

A brief historical sketch of St. Kunegunda's Parish

Solemn Blessing and Dedication of St. Kunegunda's New Church. McAdoo, PA



On August 1, 1893 the people of Polish descent in and around McAdoo congregated as a parish with the offering of the first Mass by Rev. Mathew Tarnowski in the Grant Street Public School. A few years later, between 1895-1896, Father Tarnowski built the first Chapel, located at Tamaqua and Sherman Streets. After the turn of the century in 1904, at Washington and Cleveland Streets, Rev. John Dabrowski arranged construction for the second Church, which was solemnly blessed on November 19, 1905. It was during that same year, that the ground was purchased for the parish cemetery.

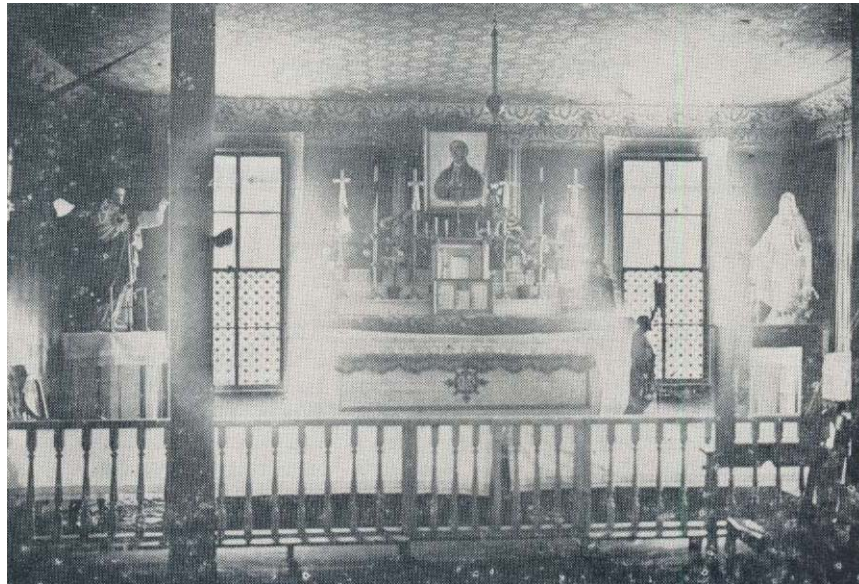
In 1916 the Bernardine Sisters of Reading, Pa., opened the parish school and classes were conducted in the church basement. Original enrollment was 300 students. During the following ten years, there developed a need for a separate school building. As a result of this necessity and the corresponding contributions, ground was broken for the present brick school structure in May, 1926, under the direction of Rev. Peter J. Klekotka, J.C.D.

On Sept. 23, 1927, the new school was blessed: the following year, Sept. 23, 1928, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth of Torresdale, Pa., opened the doors of the St. Kunegunda School to the increasing student enrollment.

In 1931, to accommodate the growth of the parish with its 350 families, the Archbishop of Philadelphia assigned as Assistant Rector, Rev. Stephen Wyborski. (The list of Pastors and Assistants who labored in this parish appear on a succeeding page).

Throughout the next few years, the main goal was to decrease the financial burden incurred by the building of the new school. In May 1951, the "Burning of the Mortgage" Banquet celebrated the final payment of that debt.

Debt-free, but with the ever-growing requirement for a new Church which would benefit the spiritual needs of its parishioners, a church-building-fund campaign was launched.



Wnętrze pierwszego kościoła

In May 1953, with the generous donations of \$1300, a beautiful stone Grotto, a memorial of our devotion to God and His Blessed Mother, was created in the rectory garden.

Then in May, 1954 we witnessed a dual celebration, the 60th Jubilee of the parish, along with the Golden Anniversary of the church building mortgage.

During the next few years, great strides were realized as our present Pastor, Rev. Stanislaus T. Gorak, with the help of Rev. Adam J. Bydlon, began a New Church Building Campaign and consequently preparation began for the construction of the present new edifice. Masses were celebrated in the temporary chapel, located in the school auditorium. On June 16, 1962, ground breaking ceremonies were conducted with the Rev. Julian G. Zagorski, Diocesan Consultor, assisted by the Rev. J. Smigielski, Pastor of St. Casimir's Mahanoy City, and our Pastor of St. Kunegunda's Rev. Stanislaus T. Gorak. The two oldest members of the parish, namely, Mr. John Brudish and Mr. Stanley Kordish and the most generous contributor, Mr. Edward P. Nescoda turned over the first spades of ground for the beginning of the new church construction.

On Sunday, October 13, 1963, the first Mass in the new church was celebrated during the first Forty Hours Devotion. The marble altars were consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Baran, V.F. of Lansford, Pa., who was delegated by our Most Rev. Bishop Joseph

McShea. D.D. The cost of the construction of the new church was \$270,000.00. The cost of the church furnishings. as: Pews, Organ, Marble Altars, Confessionals. Stained Glass Windows, Carillonic Bells. Vestments and cases was \$50,0(30. At present the parish debt is \$71,000.

This lasting memorial of the devotion of the Parishioners at St. Kunegunda's to God, is the result of the generosity of the people and reflects the strong faith and attachment to the church. not only of the founders of St. Kunegunda's, but also their descendants.

PASTORS:

Rev. Mathew Tarnowski — 1893-1894
Rev. Mark Januszkiewicz — 1894-1901
Rev. Stanislaus Olesinski — 1901-1902
Rev. Joseph Biela — 1902-1903
Rev John Dabrowski — 1904-1906
Rev. Louis Wojtis — 1906-1907
Rev. Paul Guzik — 1907-1908
Rev. Stanislaus Frog — 1908-1909
Rev Joseph Kuczynski — 1909-1910
Rev. Wdalbert Sulek — 1910-1913
Rev. Francis Grzywacz — 1913
Rev. Michael Pachuski — 1913-1917
Rev. Leon Ptaeracki — 1917-1918
Rev. Joseph Woda — 1918-1919
Rev. Sebastian Jerzak — 1919-1925
Rev. Peter Klekotka — 1925-1938
Rev. Ladislaus Sarama — 1938-1945
Rev. Stanislaus Gorak — 1945

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Stephen Wyborski — 1930-1931
Rev. John Pytko — 1931-1933
Rev. John Gaj — 1933

Rev. Joseph Tylka — 1933-1934
Rev. Joseph Niemies — 1934-1945
Rev. Stanislaus Gorak — 1945
Rev. Ignatius Szal — 1945
Rev. Albin Yodzisz — 1945-1952
Rev. Adam Bydlon — 1952-1958
Rev. Henry Bejgrowicz — 1958
Rev. Stanislaus Matraszek — 1959
Rev. John Rusek — 1959-1963
Rev. Jerome Urbanski — 1963

Vocations from St. Kunegunda's Parish:

Rev. Henry F. Krzywicki — 1914
Rev. Michael V. Marek — 1944
Rev. Edward S. Musial — 1946
Rev. Thomas — J. Szczerba — 1954
Rev. Edward S. Wisniewski — 1956
Rev. Louis P. Dutkowski — 1960
Rev. Thomas P. Skotek — 1963
Mr. David J. Rosh — 1965 — Major Seminary
Joseph Cieniawa Jesuit Noviate
Frederick Skotek — Minor Seminary
Bernard Rosh — Minor Seminary
Paul Puza — Minor Seminary

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth:

Sr. M. Honorata, (Kolacz)
Sr. M. Leonia (Kluskiewicz)
Sr. M. Laurencja (Romanczuk)
Sr. M. Aurea, (Brudish)
Sr. M. Eufrozine, (Glezman)

Sr. M. Blanche, (Saladyga)

Sr. M. Francis (Stempko)

Sr. M. Florentine. (Fritz), Bernardine Convent, Reading, Pa.

Sr. M. Justine, (Trella), Servants of Immaculate Conception, N. J.