History of the St. Stanislaus BM Parish.
75th Jubilee of St. Stanislaus BM Church, West Warren, MA, p. 9-12. CAP at Orchard Lake.

by the Rev. John P. Kochanowski

When Fr. Fligier assumed new duties as pastor of St. John Cantius' parish in Northampton, the Rev. Joseph Lekston continued his work. Father Lekston bought the present rectory building. Immediate steps were taken by him to collect money for construction of the new church. However, his stay here was brief because Bishop Beaven needed him for a well established parish of St. Stanislaus B.M., South Deerfield.

The third pastor of St. Stanislaus B.M. parish in West Warren was the Rev. John Zaszczezynski. After two agonizing set-backs, with numerous and varied difficulties to overcome, Father Zaszczezynski succeeded and his efforts and those of the Polish people were crowned with the construction of the present church edifice. The Bruno Wozny architectural firm of Springfield drew plans. Within a few weeks the general contract was granted to S. Roy & Son Co. of Springfield.

Blessed 1917

The new church was blessed in 1917 and the first Mass was celebrated by Fr. Zaszczezynski on Christmas Day. After eight years of hard work. Father Zaszczezynski took his first vacation and visited his homeland in Europe.

During his absence the parish was under the guidance of the LaSallette Fathers. Fathers Zener and Sajek administered the parish.

Pastor Injured

The return of Fr. Zaszczezynski to the parish was also the end of his devoted service to the people of Warren and West Warren. Shortly after returning to the parish he was on his way to a funeral in Northampton. Severely and permanently injured in an automobile accident, he had to resign. Again visiting priests administered to the needs of the people.

New Pastor

In 1925 the late Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary appointed Rev. Stanislaus Feresz as pastor. The latter served the parish until 1929 when he was named pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Hadley.
On July 6, 1929 the late Rev. Julius Jaworek was named pastor of St. Stanislaus B.M. parish in West Warren and remained here until his death, Sept. 1, 1952.

On October 8, 1952, Rev. Charles J. Chwalek, then curate of St. Joseph’s parish in Webster, was appointed pastor of the parish. From the time of the death of Fr. Jaworek, the Rev. Joseph Niedzwiecki, assistant to Father Jaworek, served as administrator.

**Parish Hall Built**

During the pastorate of Father Chwalek, repairs and improvements were made in the church building and a parish hall was built. Many of the materials were donated. Most of the labor was furnished by the parishioners. Father Chwalek had plans for other projects and improvements when he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa parish in Worcester.

His successor was the Rev. Alexander Struczko, who died in the rectory less than three years after becoming pastor. He was succeeded by the Rev. Peter J. Samorajski, who in turn was succeeded by the Rev. Casimir A. Swiacki. During 1962 the church and rectory were covered with aluminum siding. The present pastor, Rev. John P. Kochanowski, came to the parish January 15, 1963.

**Well Established**

The parish in West Warren is now well established. After 50 years of existence, this parish just as others founded by immigrants faces a normal period of transition, making necessary improvements to the needs of its members.

Immediately after the Golden Jubilee celebrations work started on necessary improvements. The church interior will be completely renovated and decorated; Other work, recommended by heating and lighting engineers, will be carried out.

**By the Rev. Peter P. Hamernik**

On May 23, 1970, our parish celebrated the ordination of a young man from our parish family, Rev. Thaddeus J. Kardas. All the best to Father Kardas and his future in the priesthood.

Renovations on our church were completed in 1972 during the pastorate of Rev. Kochanowski. In September of 1972, Father Kochanowski retired. Rev. Joseph Szwach was assigned to our parish as administrator at that time.

In June 1973, Rev. Szwach was transferred to Our Lady of Jasna Gora in Clinton, MA and was replaced by Rev. John Szamocki, who was assigned to our parish by Bishop Flanagan.


The year 1976! How can we not recall the 200th birthday of our beloved country. Our parish had a Polish food booth on the Warren Common during the July 4th celebration. God Bless America!
Painting of the School building and hall was accomplished by February 1976. July 11, 1976, our parish honors Sr. Mary Herman Kurr on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee of religious profession in the Community of the Franciscan Sisters.

Father Szmocki actually began our first parish picnic which was held on our church grounds. Along came November of 1976 and Father Szmocki was transferred to St. Andrew Bobola parish in Dudley, MA. His replacement was Rev. Stanley Lipinski. Father Lipinski pursued the idea of having an annual parish picnic which to this day is held at the St. Stanislaus Society Pavillion, South Street, West Warren, MA. Throughout the years, members of the society have been a great asset to the parish. Picnics are usually held the 3rd Sunday in August and are a great financial benefit to the parish.

On June 15, 1980, Father Lipinski celebrated his 25th Silver Jubilee in the priesthood which was a most beautiful and memorable occasion. From March 24-28, 1982, our parish was honored on having the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa present and conducting a farewell ceremony. Father Lipinski served our parish until his sudden death on May 18, 1982. This was a very sad time in our parish history.

During the time of transition of selecting a new pastor, Rev. Thomas Sullivan served as administrator.

July 1, 1982, our parish family welcomed our new pastor Rev. Peter Hamernik.

During the winter of 1987, plans started to proceed for the upcoming event of our parish’s 75th Jubilee in the year 1988.

Co-Chairmen Ray Starsiak and Robert Ksen began a house to house pledge campaign from all parishioners. A committee was formed, on a volunteer basis, of any parishioner who wished to donate their time and services to make plans for fund raising events to generate revenue to complete projects before the Jubilee event.

Several ladies of our parish got together to form a Craft Club which met on Monday evenings. After a lot of time and hard work, the ladies held a Craft Fair in October of 1987 and 1988, along with a food sale and bake sale. This venture has been a great success. Suppers, tag sales, bake sales, penny sales, and several 2-10 week clubs helped make our efforts easier.

October 9, 1988 was the date chosen for our 75th Jubilee Celebration. A mass was held at 3 p.m. with Bishop Harrington co-celebrating with Bishop Rueger and Bishop Flanagan and several guest clergy. A reception and dinner followed mass at the Ye Olde Tavern in West Brookfield.

Due to the efforts of our pastor, Father Hamernik, and contributions from our parishioners, several projects have been accomplished. A new furnace was installed, a new roof on the church, painting of the interior and exterior of the church, ceiling fans and additional lighting. Also plans have been started to have our organ rebuilt.