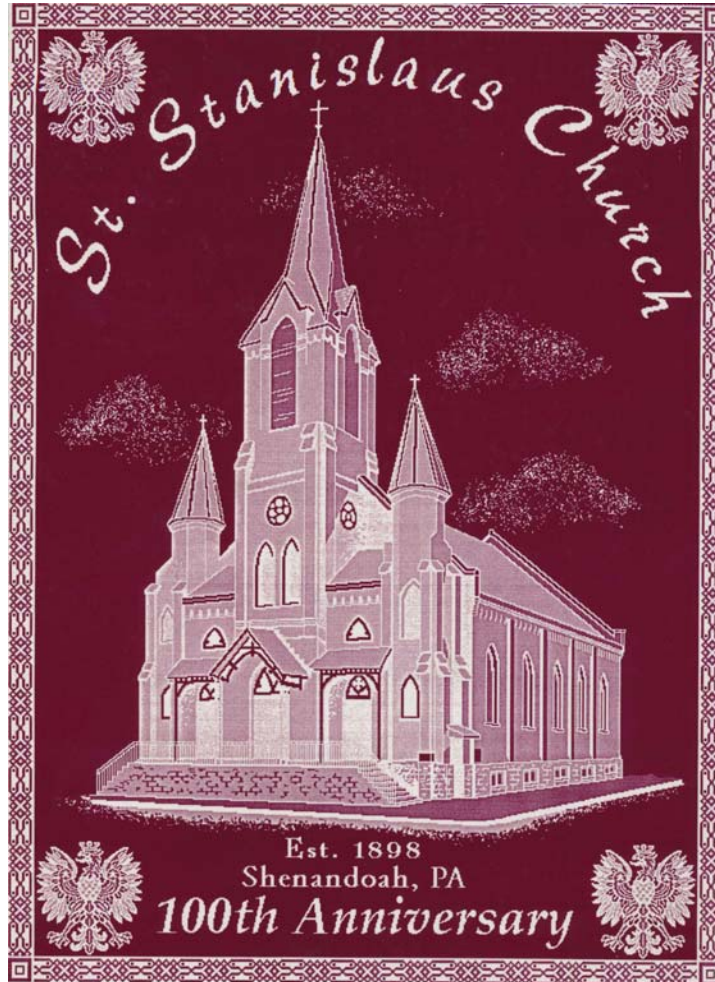


HISTORY OF ST. STANISLAUS PARISH, SHENENDOAH, PA

(St. Stanislaus Church, 100th Anniversary, Shenendoah, PA)



Reflecting on the history and heritage of St. Stanislaus Church, it is evident that the people of this parish have given their enthusiasm, generosity, hard work, and sacrifices as they continue to give witness to their strong faith in God. We are grateful to Almighty God for the history and heritage of the Church, and the love, faith and pride of the Polish ancestry of St. Stanislaus Parish that grew and prospered.

Toward the end of the eighteenth century, the rich deposits of coal attracted a great number of immigrants of Polish origin to Shenandoah. The small Polish Church was not sufficient to meet the spiritual needs of all these people. A committee was formed for the purpose of organizing another Polish parish in Shenandoah. The committee acquired the property of the Evangelical Congregation located on the corner of Cherry and West Streets. The title was transferred to the Most Rev. P. J. Ryan, Archbishop of Philadelphia in March of 1898. In May of 1898, St. Stanislaus Parish

with 446 members was actually established through the appointment of Father Miecislav Kopytkiewicz as the first rector. Soon the John Baptist Society, guards of General Pulaski and the Uniform Society of Thaddeus Kosciuszko joined the new parish. Due to the shortage of Polish priests at the time of January of 1899 to June 1900, clergy of neighboring Churches served the parish, including Father V. Matulaitis. The members increased to 573.



In July of 1900, Rev. Stanislaus Olesinski was appointed Pastor of St. Stanislaus. His first concern was to provide a parochial school which he conducted himself for one year with the assistance of the church organist. In 1901, he entrusted the school to the care of the Bernardine Sisters from Reading, Pennsylvania.

In June of 1903, Father Olesinski undertook the work of building a new brick church in place of the old wooden structure. Completed in 1905, it was blessed by the Most Rev. Archbishop Symon from Poland who also blessed the three bells named "Stanislaw", "Dominic", and "Josef". These bells have since been used to summon the faithful to the church services. Both the bells and church are used today.

In November of 1907, Father Thomas Grenbowski, became pastor. Through his efforts, the church was artistically decorated by William Assman with altars, and hand carved statues that were imported from Tyrol, Europe. The pipe organ was also installed.



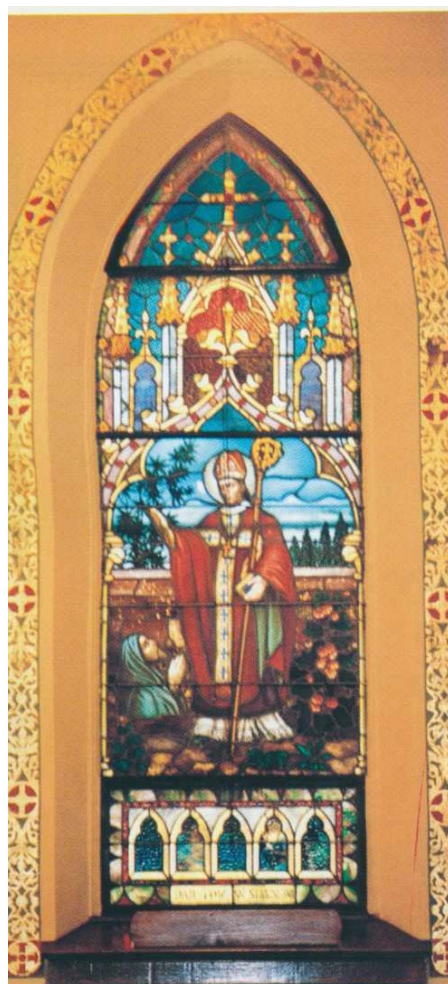
In May of 1913, under the guidance of Father Lewis Stachowicz a rectory and convent were established. He was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Alfred Wroblewski, a prominent orator, writer, and composer of church music. He was received enthusiastically by the parish. Large crowds were attracted by his sermons and a spiritual awakening took place. In 1924, Father Wroblewski retired to Rome where he was made a prelate and nominated a Canon of the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Rev. Stephen J. Zmich was appointed pastor in September of 1924. He served from 1925 to 1973 and under his guidance the following improvements were accomplished:

- Ground was broken for a new school across from the church. The building was completed in 1926. The school had grades 1 through 8 and the first 8th grade graduation came out in June of 1927.
- Church is redecorated in 1941. Noted improvements were new floors, kneelers and the entire interior.
- Parish became part of the Allentown Diocese in 1961 when the Philadelphia Archdiocese was divided in half with five northern counties comprising the newly erected Diocese.
- Father Stephen Zmich celebrates his Golden Jubilee in the priesthood in July of 1961. In the back of St. Stanislaus Church, a plaque honors the late Father Stephen Zmich for his impact on St. Stanislaus Parish.

His Excellency Bishop McShea assigned Rev. Leonard S. Merook as administrator to carry on the work of Father Zmich and the devotion of St. Stanislaus

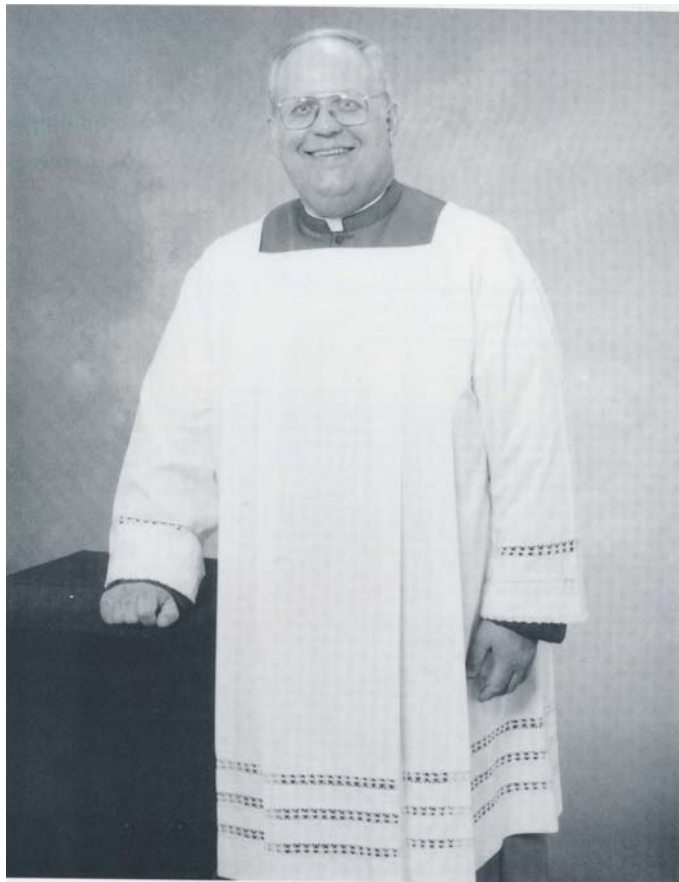
313 families (1,151 total population). During Father Leonard Merook's time at St. Stanislaus, many changes and improvements were made to the Church in accord with the Second Vatican Council. The Altar of Sacrifice was changed to face the people, Masses were said in English, and the sanctuary area was opened up to the congregation for reception of Holy Communion. Father Leonard made necessary improvements to the parish and its school. His love of God and neighbor was evident in his daily works. Father Leonard left many friends behind when he was transferred to Reading.



In 1984, Rev. James J. Mihalak, became Pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish. During his three year tenure, Father Jim maintained all the parish programs begun by his predecessors. He encouraged parishioner participation in the Liturgy as well as devotional services made available in the Polish tradition. Father's homilies reflected a respect for the ancestry of the parish, along with issues current to society during the years he served in Shenandoah.

On June 16, 1987, Rev. Edward W. Sarzynski was appointed Pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish. At that time he was the youngest appointed pastor in the Allentown Diocese. Along with his pastoral duties, he was also appointed Professor of Theology

and English at Cardinal Brennan High School where some students affectionately called him "Sarge."



*Rev. Msgr. Edward W. Sarzynski
Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church*

- 1986 - 1992 - Father Sarzynski has served as regional director, North Schuylkill Deanery, Vocations Apostolate.
- 1981 - 1991 - Special Advocate, Diocesan Tribunal.
- Rev. Edward Sarzynski was the chairman of the Shenandoah Area Board of Pastors when the community's last two parochial schools, St. Casimir/St. Stanislaus and Annunciation/St. George were combined to form the Father Cizek Elementary School.
- Rev. Sarzynski was also instrumental in having the cause for Father Cizek's canonization headquartered at the former St. Casimir's Rectory.
- On August 12, 1997 Rev. Edward Sarzynski was informed by the Most Rev. Thomas J. Welsh, Bishop of Allentown, that His Holiness Pope John Paul II had named him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor, effective June 12, 1997.
- Rev. Monsignor Edward Sarzynski was the first pastor to be given the honorable title of Monsignor in the history of St. Stanislaus Parish.

PASTORS

REV. MARIAN KOPYTKIEWICZ
REV. PETER ABROMAITIS
REV. ANTHONY MILUKAS
REV. ALBIN KAMINSKI
REV. WACLAW MATULAITIS
REV. STANLEY OLESINSKI
REV. MARK JANUSZKIEWICZ
REV. JOSEPH KOMINEK
REV. VICTOR ZAREK
REV. THOMAS GRENBOWSKI
REV. LOUIS STACHOWICZ
REV. ALFRED WROBLEWSKI
REV. STEPHEN J. ZMICH REV. LEONARD S. MEROOK
REV. JAMES J. MIHALAK
REV. MSGR. EDWARD SARZYNSKI

ASSISTANTS

REV. JOSEPH TYL
REV. MICHAEL SZCZYGIEL
REV. FRANK LUSZCZAK
REV. STANLEY SOLECKI
REV. JOHN JUDYCKI
REV. WLADYSLAW SARAMA
REV. JAN MAJCHRZYCKI
REV. JAMES F. GAFFNEY

SONS OF THE PARISH

REV. MARTIN MACIEJEWSKI
REV. ANTHONY BRZOZOWSKI
REV. JULIAN MURACZEWSKI
REV. ANTHONY SZCZYPIN
REV. CLARENCE GREGAS
REV. FRANCIS URBANOWICZ
REV. JEROME URBANSKI
REV. EDWARD BARANIAK
REV. IGNATIUS BARANIAK

DAUGHTERS OF THE PARISH

BERNARDINE SISTERS
SISTER M. ANITA BARANOWSKA
SISTER M. BONAVENTA RADZAJ
SISTER M. DANIELLE MARIE KUBELSKI
SISTER M. DOLORETTA KWAPICK

SISTER M. IRMINE RADZAJ
SISTER MARY YADESZKO
SISTER M. ADALBERT KRYSZTOPOWICZ
SISTER M. GAUDIOSA SMOKOWSKA
SISTER M. ALEXIA WAWRZYNSKA
SISTER M. GERTRUDE GORNEY
SISTER M. CANDIDA LESNDEWSKA
SISTER M. LEONA JERONIM
SISTER M. CUNEGUNDA MOZDYNIEWICZ
SISTER M. PASCHALIA MILEWSKA
SISTER M. EBERHARD ZEMAITIS
SISTER M. PROTASIA BAREJSZA
SISTER M. EMMANUEL WIECIELOWSKA
SISTER M. SEVERINE ANDRULEWICZ
SISTER M. FELICITAS RASIZ
SISTER M. VITALIA AZAREWICZ
SISTER M. ANNUNCIATA
SISTER M. PASCHALINE

OTHER COMMUNITIES

SISTER M. EMERENTIA - A FELICIAN SISTER
SISTER M. SERAFINA RAPCZYNSKA -A NAZARETH SISTER