In 1926, the southwest part of Dearborn Township consisted mostly of farms and unpaved roads.

The nearest parish was Sacred Heart on Michigan Avenue. A few men of Polish descent got together to discuss the possibility of having a church built in their own community in which the liturgy would be celebrated in Polish.

Permission was received in 1926 and so the task of building his new church to be called St. John the Baptist fell to Joseph and Albin Bartos, Mr. Gierlazyyn, John Lukasiewicz., F. Pietrowski, Thomas Niemczewski, Frank Niemiec and Paul Waske.

Gradually over time, a convent, rectory and school were built as the congregation grew. These dedicated men and women worked very hard during an economically difficult time in our country to have their own place of worship and a school in which their children would be educated.

The Sister of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis joined the staff in 1931 and taught 90 students.

Various organizations were formed such as the Rosary Society, Altar Society, Holy Name and the Young Ladies Sodality. The Rosary and Altar societies merged in 1958. In later years other groups developed such as the Parish Council, Booster Club, Club 12, Tatry Dancers, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Scouts, Legion of Mary, Choir and the St. John's Travelers as the most recent.

In 1995, the school closed due to declining enrollment. The Sisters who taught our children for so many years found jobs in other schools but are still with us working quietly around the church and attend Mass every weekend. We are grateful to them for their many years of service in educating children.

We are also thankful for the priests who have sewed in this parish. We pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for dedicated lay persons to assist the clergy and religious in church ministries.

We pray that our parishioners will remain faithful to the Gospel and live out the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity as worded in our mission statement.
TIMELINE

1926 Permission granted to form a new parish to be called St. John the Baptist.

1927 Parish picnic. First Eucharistic Congress convenes in Chicago. Sanctuary of Our Lady of Victory in New York becomes first Catholic parish to become consecrated as a basilica.

1928 Permission granted to build a school at St. John's. Josemaria Escriva founds Opus Dei in Spain.

1929 New school of St. John's is built. City of Dearborn is established.

1930 Convent is erected.

1931 School is enlarged and Sisters of St. Joseph join the staff.

1932 Rectory is built.

1933 The Catholic Youth Organization is founded in Detroit. Bernadette Soubirous is canonized. The Sisters of Saint Joseph, Third Order of Saint Francis staff our school.

1934 Completion of rectory.

1936 Edwin Balazy born in Wyandotte.

1937 Detroit becomes an archdiocese with Edmund Cardinal Mooney as its first leader.

1938 Parish mission. Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit is proclaimed a cathedral for the Archdiocese.

1939 Pope Pius XI dies. Pope Pius XII begins his pontificate.

1941 Mercy Sisters open Mercy College. The parish celebrates its fifteenth anniversary.

1942 Parish mission.


1947 Frances Cabrini the first American saint canonized by Pope Pius XII. The Felician Sisters open Madonna College in Livonia.

1948 Convent is purchased for the sisters. Ground broken for new school. Cardinal Mooney blesses new school.

1950 Pope Pius XII declares the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Marian Year

1951 Twenty Fifth Anniversary Mass is celebrated on October 14, 1951.

1953 Parish fundraising commences for the new church.
1954 Construction begins on present church.
1955 Edward Cardinal Mooney blesses the new church.
1956 Parish mission.
1957 Father Solanus Casey dies in Detroit.
1958 Rosary and Altar Societies are joined as one organization. Cardinal Mooney enters eternal life. Pope Pius XII enters eternal life. Pope John XXIII begins his pontificate.
1959 John Francis Dearden is installed as archbishop of Detroit.
1962 Segregation of New Orleans parochial schools end. Supreme Court rules school prayer is unconstitutional. Vatican II is called by Pope John XXIII in Rome.
1964 Girls softball championship.
1965 Pope Paul VI addresses the UN General Assembly in New York. Vatican II sessions end.
1966 Parish mission. The ban of eating meat on Friday is lifted.
1968 Catholic bishops condemn artificial birth control. Focus Hope started in Detroit as a result of the riots by Frs. Cunningham, Fraser and Eleanor Josaitis.
1969 Fr. Mitch enters eternal life. Fr. Jerome is appointed interim administrator of the parish. Parish committee drafts plan for a parish council. Archbishop John Dearden is elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Paul VI.
1970 Parish Council at St. John's is established. Twenty nine candidates vie for fifteen positions on the Council. Fr. Joseph Karasiewicz is appointed pastor of St. John's. New American Bible becomes the first Catholic translation to English from original sources. Family films shown at the Music Hall in Detroit. Sponsored by priests and proceeds to be used to feed the needy.
1973 Discussion and work begins for the Parish Golden Jubilee celebration.
1974 Booster club raises money for the sports program. Legion of Mary organized at St. John's.
1975  Club 12 continues to raise funds for the benefit of St. John's school. September peace pilgrimages at St. John's in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.


1977  John Neumann is the first American to achieve sainthood.

1978  Pope Paul VI enters eternal life. John Paul I is elected to the papacy. John Paul I dies after one month into his pontificate. John Paul II is elected to the papacy.

1979  Fr. Edwin Balazy is appointed pastor of St. John's. The Polish Gospel is eliminated at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.


1981  Fr. Karasiewicz enters eternal life.

1982  Sister Juanita celebrates her Silver Jubilee as a religious. The St. Vincent de Paul Society establishes a conference at St. John's. Maximilian Kolbe is declared a saint by John Paul II.


1985  Sister Joan celebrates her Silver Jubilee as a religious. Teen club reunion.

1986  Sister Olivia enters eternal life.


1988  Marian Year. Cardinal Dearden enters eternal life. Archbishop Szoka is elevated to the College of Cardinals. Role of women in the Church is encouraged by Catholic bishops with the exception of ordination.

1989  Thirty one parishes in the Archdiocese close. The beginning of the decline of communism.

1990  University of Detroit Mercy is established as a merger between the University of Detroit and Mercy College. Cardinal Szoka is appointed by the Holy Father as President of the Prefecture for Economic Affairs. Adam Maida is made archbishop of Detroit.
1991  Monthly newletters added to the bulletin. Parish's 65th anniversary celebrated with Mass, procession with the Knights of Columbus and reception in the hall.


1993  Sr. Cyrilla celebrates 60 years as a religious at Garfield Heights. World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado. Several young people from the parish participate. Mustangs finish the season in second place.

1994  The Catechism of the Catholic Church is issued in French to be followed by other languages. Adam Maida is elevated as a Cardinal of the Catholic Church in Detroit. Third millennium preparations begin.

1995  St. John's school graduates its last class in June as it closes. Father Solanus Casey is declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II.

1996  St. John's parishioners celebrate the 70th anniversary with a breakfast in the parish hall. The St. John's Travelers are established in the parish. A showcase filled with memorabilia is set up in the old baptistry. Eight members of the Tatry Dancers are used as extras in the film Polish Wedding.

1997  Charter school, the Academy of Business and International Studies, opens in the old St. John's. Girl altar servers are used for the first time at St. John's. Parish celebrates Fr. Ed's 35th anniversary as a priest. Mother Teresa enters eternal life. Frederic Ozanam is beatified by Pope John Paul II. The convents at St. John's are sold. A new organ is purchased for the parish.

1998  Teen Club reunion. Pope John Paul II celebrates twenty years as the Bishop of Rome. Edith Stein, a Jewish convert to Catholicism, is canonized. Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak is declared a national shrine.

1999  Parish Potluck dinner commemorates Fr. Ed's 20 years of service to the parish. Sr. M. Cyrilla enters eternal life. Padre Pio is beatified by Pope John Paul II.


2001  The Catholic Church in Detroit celebrates its 300th anniversary. The Sisters of Saint Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis celebrate their centenary. Vicariate discussions begin regarding parish clustering. Chimes installed on September 26th. St. John's celebrates its 75th Anniversary on October 14th. Tatry Dancers celebrate their 30th Anniversary.