear Rt. Rev. Father,

Would it be asking too much of you, Rt. Rev. Father, if you could run out to our parish on Sunday August 11th at 3 or 3:30 p.m. and bless a statue of St. John the Baptist and the High Altar of our church?

By doing so, you would gladden the hearts of our good people and their pastor. Please, Rt. Rev. Father, do not turn down this invitation slightly because you would give an immense impetus and encouragement to the bright little parish and it would be a great consolation and incentive for further enthusiastic work and sacrifice of all members.

So near Detroit, this section of our flock, of our nationality, should be reclaimed 100 percent. A great parish is arising; but we must now cultivate and encourage the tender plant.

Please Rt. Rev. Father, arrange if possible to be with us on August 11th.

Very Sincerely Yours,  
John Hewelt

♦♦♦



# Vocations



**Sister Mary Joan Szkutnicki** ...is the eldest of four daughters of Edward and Genevieve Szkutnicki. She attended St. John's 1st thru 8th grades. After high school graduation, she entered the convent, the Sisters of St. Joseph, T.O.S.F. in Garfield Hts., Ohio. She made her final vows on August 10, 1967. Sister Joan has been teaching for some 36 years in grades K thru 5th. She has taught in schools in Ohio and Michigan (including right here at St. John's). Sister loves working with flowers making bouquets and flower arrangements for St. John's; her gift of art was beautifully displayed by the banner she made for St. John's 75th anniversary. She likes to take walks and ride her bike. Her cat Cinderfella is her loving companion. Sister recently celebrated her 40th anniversary as a sister. She is presently teaching at St. Anselm's in Dearborn Heights.



**Father Raymond James Studzinski, O.S.B.**, son of Leonard and Stella Studzinski, was born on April 18, 1943, in Detroit, Michigan. He attended St. John's Grade School and Sacred Heart High School, Dearborn, Michigan, and St. Meinrad Seminary High School, St. Meinrad, Indiana, and was graduated from the latter in May 1961. In September, 1969, he was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest.



**Father Christopher Maus**...was born in 1958 in Dearborn Heights and attended St. John the Baptist School through the seventh grade. He was baptized, celebrated his first Communion and was confirmed at St. John's. Father Maus entered the seminary in 1987 and was ordained in 1993. Father Chris has been pastor at St. Hedwig Church in Detroit since 1998; this is Father's first pastorship.



**Sister Mary Roberta (formerly Anna Pelz)** is the daughter of Ignatius and Victoria Pelc. Sister Roberta entered the Franciscan Order on October 9, 1934. She is the first sister to enter the convent from St. John's.



# Remembering . . .

Some of our parishioners have been involved in St. John's parish life for many years as a result of being part of founding families. Still others joined after World War II to live in the new homes which were built in Dearborn Township as it was known back then.

Today we are still welcoming families and hope that they will continue the fine traditions of our fore bearers of service to the church and community and to live out the mission statement of our parish by being people of faith who hope in God and love others as He loves us.

These are some memories of the parish from a few parishioners. We hope you enjoy them and create many of your own in the years to come.

## *The Beginning...*

John LUKASIEWICZ enlisted the aid of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew CIUPAK, Bernice JANIGA's parents, in helping him in the construction of St. John the Baptist Church.

Mr. Ciupak was a carpenter and Mrs. Ciupak took care of the altar.

Since my father was a carpenter (Stanley Lukasiewicz), John sent for him to come from Poland to America in 1926. They built the St. John the Baptist Church, School and the Lukasiewicz Subdivision.

A few blocks away, they built the Lukasiewicz Park. There was a pavilion with a live band for dancing, a playground for the children and refreshment stands. The park was rented to different parishes every Sunday. Since it was in the neighborhood, we were able to go every Sunday.

This was during the Depression and the parishioners had St. John the Baptist Church to pray and the Lukasiewicz Park to enjoy their Sundays.

There was one Christmas when John Lukasiewicz dressed as Santa Claus and had a gift for every child.

John Lukasiewicz made a contribution of donating the land-what a legacy he left for generations to enjoy.

~ Irene Lukasiewicz

## *Old Church, School and Convent*



I used to help ring the church bells before Mass and evening vespers. The bell's name was Paul.

~ Mrs. Jennie Bartkowiak

My brothers John and Val used to serve Mass and ring the bells.

~ Mary Wezensky

The Sisters lived across the street from my grandparent's house on Eton and they would throw rocks on the roof to wake my dad up to come serve Mass.

~ Valerie Koselka

We used to have spelling bees and I won a dictionary in the fifth grade.

~ Mrs. Jennie Bartkowiak

The old convent was moved to Gulley Road and was the home of the Rzepecki family.

~ Mrs. Genevieve Woods

Mr. John Toporek played the violin at Christmas Eve Mass.

~ Dorothy Dombroski

Julia and Helen Warunek were choir members.

~ Dorothy Dombroski

School plays, at one time, were done in Polish and English.

~ Dorothy Dombroski

The church, at one time, had an outdoor Nativity scene which was donated by Margaret and Walter Galazen.

~ Dorothy Dombroski

(continued on next page)

## Ushers

Bingo was one of the many parish fundraisers and one of the callers was Walter Wrobel among many others.

~ V.F.W. Post Newsletter

Picnics were sponsored by the ushers and held at different parks over the years. We used to go to the picnics at Jarzembowski park.

~ Edward Robakiewicz

In the 1950's and 1960's, the picnics were at Lower Huron Metro park. Lots of good food was cooked by the old-timers. Games were played and I came in second as part of a team in the water balloon toss.

~ Theresa Hobbins

Mr. Pondell brought his ice cream truck to the picnics and we all had ice cream for dessert. After the games were over, we walked to the pool and went swimming.

~ Valerie Koselka

The Archdiocesan Development Fund was the precursor to the CSA. Teams were formed to visit parishioners in their homes to get pledges for this fundraiser. Bob Woods and Joe Murzin went out as a team and because of Joe's fluency in the Polish language, was able to talk to some of the older parishioners who did not speak English.

~ Genevieve Woods

### Miscellaneous Quotes

#### ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

*The first cookbook was put together when Fr. Mitchell was pastor.*

~ Theresa Hobbins



*Bake sales are an important fundraiser for the parish. Fr. Ed always bakes a cake which is raffled off.*

~ Theresa Hobbins



*Harry Bacalia's grandmother, Michalene Niemczewski, was the very 1st President of the Rosary Society (the predecessor of today's Rosary Altar Society).*

## Reminiscing . . .

We live on "Holy Ground", or so we like to say. We moved to Eton Street in 1958, across the street from St. John's School.

There was a visiting priest's house across from us, where the hall is now. St. John's wooden church was still standing on McDonald Street, although not used for masses at that time; and the parking lot was not cemented, but gravel.

When construction started on the hall in the early 60's, and the foundation was being excavated, my husband, Tom, asked Father Mitchell (Witkowski), the pastor at that time, if we could have some of the dirt to fill in our back yard. (That's where the "Holy Ground" comes in!). He graciously said yes.

Father Mitchell had a Boston Terrier (as did we) whom he liked to take for a walk around the block. At times when my husband was out working at putting in a new front lawn, Father Mitch would stop and chat with him. Father often told him to not work so hard in the summer heat or he would collapse.

When Father Mitchell died, he was laid in state in the rectory, so that the parishioners could come to pay their last respects.

I remember St. John's had some very early masses, 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., I believe.

I also remember the May Crownings with the school children in procession from the school to the church, singing hymns. The girls were all very beautiful in their lovely gowns, and the boys dressed so neatly with their hair slicked down. There was always a great turnout of parishioners for those May Crownings!

There was also a beautiful procession with the children in their Communion dresses and uniforms, carrying lovely plants to the altar on Holy Thursday Evening Mass.

The church was always decorated beautifully for Christmas also, as it is now. In the early 60's, St. John's had a manger scene outside on the front lawn by the church. My children and I would stop there to say a prayer, and the girls would bring their dollies to show them the Baby Jesus.

And who could forget St. John's festivals with the big tent, the rides, and delicious food! So crowded, people would have to drive around and around the block looking for a parking space!

We have so many happy memories of St. John's Church!!!

~ Tom and Eleanor Kanski

(continued on next page)

## MEMORIES...

St. John's is like my second home and I have many memories of the school and church, but I would like to try and focus on the time when I attended school, from 1956-1964.

Most of the teachers were religious and belonged to the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis, however, Mrs. Cotton, Mr. Murray and Mr. Pedley were lay teachers at the time.

There were the daily and seasonal activities around the school and church involving the school children. We attended mass every morning before beginning our studies and walked back to the school through the breezeway, grade by grade.

Class size was large, about 40 to 50 kids, and you knew most of them during the time spent going to school at St. John's.

Whenever there was a funeral, the upper classes and a few altar boys would get out of class to sing and assist at Mass.

Mass was in Latin and I had a prayerbook that had English on one side and Latin on the other.

Besides studies, there were other little jobs that we did to break up the day. Cleaning and re-covering the books, buffing the floor, choir practice and collecting rags in the neighborhood, are just a few. The Sisters would go to each class selling penny candy and pretzel sticks. We did have lunch and time on the play ground.

Each class competed with each other to raise money for mission babies. We also tried to raise money by saving newspapers from home, bundling them up and bringing them to school.

Special occasions at the church included May Crowning, which included a procession. If the weather was nice, we would process from the parking lot to the church. If not, we came through the breezeway. It was always nice to see all the flowers brought from home by the school children for Mary. Forty Hours, Communion, Confirmation and Graduation were other special activities in the church. My dad took graduation class pictures for many years. Christmas and Easter were joyous seasons to look



*Valerie Warunek Koselka*

forward to every year. Other devotions that we had were Lenten Missions and Perpetual Help Devotions.

The old church was used for parish social activities. I recall winning a cake, walking the cake walk and buying holy cards and medals at the religious goods table. We traded holy cards in class like some kids traded baseball cards at home! Of course there was food and games for all. It was sad to see the old church torn down.

The only organization for girls to join was the Young Ladies Sodality. Later on, one could become part of the Teen Club which was for boys and girls alike until the age of 18. Mrs. P. and others always kept us busy and made sure that we had fun at the dances, field trips or car washes. Actually, there was a baseball team, but I guess that is not something that I did very well.

These are some of my fond memories of the school and church. I hope that they give some insight to life around St. John's back in the 50's and 60's. ♦♦♦

*~ Valerie Warunek Koselka*





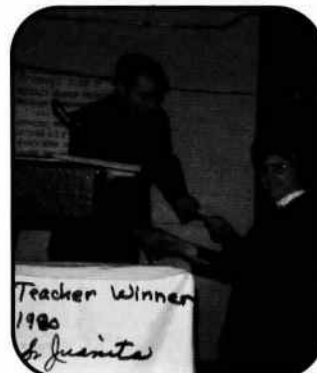
# Gone But Not Forgotten . . .

## THE SCHOOL...

In September of 1926, the first classes were held as the church doubled as a school during the week. In June of 1929, construction of the school building was completed and was already staffed with sisters from the Order of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio. A convent was built in 1930; this same year the Sisters of St. Joseph came to teach. The church community continued to grow. The school was too small to accommodate all the young families moving into the area with children, so a new facility was built. Ground was broken for the original nine rooms of the current school May 1, 1948. The cornerstone was laid June 20th -- school was ready that fall. The new school building was dedicated October 17, 1948. A new convent was also purchased in 1948.

In 1967 Sister Mary Cyrilla was named Principal. In 1983, we had the joy of celebrating with Sister her 50th year with the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1992, Sister Cyrilla stepped down as principal of the school but remained here at St. John's as organist and sacristan. Mrs. Rhoe Jean Krolikiewicz became the principal in September, 1992. Mrs. K. passed away in December 1993. Mr. Larry Kress was hired as the new principal. Because of declining enrollments and rising costs, the school was closed in 1995 after nearly 70 years of service.

The building since September 1997 has been rented out as a charter school, which at this time has students from grades 6th thru 12th.



(continued on next page)

*Brief History of . . .  
The Sisters of St. Joseph*



The congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, also known as The Polish Sisters of St. Joseph, was founded in Steven’s Point Wisconsin on July 1, 1901.

The congregation grew and provinces were added in Chicago and Garfield Heights in addition to the Steven’s Point province.

The sisters taught in many schools and expanded their ministry to health care by operating nursing homes and hospitals.

In 1931, the Sisters joined the staff at St. John’s. They taught 90 students, initially, at the new school. Over the years, the enrollment grew and an addition to the school was built to accommodate the student body and its teachers, but by 1996, the school closed its doors.

The order celebrated its centenary at Sweetest Heart of Mary parish on October 28, 2001. The congregation continues to serve in education, health care, parish and diocesan ministries as well as in the community.

We thank God for these women of God who dedicated their lives in service to the Lord and the ministries of the Catholic Church.

We pray for many vocations so that their work will continue for many years to come.



*We Share With You Some Personal  
Stories/Memories of School Years . . .*

The hot lunch program led to the collection of Campbell soup labels—each classroom eventually had a record player and other items through this wonderful program.

~ Bernadine (Deena) Crepeau

The Sisters Social was a bingo held for the children with bags of toys being given as prizes instead of money. The proceeds from this Social went to the nuns to help with the expenses of the Convent. Having worked in the school as a room mother and eventually school secretary, I appreciate so much the wonderful sisters and lay people who taught and the wonderful friendships formed. Remember Santa’s Workshop?—where the children could shop for Christmas gifts for their families and friends from items that were carefully selected by the fundraising chairpersons. Field trips took the classes to the zoo, theater at Greenfield Village, Tiger baseball games, museums, symphony, etc. The annual Festival started with a bicycle parade for which the children dressed in costumes, decorated their bikes and were judged for the best costumes and decorated bikes. There was also a poster contest to advertise the festival—they were put in stores in the neighborhood. The annual school picnic at Lower Huron Metro Park was a fun shared experience between students, teachers, and parents. And who could forget the beautiful religious ceremonies from 1st Holy Communion, to Confirmation to graduation.

~ Dorothy Choate

**JUNE 13, 1985...**My father died very unexpectedly. I had never lost a close loved one before. The next morning, trying to deal with these foreign emotions, I went to Mass at St. John’s. Sr. Cyrilla was walking up the walkway and I shared my loss with her.

Communion time came and although a communion song was not usual during Summer weekday Masses, she began singing. I couldn’t help noticing how appropriate her choice of song was for me on that particular morning. She told me after Mass that song was for me. I was very touched and thanked her - and continue to thank her in my heart each time I hear “Be Not Afraid”! It is said we remember moments, not days. How very true!

~ Pat Wallace

*(continued on next page)*

## "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN" cont'd

**CANDY DRIVE...**The candy drive was a major fundraiser for the school. Children were allowed to sell candy at the banks as long as they were accompanied by an adult. Different candy companies came into the school with their samples and the best was chosen to sell. Parents knew that the funds raised would be put back into the school. Prizes were purchased and displayed and each day there was a "traveling" stuffed animal that went to the class that turned in the most money at the end of the day. There were two divisions in the competition-Grades K thru 4; and Grades 5 thru 8. The top class in each division won a day off from school. And then there was the big question-would anyone beat Sister Juanita for the teacher who sold the most candy.

~ Joan Buzo and Maryann Seres

**CHRISTMAS CARDS...**For many years, children sold Christmas cards and wrapping paper by taking them home to sell to family and friends or they could be purchased in Room 102 in the school. There were no prizes for selling the cards and wrapping paper.

~ Joan Buzo

**CATECHISM...**I used to teach catechism for about twenty years with Sisters Electa and Olivia.

~ Theresa Hobbins

### *In The Library With . . .* **MARIE COUSINS**

The St. John's school library was first conceived under the stewardship of Sister Mary Florence, the principal, who was with St. John's for about 2 years. The first library was on the second floor between the new and old additions.

Next, volunteers were sought. Books were needed, shelving to house the books, etc. Happily, Marie Cousins was named Library Coordinator with an initial staff of 2 additional mothers being Helen Gajewski and Mary Wathen. In time, that worked into a staff of 4 in a day.

There was a book sale to provide much needed books. When parishioners bought each book, their name was written just inside the jacket. This worked wonderfully and gave the library about 150 books to begin with.

There was precious little space in that first library room and with 3 lady volunteers and the books and the children, it was pretty cramped but they managed.

When the new principal Sister Mary Cyrilla arrived, she moved the library to a larger classroom with the much needed space. The small room (first library) became a teacher's lounge. About 4 years later, it became a "run off" room housing copy machines and other office equipment. Shelving was made by Stanley Maciborski who did a great deal of carpentry around the complex.

Most of the books were obtained free from a Title 2 subsidy through the Westwood School District. Marie and staff had to learn how to order, repair, type up all catalogue cards and help children find their own books through categories and authors, etc. Marie says that Rosemary Lloyd was her "right hand" and that her husband Charlie Cousins was always repairing books for the library.

During the holidays, movies were shown to the children based on their ages. They also were shown film strips in relation to their studies. Flo Aniol loved to read to the children and had one particular story that dealt with lightening and thunder and Marie and others provided the sound effects while Flo read to them in her animated style.

The children used the library on a rotation basis and said that during their library time they were normal kids who would sometimes talk, hiding behind their books or maybe an occasional "spitball" would go flying. But she said they were great kids and she got to know them all. She said the little ones of kindergarten through 2nd grade were so affectionate coming into the library giving hugs to the staff and telling the things that were on their little minds. She said she still misses their little hugs.

After enrollment declined, the staff went to half days. And towards the end, when the school closed its doors, she had to depend on seniors to help her. She said at the last, it was she, Flo Aniol and Agnes Iadonisi.

As the library had over 6000 books in its heyday, that was a bit of a problem of how to dispose of the books and yet put them to good use. Turns out that most of the books were given to two schools with St. Albert being the one who got the bulk of them. The cabinets also went to St. Albert. Then what was left was offered to parishioners. They could either make a donation or just have them. Dorothy Choate was in charge of the sale at the time of closing.

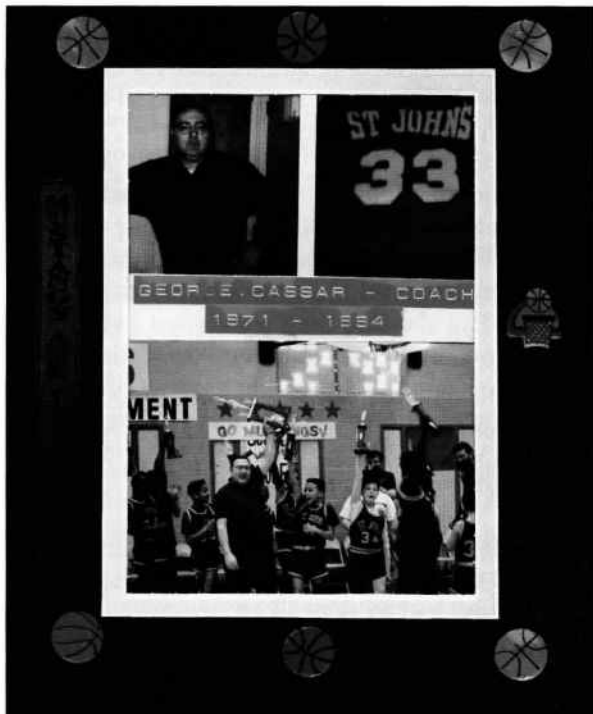
Marie says she loved the volunteer job she held at the library. I guess she did. She gave them around 30 years!



“GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN – SPORTS”

## BASKETBALL . . . ST. JOHN'S MUSTANGS

From 1971-1994 the St. John's boys basketball teams, the Mustangs, was coached by George Cassar. He did a remarkable job with the teams considering the fact that St. John's did not have its own gym to practice in every day and they never had the home court advantage as all games were played in opponents' gyms. They practiced at Allen Jr. High and sometimes in our own hall. The countless hours of practice and game time didn't always result in winning seasons, but there were some trophies won along the way. George's daughter, Cathy, was scorekeeper for many of the seasons and his wife, Dolores, was often busy washing and mending uniforms. The seasons usually ended with a pizza party or dinner and recognition of the efforts of the players. Father/son games were played, too, which were always a lot of fun. George is currently coaching the girls' basketball team at St. Albert the Great School.



### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECORDS FOR 18 YEARS

No CYO Championship

CYO Playoff Participants 8 Times - Won 3 Lost 8

League Records

1st - 0

2nd - 7

3rd - 8

4th - 2

5th - 1

**TOTAL WINS 126 LOSSES 54**

NON LEAGUE TROPHIES - Includes Thanksgiving, Christmas Tournaments

1st - 5

2nd - 9

3rd - 12

Participated in 36 Tournaments

**TOTAL WINS 50 LOSSES 30**

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECORDS FOR 14 YEARS

NO LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

LEAGUE RECORD

1st - 0

2nd - 4

3rd - 6

4th - 1

5th - 3

**TOTAL WINS 92 LOSSES 48**

NON LEAGUE TROPHIES - Includes Thanksgiving, Christmas Tournaments

1st - 4

2nd - 1

3rd - 8

4th - 5

Participated in 29 Tournaments

**TOTAL WINS 40 LOSSES 24**

**Assistant Coaches:** Gary Quillico, Charlie Headman, Mike Greenwade and Cathy Cassar.

**Official Scorekeeper:** Cathy Cassar

**Unwavering Support** from Father Joe, Father Ed, Sister Cyrilla, Mrs. K., Mr. Kress, Mrs. Stallions and Dorothy Choate.

(continued on next page)



## BOOSTER CLUB...



The St. John's Booster Club was started in approximately 1960. It started out with four boys' teams playing at Powers Field on Powers about 2-1/2 blocks west of Beech Daly. The field at the time was owned by Lollo Brothers Trucking. The amount of work to get the field in order was humongous-it had to be cleared of tree branches, weeds, glass, rocks, etc. We did the chalk lines and installed professional rubber on the pitcher's mound and professional bases. All this work was done by dedicated men and women in our parish. When the Booster Club was formed, one adult member from each family had to participate in some way, such as cleaning the field, umpiring, coaching, selling candy, etc. We had a huge turnout as the boys could start playing in 2nd grade thru 8th grade. Furnished by the league were pants, socks, shirts, hats, the catcher's equipment; bats and balls, umpire's equipment-the players needed to furnish only their shoes and glove.

A short time later, we started four girls' teams and four minor league boys' teams. These teams were also completely equipped through the league which raised money through candy sales, etc. There was a small fee to play, but it was waived in many instances.

After playing at Powers Field for some time, Lollo Bros. decided they needed the lot for expansion; we found a field at Princeton and Gulley. It was quite a distance from our parish but it was the best we could find in the neighborhood and Midwest Abrasives who owned the property gave us permission to use the field. It was a nice grassy field and needed minimal work-so we moved our equipment (including bases, etc.) from Powers Field. We played ball every day of the week and often all-star games were played on weekends.

Most teams had from 11-14 players. It was a huge program, very expensive and very well run. We had official scorekeepers, official scorebooks; we followed American League rules with each player being furnished with a rule book. One of the rules, though, that we established was not an American League rule-a very important one-every player on every team had to play at least 3 innings and bat at least once in every game. That eliminated the possibility that the teams would sit their poorer players and use only the best

*(continued on next page)*



**“GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN – SPORTS” cont’d**

ones. The purpose of the league was to showcase all players and hope they all had complete opportunities to play ball with us.

After we had been playing for some time, we chose some of our better players, boys and girls, and enrolled them in the CYO League. One season both our boys’ and girls’ teams went undefeated (10-0). It only happened once but what a great season we had!

At the Princeton Field we had a nice concession stand built by the men and manned by the women (and sometimes the men)-they sold pop, chips, candy, pretzels, etc.

Elaborating on some of the dedication of the families, I remember one incident that I’ll probably never forget. The McLains had a large family--many of the children played ball and Mrs. McLain also coached. The McLains had only one vehicle; so, one day as I was driving up Gulley Road going to the field I see Carol McLain riding her bike with the bat bag on the handle bars, pregnant at the time and trailing along two or three of her children. This is the kind of dedication that I talked about previously and it is only one of the many incidents that happened over the years to make our league so special. Everyone did a fair share and they all worked very hard-we were there for our children and did one heck of a job!

If anyone is interested in seeing some of the awards received over the years by the baseball teams, they are on display in the Church breezeway on the Fellrath side. There are individual trophies; the first ball ever pitched in one of our games; there is the broken bat trophy that for a while listed the team that won the championship every year; the travelling trophy that was given to the younger team that won the championship every year. Your children or grandchildren or children of friends may have trophies in the showcase. Take the time-they are there for you to enjoy looking at and remembering the wonderful times spent as part of the BOOSTER CLUB.

*~ Robert Lefebvre*

**PARISH FESTIVAL**

*Mr. Bob Lefebvre spent a lot of time in the dunk tank.*

*~ Bill Pace*



**SCOUTS . . .**

Many fathers were involved with their sons in this organization. One of the jobs that I had was to drive the boys to camp outs.

*~ Walt Seres*

Edward Rzucidlo was one of the Scoutmasters of troop 1142. He was the first Scoutmaster to help four boys achieve Eagle Scout status. These boys were James Krey, Anthony Rzucidlo, Joseph Seres and John Westfall.

*~ Dolores Hnot*

First Cub Scout to receive Catholic Award - Jack Mahoney at the age of 10...32 years ago.



We remember Mr. Charles Chieca, who was so very active in scouting...he passed away in 2001.

**TEEN CLUB**

The Teen club sponsored dances in the church hall and one year, Bobby Vee came to sing. It was very exciting. Of course, our parents chaperoned all the dances. We also took field trips and once went to Camp Dearborn.

*~ Valerie Koselka*



**St. John the Baptist  
Roman Catholic  
Church**



**75th  
Anniversary  
1926 - 2001**

# Father Edwin W. Balazy . . .

## "Our Shepherd"

**E**dwin Walter Alexander Balazy was born in Wyandotte, Michigan on August 10, 1936 to Alexander and Lillian (nee Kraszewski) - the youngest of seven children. Still on this earth are Chet and Stan. Father was ordained on June 2, 1962 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit by John Cardinal Dearden. His first solemn Mass was celebrated at Mt. Carmel Church, his home parish, on June 10, 1962. His first assignment was to St. Raymond's in Detroit. In 1966 he was transferred to St. Hyacinth Parish in the inner city. In November of 1971, he was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception. In July of 1979 he was appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Dearborn Heights, and continues today as the pastor.

And what has happened during the last 22 years with Father Ed as our Pastor? He has baptized us, married us, buried our loved ones; he has been our confessor, our preacher, our confidante and our friend. He has allowed us to share our lives with him and in return we give him our love and respect as we would to a family member. That is what we have become over the last 22 years...a family.

**PRAYER ROCKS...** Father is on a mission to get people to pray. If you have one prayer rock, you were probably given another, one to pass on. Check the baptistry-the rocks are there and they are free.

**SMILES...** if you have ever read one of the Church bulletins, no explanation is needed. If not, jokes and cute stories have become a special part of the bulletin every Sunday. They say laughter can help to heal—maybe we should call Father Ed—Doctor Ed.

**VIDEOS...** Father's special treat to others.

Doesn't this sound like a promoter of St. John's Mission Statement - Our Statement is simple. We are here to get to heaven, and take as many people with us as we can, by living out the virtues of Faith (**PRAYER ROCKS**), Hope (**SMILES**) and Charity (**VIDEOS**).

Father Ed is a man of passion — he loves music, movies, golf and people. (not necessarily in that order).

Our "Shepherd" tends to his flock as the Lord watched over His — he is the Best!

(continued on next page)

### THOUGHTS ON FR. ED AND THE PARISH

We like his magic tricks and movies.  
~ Nicholas and Christian Sobczak

Fr. Ed makes us feel comfortable at St. John's.  
Everybody is like family.  
~ Mary Ellen and Ken Sobczak



*Each week our bulletin has a smile or two in it. People say they read them, save them, mail them to relatives.*

*The reason we have them in our paper is that we often pray for health of mind and body. Smiles certainly help keep us healthy.*

*Here are a few for posterity to enjoy . . .*

*~ Father Ed*

*(continued on next page)*





# 75th Anniversary

## 1926-2001

Pastor  
Rev. Edwin W. Balazy

### St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

26123 McDonald • Dearborn Heights, MI • Phone 292-9693

2001

#### Mission Statement – St. John’s

OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS SIMPLE . . . S-M-I-L-E!!! ☺☺☺

#### SMILE

QUESTION: What do Catherine the Great, Attila the Hun and Jabba the Hut have in common?

Answer: The same middle name.



#### SMILE

The man saw a man at the bar who needed help. He slipped off the chair. So Joe helped him up and asked where Moe lived. Moe said across the street.

Joe thought he would help him home so he helped Moe walk out of the bar. As they crossed the street Moe kept slipping. So Joe put Moe on his back and carried him home.

At Moe’s house he knocked and brought Moe in. He told Moe’s wife Moe should not drink so much/he couldn’t even stand. Moe’s wife asked: “Where is Moe’s wheelchair?”



#### SMILE

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband’s ranch near Snowflake. She put a shoe box on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it. For fifty years Uncle Joe left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying. One day when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important. Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash. He took the box to her and asked about the contents. “My mother gave me that box the day we married,” she explained. “She told me to make a doily to help ease my frustrations every time I got mad at you.” Uncle Joe was very touched that in 50 years she’d only been mad at him twice. “What’s the \$82,500 for?” he asked. “Oh, that’s the money I made selling the doilies.”



#### SMILE

After Church a little boy told the Rev. “When I grow up I’m going to give you some money.” Well thank you, but why, asked the Rev.? BOY: “My daddy says you are one of the poorest preachers we ever had.”

#### SMILE

It was suggested that we start a Dial-A-Prayer program for atheists. When they call no one will answer.



#### SMILE

Walter was on the 14th hole when a woman in a wedding gown came racing across the fairway. She grabbed Walter by the arm and tried to lead him off the course.

“Wait a minute,” he said, while digging his spikes into the ground. “I said, ‘Only if it rains!’”



#### SMILE

Our old friend Gladys attended church services one Sunday. The sermon seemed to go on forever, and some people in the congregation fell asleep.

After the service, trying to be sociable, she walked up to a very sleepy-looking gentleman, extended her hand in greeting, and said, “Hello, I’m Gladys Dunn.”

The man replied, “You’re not the only one!”



#### SMILE

A friend reminded me about the time he was putting flowers on his Grandmother’s grave when he noticed a man, very distraught, in front of a tombstone several yards away. The man was on his knees, hands tightly clasped in front of him, rocking back and forth head tilted upward to heaven, tears streaming down his cheeks, moaning softly, “Why did you die? Why did you die?” Over and over again.

Cal was overcome with emotion at the sight and went over to the poor man to try and console him. “Why did you die? Why did you die?” Again and again. Cal gently put his arm around the man and half whispered to him, “My Grandmother is buried just over there, is a loved one of yours buried here?”

“No,” sniffled the man, “It’s my wife’s first husband.”

#### SMILE

Six guys are playing poker when Smith loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest and falls over dead. Who’s going to tell his wife, they all wonder. They draw straws and Anderson picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet and break it to her gently.

“No problem,” Anderson says. So he drives over to the Smith house and knocks on the door. The wife answers. “Your husband just lost \$500 playing cards,” he tells her.

She screams and says, “Tell him to drop dead!”

Anderson replies, “Okay. I’ll tell him.”



#### SMILE

A young taxi driver and an old priest waited together by Heaven’s gate. The taxi driver was called to enter into Paradise, and after a long while, the gate opened for the priest.

“Why did the taxi driver get in first?” he asked, and he heard this reply. “When you were preaching, everybody slept; but in his car, everybody prayed.”



#### SMILE

When the Chinese delivery boy dropped off Goldberg’s lunch, the World War II vet looked up from his desk and socked the boy.

“Why’d you do that?”

“That’s for Pearl Harbor!” Goldberg cried.

Rubbing his chin, the boy said, “But I’m not Japanese! I’m Vietnamese!”

“Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese – they’re all the same to me.”

Later that day Goldberg was walking down the street when the delivery boy rammed into him with his bicycle. Sprawled on the street, Goldberg snarled, “Why’d you do that?”

“That’s for the *Titanic*!” the boy yelled.

“The *Titanic*? I didn’t have anything to do with that!”

“Goldberg, Blumberg, Iceberg — they’re all the same to me!”

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## SMILE

A guy from Tyson Foods arranges to visit the Pope. After receiving the papal blessing he whispers, "Your Eminence, we have a deal for you. If you change The Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread...' to 'give us this day our daily chicken....' then we will donate \$500 million dollars to the Church."

The Pope responds saying, "That is impossible. The Prayer is the Word of the Lord and it must not be changed."

"Well," says the Tyson man, "we are prepared to donate \$1 billion to the church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread...' to 'give us this day our daily chicken ...'"

Again, the Pope replies, "That is impossible. The Prayer is the Word of the Lord and it must not be changed."

Finally, the Tyson guy says, "This is our last offer. We will donate \$5 billion to the church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread...' to 'give us this day our daily chicken...'" and he leaves.

The next day the Pope meets with the College of Cardinals to say that he has good news and some bad news.

"The good news is that the Church has come into \$5 billion."

"The bad new is that we are losing the Wonderbread Account!"



## SMILE

A Parrot came to the pet store. He asked, "GOT ANY DOG FOOD?"

Owner: "No."

Next day Parrot returned and asked, "GOT ANY DOG FOOD?"

Owner: "No."

Third day the same thing – Parrot asked, "Got any DOG FOOD?"

Owner: "I told you three times – if you ask again I will nail your feet to the floor."

Next day Parrot comes in. He asks, "GOT ANY NAILS?"

Owner: "No"

Parrot: "Got any dog food?"



## SMILE

In the Pacific during World War II, a young American pilot landed his fighter plane on an aircraft carrier, ran up to the bridge and as he pulled his life jacket over his head, related his day's work.

"What a terrific day I had, Skipper!" he said excitedly. "Shot down six Jap planes, sunk a Jap destroyer and left a Jap battleship wounded."

As he finished pulling his life jacket up over his face, he heard, "Velly good Yank, but you make just one velly bad mistake."

## SMILE

There were two evil brothers. They were rich, and used their money to keep their ways from the public eye. They even attended the same church, and looked to be perfect Christians.

Then, their pastor retired, and a new one was hired. Not only could he see right through the brothers' deception, but the also spoke well and true, and the church started to swell in numbers. A fundraising campaign was started to build a new assembly.

All of a sudden, one of the brothers died. The remaining brother sought out the new pastor the day before the funeral and handed him a check for the amount needed to finish paying for the new building.

"I have only one condition," he said. "At his funeral, you must say my brother was a saint." The pastor gave his word, and deposited the check.

The next day, at the funeral, the pastor did not hold back. "He was an evil man," he said. "He cheated on his wife and abused his family." After going on in this vein for a time, he concluded with, "But, compared to his brother, he was a saint."



## SMILE

One day on his way to work, my husband, a professor, stopped at the cafeteria as it began to rain.

Forgetting that he hadn't brought an umbrella, he reached for the nearest one when he got up to leave. "That's *my* umbrella," a woman immediately scolded.

Abashed as his mistake, Nicholas walked on to his office. He was drenched by the time he arrived.

Once there, he discovered three umbrellas that he had left in the office over the months, and decided to bring them home at the end of the day.

That afternoon he ran into the same woman who had confronted him earlier. She looked at the umbrellas, then at him, and tartly remarked, "You did real well for yourself today, didn't you?"



## SMILE

BVM took a walk on earth and told Jesus 10% of the people were good while 90% were real bad – rotten.

Jesus did not believe it, so He sent an Angel to find out.

The Angel returned and said 10% were good.

Jesus said He would send an Email to the good 10%.

Do you know what it said???

(No)

You mean you did not get one??

## SMILE

A pastor assured his congregation he was their servant and that they should feel free to call him anytime they had a problem.

A few days later his phone rang at 3 a.m. On the other end was a dear elderly lady who said, "Pastor, I can't sleep."

"I'm sorry to hear that," he comforted her. "But what can I do about it?"

"Preach to me awhile," she replied.



## SMILE

**Mary:** Rachel is a terrific housekeeper.

**Joe:** Why do you say that?

**Mary:** Because she's been divorced three times and has kept all three houses.



## THIS IS ONLY A JOKE

### SMILE

God the Father called the BVM in and asked her why she never smiled. All her pictures and statues show her with a serious pose. Mary replied – I'd rather not say. God insisted.

Mary said I'm little afraid to say. God stressed how merciful – and loving He is.

So Mary said – I REALLY WANTED A GIRL.



## SMILE

A politician's wife had a dream. She met St. Peter who had clocks behind him.

She asked why so many?

St. Peter replied that they represented people and their habits.

That one never moves – It belongs to Mother Theresa; she never lies.

The second one belongs to Lincoln; he lied a few times = 12:05.

The politician's wife asked where is my husband's clock?

St. Peter said: O, Jesus has it in his office. He is using it as a fan.



## SMILE

The newly ordained priest was in the midst of performing his first marriage ceremony. His composure was excellent until the time came for the actual application of the ring. The groom fumbled with the ring, so the priest said, "That's alright! Don't be nervous! Just put it on the left finger, third hand!"



*Remember - Smile!*

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL...

In 1969 a steering committee drafted the outline for the parish council, presented a constitution to the parish, and then organized the nomination and parish-wide election of the first council which took place in 1970. All members of our parish community, sixteen years of age and over are eligible for membership on the parish council. All members of our parish community, having attained the age of 14 years may vote in all elections. The current council meets every other month starting in September and ending in May. There are no meetings during the summer months. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Parishioners are welcomed to attend the meetings, during which a wide variety of subjects are discussed from Church liturgy to helping the needy to leaky roofs. The Council acts as an advisory board to the Pastor.

Our current Council Members...

Father Ed Balazy  
Joan Buzo  
Dorothy Choate, *Secretary*  
Virginia Dzenko  
Theresa Hobbins  
Tom Koselka, *President*  
Valerie Koselka  
Ed Moline, *Vice President*  
Maryann Seres, *Treasurer*  
Patricia Wallace



## Something about the ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The Altar and the Rosary Societies of many years ago was to eventually become the Rosary Altar Society. Its purpose is to further Christian Standards among its women and also to enhance the needs of St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church.

The RAS meets 10 times per year usually in the church hall. Our agenda is voted on and always includes the Christmas Bake Sale and Raffle and also the March Card Party and Raffle; we have been known to throw a Harvest Dinner in the past. All monies generated by these functions are turned over to Father Ed Balazy for use at his discretion. It is fair to say that we have always turned over a generous check to the Parish at the end of the year. The annual Parish Chicken Dinner held in June always turns out a fair showing of RAS ladies eager to help in any way they are needed.

We have a monthly RAS Sunday Mass at 9:00 offered for our members and invite two representatives to take up the gifts.

We have tried the last few years to clean our Lord's home usually before Christmas and Easter, lemon oiling the pews and kneelers, and dusting and vacuuming the Altar area. We invite parishioners to come and help us and they have responded.

We keep up with the ailments and illnesses of our members and try our best to send them words of encouragement during their difficult times and when a member dies, we say the Rosary for the repose of their soul on the day before burial. We have a candle honor guard for her on the day of her funeral Mass and her casket is led in by the RAS Banner.



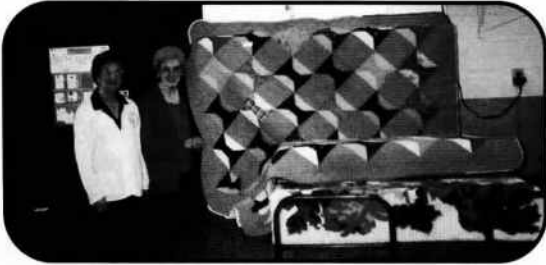
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**Former/Current Presidents (shown above):** Marie Cousins, Lois Grendal, Ann Barnhart, Theresa Hobbins, Dolores Hnot, Clara Maciborski, Flo Aniol, Theresa Smyt, Carol Korte.

**Current Officers (No Photo):** President, Carol Korte; Vice President, Betty Schuster; Treasurer, Jackie Hayes; Secretary, Trudi Stairs; New Membership, Helen Piwowar.



## ST. JOHN'S USHERS CLUB

ST. JOHN'S USHERS CLUB dates back to the early days of the church. These men were brought together because of their willingness to help the priest. Socially the Usher's Club provided the leadership for many parish activities including bingo.

Today the Ushers pick up the Sunday collections, take up the gifts at Offertory time and assist the priest as altar servers. They attend rosaries as a group for deceased members. They raise money through the sale of 50/50 tickets. Their meetings are held every two months on the last Sunday of the month after 11:00 Mass. They help with many parish functions with their monetary and time donations.

Our current ushers are...

William Pace, *President*

Joe Sefcheck, *Vice-President*

George Cassar, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Leo Aniol  
 Michael Birch  
 James Breen  
 Ed Borowski  
 Ted Ceckiewicz  
 Baltassar Filippi  
 Jim Hayes  
 John Kissel  
 Kevin Krzeszowski  
 Robert Labadie

Bob Lefebvre  
 Bill Lloyd  
 Stan Maciborski  
 John Pace  
 Albert Peruski  
 Matthew Pikula  
 Jan Pultorek  
 Jerry Quenneville  
 Walter Seres  
 Bob Woods



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established by Blessed Frederic Ozanam in France in 1833. Frederic named the lay organization after St. Vincent who took care of orphans, established hospitals, gave retreats, founded religious congregations and organized missionary activities.

The Society spread throughout Europe, the United States and other parts of the world. Its mission was to help relieve poverty by providing food, clothing, medical assistance and spiritual guidance to those in need.

At St. John's, a conference was organized in 1982, with seven members and Fr. Balazy as the spiritual advisor. All are volunteers who make home visits to determine need and type of assistance, work in the food depot, send cards to shut-ins, and share food with other organizations. Our conference helps to support the poorest Native American reservation in the United States as well as other programs run by the Society such as the camp program for young boys and girls.

Our current members include: Theresa Hobbins, Valerie Koselka, Kevin Krzeszowski, Ed Moline, Maureen Moline, Helen Piwowar, Bernie Sefcheck and Joe Sefcheck.

We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about the works of the Society and would like to join us in helping to serve the needy of our community.



## EVANGELIZATION

Mr. Joseph Winslow, although not a parishioner, has become a familiar face at Mass during the week. After retiring, Mr. Winslow has chosen to do the Lord's work at St. Dominic's in Detroit, distributing socks, prayer cards, drinks, etc. and sharing the word of God. St. John's SVDP group helps in his mission by furnishing clothing and food; and Father Ed helps by making available the use of a copy machine to reprint prayer cards, a drink dispenser to use in sharing water with those less fortunate and by giving spiritual guidance to Joe in his ministry. This has given St. John's the chance to reach out beyond the boundaries of our parish and to implement the words of our Parish Statement.



### ★ THE MIRACLE PRAYER ★

Lord Jesus, I come before you, just as I am. I am sorry for my sins, I repent of my sins, please forgive me. In your name, I forgive all others for what they have done against me. I renounce satan, the evil spirits and all their works. I give you my entire self. Lord Jesus, now and forever, I invite you into my life Jesus, I accept you as my Lord, God and Saviour. Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body, soul and spirit.

Come Lord Jesus, cover me with your precious blood, and fill me with your Holy Spirit, I Love You Lord Jesus. I Praise You Jesus. I Thank You Jesus. I shall follow you every day of my life. Amen.

Mary my mother, Queen of Peace, St. Peregrine, the cancer saint, all you Angels and Saints please help me. Amen.

Say this Prayer faithfully, no matter how you feel, when you come to the point where you sincerely mean each word, with all your heart, something good spiritually will happen to you. You will experience Jesus, and HE will change your whole life in a very special way. You will see.

© 1993 Servite Fathers, O.S.M.

# BINGO

BINGO... has been a part of St. John's for over 40 years. It is held every Wednesday Night at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall and is not only a fundraiser but a social get together for the parishioners and neighbors. The Bingo kitchen serves full course meals plus the usual sandwiches, coffee, etc. CLUB 12 evolved from the Ushers and were the group who ran the bingos. Today it is a group of dedicated men and women who come on Wednesday Nights to call numbers, sell cards, etc.

Currently busy helping at Bingo are: Flo Aniol, Leo Aniol, Al Korte, Carol Korte, Ed Korte, Bob Labadie, Bill Lloyd, Shirley Morgan, Mary Olivarez, Helen Petroski, Joseph Sefcheck, Walter Seres, Trudi Stairs.



**B**  
**8**



**I**  
**23**



*"Bingo Kitchen"*



**N**  
**38**



**G**  
**53**



*"Bingo Kitchen"*



**O**  
**68**



*"Bingo Dinner"*

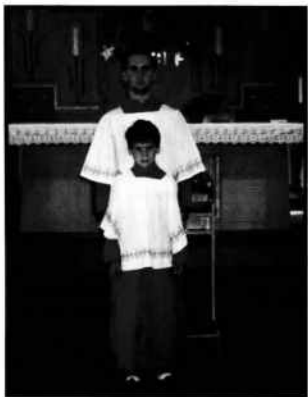


# Serving The Lord In Church . . .

## ALTAR SERVERS

ALTAR SERVERS . . . male and female, leading the priest into church carrying the cross and being the priest's helper as the congregation gathers to celebrate Mass.

Joseph Amore, Christopher Byars, Christopher Cassar, Stephanie Cassar, David Lafata, Amanda Munoz, Jessica Munoz, Nicholas Sobczak, Christopher Whicker.



*Jim Breen, Fr. Balazy and Tom Koselka  
(assist during week)*

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST . . . help to distribute Holy Communion (hosts and wine) at weekend Masses, sometimes making hospital or home visits with the hosts. They are a dedicated group as the laity become more involved in the celebration of the Mass.

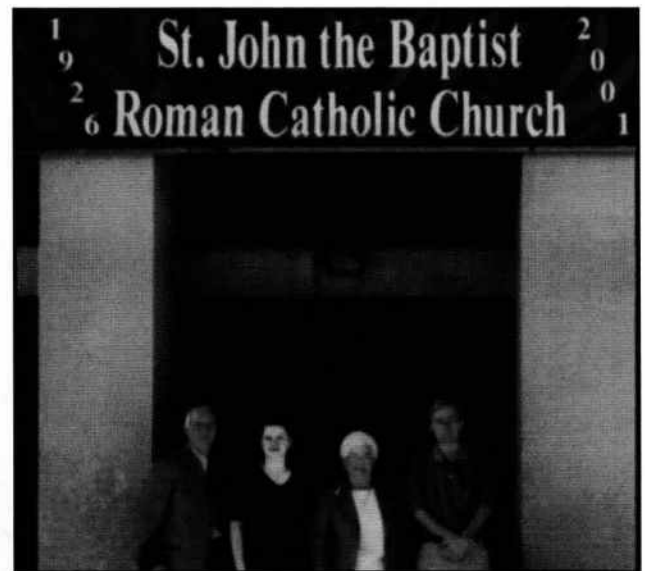
Flo Aniol, Jeanette Busch, Stella Buczynski, Joan Buzo, Dolores Cassar, Pauline Ellul, Theresa Glinka, Theresa Hobbins, Tom Koselka, Nancy Lewerenz, Ed Moline, Martha Moline, Walter Quillico, Roseann Quillico, Ann Rozich, Maryann Seres, Betty Suwienski, Pat Wallace, Gertrude Stairs (sub).



## LECTORS

LECTORS . . . dedication to doing readings and prayers and helping the congregation to participate in and follow the proper order of the Mass make the lectors another visible sign of the increasing participation of the laity in spreading the word of the Lord.

Flo Aniol, Dolores Cassar, Tom Koselka, Ed Moline, Martha Moline, Walter Quillico, Ann Rozich, Pat Wallace, Gertrude Stairs (sub).



## *Our Choir Director . . .*

# *Natalie (Quillico) Zelenak*

I recently played a funeral for the father of a former St. John's classmate. The classmate came up in the choir loft to say hello. "You still here?" he asked with surprise.

I have been here a long time, my whole life in fact. I was baptized, confirmed and married here. I received first Holy Communion, Reconciliation and my early education here. It was here that I received a calling to the music ministry.

As a child I was drawn to music. Our neighbor had a 2 octave play organ that I would spend hours playing. She must have gotten sick of me because one day she told me to take the thing home. My mom made me put it in the basement where I spent hours figuring melodies out by ear.

My parents were unaware of my budding interest in music. It took a St. John's parishioner to take notice. He stopped by one night on parish business and heard me playing. "Who's playing music downstairs?" he asked. My parents replied with a wave of their hand, "Oh, that's just Natalie making noise." The parishioner rebutted, "No, she's actually playing songs. You should get that girl lessons."

The parishioner told them that Leo and Flo Aniol (also parishioners) had a daughter who taught piano. I was thrilled at the prospect of learning to play the piano. My father however could not resist the hypnotic electronic rhythms of a Wurlitzer organ. The man at the Mall convinced him that in one short week he would be playing "When the Saints go Marching In" like a professional while using just two fingers - so I learned to play the organ. The Lord works in mysterious ways.

Laura Aniol gave me lessons and after about a year and a half brought me to St. John's to play for Mass. It was Laura who pushed the microphone in front of me and told me to sing. I was scared but obedient. So since the age of 9, I've been playing and singing here at St. John's.



I have so many memories of getting out of class to play for Mass or a funeral when Sister Cyrilla was unavailable. St. John's was very kind and supportive as my abilities developed. Even when I made mistakes, like the time I played all the wrong songs at the wrong time for a Novena, the parishioners were gentle with their correction.

I've done many other things musically but none of my experiences have given me the joy and fulfillment that playing and singing here at St. John's has. Working with the choir and the children of St. John's at Christmas has been an added joy. St. John's is a warm place, its people are unpretentious, hard working and dedicated. So many of you through the years have thanked me for my services but you have given me so much more than I could ever give you. It has been a real honor to lead you in praise, to comfort you in loss and to rejoice with you in times of celebration.

So yes, I'm still here. St. John's is a part of me and always will be no matter where I am. Congratulations on 75 years and thank you for letting me be a part of them.

*~ Natalie (Quillico) Zelenak*





# Choir Members

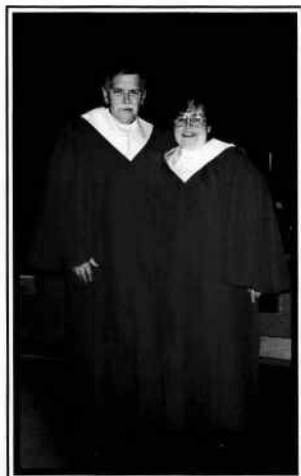


NATALIE ZELENAK, *Director*

Roger Crepeau  
Kathy Howard  
Albert Korte  
Carol Korte  
Valerie Koselka

Tony Kushner  
Jim Lamb  
Rose Machowicz  
Monica Moline  
Mary Olivarez

Walter Quillico  
Dorothy Roston  
Bettie Schuster  
Angus Wrigley  
Dave Zelenak



## *The Staff . . .*



**Willie Jenders**  
Custodian



**Albert Korte**  
Assistant



**Joe Sefcheck**  
Groundskeeper



**Sophie Kolin**  
Housekeeper

## *Altar Help . . .*

CARING FOR THE ALTAR LINENS, DECORATING, SETTING UP THE ALTAR

Jeanette Busch, Pauline Ellul, Theresa Glinka,  
Theresa Hobbins, Sister Joan, Sister Juanita



## *Newsletter . . .*



***A**s many things of the parish have their origins at a Parish Council meeting, so, too, did the idea for the monthly Newsletter. It was suggested that additional information about the parish doings be written up and attached to the weekly Sunday Bulletin. It would be published on the first Sunday of the month. The first Newsletter was published in April of 1991-it was one page listing the parish organizations, what they were all about and who the officers were so parish members would know who to contact.*

*The Newsletter has grown from that day in April. Today, ten years later, it not only contains expanded organization information but also Parish Council Meeting Highlights, a calendar of events, trip tidbits, local area news, etc. In December of 1998, Carol Korte began submitting for publication in the Newsletter "Getting To Know You"-biographical stories about our parish families. Carol has a wonderful knack of getting people to share their stories with her and then a beautiful way of putting it all down on paper. How lucky St. John's is to have her as a member of the parish.*

*Dorothy Choate has been the "editor" of the Newsletter since its beginnings.*



# *St. John's Travellers . . .*



**I**n 1995 St. John the Baptist Grade School closed after nearly 70 years of service to the area. The composition of the parish had changed—the average age of a parishioner being late 50's early 60's. Thoughts turned to doing something for the “older” members of the parish. Maryann Seres approached Father Ed at a Council Meeting about renting a bus and planning some one day or more trips that the members of the parish could enjoy. Maryann got permission and spent time doing some research. On November 18, 1996, via Bianco Tours, St. John's Travellers boarded the bus to Toledo, Ohio, to see the Charlie Prose Show.

As the parish celebrated their 75th anniversary this year 2001, St. John's Travellers celebrated their 5th anniversary of travel—Branson, Missouri; Niagara Falls; London, Ontario; Stratford, Ontario; Turkeyville; Jack Miner's; Our Lady of Czestochowa and Belleville Shrines; too many others to mention. Every month the group travels. We saw stage shows; cruised the rivers; toured cheese factories; saw the tulips in Holland; experienced the beautiful Christmas lights at Domino Farms, Huckleberry Railroad, Niagara, Hines Park. We prayed together at the

shrines. We lost and won at the Casinos. We shared many a lunch, dinner and dessert—and sometimes even toasted to each other's health. Sometimes the bus ride was as much fun as the destination.

Special Thanks goes out to Maryann Seres, who organizes the monthly trips; to Genevieve Woods (her assistant); and to Wally Seres and Bob Woods (their husbands). Special Thanks also goes to Father Ed who gave his permission and who helps with the costs by having the parish contribute \$10.00 towards most trips for parishioners. Non-parishioners are invited to travel and are always made to feel welcome. A 5 year reunion was celebrated in conjunction with the annual Eucharistic Meal held in the parish hall in November. Photos from the trips were on display and Maryann, Genevieve and Father Ed were recognized for their part in this special program at St. John's.

We should also recognize Helen Petroski who furnishes the trip photos that are posted on the Picture Board in the back of the Church. Whenever Helen travels with Bianco, you can be sure pictures will be taken.

*(continued on next page)*





*G. & B. Woods*



*M. & W. Seres*



*H. Petroski*



*5 Year Anniversary*



# *Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Tatry Dancers . . .*



*Director Rose Ann Lackey and Husband, Tom*

*2001 was the 30th anniversary of the Tatry dance group. Their theme for the year was "Tatry Celebrates 30 Years of Polish Soul". They originated from St. John's Parish in 1971 and continue to practice there. It has always been popular for dance groups to associate themselves with regions, historic places, or cities in Poland. The Tatra Mountains are part of the vast Carpathian Chain which forms Poland's southern border, and the Tatry Region, with its chief city, Zakopane, is known as the winter capital of Poland. It is also the place where Poland's most loved regional dance, Goralski, comes from.*

*Alumni were invited to join in the 30th anniversary celebration—16 came back and danced the Krakowiak and to Polish Soul, a Tatry Original, at their recital on April 28, 2001. Graduates from the Tatry Dance Group for 2001 were Cassandra Bentley, Jennifer Koslovich and Adam Szlag. The Tatrysts performed at St. John's 75th anniversary celebration of October 14th and alumni, Angela Pernak was chosen to release one of 3 doves after the celebration of Mass that day.*

*(continued on next page)*

*In 1971, I helped organize the Tatry Dancers at St. John's and remain active with the group today. My daughters Laura and Karen danced with the group and today my granddaughter, Caroline Mrowka continues the tradition.*

*~ Jeanne Wisniewski*

*Polish Roman Catholic Union of America*  
*Tatry Dancers and Alumni 2001*



**Top Row:** Andy Bentley, Stephen Haycox, Joseph Montagano, Tom Lackey, Tim Lackey, Justin Hicks, Jason Leszczynski, Tom Bartnicki, Dan Malkiewicz, Rian McDonald, Joel McDonald.

**Fourth Row:** Kathleen Okroy, Madeline Kwiecien, Angela Pernak, Amy Pernak, Christina Szlag, Angela Giblak, Lisa (Roth) O'Neill, Victoria Kasprzak, Karen Sas, Veronica (Kasprzak) Defoe, Michelle (Bartnicki) Quinn, Lauren Leszczynski, Jeff Malkiewicz, Scott Dixon, Rose Ann Lackey - *Tatry Director*.

**Third Row:** Karen Lubiarsz - *Tatry Choreographer*, Nicole Giblak, Victoria Miller, Mary Elizabeth Haycox, Amber Hicks, Cassandra Bentley, Adam Szlag, Jennifer Koslovich, Jacky Koslovich, Amanda Dixon, Jillian

Kwecien, Katie Blicharz, Amanda Uszynski, Brandie Samuel, Jessica Boroniec, Emily Welker.

**Second Row:** Kristen Samuel, Traice Rokita, Caroline Mrowka, Kaitlin Belcher, Shannon Blicharz, Ali Dixon, Mark Dixon, Grant Shymanski, Drew Asel, Sarah Wojnarowski, Stacey Malinowski, Amber Stanek, Kelsey Blicharz, Jaclyn Bedford, Julie Koslovich, Rachael Killam, Teresa Wojnarowski.

**Bottom Row:** Camille Rokita, Caitlin Byars, Emily Wolffe, Laura Shymanski, Brenden McDonald, Matthew Bartnicki, Jessica Shymanski, Anne Shymanski, Kaitlin Boroniec, Autumn Stanek, Kelsey Ehnis, Jessica Bartnicki.

**Not Pictured:** Todd Lackey, Alexandria Montagano.



## *Historical Record of St. John's Metro Senior Citizens Club . . .*

*...was organized in March, 1965 by Marie Thayer, Father Witkowski and Sophie Waske. The group was named by St. John's Church but run by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The first officers were:*

*President: Bernard Okray*

*Vice-President: Harold Wells*

*Secretary: Lillian Adams*

*Treasurer: Sophie Waske*

*All of the above were members of St. John's Parish.*

*Some of the activities of that founding group were trips to Belle Isle, Boblo, Michigan State Fair, Tiger Stadium, Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary; Christmas dinner with guest Mayor John Canfield (first mayor of Dearborn Heights). Trips were done by bus or carpooling.*

*Lunches were enjoyed with senior members of other local churches, including St. Sebastian and Our Lady of Grace.*

*Anna Schultz became a member in 1966 and through her years as a member was a reporter for the New Scan Paper, served as secretary for 16 years and planned many of the club's activities.*

*Mrs. Clara Waske was a member of the club and is still a member of the Parish. Her mother-in-law Sophie was the first Treasurer in 1965.*

*Pastors who were involved with the Club in some capacity...Father Witkowski, Father Karasiewicz, Father Balazy. Places where at times the meetings were held: Monte Carlo Hall, St. John's Ushers Room, Weddell Recreation Building.*

*From over 75 members in 1965, membership by 1980 went down to about 30 members. (The information above was furnished by Mrs. ANNA SCHULTZ, 92 years young, who in 1980 when the Senior Club celebrated their 15th anniversary, compiled a history of the club from 1965 until that anniversary.)*

*TODAY seniors from St. John's meet at the Eton Center for lunch and participate in activities such as bingo, dances, fashion shows, exercise classes, playing cards, etc.*



**THE OLDEST LIVING PARISHIONER . . .**

*Catharine Campbell--97 years young.*





# Miscellaneous Parish Activities . . .



## Baptisms



## Sr. Joan's 40th Anniversary



## Weddings/Anniversaries



Who was baptized, confirmed and married at St. John's and still belongs to the parish?

Harry Bacalia

Valerie (Warunek) Koselka

Marguerite (Lamphere) Selonke

and Natalie (Quillico) Zelenak





# Miscellaneous Parish Activities . . .



**Spaghetti Dinner**



**Pancake Breakfast**



**K of C Communion Breakfast**



**Blessed Mother Statue**



**Jubilarians**



**Potluck Dinner**



**May Crowning**



*My sons Larry, Dave and Johnny had a band and played for weddings at St. John's and at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration in 1976.*

*~ Jeanne Wisniewski*

## *Church Interior*

**T**he sanctuary contains the main altar and crucifix. The altar symbolizes Calvary and table of the Last Supper, while the Crucifix reminds us of Our Lord's death.

When the present church was constructed in 1954, new furnishings, altar, statues, pulpit were donated or purchased by friends and parishioners to fill the interior of the church. The main altar was a gift from a personal friend of former pastor, Fr. Theodore Kowalewski. Originally it was located against the back wall of the sanctuary under the crucifix, however, after the Second Vatican Council, it was moved forward. The canopy and drapes were removed and the sanctuary and side altars were painted with symbols representing the truths of our faith by Sr. Christine and a friend of Fr. Ed.

The corpus on the cross was carved from a single piece of wood in Switzerland. Both the altar and crucifix were constructed and designed by the Detroit Woodcraft Company.

The baptistry was located in the rear of the church and was intended to become part of the tower which was never built. About 1999, one of the confessionals was removed and the baptistry was brought forward in the church. Mr. Joseph McLain was responsible for the work around it. The current baptismal font

was donated by the Rosary Altar Society when Fr. Mitchell Witkowski was pastor. The whereabouts of the original font are not known, but often when a church is remodeled or rebuilt, poorer parishes receive the original piece that is replaced.

In the last twenty two years, many other changes have taken place within the interior of St. John's. New carpeting, lighting, organ and chimes were added. Pews were stained and kneelers were covered; some pews were removed for handicap access. The Baptism of Our Lord woodcarving was rescued by Mr. Knoblock, when Immaculate Conception parish was being demolished, and given to Fr. Ed.

The wood statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph were moved together on one side altar and a picture of the Divine Mercy of Jesus was hung near the Tabernacle side altar.

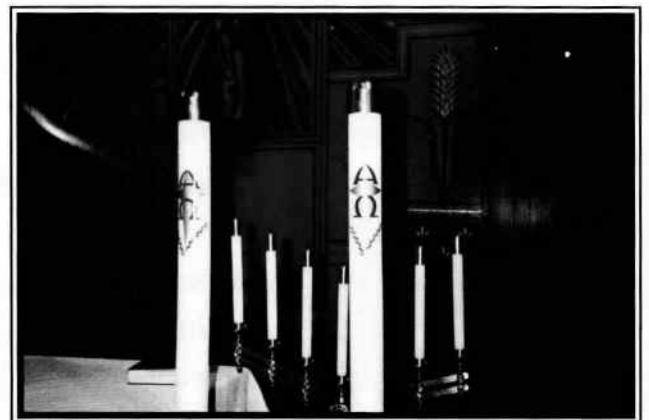
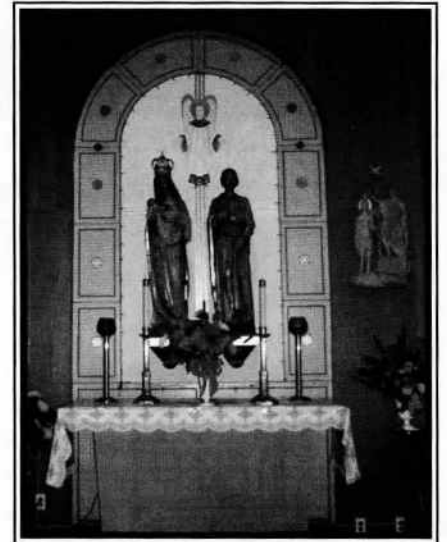
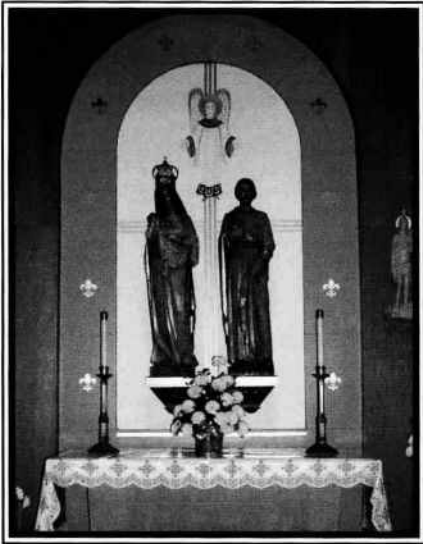
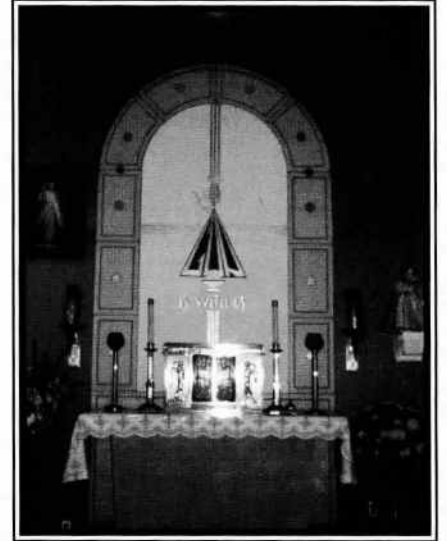
The sanctuary and side altars were repainted in November 2001 by Willie Jenders and Fran McCans. The arches behind each side altar were painted blue and the symbols of fleur-de-lis and the cross were used.

The Infant of Prague statue remains in its place on the wall to the left of the Tabernacle. All of these symbols and religious art help us as we worship Our Lord in this church building. Let us be grateful for that freedom.

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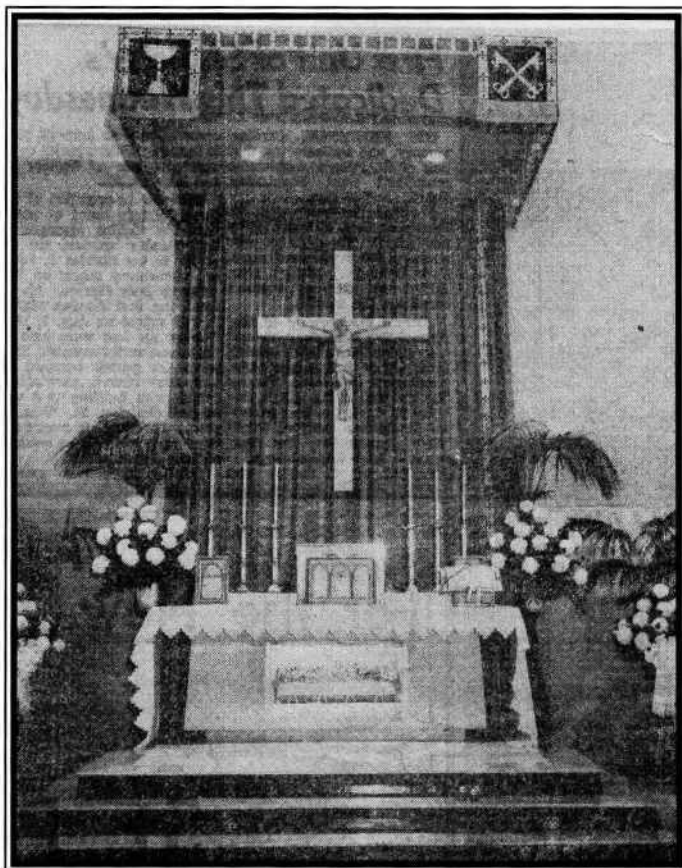
# Church Interior



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# Church Interior

The pictures on this page are of the current church as it looked when built in 1955.



**MAIN ALTAR** at St. John the Baptist church, Dearborn, is a gift of one person, a personal friend of Fr. Theodore F. Kowalewski, pastor. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. The corpus (body) on the cross is handcarved from one piece of wood and was done in Switzerland. The cross and the altar were designed and constructed by Detroit Woodcraft Co. The stations, also made in Switzerland and valued at \$1,800, were donated by a parishioner.



**BAPTISTRY** in St. John the Baptist church, Dearborn, is temporary. Plans call for the baptistry to be in the tower, which will be completed in the future.

*The Altar Society donated the baptismal font used today, in 1970, in memory of Fr. Mitch.*

*~ Theresa Hobbins*



**THE NEW** St. John Baptist church has a 'crying room' which can accommodate 20 persons. The glass partition permits the parents and babies to look into the church and follow the services and the public address system permits the persons to hear the services.





# *Special Events Of Our 75th Year 2001*

**I**n May 2000, the Parish Council voted to donate a statue of the Blessed Virgin. Pat and Ray Miller and Marguerite Selonke were instrumental in the shopping for and purchasing of the Statue which is now on display in front of the Rectory. It has become a most welcomed addition to the parish grounds and has been the site of much picture taking.

The Parish COOKBOOKS "Recipes from the Heart" were available Christmas, 2000, and continued to sell throughout the year 2001.

In February, CHILDHOOD PICTURES of the Parish Council members, and the officers of the Rosary Altar Society and the Ushers were posted on the picture board. It was fun trying to guess who they were. The winner was Dorothy Dombroski.

The Parish MISSION STATEMENT was born as it first appeared on the January 2001 Church Bulletin.

The BUCKET BRIGADE was formed by the RAS to give an extra dusting to the Church for the Easter Season. December found the Brigade spiffing up the Church for Christmas, too.

The first Sunday of April, Coffee/Donuts Sunday honored those celebrating

their 75th BIRTHDAY along with the Parish. The Birthday men and women were treated to complimentary coffee and donuts and also received a birthday cup and would be entitled to a free ad in the 75th anniversary booklet.

June 5th, our own Robert Lefebvre appeared on the TV show the Price is Right. It was a dream of his for many years to meet Bob Barker. Bob didn't go on to play for the grand prize but did very well. Congrats!

CHIMES...installed in the Church in the Fall added wonderful sound to our October 14th 75th anniversary celebration and will continue to sound out for many years to come. The first funeral at which the chimes were played was for Max Wezensky, who entered eternal life on September 22, 2001.

Along with the "firsts" of the year 2001, the parish continues to have Coffee/Donuts on the first Sunday of the month; the annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast; the RAS Card Party/Luncheon in March; the Chicken Dinner/Raffle in June; the Spaghetti Dinner in September; the RAS Bake Sale in December; Bingo on Wednesday nights, Eucharistic Potluck Meal near the feast of Christ the King.



## ***NEW PARISHIONERS for the Year 2001...***

Ronald Mascot	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Moros	Rosemarie Sirianni
Angus Wrigley	Mr. and Mrs. Ken French	Mr. and Mrs. Roger Crepeau
Mr. and Mrs. S. Ross	J. Neville - J. Kipp	Mr. and Mrs. B. Navarro
Mr. and Mrs. Britt Kiah	Mr. and Mrs. H. Dallape	Mr. and Mrs. F. Allen
Erik Schwartz	Mr. and Mrs. Jason Belaire	Kelly Tefft
Michael Edge	Mr. and Mrs. Joe DeGhetto	R. Lawrence

## ***BAPTISMS for the Year 2001...***

Thomas R. Davis II	1-28-01	Tony De Frank	4-14-01
Caroline Kaniowski	2-11-01	Rachel Marie Kaniowski	4-29-01
Jacob Schwartz	2-25-01	Christopher Daniel Janice	6-03-01
Sydney Nicole Pace	3-18-01	Evan Nicklas Belaire	11-11-01
Hannah Grace Rybski	4-01-01	Mackenzie Ann Kortier	11-11-01

## ***MARRIAGES for the Year 2001...***

Kim Winter - Pat Dorton	4-28-01
Jeffrey Moline Jr. - Amanda Ritter	7-28-01
Brett Kiah - Anissa Culp	8-03-01
Anne Mellnick - Steven O'Connor	10-05-01
Erik Schwartz - Jaime LaPlante	11-13-01

## ***DEATHS for the Year 2001...***

Paul Monat	01-07-01	Steven Reynolds	08-08-01
Ed Lark	01-10-01	Ray Miller	08-09-01
Anna Jacek	02-23-01	Max Wezensky	09-22-01
Dorothy Dombroski	03-01-01	John Gildo	10-23-01
Frank Komar	03-06-01	Shirley Moros	12-03-01
Edward Piendel	06-03-01	Edward Robakiewicz	12-09-01
Robert Budde	06-17-01	Anna Kozma	12-11-01
John Lewis	07-07-01	Robert Piendel	12-19-01
Viola Strucinski	07-23-01		

# Happy 75th!!!

**O**n April 1, 2001, parishioners celebrating their 75th birthday along with St. John's Church were recognized on this special occasion at coffee and donuts. Along with complimentary continental breakfast and a small gift, they would receive a complimentary copy of the anniversary book when it was available.

*Celebrating were Theresa Hobbins, John Kissel, Alex Machowicz, Wally and Helen Piwowar, and Shirley Polak.*



*Helen & Wally Piwowar*



*John Kissel*



*Shirley Polak, Alex Machowicz & Theresa Hobbins*



# Murzin, Moline & Woods

*Sophia Murzin was the only graduate of the first graduating class from St. John's School in 1929. Martha Moline was a member of the last graduating class in 1995. Genevieve and Bob Woods celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2001. These four wonderful people participated in a special way in the parish's 75th anniversary Mass on October 14, 2001 by carrying up the gifts at Offertory time.*

## **"The Beginning Years" with . . . SOPHIA MURZIN**



This charming, extremely well-travelled 84 year old parishioner with an admitted, "insatiable appetite for knowledge", graciously took time to look back to her early remembrances of St. John's.

Sophia's parents Bernice & John Galazyn lived in Inkster about 7 blocks from where St. Johns would be built. The church had its first origins on Annapolis in a store. And she can proudly point to the fact that her parents were among the first parishioners and that her Dad went on to help build the first rectory around 1926.

First grade found Sophia at Freeman School at Beech Daly and Van Born Rd where present CVS stands. Second grade found her enrolled at Sacred Heart being bussed there where she and brother Walter received their First Communion. Third grade saw her enrolled at St. John's school and she went on to complete 4th through 8th grades having the distinction of being the only 8th grader to graduate that year.

The original school was completed around 1929 and Sophia remembers it being a 2 story brick structure located approximately where our present church now stands. Sophia says the school had 8 grades with 1 through 4 on the east side of one large room and 5 through 8 on the west side of that same large room with just a hallway dividing the two groupings. She says that it was quite easy to tune one's mind to the teachings of another classroom when the opportunity

presented itself. She said maybe one could pick up multiplication tables, handwriting lessons and, of course, catechism lessons in Polish and English. Sophia speaks Polish fluently. She is certain there was probably a cook for the nuns. The students brought lunches or went home for lunch.

Sister Florian was teacher of all four upper grades and Sophia asks "can you imagine the stress that had to put on her?" The principal was Sister Theodosia, who also taught the lower grades!

Sophia says tuition couldn't have been much as it was during depression. She goes on to remember Father Bona being first priest followed by Father Hewelt. Then Father John J. Bartkowiak became the first Resident Pastor. He was close friends with Sophia's family and as it was during the depression when nobody had much of anything such as food or money, she relates a touching little story. Seems Father Bartkowiak came to her parents home one day and asked if the family had anything to eat. He was starving and had no food. Sophia's mother said "no, but come in Father and we'll figure something out." She says her mom was good at making something out of nothing. Soon enough, her mother was at the stove frying onions and turned out an onion sandwich for Father. She recalls his eating the sandwich with gusto, as if it were a steak sandwich. Sophia says that was the reality of those bad times. Sophia remembers Father Bartkowiak as being a wonderful speaker from the pulpit.

Sophia with her Liberal Arts degree from Wayne State, her Masters from Eastern Michigan University, went on to spend 20 months on her dissertation (writing it all in long hand) and proudly earned her Doctorate in Education. And, let us remember that this well- educated parishioner had a very good foundation which began at St. John's school. This little one who was taught here, went on to teach others. Thanks, Dr. Murzin, for sharing your memories.

*(continued on next page)*

*"The Beginning Years" with . . .*  
**MARTHA MOLINE**

I attended St. John the Baptist Catholic School from kindergarten through the 8th grade. I was the salutatorian of the last graduating class. There were nine of us graduating that last year. St. John's grade school was a wonderful starting point for me. I learned a great deal from my time there, not only academically but also in terms of faith, loyalty, and friendship.

From St. John's grade school I was accepted into Divine Child High School. Upon my graduation from Divine Child I applied to the University of Detroit Mercy, where I currently attend classes. I am pursuing a double major in psychology and criminal justice. This is my third year at UDM, and I hope to apply to graduate school and receive my Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology. In addition to attending school full time I work at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. I work as a supervisor for Northwest security.



*Last Graduating Class  
(Martha first on left)*

*"The Beginning Years" with . . .*  
**BOB & GENEVIEVE WOODS**



**Bob and Genevieve Woods**...were married in Flushing, Michigan in October of 1941. They have four children. In October of 1945, the Woods moved to Dearborn Heights to their present address. Joining St. John's in that same year, they recall being members of a little white church somewhat the size of an old country school. Robert was active in fundraising to build the new church. Their children graduated from the Westwood School District. Genevieve joined what would become the Rosary Altar Society around 1946 and was active with the Teen Club for several years. Robert joined the Ushers Club around 1951 and is still active. He is currently the oldest member and the longest serving. Genevieve is currently assisting Maryann Seres in planning the St. John's Travellers trips with Bianco Tours.

*Special Thanks To Sister Joan Szkutnicki*

*who made the*

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner,*

*which hung in St. John's Church during 2001*

*and adorns the back cover of this anniversary book.*

*The banner was given to St. Clement R. C. Church, Dearborn,*

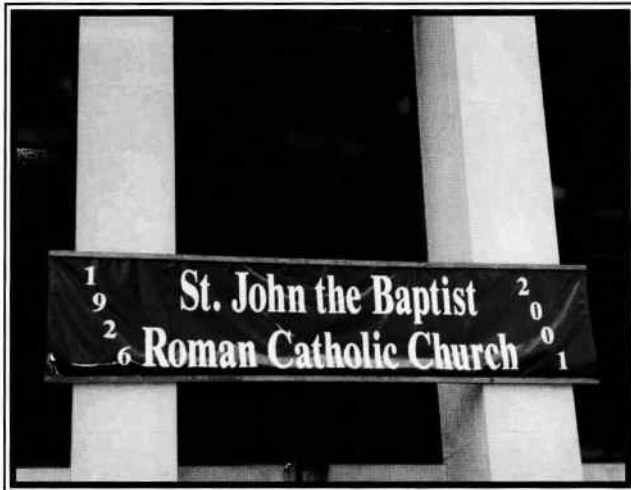
*which is in 2002 celebrating its*

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!*



# *Sunday, October 14th, 2001*

## *The 75th Anniversary Celebration*



*11:00 a.m. Mass began with a procession led by our Choir and included the Altar Servers, Organization Officers, PRCUA Tatry Dancers, Father Ed and visiting Priests, Msgr. Kucyk (Divine Child), Rev. Phillips (St. Linus) and Rev. Kaiser (Sacred Heart). The church was decorated with mums of many beautiful fall colors giving a glow to the church, which was filled with parishioners and visitors from far and near. Sophia Murzin, the first graduate of St. John's School and Martha Moline, a graduate of the last graduating class (1995) along with Genevieve and Bob Woods, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary, had the special honor of taking up the gifts at offertory time.*

*After Mass, all gathered in front of the church where 3 doves, symbolizing Faith, Hope and Charity (part of our Parish Statement) were released by our Pastor Father Ed, parishioner Valerie Koselka and Tatry Dancer Angela Pernak. Then the sky was filled with 200 blue, yellow and white balloons released by the crowd gathered outside the church.*

*A reception followed at the Lyskawa Post on Waverly in Dearborn Heights. Hors d'oeuvres were served from 12 Noon till 1:15 p.m. at which time those in attendance were entertained by the PRCUA Tatry Dancers, who were celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. Dinner followed the dancers with a prayer led by Father Ed and a toast by Bob Lefebvre. The New Generations Band entertained during dinner and continued with the great music until the afternoon ended at 6:00 p.m.*

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# Balloons . . . Balloons . . . Balloons

As part of the church's 75th anniversary celebration, 200 yellow, blue and white balloons were released on October 14th after Mass. The winds must have been blowing southeast as five replies were received from the Windsor, Ontario area ... two by telephone and 3 families were kind enough to write. Charmane Joyes telephoned having found the balloon in her backyard and called to be sure the event was real and legitimate. Upon finding that it was, expressed her congratulations. Also, a call was received from Judy and Calvin McIntyre. Calvin was in his daughter's bedroom when he noticed the balloon in his backyard behind an apple tree. He then had Judy find out the church's phone number and call. For information, only the church's address and a brief message about the anniversary were on labels attached to each balloon. Also received were three notes ... they are shared with you below.

October 14

Dear Parish,

I just found a yellow balloon with your address. I am amazed that it sailed this way, since the wind has been from the south.


Congratulations on your 75 years as a parish. May you have many more anniversaries to celebrate.

Sincerely,  
Margaret-Evans  
Tecumseh, Ontario  
Canada

Dear Father,

On Oct. 14/2001 we were celebrating our 50 th Anniversary when from out of the sky a balloon landed on our lawn while we were taking pictures. We were overjoyed to read that your parish was celebrating your 75 th Anniversary. Our grandson tied the balloon to the sign as you will see in the enclosed picture. We are parishioners of the " Parish of the Atonement " ( Fransiscan Friars ). Our country and parish is united daily in Mass and prayers for Peace and unity throughout the world. It was a memorable occasion for us to have received the balloon on your 75th and our 50th anniversaries.

May God bless you and your parishioners,  
Sincerely,  
Your Canadian neighbours,  
Ron & June G. Pines




friends, good health and lots of laughs!

Sincerely,  
Lisa, Chris, Dana & Kyle  
Chevalier  
Windsor, Ontario  
Canada

Nov 13/01

Dear St. John Church,  
My Husband found the balloon from your parish in October. I am sorry it is taking me so long to respond to your request. We live in Windsor, Ontario - about 4 1/2 miles east of downtown Windsor - in a town called Riverside.

Congratulations on 75 years of being a parish! That sure is an accomplishment! May God Bless you all with a long and happy life filled with wonderful






14 October 2001





**14 October 2001**



**14 October 2001**



# Patrons

- ANDRUSIAK - Virginia - Edmund - Eleanor  
Henry - Clement - Raymond - Rose
- ANIOL, Leo & Flo  
Ann and Mark  
Monica and Craig  
Laura and Vito  
Leo and Peggy  
David and Brenda
- ANIOL, Irvin  
In memory of Louis & Josephine ARQUETTE,  
Bill & Delores BRAY
- BACALIA, Harry and Barbara Sue
- BALAZY, Rev. Edwin  
"Our Shepherd"
- BARNHART, Ann  
David & Kathy Barnhart  
Karen Payne
- "Thanks be to God" - Grandville & Stella BEATTY
- BELAIRE, Jason & Cathleen & sons, Alexander & Evan  
Marty and Louise BERGIEL and Family
- BREEN, Jim and Therese
- BUCZYNSKI - In memory of John Buczynski  
Stella Buczynski  
Julianne Buczynski Foster  
Bill & Rose Buczynski Cook
- BUSCH, Jeannette E.
- BUZO, Joan  
David and Sharon Buzo, Sr., Amanda and David Jr.  
Maria and Glenn Pangrazzi, Garrett & Michael  
Christina and Christopher Bordnick, Lauren & Drake
- BYARS, Thomas & Rae Ann & Family
- CARELLI, Joseph & Joanna  
In memory of Louis CAREY by wife, Dorothy, & Family  
In memory of living and deceased classmates of  
St. John's Class of 1965 by Joseph CAREY
- CAROL, George, Florence, Larry
- CASSAR, George & Dolores  
Joseph & Susan  
Catherine  
Gabriel & Lisa  
Chris & Stephanie
- CECKIEWICZ, Theodore & Marie  
In memory of Isabelle and Charles CHIECA
- CHOATE, Bob and Dorothy  
Dave and Cathleen Geistler
- CIESLAK - In memory of Donald E.  
In memory of CIUPAK Family- Beatrice Janiga  
In memory of Charles COUSINS - Marie and Family
- CREPEAU, Roger & Bernadine  
In memory of Sister Mary CYRILLA - Sister Juanita  
In memory of Dorothy "Alvin" DOMBROSKI
- DOMBROSKI, Dorothy- In loving memory, Kevin
- DZENKO, Norbert & Virginia
- FERNANDEZ, Mary & Ernie - Thank you for 75 years!
- FILIPPI, Geraldine & Baldassare  
Jeffrey, Kathryn, Gary & Paula
- FORREST, Marilyn S.  
In memory of Julia GAJEWSKI - Edmond
- In memory of Walter GALAZEN by Margaret & Family
- GOLBA, Gary and Barbara  
In memory of Parents- Raymond & Otilia GWISDELA
- HAYES, Jim & Jackie  
HNOT, Dolores (Bacalia) Rzucidlo  
HOBBINS, Theresa - Happy 75th!  
HOBBINS & SCHICKEL Families by Theresa  
In memory of Louis IADONISI by Agnes  
In memory of Anna JACEK by niece Theresa Glinka  
Sister Mary JUANITA & Betsy  
In memory of my family- Helen KAMINSKI  
Happy 75th St. John's! - KANSKI Family
- KARCZEWSKI, William Sr. & Stella -  
In memory, John & Kevin
- KISSEL, John - Happy 75th!
- KOCH - In memory of Leo and Dolores Koch  
A Loving Parish, Loving Priest - Al, Carol and Ed KORTE  
In memory of KOSELKA family by Valerie & Tom  
In memory of Beatrice & Everett KOSELKA  
by Valerie & Tom
- KREY, Alfreda - In loving memory of my husband
- KRZESZOWSKI, John  
KRZESZOWSKI, Kevin  
KRZESZOWSKI, Matylda (Tillie) - In loving memory,  
John & Kevin
- KRZESZOWSKI, Frank & Mary, Frank P.,  
Mary Durkee & Matylda
- KUSHNER, Tony, Denise and family
- LABADIE, Bob and Theresa
- LEFEBVRE, Bob & Mary Lou  
Carol & Rick Thomas  
Elaine Lefebvre & Kim Sluja  
Terry, Tara & Lisa Barrette  
Don & Sue Lefebvre  
Bob & Debi Lefebvre  
Chris & Bob Milestone  
Karen & Tom Mager  
Jack Lefebvre  
Gerard & Kathleen Lefebvre  
Rosanne & Bob Promo  
Michelle & Steve Lamb
- LEWERENZ, Robert and Nancy & Family  
In memory of John LEWIS  
In memory of Mike LLOYD- Bill & Rosemary,  
Sandy & Caroline
- MACHOWICZ, Alex & Rose
- MACIBORSKI, Stanley and Clara
- MAHONEY, Beverly  
MAHONEY, Jock  
Dominick and Frances MAZZOCCO  
In memory of Alex McGEACHY by Betty and Family
- McLAIN, John and Caroline
- MENDYK, Ed and Irene  
In memory of Paul MONAT
- MOROS, Dennis & Shirley
- MOUSSEAU - Louise and Family
- MURZIN, Sophia
- MYSZKOWSKI, Clara

(continued on next page)

Congratulations! -

Ed and Mary NAPIER  
In memory of Helen NAPIERALA- Dorothy Roston  
Eunice NAULT & Family  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas NIEMCZEWSKI  
and Family - Dolores Hnot  
NOSAL, Jerome H., Marjorie & Veronica  
Jerome H. and Michelle  
Mark and Kathryn  
Kevin and Tracy  
Elaine and Casey Young  
OLIVAREZ, Mary  
ORSINI, John & Joan & Family  
In memory of Bernard OSTROWSKI by wife Alice  
Happy Birthday, St. John's - The PAJA Family  
In memory of John and Anna PELTZ  
In memory - Stanley, Ignatius & Victoria PELC  
PETERS, Larry and Maryann  
In memory of Frank PETROSKI  
In memory of Sister M. Olivia PIERONIK  
Matthew and Mary PIKULA  
PIWOWAR, Walter & Helen - Bless our Church!  
Allen, Gayle & Family  
Gordon, Cindy & son  
Karen, Mike & sons  
Martin & Janice  
Susan & Joe  
Jean, Don & Family  
Walter and Shirley POLAK & Family  
In memory of George & Martha PREDIGER - Betty  
In loving memory of Henry PRESCOTT by Rose  
QUENNEVILLE, Jerry & Pauline - We love St. John's  
QUILLICO, Roseann and Walter  
RAINES, Barbara T. - BIANCO TOURS  
RIDGE, Harriette- In memory, John & Kevin  
ROBAKIEWICZ, Angeline  
ROBAKIEWICZ, Edward, Virginia & Family  
ROZICH, Antoinette  
In memory of Steve RUTKOWSKI by Eleanor  
ST. PETER, John and Margaret  
SAMUEL, Raymond and Theresa  
Richard and Karen Samuel  
Debi Samuel  
Kathleen Meyer  
Robert and Sherry Samuel  
Raymond and Arlene Samuel  
Ronald and Jeanne-Jantzen Samuel  
Suzanne and Walter Rose  
Randolph and Debbie Samuel  
Cynthia and Paul Galea  
Roger Samuel  
Tammy Samuel  
Anna M. SCHULTZ  
In memory of husband Charles  
In memory of Son Richard  
In memory of Parents  
SEFCHECK, Joseph & Bernadine  
SERES, Walter & Maryann  
Joseph Seres  
Gerald & Diane Sakowski & Sons

SKOCEN, Wytol & Stella  
Constance Skocen  
Gerald, Camille & Trevor Skocen  
Beverly & Jeff Kirkland  
SMYT, Theresa  
Michael & Michele Smyt  
Janice & Edward Oz & Family  
In memory of Frank Smyt & Family  
In memory of B. Choryan & Family  
SOBCZAK, Ken, Maryellen, Nicholas & Christian  
In memory of the SOBKA Family by Joe (son)  
Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. John's - Walt & Marge SOJA  
SOLARZ- In memory of Joseph E. Solarz  
SOLARZ- In memory of John & Celia Solarz  
SOTO, Art & Mabel Soto  
STAIRS, Gertrude "Trudi"  
"Glory and Praise Lord!" - Edward & Ann STEVENS  
In memory of Raymond SUWIENSKI  
TATRY DANCERS  
In memory of our dear friend SISTER CYRILLA -  
P.R.C.U.A. Taty Dancers  
Rose Ann (Taty Director) and Tom LACKEY  
BARTNICKI, Reta & Bob  
BARTNICKI Family  
BELCHER Family  
BENTLEY Family  
BERZINSKAS Family  
BLICHARZ Family  
BORONIEC Family  
DOOLEY / MILLER Family  
EHNIS Family  
HAYCOX Family  
KILLAM Family  
KWIECIEN Family  
MALINOWSKI Family  
MALKIEWICZ Family  
McDONALD Family  
PERNAK Family  
ROKITA Family  
USZYNSKI Family  
In memory of John WISNIEWSKI - by wife Jeanne  
WOJNAROWSKI Family  
WOLFFE Family  
TENAGLIA, Lynette and Richard  
In memory of my family - Helen THIRWELL  
Eugene and Ethel TRAXLER  
In memory of Frederick TRESTRAIL  
WADDELL - in memory of Leo and Dolores Koch  
WALLACE, Pat and Family  
Joel, Lisa & Harry  
Richard, Tama & Willow Marie  
Carmen, Joe & Richard  
Matthew & Natalie  
In memory of Val & Marcy WARUNEK by Valerie & Tom  
In memory of Joseph & Anna WARUNEK  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert CIERNIK  
Mrs. Theresa PARSONS & Mike  
WASKE Sign Studio, Inc.  
Max WEZENSKY Family  
WOODS, Robert and Genevieve  
WYDERKO, Leonard and Ellenor & family

# *Thank You . . .*

**A**s a parish is formed and continues to grow, it becomes an integral part of its neighborhood. We express our gratitude to the many local and not so local businesses whose generous donations helped to make our 75th Anniversary celebration so special:

**AAA Dearborn**

**Beech Food Market**

**Belino's**

**Comerica Bank**

**Dearborn Farm Market**

**Dearborn Federal Savings Bank**

**Downriver Catholic Credit Union**

**Howe Peterson Funeral Home**

**Kroger Market**

**Lowe's**

**Meijer Department Store**

**Office Depot**

**Querfeld Funeral Home**

**Santieu Funeral Home**

**Saturn Market**

**Seward Drugs**

**Staples Office Supply**

**Wal-Mart**



# *The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*

**W**e have experienced a labor of love over the past many months ... planning ... researching... gathering information and photographs ... remembering and reminiscing. We are grateful to all who have helped us along the way and hope that you enjoyed our 75th Anniversary Celebration and the book that we have put together. We weren't able to use every bit of information but cherish all the wonderful memories that were shared with us.

*Together, We Have Loved and Cared*  
We have loved and cared  
We have hugged and shared  
We have laughed and cried  
We have lived and died.



*As we gather in church and look around  
And see the parish "family" we have found  
May we always cherish the memories shared  
For together, We have loved and cared*



## ***The 75th Anniversary Committee***

*Father Edwin Balazy  
Joan Buzo  
Dorothy Choate - Co-Chairperson  
Dorothy Dombroski (deceased)  
Albert Korte  
Carol Korte  
Tom Koselka - Co-Chairperson  
Valerie Koselka  
Kevin Krzeszowski  
Robert Lefebvre  
Maryann Seres*



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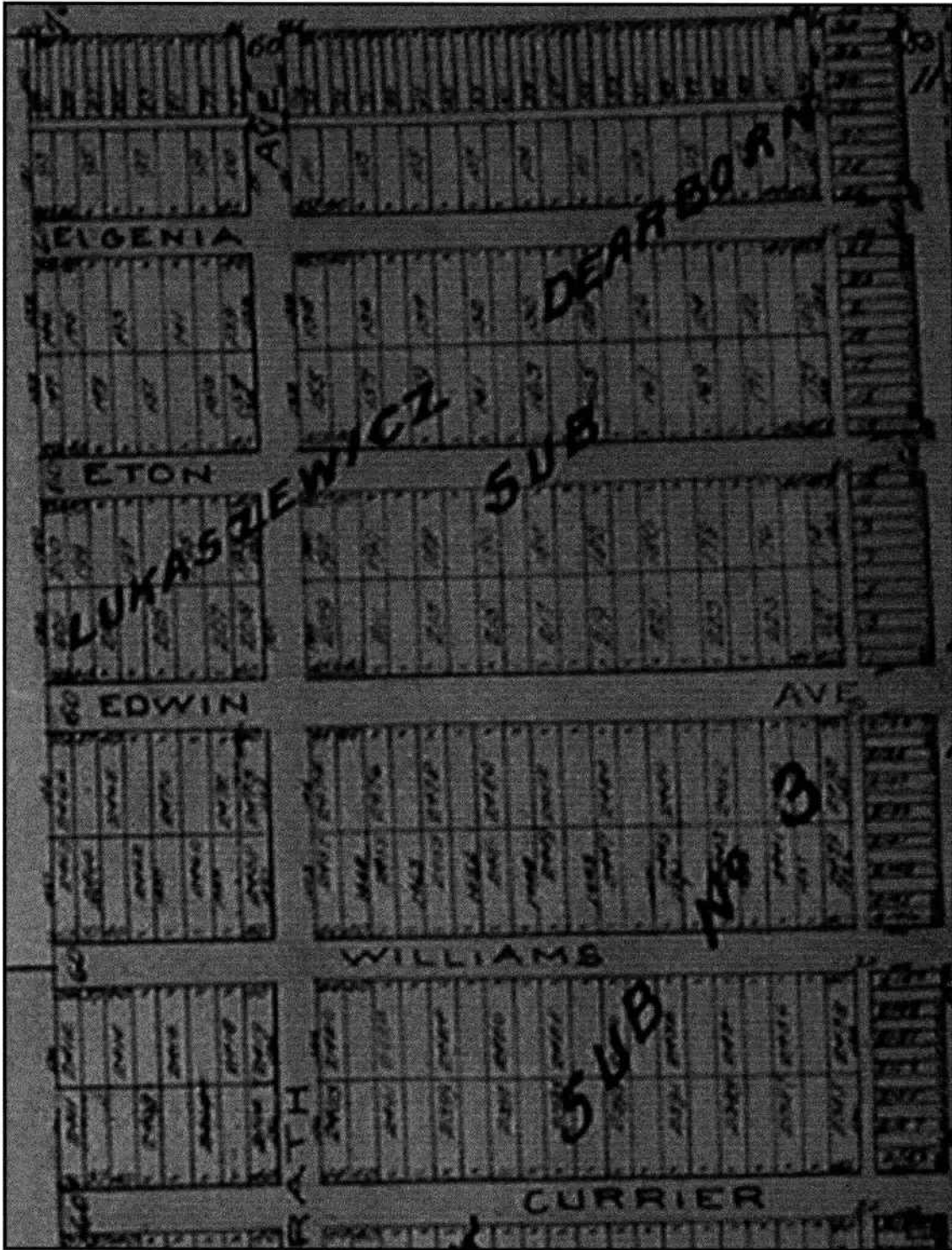
# *The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*

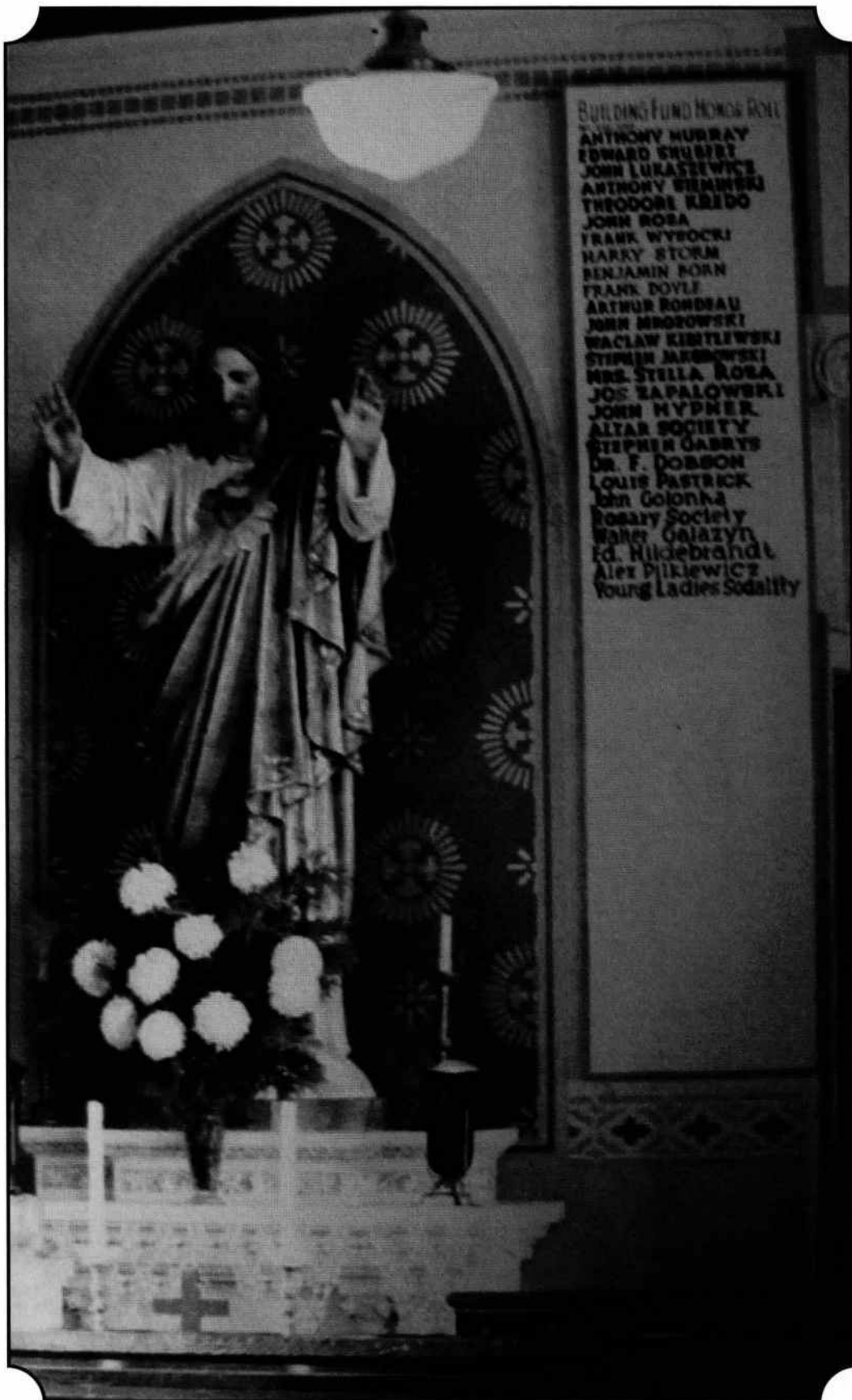


*Helen  
Petroski  
Photographer*



1929 - DEARBORN TOWNSHIP  
N.E. ¼  
SECTION 31





BUILDING FUND MEMORIAL ROLL  
ANTHONY MURRAY  
EDWARD SHUBERT  
JOHN LUKASIEWICZ  
ANTHONY BEMINSKI  
THEODORE KRISO  
JOHN ROSA  
FRANK WYBICKI  
HARRY STORM  
BENJAMIN BORN  
FRANK DOYLE  
ARTHUR RONDEAU  
JOHN MROZOWSKI  
WACLAW KIBITLEWSKI  
STEPHEN JAKUBOWSKI  
MRS. STELLA ROSA  
JOSEF ZAPALOWSKI  
JOHN HYPNER  
ALTAR SOCIETY  
STEPHEN GABRYL  
DR. F. DOBSON  
LOUIS PATRICK  
John Colonka  
Rosary Society  
Walter Galazyn  
Ed. Nildebrandt  
Alex Dzikiewicz  
Young Ladies Sodality

*Old Side Altar ~ Sacred Heart*

HAPPY  
75<sup>TH</sup>  
TOGETHER  
IN  
WORK, PRAYER,  
AND  
PRAISE

