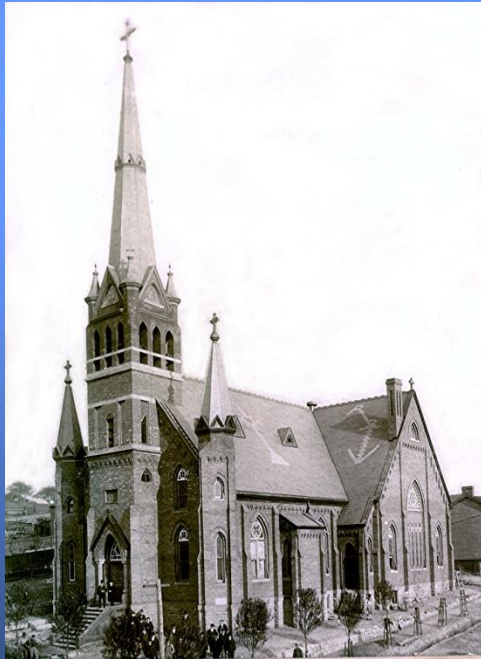
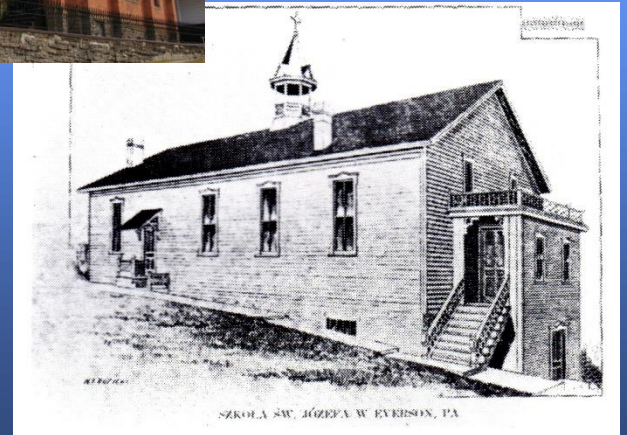


# St. Joseph's History 1887-Today



St. Joseph's Polish R. C. Church



SZKOŁA ŚW. JÓZEFA W EVERSON, PA

# **St. Joseph's RC Church**

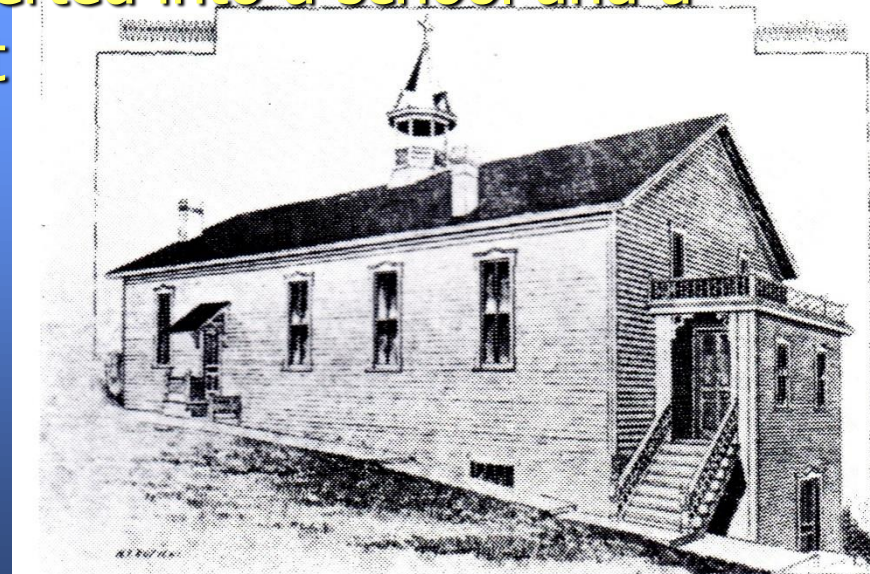
Founded and Funded by  
Catholic Polish Immigrants  
Bonded by Religion, Language,  
Culture and Tradition

# St. Joseph's in 1887

- First Mass 21 August
- First Baptism Thomas Stochowiak 11 September
- First Marriage – Michael Baran and Elizabeth Behrin 12 September
- Parish officially established 15 September to serve immigrant Polish families
- First Priest Fr. Alexander Szmigiel

# First Church 1887

- A 20' by 40' structure originally known as Major Knapp's Episcopalian Chapel
- Also served as St. John the Baptist until 1882 when St. John's bought property in Scottdale
- In one year it grew from 87 families to 100.
- The original church was converted into a school and a new wooden church was built

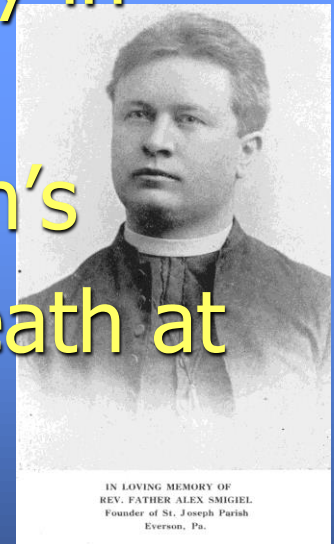


SKETCH BY JOSEPH W. EVERSON, PA.

# First Priest

## Fr. Alexander W. Szmigiel

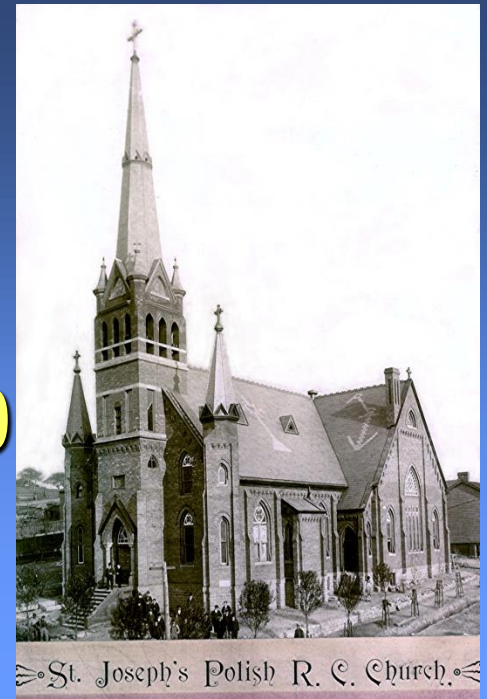
- Educated in Poland, Rome and Lovain Belgium
- Ordained at St. Vincent's seminary in Beatty (now Latrobe)
- Started as an assistant at St. John's
- Served at St. Joseph's until his death at the age of 39





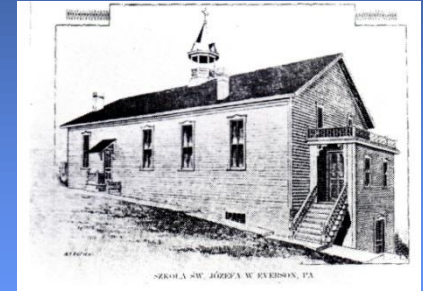
# St. Joseph's 1892

- Built in 1892 at a cost of \$80000
- Cornerstone laid by Bishop Phelan of Pittsburg in 1892
- Built in the Gothic style in the shape of a cross 112' long and 44' wide
- Steeple reached 156' but was damaged by lightning. Reduced to it's present 115'



# St. Joseph's School

- First church was converted to a four classroom school in 1888
- Staffed by lay teachers until 1898
- Run by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth 1898-1920
- In 1924 a new school was built
- From 1920 until it's closure in 1990 the school was run by the Sisters of the Holy Ghost





# St. Joseph's School Last Class 1987



Faculty - Sr. Edward, C. Muchow, Sr. DeChantal,  
R. Rinier, Sr. Madalyn, D. Wojciechowski



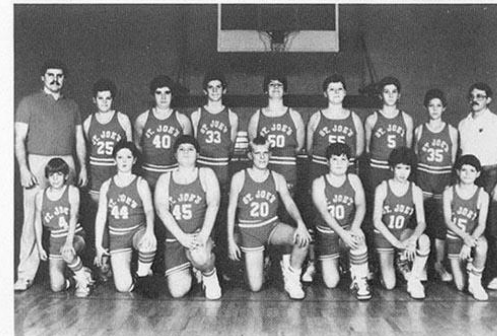
Grade School  
Altar Servers



Mary Sefcheck, Secretary



1986-87 St. Joseph Basketball Team and Cheerleaders





# St. Joseph's Pastors



Fr Szmigiel 1887-1901



Fr Miskiewicz 1901-04



Fr Orzechowski 1904-12



Fr Jaworski 1912



Fr Lipski 1912-19

Fr Ostaszewski 1919



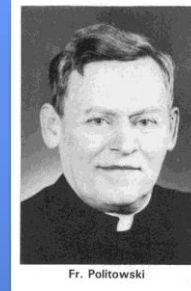
Fr Wojciechowski 1930-45



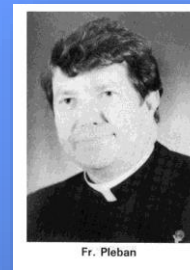
Fr Przybylski 1919-30



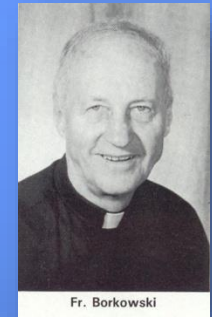
Fr Filip 1944-46



Fr Politowski 1945-66



Fr Pleban 1966-73



Fr Borkowski 1973-86



Fr Cindric 1986-89



Fr Sredzinski 1989-99



Fr Bogusz 1999-2000



Fr Washko 2000-2008



Fr Sedlak 2009-2013



Fr Kawecki 2013-today

# A Few of the Nuns Who Served St. Joseph's

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS: SISTERS OF THE HOLY GHOST



Sister M. Leona, Sister M. Leonette, Sister M. Dominic, Rev. A. J. Politowski, Sister M. Cyrilla, Sister M. Elizabeth.



Sisters M. Loretta Shelby, Cecilia Fabiszewski, M. Imelda Stankiewicz, Madalyn Chlebowski, Eileen Chlebowski, M. DeChantal Serwinski, M. Stephanie Lazor

# St. Joseph's has provided 12 priests and 23 nuns

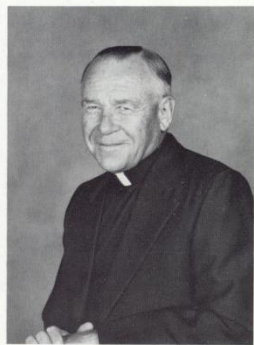


## Franciscan Sisters

Sisters Clarissa and Clarissima Kaczmarek

## Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

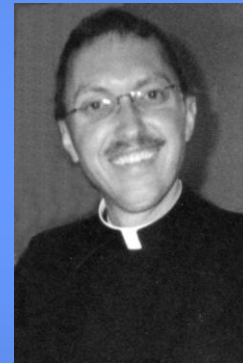
Sisters Honesta Jachimiak and Reginelle Serwinski  
Not Pictured is Sister Lawrence Walczak



Fr. Aloysius A. Jezewski



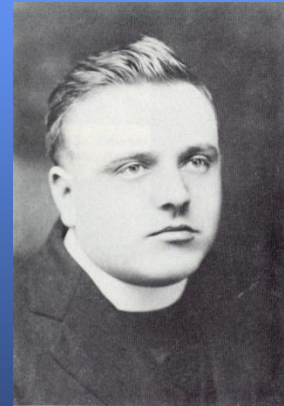
Fr. Francis A. Lesniowski



Msgr. Aloysius L. Zwolinski



Fr. Daniel J. Szczygiel



+ Fr. John Szwed



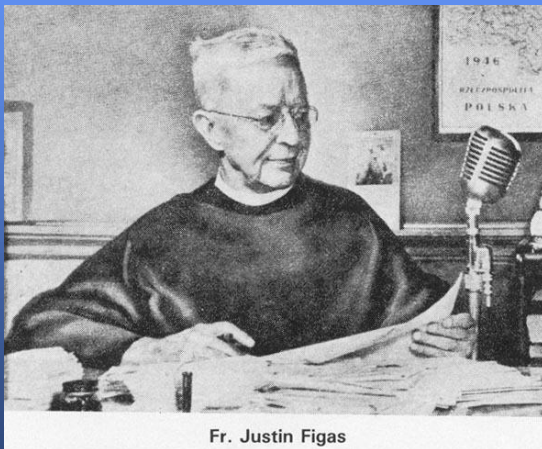
# St. Joseph's Convent and Rectory

- Convent built for the sisters in 1897
- First rectory built in 1889. It was damaged by fire 17 May 1927 and rebuilt the same year



# Notable Parish Vocation Fr. Justin (Michael) Figas

- Being considered for Sainthood
- Born in McClure 24<sup>th</sup> June 1866 died 1959
- Survived polio, father attributed to Our Lady of Czestochowa at St. Joseph's
- Became a Franciscan priest 17 July 1910
- Started Rosary Hour in 1931



Fr. Justin Figas



+ Fr. Justin Figas, O.F.M. Conv.



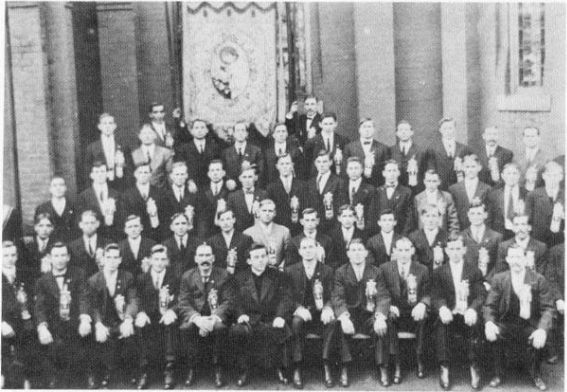
# St. Joseph's Celebrated it's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2012

- A Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was led by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt who delivered the homily.
- The concelebrant was Benedictine Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki of St. Vincent Archabbey. He was a parishioner of St. Joseph's and a student in its parochial school





# St Joseph's Historical Organizations



Tow. SW. Alojzego - 1912



Bingo Workers



Holy Rosary Society



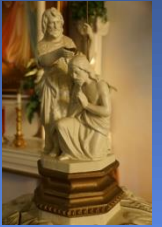
Holy Name Society



Boy Scout Troop



Ladies Guild



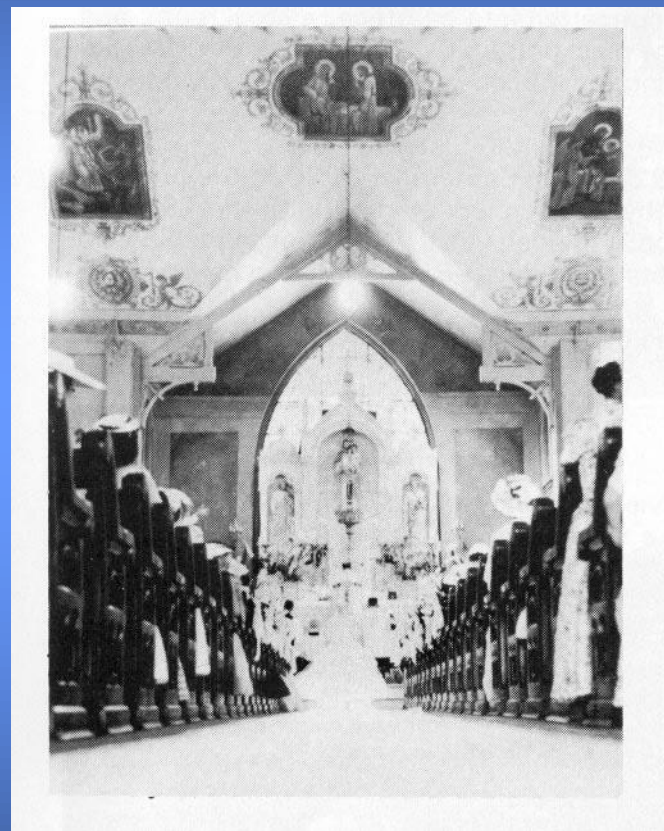


# Our Lady of Czestochowa "The Black Madonna"





# St Joseph's Historical Interior

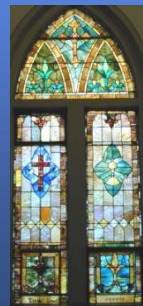
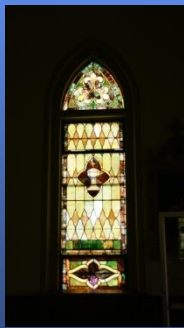
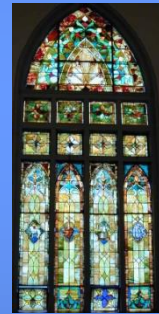
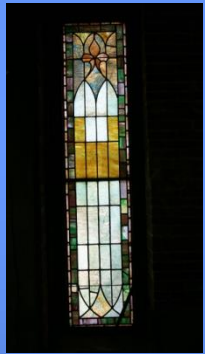
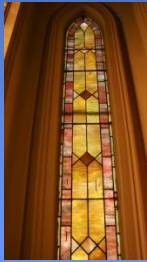
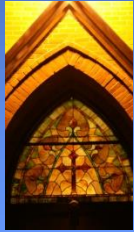
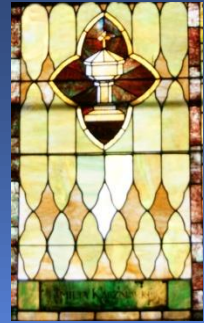


Sanctuary With Pulpit

# St Joseph's Sanctuary









# A Few Catholic Polish Traditions

- Gorzkie Żale - Bitter Lamentations – Weekly Lenten Service. First celebrated in 1704 Holy Cross Church Warsaw Poland. The devotion is primarily a sung reflection and meditation on the Passion of Christ and the sorrows of His Blessed Mother
- Wigilia – Traditional Polish Christmas Eve vigil
- SmingusDingus (Wet Monday) – Easter Monday. Commemorates Poland's conversion to Christianity and the baptism of Prince Mieszko in 966 A.D.

**St. Joseph's and St. John the  
Baptist were Partnered by  
the Diocese of Greensburg  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2013**

**St. Joseph's held it's 40<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Summer Festival in  
July 2014**



**Today**