



History of St. Hedwig Parish.

Celebrating Ninety Years of Faith and Polish Heritage
St. Hedwig Church 1907-1997, Philadelphia, PA.
CAP at Orchard Lake.

Because of the large influx of immigrants to the "Callowhill area, Archbishop P. Ryan approved the formation of St. Hedwig Parish in March, 1907 to be administered by Vincentian Order.

On March 24, 1907, Palm Sunday, the first Mass was celebrated in a public hall. Fr. J. Głogowski, the first Pastor, did not find this acceptable and he requested and received permission to use the Cathedral chapel for liturgical celebrations for the new parish until the Church was constructed.

Land was purchased at 23rd & Wood Streets and construction began on the Church and rectory. On December 22, 1907 the cornerstone was blessed and upon completion, the complex was dedicated on March 25, 1908.

On September 7, 1910 land was purchased at 22nd & Carlton Streets and construction began on a three-story building to comprise, the school, parish hall and convent. Classes began at the school on January 15, 1911 staffed by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Redevelopment of the Callowhill area by the city forced the Parish to relocate to 24th & Brown Streets and construction began on a new complex of buildings. The convent was completed in August 1956 and the school opened in September of that year. The first Masses were offered in the still uncompleted Church on Christmas Day, 1956. On February 3, 1957 the old Church was officially closed when the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the new Church building.

Pastors:

Rev. George Głogowski, C.M. (1907-1912)

Rev. Francis Trawniczek, C.M. (1912-1922)

Rev. John Cepurski, C.M. (1922)

Rev. Ladislaus Rakowski (1922-1927)

Rev. Anthony Brzozowski (1927-1935)

Rev. John S. Lorence (1935-1939)

Rev. Francis S. Palecki (1939-1946)

Rev. Joseph C. Kłosiński (1948-1964)

Rev. John J. Judycki (1964-1971)

Rev. Edward B. Baraniak (1971-1983)