

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



415 LACKAWANNA AVE
WOODLAND PARK, NJ



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PASSAIC, NJ



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The Church

The Dome

Atop Byzantine Catholic Churches we find domes. The number of domes on a church carries with it a certain symbolism. If for example, there is but one dome outside the church, it is said to represent the fact that there is only one god. Two domes would represent the two natures of Christ; three, the Trinity; and four, the Four Evangelists. Further, the inner circular dome is said to represent Heaven. Domes have been characteristic of Byzantine architecture for a long time. We can easily recognize a church as Byzantine Church by the domes we see as we approach it

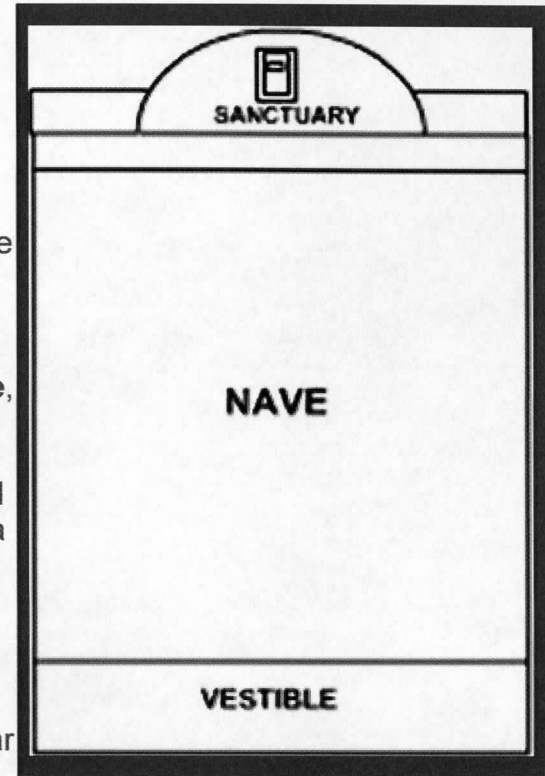


The Church

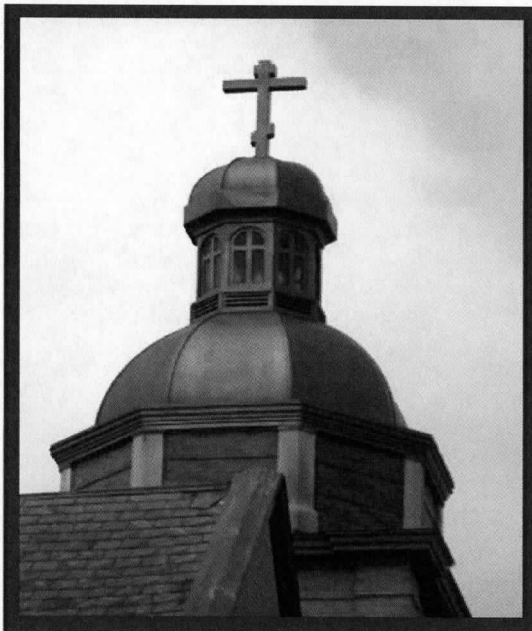
The interior of a Byzantine Cathedral Church has a distinct and symbolic shape. It is divided into three parts: the **Vestibule**, the **Nave**, and the **Sanctuary**. The part of

the church where we, the faithful assemble is called the Nave, derived from the Latin “navis” meaning “ship”. This reminds us that we are in a ship, the Church, and we are on a journey. Our destination is to be united with God. This is achieved each time we receive the Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy. Thus, the Nave is said to represent earth while the Sanctuary represents Heaven.

A further characteristic is that the church is constructed so that the altar faces East; since the sun rises in the East and light (i.e. the sun) has always been a symbol of God and goodness, we are reminded that Jesus, Who is present on the altar, is the Eternal Sun, the Light of the World.



The Three Bar Cross, characteristic of our Byzantine Catholic Churches, is properly known as the “Slav Cross” (a.k.a. “Byzantine Cross”). People often wonder why the three bar Slav Cross is so different from the more frequent seen single bar cross. The top bar of our three bar cross represents the inscription containing the “crime” for which Jesus was crucified, while the bottom bar represents the plank to which his feet were nailed.



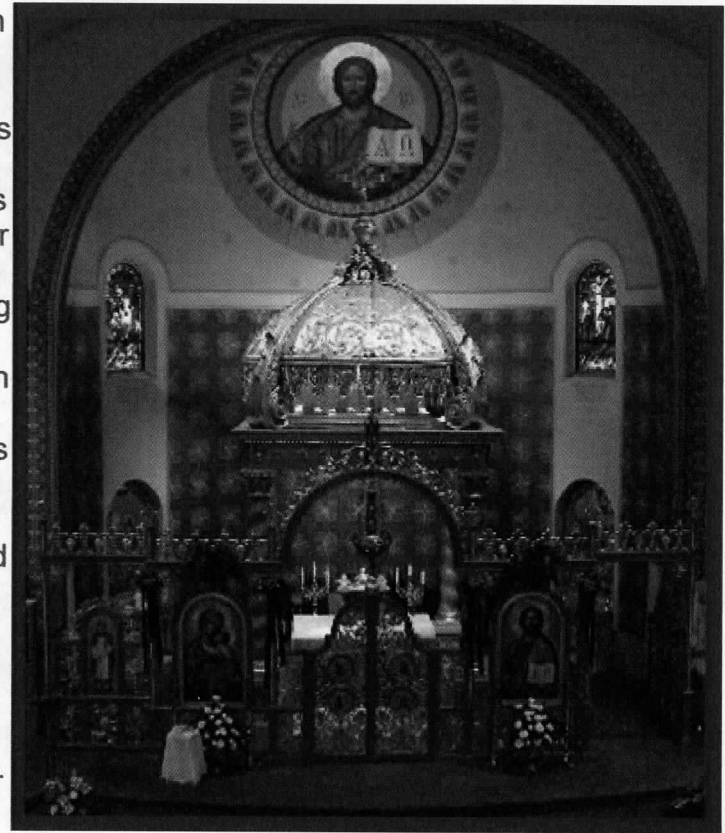
More symbolically, however, tradition tells is that the top bar represents St. Peter, who was crucified upside down, while the bottom bar symbolically represents St. Andrew who was crucified on an X shaped cross.

Iconostas

The **Iconostas** is an integral part of any Byzantine Catholic Church. Although it is of exceptional beauty, an Iconostas is not merely another

decoration. An Iconostas serves as a separation between Heaven and Earth, that is, between the Nave (representing Earth) and the Sanctuary (representing Heaven). The Priest, representing Jesus Christ, serves as a link between Heaven and Earth for whenever he passes through the Royal Doors, the Gates of Heaven, so to speak, he always carries something representing Christ. It may be, for example, the Gospel Book, the word of God, the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, or the chalice and paten, containing the bread and wine to be consecrated.

Only the priest may pass through the **Royal Doors**, and this may be done only during church services. At all other times the Royal Doors must remain closed and the Deacon's Doors are to be used for entering the Sanctuary.



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Milestones in the history of St. Michael the Archangel

1877 - Eastern Europeans began to arrive in the Passaic, New Jersey area

1880 - (through out) **Fr. Alexander Dzubay** tends to the spiritual needs of the Faithful in Passaic

1890 - (Nov 14) **St. Michael's Parish is incorporated under laws of New Jersey** by Fr. Dzubay

1890 - (December 25) – Fr. Dzubay performs first Baptism (Mary Hrinya)

1891 - (January 1) Fr. Dzubay performs first Wedding (John Ferinko and Suzanna Chromoho)

1891 - (June 16) – Fr. Dzubay performs first Funeral (Michael Mascary)

1891 - **Fr. Nicephor Chanath** purchases Evangelical Mission Chapel (corner of First & Bergen) and becomes St. Michaels first resident Pastor

- 1893 - First Church enlarged to accommodate 300 people; first Rectory built
- 1894 - (December 20 th) **Fr. Eugene Szatala** appointed St. Michael's second resident Pastor
- 1902 - (March) **Fr. Nicholas Molscanyi** appointed St. Michael's third resident Pastor
- 1902 - Fr. Molscanyi begins construction of present brick church
- 1905 - Construction of present church completed
- 1906 - (February) **Fr. Irenaeus Janotzky** appointed St. Michael's fourth resident Pastor
- 1909 - (October) **Rosary Society** organized by Fr. Janotzky
- 1915 - (September) **Fr. Valentine Balogh** appointed St. Michael's fifth resident Pastor
- 1917 - Property purchased for later use as a **cemetery**
- 1918 - (March 3 rd) Fr. Jackovics appointed St. Michael's sixth resident Pastor
- 1922 - Classrooms established in old Auditorium for Evening School
- 1935 - (February 3) Fr. Jackovics organizes **Mother's Club** (29 Charter Members)
- 1935 - (November 24) St. Michael's celebrates its **Golden Jubilee**
- 1941 - St. Michael's receives its first Assistant Pastor (**Fr. John Macko**)
- 1949 - (November 7) St. Michael's burns Mortgage
- 1949 - (December 7) Fr. Jackovics dies
- 1950 - **Fr. John Stim** appointed seventh resident Pastor of St. Michael's
- 1953 - (April 27) Fr. Stim organized **Ladies Guild** (18 Charter Members)
- 1953 - (September 9) Classes begin at St. Michael's School (formally Passaic School No. 2)

1955 - Fr. Stim organized Holy Name Society

**1963 - (July 31) St. Michael's Parish designated the Cathedral of the newly established Diocese of Passaic;
Most Rev. Stephen Kocisko, D.D. appointed first Bishop**

1964 - Msgr. George Durisin appointed eighth resident Pastor of St. Michael's

1965 - (October 31) St. Michael's celebrates its **Diamond Jubilee**

1966 - Establishment of a parochial **Religious Education Program (CCD)**

1968 - Most Rev. Michael Dudick, D.D. appointed second Bishop of Passaic

1979 - **Byzantine Service Group organized under pastorate of Msgr. Durisin**

1985 - (April 28) Construction begins for a Chapel and Social Center in West Paterson

1987 - (May 31) St. Michael's Chapel in West Paterson is solemnly dedicated

1988 - (August) Fr. Eugene Fulton appointed ninth resident Pastor of St. Michael's

1988 - (October) Fr. Nicholas Alishofski appointed tenth resident Pastor of St. Michael's

1989 - (February 6) Fr. Marcel Szabo appointed eleventh resident Pastor of St. Michael's

1989 - (November 12) St. Michael's Day begins a year long **Centennial Celebration**

1990 - (October 21) St. Michael's observes it's **Centennial Jubilee**

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Former Pastors of St. Michael's

1890	Rev. Alexander Dzubay
1890-1893	Rev. Nicephor Chananth
1893	Rev. Eugene Volkay
1893-1894	Rev. Nicephor Chanath
1894	Rev. Valentine Balogh
1895-1901	Rev. Eugene Szatala
1901-1906	Rev. Nicholas Molchany

1905-1915	Rev. Irenaeus Janicky
1915-1916	Rev. Valentine Balogh
1916	Rev. J. Dorohovic
1917	Rev. Valentine Balogh
1917	Rev. Irenaeus Janicky
1918-1949	Very Rev. Michael Jackovich, V.F.
1950-1964	Rev. Msgr. George Durisin, V.F. , V.G.
1988	Very Rev. Eugene Fulton, V.F.
1988-1989	Rev. Msgr. Nicholas Alishoski, V. F.

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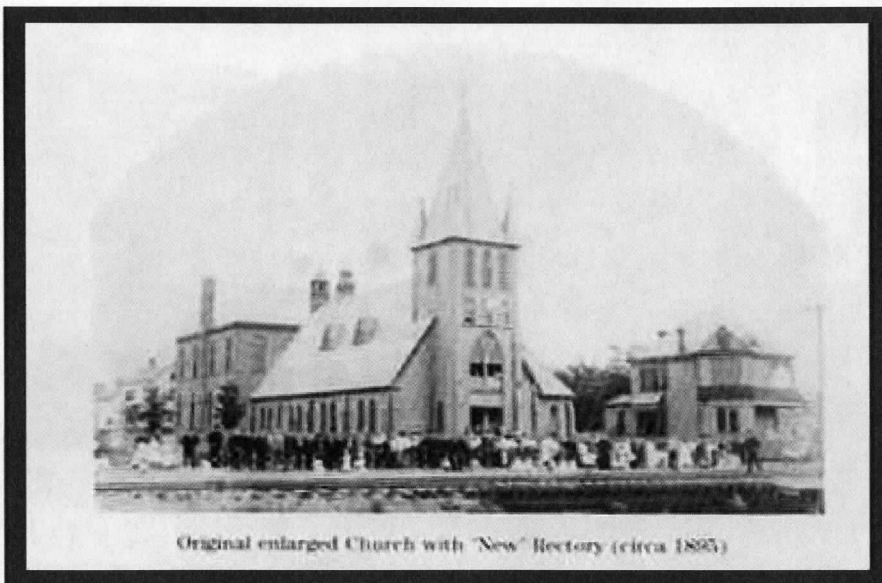
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“Beginnings”

By **1890**, our pioneering founders succeeded in purchasing the former **Dundee Evangelical Mission Chapel** on the corner of First and Bergen Streets, This they rebuilt and entrusted to the protection of the Holy Archangel Michael. Thus, under the leadership of its first pastor, the **Rev. Nicephor Chanath**, the second Catholic Church in Passaic came into existence. St. Michael's was born.

Father Chanath continued in his labors with the new parish until December 29, 1894 when the **Rev. Eugene Szatala** was directed to succeed him by **Bishop Wigger** of the Newark Diocese who in the absence of a Byzantine Catholic Bishop in America, was entrusted with the protection of the fledgling Byzantine Catholic parish.

Under the leadership of Father Szatala, the parish grew dramatically in number. By the time of the arrival of **Rev. Nicholas Molscanyi** in March 1902, the original wooden church proved too small to accommodate the 600 enrolled families. Thus, beginning in 1903, construction began on the imposing stone and brick edifice which still stands today.



The magnificence and splendor of the new church edifice was equaled only the difficulties surmounted in allowing this dream to become a reality. For example, a newspaper article dating back to 1903 reveals that certain individuals, proclaiming allegiance to certain non-catholic churches in Passaic, attempted, because of various motives, to stifle the construction of the new church by stealing a variety of building materials; bricks, mortar, chestnut, and oak planks and the like. One rather unscrupulous gentleman amassed such a collection of stolen building materials in his garage that discovery of them by police was inevitable. When this occurred, the man casually dismissed the incident and attempted

to explain that it was his 7 year old daughter, not he, who was responsible for the theft.

On one occasion, also in **1903**, another newspaper article revealed that the massive church towers, which dominated the First Street skyline for many years, were in danger of being permanently removed even before construction of them was complete. One of the huge towers had been toppled by a severe wind storm and concerned for public safety, the City Building Inspector threatened to “personally remove the other tower” unless both were reconstructed and reinforced.

After having gathered a congregation, purchased a Church of their own, petitioned for a pastor to guide them, and constructed, with great difficulty, a new, more accommodating church edifice, the parish looked back, with a well deserved sense of accomplishments of the past few years and relaxed to joyfully celebrate, on **May 5, 1905**, the 15 th Anniversary of their founding.

In February, 1906, the Bishop of Newark appointed the **Rev. Irenaus Janotzky** to succeed **Fr. Molscanyi**. The Pastorate of Fr. Janitzky, who organized **St. Michael's Rosary Society** in October, 1909, continued until September, 1915, when the **Rev. Valentine Balogh** was appointed to succeed him by **Bishop Soter Ortindky**, the first Byzantine Catholic Bishop in the United States. Fr. Balogh served as pastor for almost three years and was then succeeded by the **Very Rev. Michael Jackovics**, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who was destined to become not only the area Dean, but St. Michael's first long term resident pastor.

1918 to 1949

PASSAIC DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1903

GREEK CHURCH TOWERS WERE NEVER STRONG

Remaining Steeple Ordered
Strengthened or Torn Down

BUILDING INSPECTOR ACTS

*"If That Steeple Isn't Attended to Within
Twenty-Four Hours, I'll Tear It Down
Myself." Announces Mr. McMahon —
Result of His Investigation — Where Does
the Blame Lie? — Storm Notes.*

Had there been a correct system of bolts, anchors and braces used in the construction of the towers of the Greek Rite church in First street, according to the statement of Building Inspector McMahon today, the accident of yesterday would have been averted.

After a thorough inspection of the structure and especially the right tower, which although a twin tower to the one that fell yesterday withstood the wind and storm, Inspector McMahon ordered that an entire system of braces and girders be installed. "I'll give them twenty-four hours in which to comply with my orders and if they fail, I'll order the tower down. If they refuse to do this I will place a gang of workmen there myself and pull the steeple down," said McMahon, when he came down from the high tower this morning.

The plans including those of the towers as submitted to the Inspector by Architect Gebie, under whose instructions the church is being built, complied with all the requirements of the building ordinance. They were passed upon by the Inspector and the permit was granted. Whether or not the plans were followed out can be judged by the disaster of yesterday.

Inspector McMahon said today that in placing the bells in the towers shortly after their completion certain girders and iron braces were removed which

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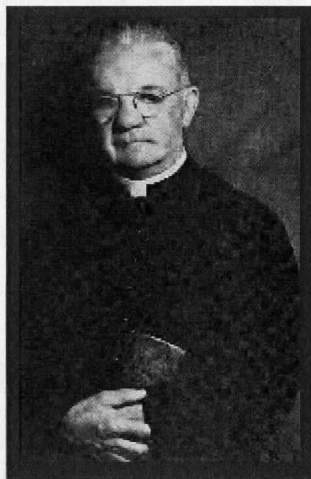
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History of St. Michael's the Archangel ~ 1918-1949



Fr. Jackovics arrived in Passaic on **March 3, 1918**, and under his guidance St. Michael's was truly able to flourish as a parish. His strong enduring presence together with his foresight and vision contributed to the cohesiveness of the parish as a "family" – members of St. Michael's were made to feel closer to God, closer to their Church, and closer to each other.

Among the first of his many achievements was in **1921 "opening"** – for use as a cemetery- of the land initially purchased by **Fr. Balogh** in **1917**. Fr. Jackovics was to consecrate half the cemetery grounds in **1921** and the other half in **1936**.

In **1922**, in order to nurture his flock both spiritually and intellectually, Fr. Jackovics established classrooms in the old auditorium for the purpose of catechetical and cultural education. These he initially staffed with two lay persons, and later with the **Sisters of the Order of St. Basil, the Great**.

During his tenure, Fr. Jackovics not only ensured that his parishioners would be better educated, but, he insisted also, that they be further inspired by more active and better organized choirs. This he accomplished only through the dedicated efforts of such skilled musicians as **Ignac Pelazzi**, **John Saxun**, **Theodore Ratzin** and his son, **Anthony Racin**, who was destined to faithfully serve St. Michael's as cantor/choirmaster for almost 3 decades, until his death in 1954. Another noteworthy reform during Fr. Jackovics' tenure was the change from the old Julian calendar to the new widely observed Gregorian calendar. While some of this change was met with opposition by some, most parishioners welcomed the opportunity to celebrate Church and civil holidays with their friends, relatives, or co workers in a relaxed unified manner.

A man of untiring devotion to the Church, Fr. Jackovics confirmed his ability maintain and improve the physical properties of the parish: foundations were made firm; brick walls were re pointed; new roofing was added; towers were aligned; tower clocks were refaced and electricified; and the center dome, damaged by the constant structural vibrations emanating from the many passing locomotives, were removed entirely.

In **1935**, Fr. Jackovics introduced to St. Michael's their next major asset: the present Rectory and Auditorium. These were built to replace the old, dimly lit, deteriorating, unsafe, wooden, former versions of the same. To financially assist in this major endeavor, each family of St. Michael's was asked to pledge several hundred dollars payable over the course of several months. These two buildings, which still stand firm today, give constant visible witness that could be achieved by dedicated and committed Christian people united for a common goal, for nothing else short of this commitment could allow for two massive, expensive structures to be built during the height of the Depression Years.

Later in **1935**, St. Michael's saw the birth of the "**Mothers Club**", a society of 29 charter members organized by Fr. Jankovics to conduct socials and cater funerals for the benefit of the parish. Celebration was the theme once again in **1940** when, on November 24, Fr. Jackovics led the parish in celebrating its **Golden Jubilee**. And, one year later, St. Michael's, now a prospering parish, rejoiced once again as it received the first of many Assistant Pastors in the person of **Rev. John Macko** .

Because Fr. Jackovics, together with his assistant pastors, always faithfully administered and dutifully maintained his parish, his parish family was eager to rejoice with him as he celebrated his **50 th Anniversary** as a priest in **1949**. The celebration continued as the parish anticipated the long awaited burning of the mortgage on November 7, 1949. Their great joy, however was soon to be extinguished by the death of their beloved pastor one month later, on December 7, 1949. When their 75 year old Shepard died in his sleep, another era in St. Michael's history found its conclusion

1950-1963

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History of St. Michael's the Archangel ~1950-1963

Following the death of the beloved **Fr. Jackovics**, pastor of St. Michael's for over 31 years, the **Rev. Emil Masich**, Assistant to Fr. Jackovics, temporarily administered the parish along with the **Rev. Theodaore Seginak, O.S.B.**, until the arrival of the new pastor, the **Rev. John Stim**, in 1950. The new pastor and area Dean firmly clasped the reins of leadership and guided the parish into what would be fondly looked back on as one of the most memorable and prosperous eras in the history of St. Michael's.

Among the first of his many immediate accomplishments was the revival of the Immaculate Conception Sodality which welcomed its first new candidates in **October, 1950**. Also that same year, a Junior Choir and a Boy Scout Troop were organized, and to accommodate the needs of the many parishioners, Msgr. Stim found it necessary to introduce the present schedule of four liturgies per Sunday.

It was less than three short years later Msgr. Stim initiated an extensive renovation project which included the completion of the Stations of the Cross and stained glass windows (begin in 1945) as well as the installation of new Side Altars, the installation of new pews, the hanging of new lighting fixtures, the

placement of new tile flooring, the installation of a new heating systems, and the redecoration of the Church walls with murals and religious pictures.

Even while engaged in the above, time was still found to purchase from the City of Passaic the old Washington Public School #2. Msgr. Stim soon reopened the former city school as **St. Michael's Parochial School and Convent**, and staffed them with members of a new Religious Order – the **Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate**. On **September 9, 1953, Sisters Cyprian, Appolinaria, and Veronica** began the first day of class in the new school with prayer. Later, on November 1, 1953, **Bishop Daniel Ivancho**, Byzantine Catholic Bishop of Pittsburgh, arrived both to solemnly bless the school and convent, and to rededicate the newly renovated Church.

By **1955**, Msgr Stim had donned Top Hat and Tails and could be seen marching down Main Street leading the parade of Holy Name Society members which he had organized earlier that same year. Later, as a reward for his untiring devotion in leading St. Michael's to such new heights, Fr. Stim was elevated to Prelate of Honor (Monsignor) in June, 1959. On this happy occasion, the flock truly rejoiced with their shepherd.

July 31, 1963, was a day that would change forever the course of history that St. Michael's was destined to follow: on that day the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, **Bishop Egidio Vagnozzi**, announced that the Pope intended to establish a new **Diocese for Byzantine Catholics** in the United States. This new Diocese was to be called the "**Diocese of Passaic**", and St. Michael's was designated as its Cathedral! The effects of this announcement became reality when, on September 10, 1963, the Apostolic Delegate canonically installed **Bishop Stephen J. Kocisko** as the First Bishop of Passaic.

1964 to 1987

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History of St. Michael's the Archangel ~ 1964 -1987

Mgsr. Stim understood that because of its new status as a Cathedral, St. Michael's would have to undergo certain changes. He therefore initiated the process of renovating and remodeling the church interior and exterior. This project he undertook not only in jubilation of the parish's new status, but also in anticipation of the upcoming Diamond Jubilee of the parish.

Of primary concern were the massive church towers and domes which had been weakened by storms over the years, and, ironically, which had been plagued with problems ever since their erection in 1903. Mgsr. Stim had the foresight to remove the old towers and have new ones erected. Having leapt this hurdle, he was now ready to focus his attention on the church interior. This, he signed contracts to begin the repainting and redecorating projects.

The zealous endeavors of Mgsr. Stim were interrupted, however, by a transfer to St. Mary's Church in Trenton, New Jersey. After a pastorate spanning 13 years at St. Michael's the flock bid a tearful farewell to

their former pastor, and greeted their new shepherd, **Msgr. George Durisin, V.G.** – Vicar General of the new diocese, and now, Rector of the new Cathedral.

Msgr. Durisin arrived in Passaic on August 4, 1964, and immediately saw through to completion all the projects initiated by Msgr. Stim. Then, driven by a vision of his own, Msgr. Durisin sought to prepare the parish for their 75 th Anniversary. This event was only a few short months away and would be the first major event in the life of the new Cathedral.

During the months prior to the Diamond Anniversary, the exterior of the church was “brick faced” while the interior of the church was beautified with new carpeting, a Bishop's throne, new sanctuary paintings, and a 2 – section iconostasis complete with 18 icons. Even with the tiring chores of renovation, time was still found to oversee construction and improvements at the parish Cemetery, to purchase new property adjacent to the former school playground, and to prepare the groundwork for the establishment of a CCD program , which would go into effect on May 8, 1966.

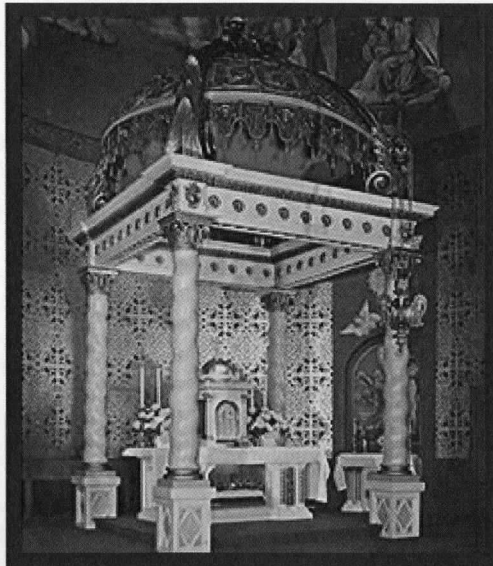
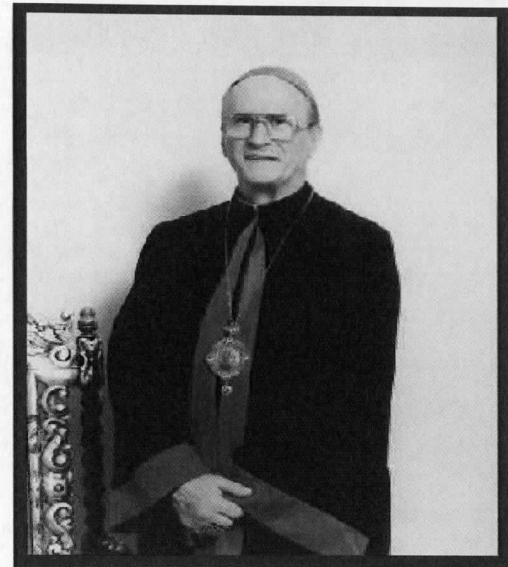


Bishop Stephen Kocisko, the first Bishop of the new Diocese, taking leave of his attendance at the Fourth Session of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II), made a special trip from Rome in order to officiate at this Cathedral's Diamond Jubilee on October 31, 1965. On this joyous occasion he also blessed and rededicated the newly renovated Cathedral.

The reward for Msgr. Durisin's hard work and dedication was that he would be permitted to remain at St. Michael's in order to lead the congregation into the celebration of their 90 th year. Coupled with this Anniversary Celebration there was, to be sure, another major renovation project – the second one during Msgr. Durisin's tenure at St. Michael's. In the meantime, however, the parish basked in their new status as a Cathedral which enabled them to witness countless ordinations to the priesthood and diaconate and to celebrate all major Holydays in the presence of their Bishop.

Being members of the Cathedral parish made each parishioner a part of the Bishop's family. They rejoiced with Bishop Kocisko on September 9, 1966 as he celebrated his 25 th Anniversary as a priest, and 10 th Anniversary as a Bishop; And they welcomed a new Bishop into their hearts on September 19, 1969, when **Bishop Michael Dudick** was consecrated and installed as the Second Bishop of Passaic.

Being members of the Cathedral parish made each parishioner a part of the Bishop's family. They rejoiced with Bishop Kocisko on September 9, 1966 as he celebrated his 25 th Anniversary as a priest, and 10 th Anniversary as a Bishop; And they welcomed a new Bishop into their hearts on September 19, 1969, when Bishop Michael Dudick was consecrated and installed as the Second Bishop of Passaic.



Now, having been cleaned, painted and adequately illuminated, the Cathedral was ready for its next major improvement, the installation of the present Altar and Iconostas. This complete transformation of the Sanctuary (Altar area) together with the installation of new carpeting completed the interior phase of the Cathedral's preparation for their 90 th Anniversary; work could now begin on the outside.

In May of 1980, just months before the November Anniversary, the exteriors of all the buildings on the parish grounds were given attention and repaired: the Cathedral itself was waterproofed, cleaned, and painted outside; the school received a new roof; all fences and fire escapes on the property were repainted; and all gutters were cleaned, repaired or replaced. With no detail having been overlooked, the parish joyfully celebrated the 90 th Anniversary of its founding on November 9, 1980. On this occasion, Bishop Dudick blessed the new Altar and Iconostas and again re-dedicated the Cathedral church.

In addition to being filled with full menu of renovation projects, the months immediately prior to the 90 th Anniversary were seeping with much activities in other areas as well: In March of 1979, the "**Byzantine Service Group**" was formed as a confidential service organization where parishioners would be assisted in finding aid in such areas as Social Security, Medicare, food stamps and welfare. In May 1979 the parish Ladies Guild, through the dedication of Mrs. Irene Serafin, sponsored the first of their renowned fashion

shows at the Wayne Manor; in June 1979 St. Michael's hosted all former graduates of the Parochial School for a 25 th Anniversary reunion; in September of 1979, the "B.S.G." sponsored the first of its Blood Drives; and earlier that same month, the parish welcomed its Cantor/Choirmaster, **Professor John Kahanick** who cantored the Divine Liturgy for the first time at St. Michael's on Sunday, September 10, 1979.

The next milestone in the history of St. Michael's also came during Msgr. Durisin's tenure- the erection of a Chapel and Social Center in West Paterson. The decision to branch out into West Paterson came about as a result of a trend of changing circumstances which were indicative, yet typical, of progress: many younger families began relocating into distant suburbs and serious attention had to be given to reach out to them. Therefore, after much investigation and somber consideration it was decided, in August 1982 that 19 acres of wooded land on Lackawanna Avenue in West Paterson was to be purchased by the Diocese and Cathedral. This was to be the future site of the new Diocesan Center as the Cathedral Chapel Facility.

St. Michael's Chapel Facility was to house not only the Chapel itself, a 250 seat capacity structure modeled after the old-style wooden churches of Eastern Europe, but also an adjacent two level Social Center, complete with kitchen, banquet hall. Catechetical ceremonies for both the Diocesan Center and Chapel Facility took place on April 28, 1985. Shortly afterward, on November 27, 1986 (Thanksgiving Day), Bishop Dudick , together with Msgr. Durisin and Rev. James Demko , Assistant Pastor, celebrated a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving and imparted a simple blessing to the construction site if the new Chapel. Finally, on the last Sunday of May 1987, the cornerstone was laid and the new Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel was solemnly blessed and dedicated.

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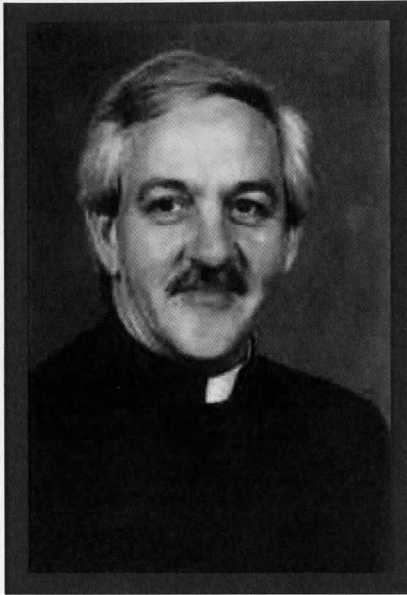
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History of St. Michael's the Archangel ~ 1988 to present

Following a pastorate of almost 25 years, Msgr. Durisin took leave of St. Michael's in August 1988, to assume new responsibilities as Director of Formation and subsequently, Vice-Rector at our Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Pittsburg, PA.

His immediate successor as Shepard of souls at St. Michael's was the Rev. Eugene Fulton. Fr. Fulton dutifully guided St. Michael's faithful until an unexpected illness hastened his departure.

Following Fr. Fulton was the Rev. Nicholas Alishofski, a former Assistant at St. Michael's who now was to return as Pastor. While the parish welcomed the return of a well-loved familiar face and rejoiced with him as he was elevated to the Monsignor, their joy was destined to be only short lived. Fr. Alishofski was soon to be weakened by a painful illness that would not only force him into early retirement, but also rob him of his life. He passed away in April 1989, only weeks after taking leave of St. Michael's.



In February 1989, the Pastor's Staff was passed for the FOURTH time in less than SIX months to the Rev. Marcel Szabo, a spirited priest from Bridgeport, Connecticut who brought with him not only his beloved "best friend", his dog, Teddy, but also a fresh approach to ministry and a hope filled vision for St. Michael's.

Upon his arrival, the primary responsibility falling upon Fr. Szabo was to prepare the parish both spiritually and physically for its upcoming Centennial Anniversary . The faithful were somewhat dispirited by the rapid succession of Pastors and it was evident that the parish properties in Passaic, in particular the Cathedral and the Rectory, were in dire need of repair. Preparation for the Parish Anniversary would prove to be a monumental task, especially since the anniversary date was a little more than a year away.

The process of renewal and renovation in anticipation of the Centennial Anniversary began concretely in August of 1989, on the eve of the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. On this date, St. Michael's Cathedral Parish as well as the ENTIRE city of Passaic was entrusted to the custody of the Blessed Mother. Bishop Michael Dudick, Bishop of Passaic, presented his Cathedral Parish with an icon entitled "Our Lady of Passaic" which was carried in procession around the church, through the neighborhood, and on the streets for all to see. As the Bishop, clergy and faithful parishioners proceeded down the middle of the street singing hymns to the Mother of God, some parish women were on hand to distribute blessed flowers to the curious neighborhood residents and onlookers who dotted the procession route. So moved were some of them by this gesture that they even followed the procession into the Cathedral and attended the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. As a direct result of this procession, now an annual event, the relationship between the Cathedral Parish and its Hispanic neighbors has greatly improved. Not only has the occasional of graffiti and vandalism decreased, but there has also surfaced a crew of Hispanic gentlemen who do not hesitate to volunteer their services to St. Michael's even if only at a moments notice.

In 1989, the month of August not only saw the First Annual Dormition Procession, but also the beginning of the massive and much needed renovation of the Cathedral and Rectory.

From August of 1989 to the summer of 1990, Father Marcel Szabo and Father James Hayer, Associate Pastor, lived through (and even assisted) the daily barrage of various contractors who would prepare the Cathedral rectory for the Centennial Celebration. It was during these long months that the Rectory was outfitted with central air conditioning, and new furnace and baseboard heating. Also, all the windows and doors were replaced, new lighting fixtures and electrical outlets were installed, and the existing original

plumbing was replaced. Subsequently, all five bathrooms as well as the kitchen and breakfast room were remodeled and modernized. This having been completed, the Rectory was then ready for the "finishing touches" of a coat of paint, carpeting and furniture.

Even in the midst of Rectory renovation project, Fr. Szabo saw to it that other parish responsibilities continued to be met as well: an Iconostas was installed at the Chapel Facility in West Paterson; the former parochial school building vacant since 1985 was stripped, cleaned and leased to the Passaic School Board for use as a public elementary school; the Parish CCD program, renamed "Eastern Christian Formation Program" was relocated to the classroom facilities in West Paterson. The Sisters of Saint Basil the Great who staff our Convent received a much needed new car; and new vestments, Gospel Books and Altar appointments which were purchased for both the Cathedral and Chapel.

During this time the generosity of the Cathedral parishioners was exceeded only by their kindness and support. The parish Ladies Guild, for instance, offered a donation of \$25,000.00 for replacement of the rectory windows. For the first time ever, St. Michael's parishioners exceeded their assigned goal of \$24,000.00 for the Diocesan Development Appeal by almost 100%; and individual parishioners offered acts of kindness by volunteering to clean up the Parish grounds, vacuum the plaster-dust filled rectory, and provide the priests with some meals during the months when the rectory was without a kitchen.

In 1989, on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel (November 8) the Cathedral Parish formally inaugurated its Centennial Celebration with a "Triduum" – three days of prayer, conducted by Rev. Anthony Skurla, O.F.M.. From November 8, 1989 to October 21, 1990 the Parish Centennial Committee chaired by Fr. Szabo, Fr. Hayer, and Mr. John Paulich, together with a number of dedicated parishioners, envisioned a variety of events that were to be scheduled throughout the entire year of the Cathedral's Anniversary.

There was, to begin, a " Homecoming Dinner Dance " intended to rekindle the fond memories of the graduates of St. Michael's School and CCD programs ; there was a " Slavic Music Festival " featuring a troop of ethnic dancers and musicians; there was a " Centennial Picnic " on the grounds of the Chapel Facility in West Paterson which was attended by almost 1,000 people. There were also programs for the parish children such as " Breakfast with Santa ", Pysanky (egg decorating) classes and the Easter Egg Hunt . Of course, even from the initial planning stages, the anticipated climax of the Centennial Celebration was to be the Concelebrated Pontifical Divine Liturgy on October 21, 1990, followed by the Centennial Banquet at the Sheraton Meadowlands in East Rutherford. This blessed event was designated to rank with the most significant of events in the history of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. The anticipations of the Centennial Committee were proved correct when the Centennial Pontifical Liturgy was concelebrated by eighteen bishops before a Cathedral overflowing with parishioners, guests, and clergy.

In the meantime, however, tempering the anticipated Centennial Jubilee climax on October 21, 1990, was the reality that the Cathedral itself, water damaged over the past decade, was in serious need of major repair, both inside and out, and time was running out.

Therefore, beginning on April of 1990, the Cathedral was given some well deserved attention. Throughout the warm summer months of 1990 the exterior of the Cathedral was waterproofed and repointed. Portions of the original slate roof were replaced and/or repaired. Much of the exposed bare wood was covered and the beautiful stained glass windows were protected by new acrylic storm windows.

Come late summer, through early fall, and up to only days before the Centennial Anniversary scaffolds were erected inside the Cathedral to initiate the interior repair and renovation. Not only was the Cathedral refreshed with a coat of paint, but the water damaged plaster walls were repaired; the ceiling paintings were retouched, cleaned and restored to their original beauty; the canopy above the altar was re gilded and it's columns "marble-zed"; the Sanctuary wall was re-stenciled and graced with the installation of a new image, the icon of " Christ the Pantocrator ". The pews were resurfaced, kneelers were repaired and repadded, a new sound system was installed, and finally new carpeting was installed over the entire floor area to enhance and bring out the beauty of the exquisite stained glass windows.

During this time also, the Cathedral Sacristy received new cabinetry, tripling storage capacity. One of the most memorable occasions of the Centennial renovations was the electrification of the five magnificent bells which were rung in unison for the first time in many, many years on January 28, 1990. Noteworthy is the fact that a representative of The Mc Shane Bell Foundry , the company that cast and installed the bells some 100 years ago, commented that it is both unique and unusual that any particular church to be equipped with FIVE bells. Most, he explained, have only three bells, some, on occasion, are found to have four, but St. Michael's is blessed with five, the largest being almost six feet in diameter and weighing almost as much as two cars.

Even though it was understood that Church Bells are, by tradition, both blessed and named, it was still somewhat of a revelation to learn the "names" of our five bells. It was learned, for example, that the largest bell (isolated in the right tower), which for many years was referred to as " Big Mike " was actually cast with the name "Andrew". His siblings, located in the left tower, include " Nicholas " (2,000 pounds and 46" in diameter); " Michael " (1200 pounds and 38 ½ "in diameter); " Nicephor " (600 pounds and 31" in diameter) and the smallest bell, " Daniel " at 24 ½" in diameter.

As these five magnificent bells rang out in unison for the first time in January 28, 1990, and later on October 21, 1990, on our 100 th Anniversary, they gave voice to the dreams, desires and devotion of those Eastern European immigrant ancestors who dared to dream 100 years ago!

Although we've been blessed to inherit the fruits of their labors, we know that their faith and love of God is our most cherished legacy.

May their love of God and expressions of their faith forever live on in our hearts and in the hearts of generations to come – for only in this way may we be enriched from our past and inspired for our future.

S'Nami Boh – may God truly be with us as we journey into Century Two!

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