The first Polish immigrants to come to Southampton, New York were mostly farmers. The first settlers gravitated to the farm area of Southampton and used skills of farming to earn a livelihood. In 1886, a Polish immigrant named Francis Kruszewski settled in Riverhead, moved to Bridgehampton in November of 1889, and finally settled in Southampton in 1890. In 1895 Kruszewski was joined by Joseph Butanowicz, Aleksander Krzyzewski, Antony Zelenski, Leon Kryziemian and Isidore Roszko. By 1901 six families were located in Southampton and by 1910, this grew to 29 families and some young adults.

Southampton, at the turn of the century, was an area containing several score luxurious estates and much rich farm land. As the population grew, the industrious Polish immigrants were well equipped to work at the wealthy summer residences as gardeners and caretakers. This offered seasonal employment for many to supplement their farm income. A building boom in the early 1900's offered still another source of income for the Polish settlement and many worked as foremen, mechanics, carpenters, masons, painters and small building contractors.

It was about this time, 1910, that the St. Anthony Benevolent Society was formed. The first meeting was held on May 24th, 1910 with 17 charter members in attendance. They were: Peter Balnis, Stanley Bruzdowski, John Andruszkiewicz, Peter Butanowicz, Alexander Krzyzewski, Stanley Chmielewski, Stanley Zelenski, Matthew Rewinski, Juliusz Zyczkowski, Aleksander Lango, Michael Chopliński, Peter Kapral, Peter Zubrzycki, Alexander Kuczenski and Peter Babiel. By the end of 1910, membership rose to 37 individuals.

The goal of this organization was to assist those in the Polish-American Community in the time of crisis, illness, or death. In addition, it served to propagate the Catholic Faith and Polish culture. Dues were fifty cents for a month, and seven dollars was paid to a member during illness. In case of death, the organization contributed $100 plus $1 per member to the bereaved family. The first meetings were held in the home of Aleksander Krzyzewski.

By 1918, 331 families of Polish origin had settled in the area from Remsenburg to Montauk. These families traveled on Sunday to St. Isidore's Church in Riverhead; they came by railroad, horse and buggy, and bicycle to receive the Sacraments of the Church from Pastor, Father Rysiakiewicz.

The St. Anthony Benevolent Society, with the assistance of Rev. Rysiakiewicz, petitioned the Most Rev. Bishop McDonell, to establish a Polish Church and parish in Southampton. Permission was
granted and Rev. Aleksander Cimowski was appointed to be pastor of the Polish Parish to be called Our Lady Queen of Poland.

On Sunday, June 30, 1918, the first Mass was celebrated by Rev. Ciżmowski at Schwenk's Arcade, the building opposite the old Southampton Post Office, with about 100 people in attendance.

The Drew property on Maple Street was to be the site for the Church. It was purchased for $13,325. The present rectory was included in the sale. This site was chosen for its proximity to the railroad station, since parishioners had to journey from as far as Montauk by train. The task to raise the founds for construction etc., was the job of the newly organized Our Lady of Poland Parish.

St. Anthony's Benevolent Society contributed $1250 to the Building Fund. Five farmer families, some of the oldest Polish settlers in Southampton contributed $100 each to the fund. These families were: Ignace and Helen Jablonski, Louis and Ann Zaluski, Adoph and Salomea Sakowicz, Anthony and Eve Musnicki and Alexander and Victoria Tyszka.

Of the 331 families who contributed to the building fund, 149 were from Southampton, 42 from Watermill, 18 from Bridgehampton, 12 from Sagaponack, 2 from Wainscott, 34 from Sag Harbor, 12 from Quogue, 12 from Speonk, 6 from East Quogue, and 4 from Remsenberg.

To raise money, the Polish sold livestock, home made cakes, breads, and cut flowers. Dances were held at Schwenks Arcade Building to raise additional revenue.

Due to World War 1, restrictions on building materials, no new building were being constructed. By using an existing building, it was possible to proceed. Ground was broken on October 21, 1918 and a "Temporary" church was completed on December 24, 1918. William Sandlewski, Michael Armusiewicz, and Frank Kruszewski were some of the men who helped in the construction.

At 6 a.m. Christmas Day 1918, the first Mass was said in the new Church by Rev. Alexander Ciżmowski.

The first marriage was solemnized January 12, 1919, between Peter Kisiel and Bronislava Sokolovska. The first mission service was held on January 22, 1919 by the Redemptorist Fathers.

The Cizmowski taught catechism to the younger members of the parish. He would travel from town to town and teach groups of children at various homes. One home that was made available was that of Anthony Musnicki.

The church was an integral part of the immigrant's life. Many of the traditions of Poland were practiced in the new homeland, the blessing of bread and colored eggs at Easter time, and the blessing of homes each year.

Father Joseph Cizmowski replaced his brother as pastor in 1923 and stayed here until he passed away in 1934.

Father Alex Cizmowski returned to resume the pastorate once more. About this time, some Felician Nuns came from Brooklyn each weekend to teach catechism, the Polish Language and folk dancing to the youngsters. Each year the children presented a pageant for the benefit of the church.

In 1919, spiritual societies were formed by the women of the parish. The Rosary Society and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society. Paying homage to the Blessed Mother of God, the young girls of the
parish belonged to the "Children of Mary" or the Blessed Virgin Sodality.

Numerous organizations were formed in the ensuing years:
- Polish American Political - 1923
- Club Incorporated - 1928
- St. Wojciecha Z.P.R.K. - 1926
- Marie Curie Sklodowski Soc. - 1934
- Polish War Veterans
- Auxiliary to the Polish War Veterans - 1935
- Polish Falcons - 1934
- United Societies – 1935

The Polish-American Political Club was formed in 1923. In January 1928, the Club purchased the grounds for the construction of a building. The property cost $3250 and a deposit of $325 was made from the organization's treasury. The balance was in the form of a bank note signed by the late Ignacy Jabłoński.

The Polish-American Political Club was incorporated in March 1928. The corporation consisted of Ignacy Jabłoński, Marcel Damięcki, Vincent Koralewski, Marion Szczepankowski and Stanley Zielenksi.

The thousand shares were sold at $10.00 each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Shares</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>$1850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By January 1st, 1934, the balance of $2216.72 of the mortgage was paid with funds raised from various functions at the Home.

In 1946 the Polish Home was enlarged and bowling alleys added. The net worth was now in excess of $200,000.

The use of the "Polish Hall" was donated for many church affairs and benefits over the years. During the second World War, the American-Polish Relief Committee was formed to aid victims of War and refugees in other countries.

This committee was organized in 1948 for the purpose of sponsoring displaced persons, and aiding them in finding homes and employment. Over 220 persons were brought to our area. Some later left, but the majority stayed and today are some of our more prosperous citizens.


June 20th. 1948 saw the 30th Anniversary of the Parish and a Solemn Mass was held. The celebrant was the Rev. Anthony Zasowski, the deacon was Rev. Bojarski and Sub-deacon, Rev. Wodziak. An evening banquet followed at the Ulaski Hall attended by about 300 people.
After becoming Pastor of St. Isidore's in Riverhead, Rev. Zasowski became Monsignor.

In January 1953, the Rev. Theodore Wegrowski became Pastor and Rev. Francis Filmanski the new assistant.

On November 15, 1953 the 35th Anniversary of the Parish was celebrated with High Mass and a banquet. Father "Ted" then undertook the task of raising funds to re-model our church. On May 20th, 1956, the Church was rededicated and blessed. With new beautiful stained glass windows, dedicated to some of our parishioners and friends, it was a joy to see the new look of our "Little Country Church." A beautiful new organ was donated in Mr. and Mrs. Bronislaw Grzybowski's memory, by their children.

A fund raising campaign for a Parochial School and convent was initiated with the goal of $75,000, which was surpassed by many thousands of dollars. The Most Reverend Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg presided at the solemn opening of the school-convent campaign on June 28, 1960.

Father Wegrowski purchased the Cummings & Wozniak properties on North Main Street for the future parochial school. In May 1961, the Raffel property on Maple Street and Pulaski Avenue was purchased for the Convent.

The existing building on school property was destroyed and ground was broken for the school on June 11, 1961. The cornerstone was blessed on May 27, 1962 by Father Węgrowski. The first Holy Mass was celebrated in the new school auditorium on July 15, 1962. Cost of construction was $412,300. The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth opened the Convent on Maple Street. The Principal and Mother Superior M. Clare was assigned to the convent and school, which was blessed and dedicated on Sept. 13, 1962 by the Most Rev. Vincent J. Baldwin, Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre.

Father "Ted," early in his stay, organized the Ladies Guild of this Parish. Its purpose is to work solely for the church and its needs over the years, it has undertaken many projects to beautify the church in many ways—the Altar Boy outfits, the side altars at Easter time, refinishing of altar fixtures, new altar cloths, and lately, the permanent Christmas decorations.

Father Francis Filmanski was Assistant Pastor at this time. He was responsible for the growth of the Altar Boy Society, which has counted over 70 boys in its membership.

In 1963, the Rev. Theodore Węgrowski was assigned to St. Isidore's in Riverhead and was succeeded by Rev. John Cwalina of St. Ladislaus Parish, Hempstead, where he had been Assistant Pastor. Rev.