

*75th Anniversary
Mass and Banquet*

1905 — 1980



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

CONCELEBRATED MASS OF THANKSGIVING
Sunday, September 28, 1980
SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH
Old Forge, Pennsylvania

MAIN CELEBRANT - - - - -
Most Reverend Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton

CONCELEBRANTS - - - - -
Rev. Joseph M. Brozena
Rev. Walter Ferrett
Rev. Louis Garbacik
Rev. Francis Kazista
Rev. Leonard Novak
Rev. Walter Skiba
Rev. Casimir Sulicki
Rev. John Szumski

HOMILIST - - - - - Rev. Francis Kazista

LECTORS - - - - -
Mrs. Mildred Legg
Mr. Joseph Stanek

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS - - -
Mr. John Gable
Mrs. Josephine Gurz
Mrs. Sophie Maychrowicz
Mr. Alfred Ostroski
Mrs. Mildred Panek
Mr. Rudolph Yagoda

ORGANIST - - - - - Mrs. Eleanor Kwiatek

ACOLYTES - - - - -
Lucian Bednarz
David Ferrit
Daniel Mozeleski
David Mozeleski
Edward Reed
James Sluck
James Smicherko

DIAMOND JUBILEE DINNER



Saint Nicholas Hall, Old Forge
September 28, 1980

National Anthem Assembly

Invocation **Rev. Edward Zawodniak**
Pastor, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth

D I N N E R

Introduction of Toastmaster **Mr. Stephen Malecki**
Diamond Jubilee Chairman

Toastmaster **Attorney Peter Chapla**

Greetings **Mayor Anthony Cristiano**
Old Forge

Remarks **Sister Mary Conradine**

Medley of Songs **St. Michael's Choir**

Speaker **Rev. Walter Ferrett**
Assistant Pastor, Visitation of the B. V. M. Church, Dickson City

Presentation of Guests **Attorney Peter Chapla**

Acknowledgements **Rev. Joseph M. Brozena, Pastor**

Remarks **Most Reverend Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D., V.G.**

Benediction **Rev. Andrew J. Marcinko**
Pastor, St. Stanislaus Church, Old Forge

Song **Serdeczna Matko**

Serdeczna Matko, opiekunko ludzi
Niech cie placz sierot do litosci wzbudzi.
Wygncancy Ewy do ciebie wolamy.
Zmiluj sie zmiluj niech sie nie tulamy.

DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEES

Honorary Chairman: REV. JOSEPH M. BROZENA

Chairman: Mr. Stephen Malecki

Co-Chairman: Mrs. Mildred Legg

Historian for Diamond Jubilee Book: Mr. John Gromelski

Ad Committee

Mr. Edward Kania
Mrs. Edward Kania
Mr. Walter Marciniak
Mr. Frank Mrowcza

Ticket Committee

Mrs. Theresa Bohenek
Mrs. Helen Cetera
Mrs. Jean Chimock
Mrs. Celia Francovitch
Mrs. Barbara Gintoff
Mr. Frank Hydock
Mrs. Evelyn Jarrow
Mr. Tony Mozeleski
Mr. John Rook
Mrs. Barbara Schiavo
Mrs. Grace Telesz
Mr. Stanley Viercinski

Invitations & Program

Mrs. Irene Fitt
Mrs. Helen Hydock
Mrs. Mildred Legg

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Mr. Walter Fitt
Mr. Michael Michalina
Mrs. Theresa Petrosky
Mr. Joseph Petrosky
Mr. Felix Petrosky
Mrs. Florence Petrosky
Mrs. Loretta Rook
Mrs. Marion Viercinski
Miss Josephine Tama

Reception Committee

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Mrs. Josephine Gurz
Mrs. Helen Hydock
Mrs. Lillian Malecki
Mrs. Vera Mazaleski

Publicity

Mr. Stephen Malecki
Mrs. Fran Mazaleski

Jubilee Secretary

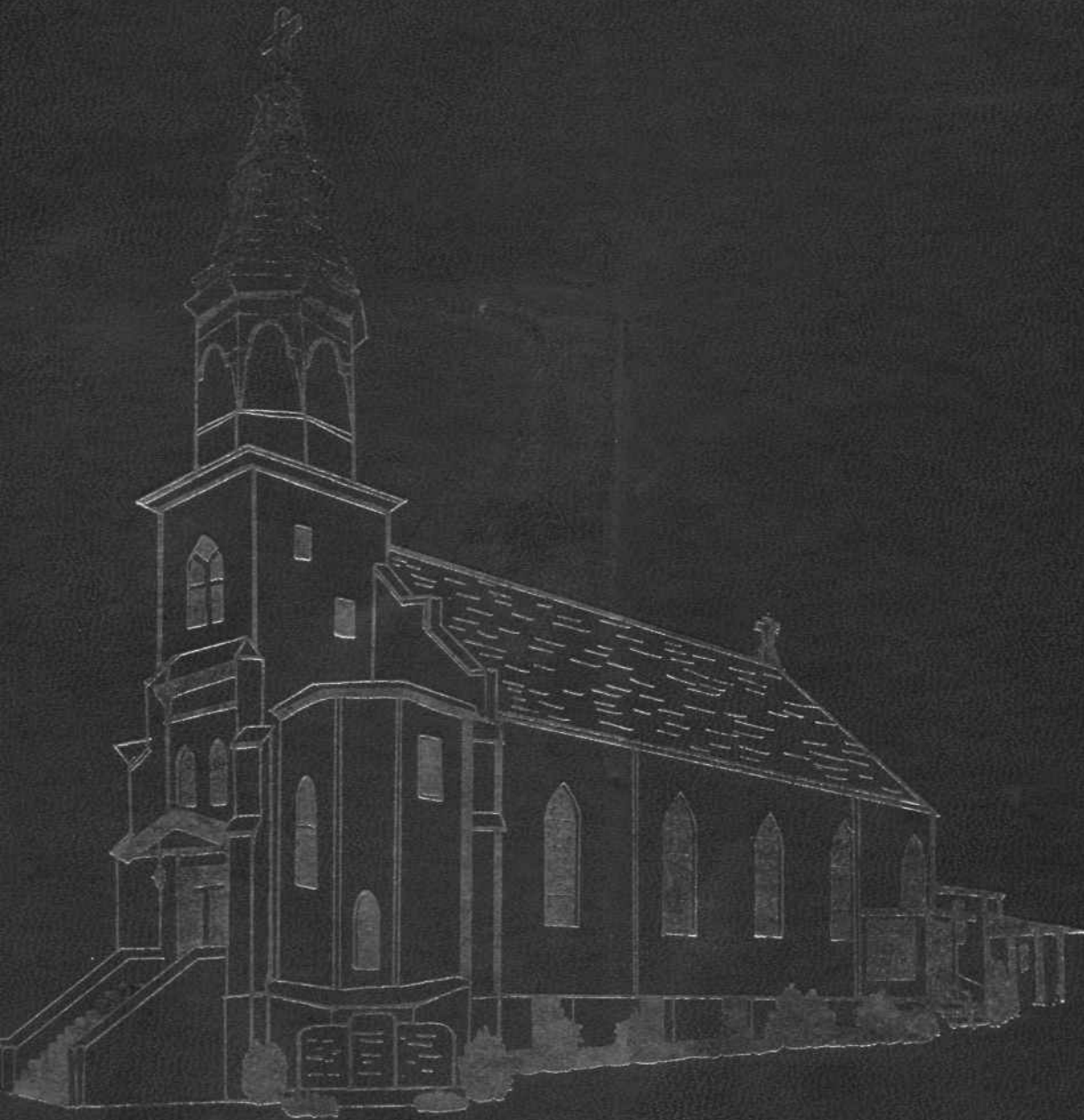
Mrs. Cecile Antonio

Appreciation . . .

I would like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Diamond Jubilee Committees, to all who worked so diligently and also, to those who made monetary offerings and supported the 75th Anniversary of the founding of St. Michael's Parish. May God bless you for making this celebration a success.

REV. JOSEPH M. BROZENA
Pastor

St. Michael the Archangel Church



Old Forge, Pennsylvania
1905-1980

St. Michael the Archangel Church

Old Forge, Pennsylvania

1905

1980

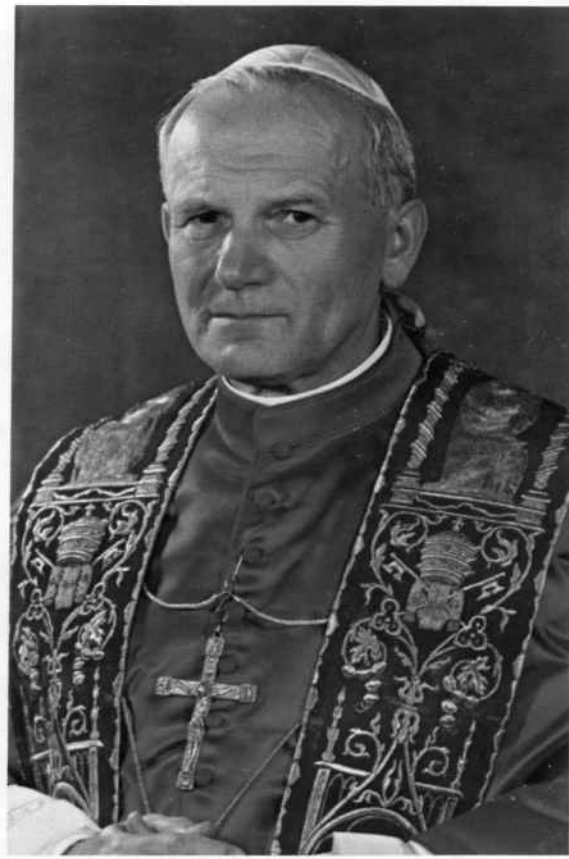


1981

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Exterior view of the church



His Holiness
Pope John Paul II

Papal Blessing





Christmas Altar



Easter Altar

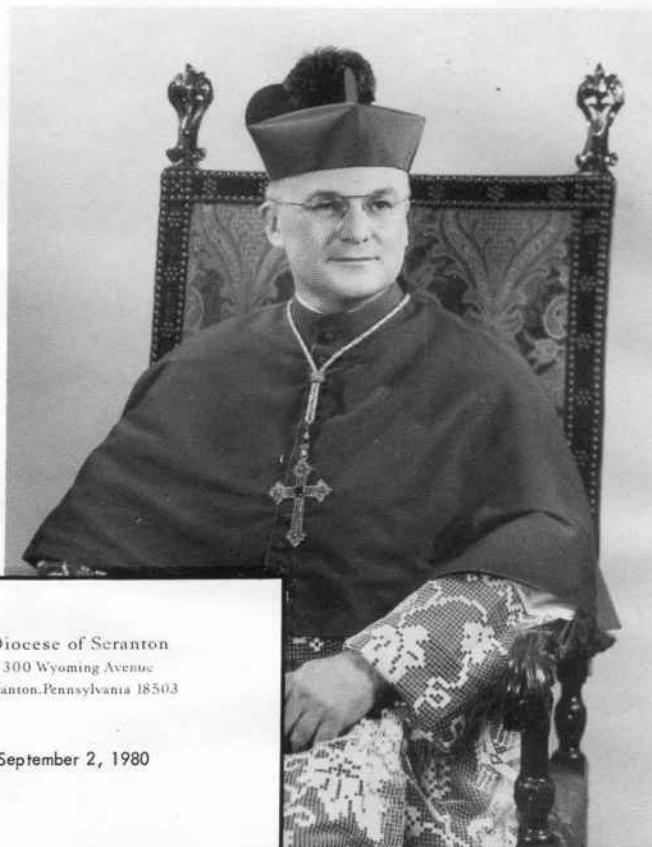
Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Father Brozena celebrating Mass

Altar of St. Joseph



*Most Reverend
J. Carroll McCormick
Bishop of Scranton*



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

September 2, 1980

Reverend Joseph M. Brozena
Saint Michael's Rectory
236 Vine Street
Old Forge, Pennsylvania 18518

Dear Father Brozena,

On the occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Saint Michael's Parish, Old Forge, I am pleased to extend to you and the people committed to your care my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

The celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of your parish provides an opportunity for all who participate in it to recall the sacrifices made by parishioners during the past seven and a half decades.

United in a bond of charity, the pioneers freely worshiped God in accord with their Catholic consciences, and they gave witness to their faith through lives marked by high moral standards. Their care for one another and their openness to the needs of those outside their own community constituted a legacy of good example for the ones who followed them.

The parishioners of this generation live in a changed world. The parish, however, continues for them, as it was in the past, a God-given expression of faith in Christ. It calls on its members to know and love one another as Christ knows and loves us. It gives to each parishioner the means of drawing near to God in communion with men and women of every age and condition. All are called through parochial life to mutual support and forbearance, to unity here and blessedness hereafter. The parish is, indeed, a practical realization of Christ's saving work in the world today.

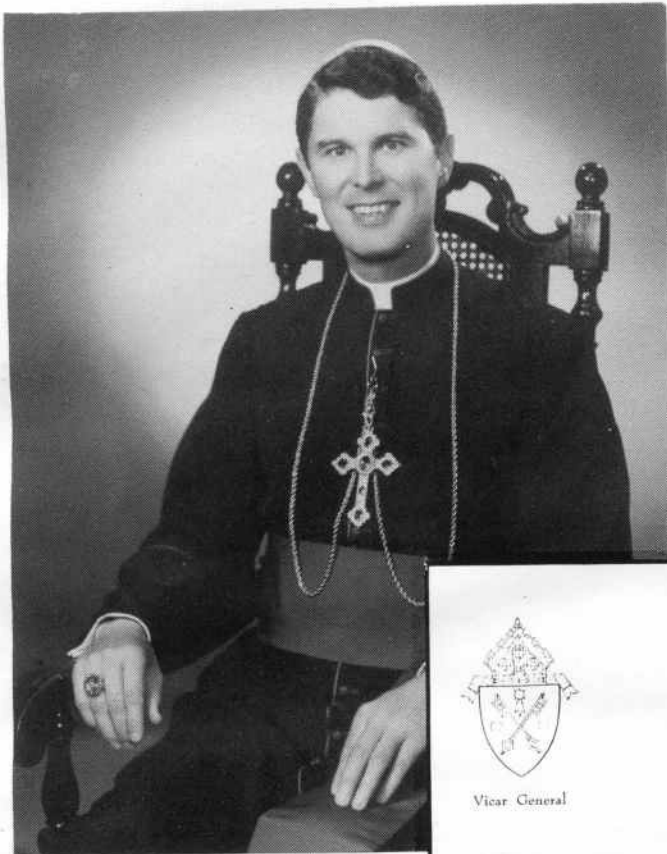
While the faithful whom you serve become more mindful of the ideals of the founders of Saint Michael's Parish, I pray they will be moved to renew their dedication to their parish. Thus will your anniversary year be a time of growth as well as rejoicing for each individual and for the parish as a whole.

Asking God's choicest blessings for you and your people, I am, with every good wish,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

J. Carroll McCormick

Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, D. D.
Bishop of Scranton



*Most Reverend
James C. Timlin
Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton*



Vicar General

Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

July 25, 1980

Reverend Joseph M. Brozena
Saint Michael's Rectory
236 Vine Street
Old Forge, Pennsylvania 18518

Dear Father Brozena,

It is a pleasure to send you and your parishioners my sincere congratulations and very best wishes on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of your parish.

Milestones like this are times when we look back to the founders of the parish. With gratitude for their many sacrifices and the example of strong faith they left us, we should be encouraged to continue the work they started and build on the foundations they laid so well.

Looking forward to being with you for this joyous celebration and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

James C. Timlin

Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton



*"I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God,
with all my heart"*
Psalms 9:2

DIAMOND JUBILEE MASS AND BANQUET SEPTEMBER 28, 1980





St. Michael the Archangel

Seventy-Five Years in the Service of God and Man

Diamond Jubilee Year of 1980

This is the Diamond Jubilee year of 1980 for St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Old Forge, Lackawanna County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, United States of America.

John Paul II reigns in Rome in the second year of his pontificate. Joseph Carroll McCormick is serving the fifteenth year as the sixth bishop of the Scranton Catholic Diocese, and James C. Timlin is Auxiliary Bishop.

Jimmy Carter is ending his fourth year as President of the United States. Dick Thornburgh is in his second year as the Governor of Pennsylvania.

On the local level, Mr. Anthony Cristiano is serving as the Mayor of Old Forge.

Reverend Joseph M. Brozena is serving as the eighth pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. The total Catholic population of Old Forge is approximately 10,000.

St. Michael—Our Diamond

The diamond is the most solid form of matter known. It has become so due to a unifying process, one that adjusts to the innerworkings of its many molecules, innerworkings that strive for solidification. A parish that has lasted for seventy-five years has proved it is a diamond of a parish. It is a unified parish, one in which the innerworkings of its Christian faith strive for continuance. St. Michael's is our diamond and is given as such to us, a gift from God, on this our seventy-fifth anniversary.

The history of our diamond begins more than seventy-five years ago. It begins when a small group of Polish immigrants living and working as miners in Old Forge organized a fraternal aid society. These pioneers, "diamonds in the rough" we could call them,

saw the necessity for a society whose aims would be to assist those who became disabled or incurred deaths in their families as a result of working in the mines. Under the supervision of Michael Puchaly, thirty members were enrolled, and in 1896, the Society of St. Michael the Archangel began its work, selected officers, collected dues, and resolved to become a charter member of the Polish Union of America. The following year, a second society, the Society of Our Lady of Czestochowa, was established with eighteen members.

It was in the turn of the century, an exciting moment in history. The age of electricity was upon us. So, too, the age of the automobile. And the age of aviation. It was quite a time to be alive. Things were changing with everyday rapidity, including the composition of the people. Immigration was up, especially from Europe, and as a result, populations were changing almost as rapidly as the technology. The Industrial Revolution was in full bloom, its roots sucking deep into our natural resources, those needed to give its hungry dynamos the energy needed to keep them humming at the proper pitch. One of the major sources of that necessary energy was coal, and production was at its highest at this time. The mines around Scranton gave forth their abundant supplies of anthracite coal reluctantly, only at the insistence of thousands of men who daily braved the unsafe depths of the earth to mine the valuable substance, every day risking their lives in the effort. Most of these miners were of Polish extraction.

With the growth of the St. Michael the Archangel and Our Lady of Czestochowa societies and the great increase in the number of Polish immigrants in Old Forge, these organizations became aware that upon their shoulders rested the obligation of preserving not only the language and customs of Poland, but the faith of their forefathers as well. They decided that the best place for continuing these traditions was in the schools. They recognized the definite need for a good educa-



The original interior of St. Michael's Church before renovations



St. Michael's Church — 1930



Parish Committee — 1925



First School Bus



The original rectory, purchased in the early 1900s



St. Michael's Society — 1930

tion in their lives and in the lives of their children. They believed that from the new generation and generations to come, if nurtured properly in the Catholic faith, many prominent men and women would come forth.

At the very dawn of the new century, in 1901, the two societies jointly purchased land, built a small school, engaged the services of teachers, and, with volunteer help from parents, began teaching their children reading, writing, and religion.

The spiritual needs of the community at this time were being served by Monsignor A. Zychowicz of Scranton, and Father Orloski of Duryea. But there were great distances that had to be traveled to get to neighboring parishes, and Old Forge by now was a large enough community to deserve its own recognition from the Church. The school alone was not enough. With the aid of Father Francis Gratza, a priest from a nearby parish, it was resolved that a local church be organized. The societies purchased land for the church, but due to a lack of funds only a basement with a temporary roof could be constructed for use as a place of worship.

The following is an account of the first Christmas at St. Michael's, written by an early parishioner:

In the year 1904 on Christmas Eve the Polish priest intoned the words "The Lord is born (*Bog sie Rodzi*), power and might tremble at this marvelous sight." With tears in our eyes, we looked at the altar on which the priest celebrated the bloodless Sacrifice of the Mass. The priest prayed zealously and fervently, thanking the Infant Jesus for permitting us to await this happy tiding. During the singing of the carols, there were nostalgic feelings for the beloved ones left in Poland. Soon with the singing of the carols, our feeling of jubilation returned. We felt fortunate seeing that this modest temple has become a place of faith and brotherhood. It is with pride as we look back at our cooperation and accomplishment. When the priest had broken the silence, when the word of God permeated the church, then a deep feeling of happiness enveloped the listeners' hearts, and tears of good fortune and happiness came to our eyes.

Radiant and fortunate in spirit, uplifted in heart, the thought came to mind to save our resources and to begin our task at hand of completing our work of building a complete church.

Father Francis Gratza served St. Michael's for thirteen months before being succeeded by Father Dr. Joseph Kominek, who retired shortly thereafter because of ill health.

The Pastorate of Father Kurylowicz

In 1907 Father Thomas Kurylowicz assumed the pastoral obligations of St. Michael's. Descended from a noble Ruthenian family, he was a former member of the Society of Jesus and for many years was a missionary in Poland.

Seeing the willingness and generosity of the people placed under his care, he began his work in earnest. He took a home on the opposite side of the church site and renovated it into a comfortable rectory. He then took on the challenge of building a suitable place of worship over the temporary basement in use since 1902. From the good will of the parishioners and under the supervision of Father Kurylowicz a permanent church was constructed at a cost of \$8,000.00. The generosity of the people continued. They contributed money for the purchase of the Stations of the Cross, benches, a bell, the chalice, candlesticks and vestments. Mr. Bestecki, an artist, painted the interior of the church. By the following year, 1908, the building was completed and first used for the celebration of a Midnight Mass.

Even in those early years St. Michael's was forming into a diamond of a parish; its people were the carats, the sparkling, the points comprising its unified beauty and worth.

In 1909, Father Kurylowicz invited His Excellency Archbishop Joseph Weber, C.R., a distinguished visitor from Poland, along with many neighboring priests, to celebrate with him and the congregation the Solemn Dedication of St. Michael the Archangel Church.

Later, this good pastor, this guardian of the flock, proposed building a new school. In 1925, land was purchased opposite the church and an architect, A. Prawdzik, was hired to draw up the plans. What resulted was a \$43,000 plant which included four classrooms and a parish hall. At the same time, next to

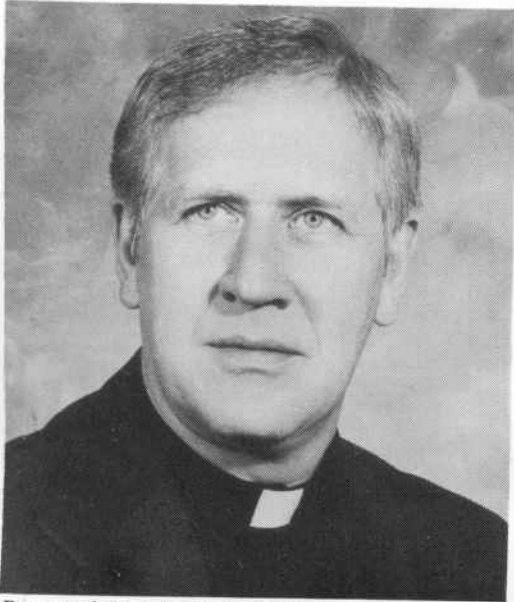


The rectory today



Grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pastors and Administrators



*Reverend Joseph M. Brozena
Present Pastor*



Father Francis Gratza



Father Dr. Joseph Kominek



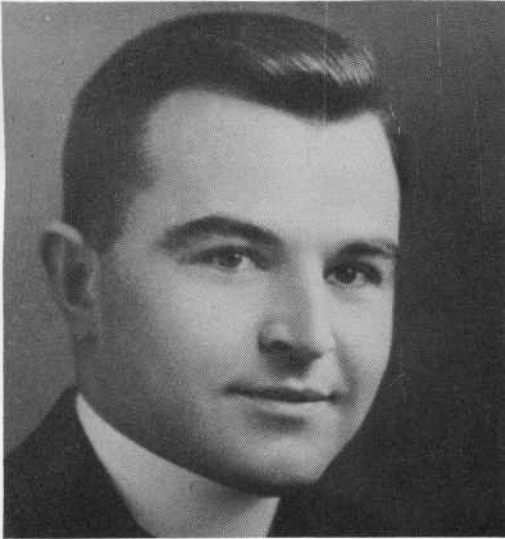
Father Thomas Kurylowicz



Father Francis Kozuzko



Monsignor Stanislaus Wolf



*Father Charles Zawol
Former Pastor*



*Father Louis S. Garbick
Assistant and Administrator, 1936 - 1966*



*Father Stanislaus Kolucki
Administrator, 1966-1973*

the school, a home was purchased for the Bernardine Sisters who assumed the obligation of teaching in the new school.

St. Michael's Golden Era

World War I had just ended. There were twenty-seven members of our parish who served with distinction in World War I. Four of these lost their lives. They were: Frank Baclawski, Joseph Welenc, Wladislaw Ciercka and Clemens Androski.

At this time in history world events were in a state of confusion.

During this time, on April 10, 1926, a day of profound sadness came upon the parish when God summoned before His Judgment Seat Father Kurylowicz. This good shepherd had guided the St. Michael's flock honorably and with saintly grace for nineteen years. His service to the Old Forge congregation deserves a high place of respect in our parish history.

As a replacement for Father Kurylowicz, Bishop M.J. Hoban appointed Father Francis A. Kozuszko. Born in South Scranton in 1898, Father Kozuszko was ordained in 1921. He had a profound fondness for the Polish language and desired to learn Polish history, literature, customs, and traditions. After serving St. Mary's Parish, Wilkes-Barre, he was transferred to St. Michael's.

With the willing and gracious cooperation of the good Old Forge people, Father Kozuszko began interior and exterior renovations on the church, rectory, and Sisters' home, including new cement church steps and sidewalks, and a retaining wall to the rear of the church grounds. The cellar was refurbished and through the intercession of this good father, Monsignor Zychowicz donated a chandelier to the parish. All these improvements were realized with small donations, the people seeing everywhere order and rededication under the guidance of their pastor.

In addition to the above-mentioned renovations, Father Kozuszko realized that the youth of the parish needed a suitable place to spend their leisure time and to gather socially under the auspices of the church. There was no available ground for this undertaking, but the pastor resolved to find room by digging a cellar under the school. The stone masons' original estimated cost of such a job was \$10,000. This was rejected, and it was decided that it could be accomplished through the help of the more-than-willing parishioners.



The Knights of Columbus in procession to the Jubilee Mass



Father Brozema with Bishop Timlin after the celebration of the Jubilee Mass on September 28, 1980

A stupendous project, it began with an old Ford automobile, with a wide belt, attached to the rear wheels, forming a conveyor line on which the church members were able to remove the excavated earth from the cellar through two small windows. Within a period of several months, this project was completed. No one complained; no one got paid; everyone had worked willingly under the supervision of the pastor. To further strengthen the foundation, pillars were installed, a cement floor was laid, and the walls were finished. The whole project was just another example of how this parish and its members have been able, through unity and faith, to succeed with tasks that to anyone else would seem impossible. We, as present members of this church, should let our chests swell with righteous pride when reading of the accomplishments of our forebears.

Father Kozuszko, who was also very interested in sports, decided next to organize the Polish-American Social Club and a youth club under the name Polish-American Circle Club. The youth club united sports with affairs of the community. Every year around Christmas, the club would buy various food-stuffs to present to the needy of the parish in order to make their holiday a happy one.

It was through the untiring efforts of Father Kozuszko that a bus was procured by which one hundred and seventeen school-

children were transported daily from Taylor, Sibley, and Austin Heights.

Father Kozuszko also worked diligently to develop the cemetery which was at that time a dense forest. He obtained many mules from the Jermyn and Pennsylvania Company mines, which were on strike at that time. With the kindness and generosity of Mr. Cooke and Mr. Corcoran, respective superintendents at those mines, the mules were obtained for the clearing process. Many willing parishioners helped in the clearing of the huge stones, trees, briars, and other debris. While the cemetery was still not in the best condition, it was at least accessible. Henceforth, each succeeding priest furthered the development and improvement of the cemetery.

Father Kozuszko can be characterized as a priest whose functions were extensive in scope, most notable in its effects and very edifying in his practice. After a fruitful tenure as pastor, he was transferred to SS. Peter and Paul Church, West Scranton.

A Great Depression and a Great War

Now the economy had blown apart at the seams and Franklin Roosevelt was running for President. A successful parish is a safe harbor in a time of storm, and during the Depression St. Michael's offered the strength and comfort of the Faith and the social security of its

congregational unity in combating the great pressures suffered from such hard times.

In 1931, a new shepherd came to guide the St. Michael's flock. He was Reverend Stanislaus Wolf, a native of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who was ordained in 1918. He served at St. Mary's Visitation Church, Dickson City, and St. Michael's Church, Olyphant, before coming to Old Forge.

Under Father Wolf's astute direction, St. Michael's continued to grow spiritually as well as materially. During his tenure the rectory was renovated, side steps to the rectory were installed, and great improvement to the cemetery was made. Also many improvements were made on the school; the statues and altars in the church were repainted and new chandeliers and Stations of the Cross were installed.

During Father Wolf's tenure, Mrs. Joseph Stanek became our organist. Mrs. Stanek succeeded Mr. Roman Stachnick, organist under two priests, Father Kurylowicz and Father Kozuszek. Mrs. Stanek possessed a music degree from Marywood College and through her efforts and members of the choir, a new organ was purchased in the Thirties. Under her tutelage and leadership, the choir increased in size and quality. She worked with dedication as the organist of St. Michael's for forty-four years, until her death in 1975.

St. Michael's has always had a luxury of gifted organists: Mr. Koleczek, Mr. Bacharowski, Mrs. Barbara Wroblewski, Mr. Frank Affeldt, Mr. A.J. Serafin, who also taught in our parochial school, Mr. Roman Stachnick, Mrs. Joseph Stanek, and our current organist, Mrs. Eleanor Kwiatek, assisted by Mrs. Joann Garman.

In the late Thirties the country began walking upright again, slowly but surely, gradually overcoming the staggering Depression of the past decade. It walked right into another major crisis, World War II. On December 7, 1941, a "day of infamy" as President Roosevelt called it, the United States declared war on Japan and Germany, and again the talons of war tore deep into the nation's flesh.

Three hundred and ninety-three members of the parish served in the armed forces in World War II. They served with pride and distinction in helping preserve, defend, and maintain our independence. Twelve members from the parish paid the supreme sacrifice in the defense of peace. Those who lost their

lives in World War II from St. Michael's are:

Ignatius Bieniek
Alexander Gural
Louis Krolikowski
Frank Kwak
John Orzalek
Walter Radkiewicz
Frank Rybak
Frank Sobolek
Frank Smiegel
Francis Stanek
Joseph A. Telesz
Joseph Telesz

The highest ranking officers of World War II from our parish were Dr. Stanley Mazaleski and Daniel R. Stefanowicz, who both attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

A granite monument to these heroes from our parish was erected in front of the church. The entire Holy Name Society under the direction of Mrs. Stanley Skutack and Mr. Andrew Gurz helped in this project.

After serving St. Michael's Church with dedication and devotion for twelve years, Father Wolf was transferred to Transfiguration Church, West Hazelton, where he was elevated to the rank of Monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

The End of the War to the End of the Decade

In 1943 Reverend Stanislaus Cituk became pastor of St. Michael's. A native of Plymouth, Father Cituk was ordained in 1932 and transferred to Old Forge from SS. Peter and Paul Church in Avoca, where he had completed building a new church. An extremely cooperative priest, he conducted many parish picnics and was assisted by Father John Szumski, a native of Archbald.

It was Father Cituk who conceived the idea of building the Grotto of the Blessed Mother, with help from Sister Electa and Mrs. Frances Pesta. Around the statue he placed many spruce and pine trees, along with hundreds of multi-colored flowers. May devotions, climaxed by the crowning of the Statue of the Blessed Mother, were conducted at the grotto. During the Christmas holidays the trees surrounding the grotto were decorated with hundreds of lights and when they were lit, the sight was marvelous to behold.

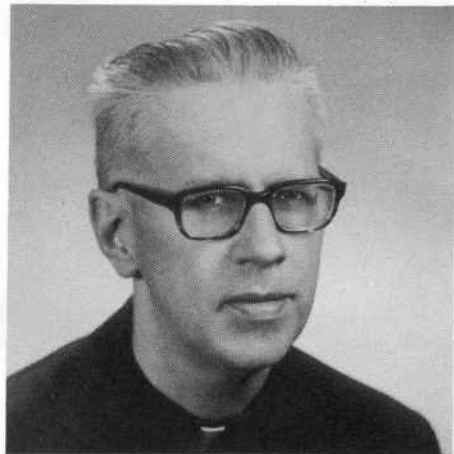
In 1947, Father Cituk enlarged the priests' sacristy.

Father Cituk served the parish with humility and dedication.

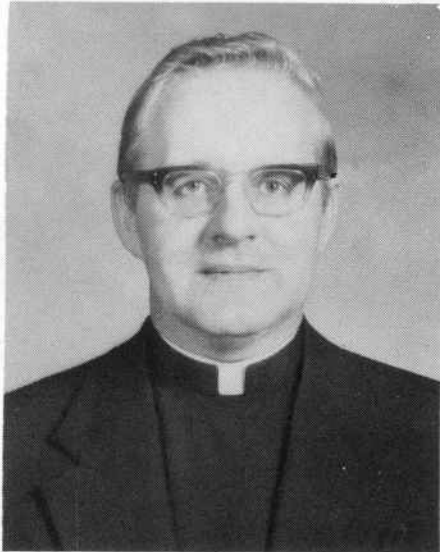
Former Assistant Pastors



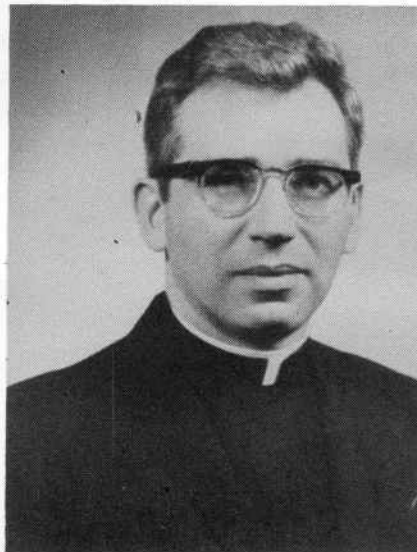
Father John Szunski
1947-1951



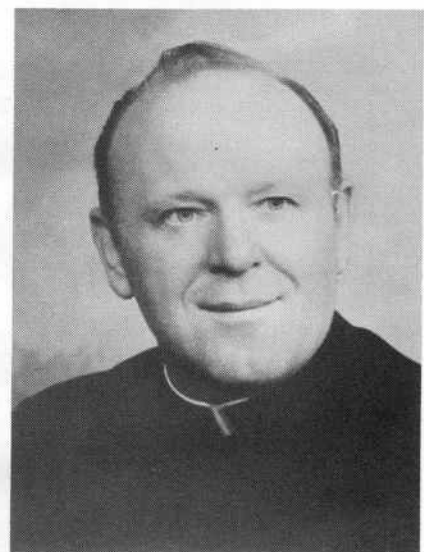
Father Clem Brozema
1953-1956



Father Leonard J. Novak
1956-1960



Father Walter Skiba
1960-1961



Father Francis Dobrydnio
1961-1963



Father Edward Zawodniak
1966-1967



Father Casimir Sulicki
1967-1972

The Sixteen-year Pastorate of Father Zawol

After World War II an era of realignment settled over the nation as priorities were geared to fit peace rather than war. This doesn't mean there wasn't war. There was trouble in Greece, trouble in Berlin, and a full-scale conflict in Korea. But for the most part there was peace under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson.

St. Michael's again had a new pastor, this time Reverend Charles Zawol, a native of Wilkes-Barre, who was ordained in 1934. He had served as pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, Old Forge, before the St. Michael's appointment.

During the Depression and World War II, previous pastors had not been able to make significant payments on the school debt. Postwar prosperity, picnics, ham dinners, and the effort of Father Zawol raised enough money to completely pay off the debt.

Next came the renovation, replastering, and repainting of the church, school, and convent. The parking lot was paved, and the cemetery roads were resurfaced.

During Father Zawol's administration considerable damage was done to the church and school due to severe mine subsidence. Through the efforts of the mining engineers and borough officials, more than 3,780 tons of silt were used to fill the huge cavity. Because of the subsidence, fifty-six feet of the foundation of the school was damaged.

Because of ill health, Father Zawol was compelled to yield his pastoral obligations. The following priests served as assistants during Father Zawol's tenure: Father John Szumski, Father Eugene Terkoski, Father Dobrydno, Father Stungis, Father Drapiewski, Father Clement Brozena, brother of our present pastor, Father Leonard Novak, and Father Walter Skiba.

For an interim of several months during 1965-66, Father Louis Garbacik served as administrator of St. Michael's Parish. Reverend David Rosh served as his assistant, shortly afterwards succeeded by Reverend Edward Zawodniak.

Father Garbacik was a zealous priest who worked assiduously at improving conditions in the parish. He made great strides in increasing care of the cemetery, added a side entrance to the church, and installed a new altar facing the congregation in accordance with the liturgical decrees of Vatican Council II.

From the Sixties to the Present

The beginning of the Sixties saw this country enjoying prosperous times, though in 1964 they were to be suddenly thrown out of kilter by a tragic war that almost brought about civil war in the land. The latter Sixties were scarred by internal strife, outright defiance of law, and a distrust of enforcement agencies and politicians. Only the end of the Vietnam conflict returned the country to its senses and blessed it with the advent of peace that began in the early Seventies.

St. Michael's gleamed more brilliant than ever during these tense times. Its diamond-strong unity kept its head held high and its faith steadily in the hands of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It continued its commitment to the principles of the Church and served as a tried and true guide to those who sought its advice and refuge. It prospered as a result, growing even stronger in candescence, standing as a pilot to those seeking the Way of Truth.

In 1966, St. Michael's gained another strong leader in the pastorship of Reverend Stanislas Kolucki. A native of Dickson City, Father Kolucki had as his assistant Father Casimir Sulicki.

Father renovated the sanctuary area to conform to the new liturgical regulations set by Vatican II, also adding new carpet, and repainting the church interior. He was instrumental in adding a new garage to the rectory and in putting aluminum siding on the church.



This old picture of the school shows the results of the cave-in caused by severe mine subsidence in the 1940s

In 1971, St. Michael's Parochial School merged with St. Mary's Parochial School.

Following Assistant Pastor Sulicki's transfer to St. Joseph Parish, Forest City, Reverend Joseph M. Brozena was appointed to take his place.

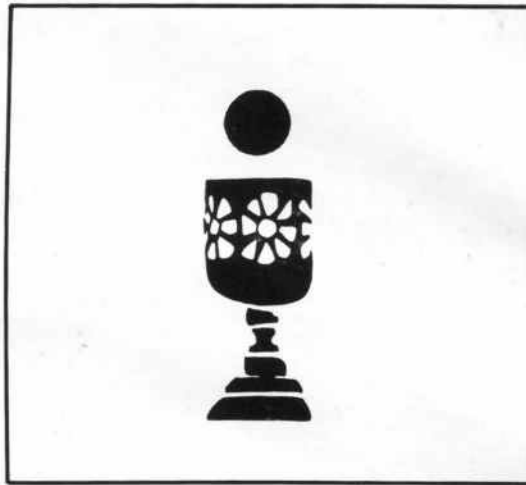
On the morning of November 9, 1973, the parish awoke to the shocking news of their pastor's untimely death. This good shepherd's work with the parish will be forever remembered in our prayers, thoughts, and affections.

Father Brozena Becomes St. Michael's Eighth Pastor

On September 3, 1974, Reverend Joseph M. Brozena, a native of Plymouth, rose from assistant pastor to pastor of St. Michael's. Being a young, vigorous and energetic priest, he quickly began a new era of accomplishment and progress, one that has brought us up to where we are today.



*Bernardine Sisters now stationed at
St. Michael's*



His first task was that of having the cemetery roads paved through the generosity of the Holy Name Society. Immediately following the paving of the roads, Father Brozena established a perpetual care program. In 1976, realizing that the cemetery space was rapidly dwindling, Father Brozena, with the cooperation of the parishioners, was instrumental in helping the diocese form a diocesan cemetery under the new name of Holy Cross Diocesan Cemetery. The perpetual care program that was started in 1974 was guaranteed to the parishioners. Before the cemetery was incorporated into Holy Cross Diocesan Cemetery, a shrine honoring St. Michael the Archangel was erected as a tribute to the parishioners.

He then completely renovated the interior of the church, which was beautifully repainted, as were the altar and the statues. New chandeliers were installed; new carpeting was laid in the church; new pews were bought and put in place.

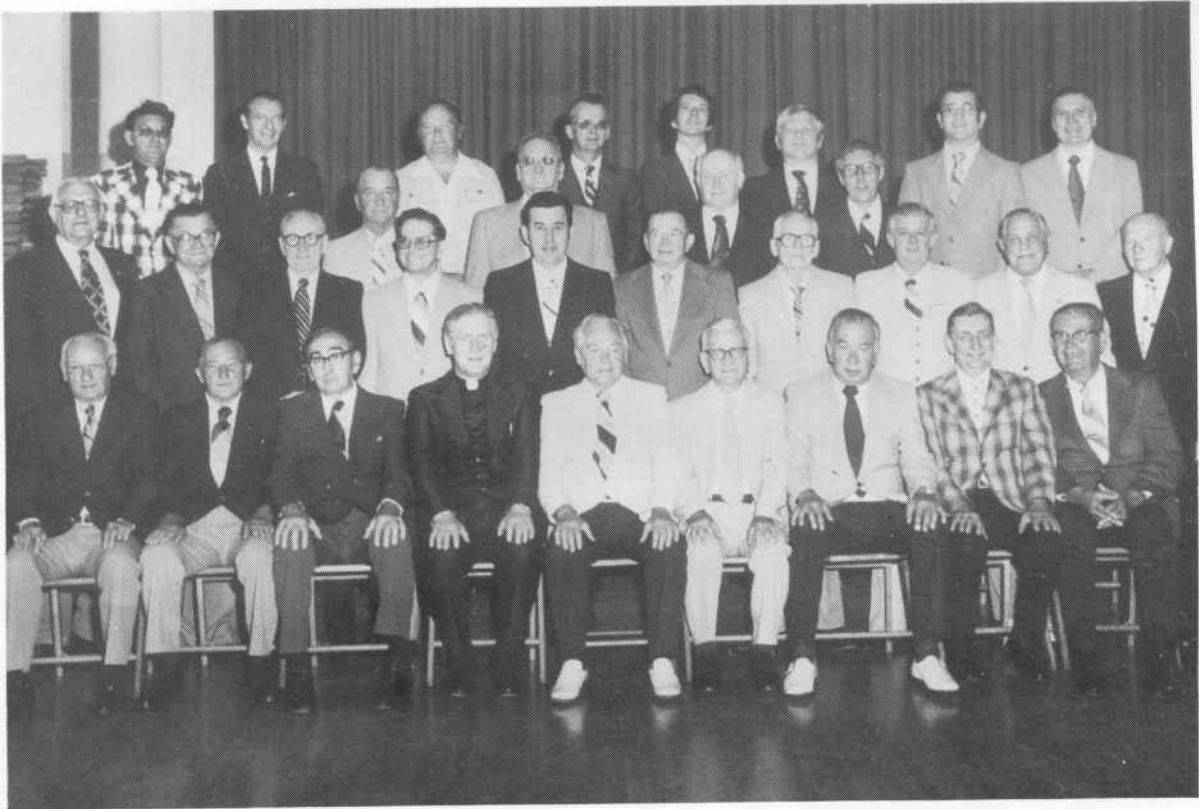
Through the generous donations of the parishioners, a new electronic bell system was installed.

In order to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in comfort, a new air-conditioning system was donated by the Holy Name Society.

In addition to these renovations a candle chapel was built adjoining the church.

The grotto in honor of the Blessed Mother was reconstructed on the church grounds.

The building of a new rectory for St. Michael's was begun in 1978 and completed in 1979. The contract was awarded to Mr. Joseph Deacon of Ventura Builders, Clarks Summit, at the price of \$147,000.



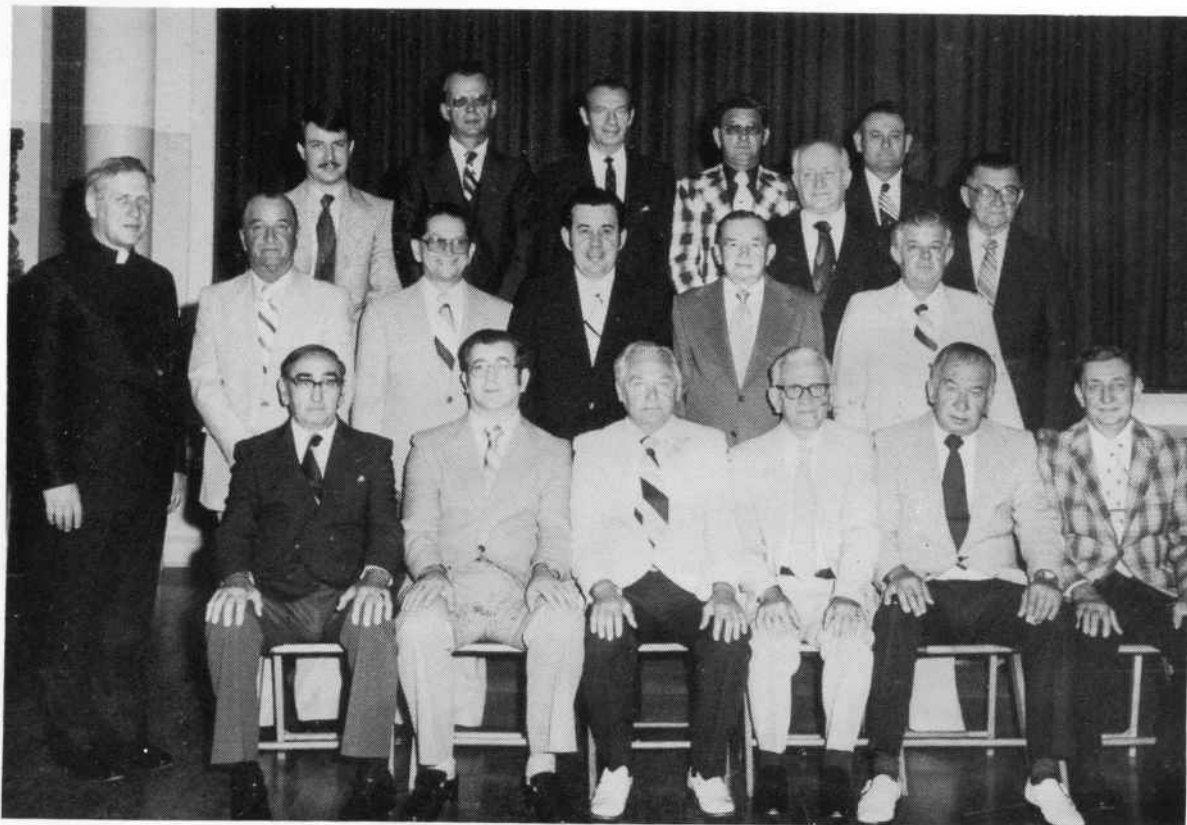
St. Michael's Holy Name Society — 1980



St. Theresa's Society, Group 535, Polish Women's Alliance of America



Parishioners celebrating their twenty-fifth and fiftieth, or more, wedding anniversaries



St. Michael's Ushers — 1980



St. Michael's CCD Teachers — 1980



St. Michael's Lectors and Minister of the Eucharist — 1980



St. Michael's Altar Boy Society — 1980



St. Michael's Parish Festival Committee — 1980



*St. Michael's Altar and Rosary Society and the
Third Order of St. Francis Society — 1980*



St. Michael's Diamond Jubilee Committee — 1980



St. Michael's Parish Choir and St. Cecelia's Choir — 1980



Confirmation — 1980



First Holy Communion — 1980

Father Brozena's summer festivities always attract many people, enabling our parish to realize a fair sum of money to help alleviate the financial burdens of the parish.

Today the parish of St. Michael's can be justifiably proud of our pastors, our beautiful church, the convent, school, our new splendid rectory, the grotto, and Holy Cross Diocesan Cemetery.

The parishioners always cooperated with every priest and worked ardently, zealously, and assiduously in order to bring every assigned task to fruition.

Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving

On Sunday, September 28, 1980, at four in the afternoon, Saint Michael the Archangel Church celebrated its diamond anniversary, its seventy-fifth year in existence. From 1905 and Father Francis Gratza to 1980 and Father Brozena, the history of St. Michael's is one of parish unity, of working together to get the tough jobs done, and serving in such a way as to deserve a place of highest respect in the diadem of God, a diamond among parishes.

A Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was offered in honor of St. Michael's seventy-fifth anniversary. The main celebrant was Most Reverend Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D., V.G., Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton.

Concelebrants were: Reverend Joseph M. Brozena, Reverend Walter Ferrett, Reverend Louis Garbacik, Reverend Francis Kazista, Reverend Leonard Novak, Reverend Walter Skiba, Reverend Casimir Sulicki, and Reverend Edward Zawodniak.

The homilist was Reverend Francis Kazista.

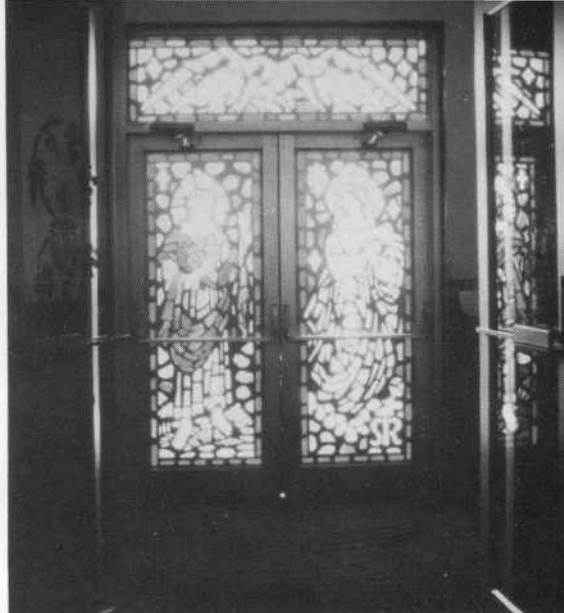
The lectors were Mrs. Mildred Legg and Mr. Joseph Stanek.

Making the presentation of gifts were: Mrs. Josephine Gurz, Mrs. Sophie Maychrowicz, Mr. Alfred Ostroski, Mrs. Mildred Panek, Mr. Rudolph Yagoda, and Miss Cynthia Petrosky.

The organist was Mrs. Eleanor Kwiatek.

The acolytes were: Lucian Bednarz, David Ferrit, Daniel Mozeleski, David Mozeleski, Edward Reed, James Sluck, and James Smicherko.

Following the Mass a dinner dance was held at St. Nicholas Hall on Vine Street in Old Forge.



Church Entrance



Fresco of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Interior of the church



This anniversary celebration served to prove how God has blessed this parish with peace, health, happiness, and with a great sense of cohesiveness. We hope and pray that God will continue to grant His graces and blessings on us, so that we will be able to see in unison the centennial celebration of our parish, Ad Multos Annos.

Some Interesting Statistics

St. Michael's Parish is comprised of:

Members: 1,505
Families 533

The First Baptism was in January, 1905—Anna and Maria Soldon.

The First Recorded Death was Jacob Mucha—April 24, 1905.

The First Marriage took place in May, 1905—John Dzieza and Josephine Zoltewicz.

Deaths recorded since the inception of the parish total 1,919.

A Note About St. Michael's Cemetery

The land for the cemetery was purchased on September 21, 1907, for \$1,300 from J. Frank Smith. It consisted of five acres. The deed was in the name of Bishop Michael J. Hoban, Bishop of Scranton, and was held in trust for the parish.

Our Trustees

A vote of gratitude and appreciation is owed the trustees of St. Michael's Parish. They are:

Joseph Kowalcik
Andrew Hajnos
John Nowicki
George Fasiczka
Jacob Gromelski

Mr. John R. Gromelski,
Historian



St. Michael's Cemetery

Vocations from the Parish



*Bishop Anthony Adomiak
Diocese of Opale, Poland*



Sr. M. Conradine



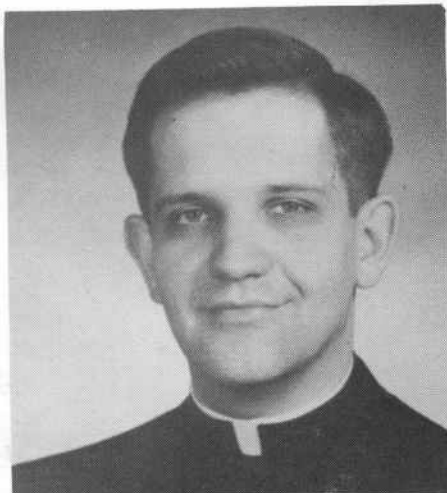
Father Francis Kazista



Sr. M. Pawlikowski



Sr. M. Clavier Trochinsky



Father Walter Ferrett



Sr. M. Leandra Tama

Vocations From St. Michael's Parish

St. Michael's parish was the source and fountain of nurturing seven parishioners to the religious life.

Bishop Anthony Adomiak was born in 1913 of Jendziej and Josephine Krzyzanowski Adomiak. Bishop Adomiak, was baptized in St. Michael's by Reverend Thomas Kurylowicz and ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 1939. He was elevated to the Episcopacy by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and is now a Bishop in the Diocese of Opale, Poland.

Father Francis Kazista was born in 1936 of George and Anna Stachnick Kazista. Father Kazista was ordained to the Holy Priesthood May 28, 1966, and is now an assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Father Walter Ferrett was born in 1941 of Walter and Mary Puzniak Ferrett. Father Ferrett was ordained to the Holy Priesthood May 28, 1966, and is now an assistant pastor at St. Mary's Visitation Church, Dickson City.

Sister Mary Clavier Trochinsky, daughter of Casimir and Anastasia Ledechowski Trochinsky, entered the Bernardine Order in 1930. She pronounced her final vows in August 1933 and is now residing at the Villa of St. Joseph in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Sister Mary Anne Pawlikowski, daughter of John and Catherine Krolak Pawlikowski, entered the Bernardine Order in 1931. She pronounced her final vows in August 1940 and is now teaching at Mount Alvernia College, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Sister Mary Leandra, daughter of Lawrence and Magdaline Koziol Tama, entered the Bernardine Order in 1932. She pronounced her final vows in August 1940 and at present is retired and residing at St. Joseph's Villa, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Sister Mary Conradine, daughter of Bronislaus and Magdaline Skiba Bieniek, entered the Bernardine Order in 1935. She pronounced her final vows in 1942 and is now residing in the Generalate at Villanova, Pennsylvania. She holds the position of First General Councillor in the General Administration of the Sacred Heart Province.



Bishop Timlin, center, and the pastor, far left, with visiting members of the clergy who participated in the Jubilee Mass

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Deceased of the Gach and Jutman
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Frank and Mary Chickey
Andrew Gurz and
George and Wanda Jarrow
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Antoinette, Frank Cetera, Sr. and Jr., and
Edward Jones
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George Lefchak Families
Helene Landers
John Mackowsky
Joseph and Antonina Maslanka and
Deceased of the Family

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Husband Joseph
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Husband Fred
Wife Irene and children
Children

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John Zupon
Stella Mission Spillar
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Mrs. Mary Czaja	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maslanka	Joseph Stocki III
Mrs. Mary Koss Czaja and Son Edward	Mrs. Rose Maslanka	Walter and Rita Stocki
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Demkosky	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mazaleski, Jr. and Sons	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Strazewski
John and Ann Marie Dorin	Rita McGrath	Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Sucheski
Mr. and Mrs. John Drazba	Bronislawa W. Mickiewicz	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Szymosh, Jr.
Steve Durkalo	Mr. and Mrs. Leon Mickiewicz and Family	Mr. and Mrs. John Szczech
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ezdebski	Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mikovitch and Son	Mrs. Emily Talalai
Mary Fasiczka	Mr. and Mrs. Chester J. Moha	Mr. and Mrs. James J. Talerico and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Ferraro and Children	Mr. and Mrs. James Moran	Mr. and Mrs. John Tarchak
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ferrett	Mrs. Louis Morock	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Telesz
Mrs. Sophia R. Fitt	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Morris	Mary Telesz
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gable	Mrs. Victoria M. Mostosky	Mrs. Mary Turowski
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gable	Agnes Petras Nelson	Gertrude Ulias
Mrs. Louis Gallia	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nese	Walter and Helen Ulias
Sandy Gatto and Children	Mrs. Mary Niemiec and Family	Mrs. Mary Victor
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Golemski and Children	Mr. and Mrs. John Nowacki	Emelia and Marlene Wodosky
Mrs. Evelyn Goosay	Mr. and Mrs. Roman Olszowy	Frank Wolyniak
Mr. and Mrs. W. Gorecki	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Orechovsky	Thomas and Virginia Wojcik
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Granko and Family	Mrs. Edward Orzalek and Family	Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wozniak
Joseph Greenfield, Jr.	Mary Osellanie	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Yarema
John Gromelski	Mr. and Mrs. Enrico Pascolini	Dolores A. Yerema
Susan Gromelski	Stanley Pawlikowski	Mr. and Mrs. Roman Yerema
Mrs. Andrew Gurz	Tony and Wanda Piscotty	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zabielski, Jr. and Children
Edward A. Haynes	Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Polansky	Mr. and Mrs. A. Zaykowski
Mrs. Cora Horyczon	Mrs. Julia Pracki	Mrs. Anna Zolcinski
Mr. and Mrs. John Jemiola and Family	Irene Pugliano	Mrs. Anna Zoltewicz
Ann Coss Kapuschak	Dr. William Rakauskas and Family	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zultewicz and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kapuscinski	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rakowicz	

In Memory Of

Vincent Baclaski
 Joseph and Frances Barycki
 Frank Belak
 Joseph Fasiczka
 Deceased of the Jarrow
 and Krukowski Families
 Joseph and Helen Kaneski
 Edward M. Malecki
 Joseph and Eva Malecki and Family
 Mrs. Mary Milesky
 John Minutes
 Michael Neishell, Sr.
 Michael Neishell

By

Son Vincent and Family
 Arthur and Rose Evans
 Wife Sophie
 Theresa and Charles Miller
 Joe and Stella Krukowski
 Veronica Drumetski
 Margaret Malecki
 Daughter Angela and Granddaughters
 Sophie Mozal
 Wife Mary
 Wife Anna
 Mr. and Mrs. John Sopp