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Eightieth Anniversary

Of The

Holy Trinity R.C. Church

November 12, 1982
80th Anniversary Banquet
American Legion Portage Post - 6:00 PM

November 13, 1982 80th Anniversary Mass Holy Trinity R.C. Church - 4:30 PM



Eighty Years of Worship
Love and Charity
In The House of The Lord
At Holy Trinity

Dedication

This evening's program is dedicated to our Pastor, Rev. Leonard Biniszkiewicz, who in a short time has endeared himselfto all. He has initiated new changes and is working zealously toward a more active spiritual involvement of the congregation. At the present time he has undertaken the project of redecorating and improving the parish buildings. To Rev. John Praczkajlo, Pastor Emeritus, who served conscientiously as spiritual leader, organizer, administrator, consultant and friend for a quarter of a century. Under his capable leadership many major renovations were made. Through his wisdom and good judgment financial progress was achieved. To all clergy and nuns who served the parish from its inception and through difficult times. To all organizations, past and present parishioners for their contributions to the eighty year history. Finally, to youth and future members to go onward promoting support, further growth, continuity in worship, love and charity in the house of Lord at Holy Trinity.

Memorial Tribute

We pay tribute to our forefathers, who deeply imbued with a burning faith in our Lord, gathered together eighty years ago, under the guidance of our clergy, to found our Parish; to lay the groundwork for the spiritual, educational and cultural advancement of our community.

We acknowledge the gifts of all those, past and present, who with a great measure of personal sacrifice, contributed all those things, large and small, which make our church a truly spiritually uplifting edifice, a fitting memorial to so many loving, dedicated people.

Holy Trinity R.C. Church

Rev. Peter Pitass	1902
Rev. Ladislaus Bartkowski	1902 - 1903
Rev. Peter Schultz	1903
Rev. Michael Dyminski	1903 - 1911
Rev. Alexander Pitass	1911 - 1921
Rev. Thomas Stabenau	1921 - 1923
Rev. Peter Letocha	1923 - 1928
Rev. Francis Wasik	1928 - 1948
Rev. Vincent Cyman	1948 - 1957
Rev. John Praczkajlo	1957 - 1982
Rev. Leonard Biniszkiewicz	1982

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The Chancery Diocese of Buffalo 35 Lincoln Parkway Buffalo, New York 14222

October 19, 1982

The Reverend Leonard E. Biniszkiewicz Holy Trinity Rectory 1419 E. Falls Street Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Father Biniszkiewicz:

I am pleased to extend to you, to your Pastor Emeritus, Father John Praczkajlo, and to the entire Parish Community of Holy Trinity in Niagara Falls my prayerful congratulations and sincere best wishes as you celebrate your 80th Anniversary of Foundation as a faith community. Since your foundation in 1902, the parish of Holy Trinity has been a living sign of the presence of Christ to the people of Niagara Falls. Over the past 80 years priests and people, by working and praying together, have continued the healing and saving presence of Christ in the world, by the proclamation of the Gospel, by the celebration of the Sacraments, and by generous service to each other and to the poor and needy.

In his letter to the early Christian communities, St. Peter reminds them and also reminds us that we are the Church. St. Peter writes: "You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood...You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people He claims for His own to proclaim the glorious works of the One Who has called you from darkness into His marvelous light." (I Peter, 2). The people of Holy Trinity Parish are indeed the living stones which have built up this parish community. By centering your lives in the celebration of the Eucharist, by deepening your faith through your various and rich ethnic customs, and through your love and loyalty to the Church and to the Holy Father, you have grown closer to the Lord and closer to each other in faith, hope and love.

It is my prayer that the Lord continues to bless all the people of Holy Trinity Parish with peace, faith and joy. I congratulate you again on your 80th birthday. God has blessed you richly throughout these past 80 years and I am confident He will continue to be with you as you journey into the future on your way home to our heavenly Father.

With every kind wish, I am

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Edward D. Head, D.D.

Bishop of Buffalo

Executive Committee

Honorary Chairmen Rev. Leonanrd Biniszkiewicz, Pastor

Rev. John Praczkajlo, Pastor Emeritus

Co-Chairmen Stephen Dojka

Gabrielle Naradowski

Treasurers Casimer Tomaszewski

Joseph Cwierly

Committees

Dinner Rosalie Kubicki

Sophie Zajac

Tickets Joseph Copia, John Rachwal

William Banas, Richard Krawczyk

Program Book Elton & Jane Sturmer

Edward & Katherine Madey

Invitations Helen Jarosz

History Stella Taczak, Joan Ficner

Memorials Helen Jarosz

Entertainment Irene Turbine, Sophie Butry

Decorations Louis Skiba, Helen Wysocki

Joanna Krul, Irene Papierz

Helen Jakubek

Reception Florence Taczak, Julie Dojka

Lottie Nowak, Kay Rachwal Josephine Kurek, Florence Hyla

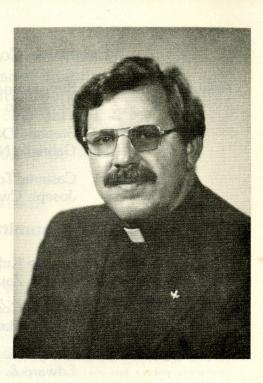
Wanda Zasucha, Sophia Radscavage

Publicity Jessie Rutkowski

Liturgy Renee Kindzia, Jane Krawczyk

Pat Augustyniak, Dorothy Wiatr

Rev. Leonard Biniszkiewicz Pastor





Rev. John Praczkajlo Pastor Emeritus



Stephen Dojka



Gabrielle Naradowski

Program

Welcome Stephen Dojka

Invocation Rev. Florian Jasinski

Song God Bless America

Dinner

Master of Ceremonies Rev. Chester Krysa

Introduction of Clergy & Guests

Speaker Theresa Majchrzak

Remarks Rev. Leonard Biniszkiewicz, Pastor

Closing Remarks Gabrielle Naradowski

Song Sing Praise to Our Lord

Song Serdeczna Matko

Benediction Rev. John Praczkajlo, Pastor Emeritus

Dancing to the Music of Edward Olejarz

History

The first Polish emigrant to work at the "Power House" was the family of Francis Ignaszewski. Niagara Falls was a growing community of 32,000 inhabitants whose economy was spurred by tourism and the "Power House" that supplied electricity to the steel mills of Western New York. Favorable living and working conditions attracted other families and individuals.

Although they affiliated with the Assumption Parish in Black Rock, they attended services at St. Mary's of the Cataract Church on Fourth Street. All emergency christening and funerals were at St. Mary's church and cemetery. Since they could not understand the English language at mass, the Polish emigrants were designated to the last pews of the church and donated towards the church debts. In case of illness a telephone call was made to Buffalo-for a Polish priest to give confession and the spiritual consolation to the sick and dying. Father James Wojcik and Father Thomas Stabenau commuted regularly at Easter time to Niagara Falls to render spiritual services to these people in Niagara Falls. When the Polish community numbered one hundred families, Father Hyacinth Fudzinski, CFM, was commissioned by Bishop James Quigley to undertake the organization of the parish. For that purpose several meetings were held at St. Mary's Parish hall but to no avail.

On October 27, 1901 Father Peter Pitass, an assistant from St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo, called a meeting at the hall of Jacob Pasek on East Falls Street and 13th Street at which the first Polish organization, Holy Trinity Society, was formed with an initial enrollment of twenty one members. Jacob Pasek was president, Francis Lachcik, secretary, and Joseph Stec, treasurer. This organizational effort was successful and at the beginning of 1902, Bishop Quigley gave permission for the formation of a Polish parish with Father Peter Pitass as its first pastor.

During the ensuing winter months, a small frame church was erected on Joseph Stec's leased plot on 12th Street. It was dedicated the second Sunday in Lent in 1902. However, Father Pitass was recalled at the end of July and Father Ladislaus Bartkowski became pastor the following month.

With the arrival of Father Bartkowski, the parishioners eagerly contributed funds for the purchase of parish property and the building of a church. A site was purchased on 14th and Falls Streets from Alexander Zaleski with a down payment of \$500.00 and a mortgage of \$5500.00 held by Alexander Zaleski. The property was registered in September in the name of the parish which incorporated title reads "The Holy Trinity R.C. Church Society of Niagara Falls, N.Y." The original church was transported from the temporary 12th Street address to its own permanent property. Eagerly the contract was given to

enlarge and build a sacristy to the old church, which was painted inside, so that it had the appearance of a poor country parish, accommodating 300 people. In November Bishop Quigley blessed the church and the first homily was given by Father Francis Kasprzak, pastor of St. Casimer's Church of Buffalo.

With the growth of parish membership, it became necessary to build a larger church and the contract for \$35,000 was made on October 2, 1905. By the end of the year, the foundation and basement were completed. Bishop Charles Colton, with the assistance of the pastor, Father Michael Dyminski, officiated at the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone on May 26, 1906. It was a joyous occasion. Special trains and High Speed cars brough the faithful. More than 30 priests were in attendance.

Parishioners from Albion, two societies and two orchestras under the leadership of Rev. Adam Marcinkiewicz came by special train so that their presence would reflect the love and honor to their former pastor. Rev. Francis Kasprzak, pastor of St. Casimer's with their church societies arrived by special train. For this occasion a special train brough from Buffalo, scoieties from Corpus Christi and St. Adelbert. Especially the numerous societies from St. Mary's from Black Rock: uniformed Kosciuszko WOW and the Cadets numbering more than 1000 members. Societies from Our Lady of Czestochowa from Tonawanda came by special street cars.

A splendid sight was presented among the numerous societies. The priests headed by the marshalls surrounded the Bishop's car. Every participant vividly remembers this moment when the Polish People had made known their identity and had uplifted the Polish name in Niagara Falls. Non-Poles were amazed and respectfully observed so many good men, women and patriots.

In May 1906 a contract was negotiated to build a rectory. The first mass was celebrated in the new church on Christmas Eve and still continues regularly. The rectory was finished January 15, 1907.

The organizations attached to the church were as follows:

Holy Trinity — 90 members; St. Francis, PUA No. 97 — 130 members; St. Luke's ZNP — 120 members; St. George-Lithuanian Brotherhood — 40 members; St. Cecelia-Lutnia Singers — 50 members; Polish Cadets — 28 members (3 students, 6 women); Holy Rosary Society — 90 members; Polish Ladies Society — 28 members.

Holy Trinity Parish observed its Fifthieth Anniversary on organization in June of 1950 during the pastorship of Rev. Vincent Cyman. The school and

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convent were completely renovated. Bishop Duffy Catholic High School was founded and quartered temporarily in our school before the transfer to their present permanent location in the LaSalle area.

Since October 8, 1957 Father John Praczkajlo has been pastor. Fully dedicted to his pastoral obligations, Father Praczkajlo has successfully continued and improved upon the work of his predecessor. With the cooperation of his parishioners, the pastor paid off the parish debt and the parish mortgage was burned June 7, 1964. Father Praczkajlo was instrumental in retaining our beautiful and well-kept Holy Trinity Cemetery intact inspite of the difficulties with the State Power Authority which wanted to divide the cemetery with the Robert Moses Parkway. Father Praczkajlo celebrated his Fiftieth Anniversay of his ordination in May 1982 and was named Pastor Emeritus upon his retirement.

Father Leonard Biniszkiewicz was appointed present pastor by Bishop Edward Head and the parish looks forward to a continued growth and successful stewadship.

God Bless America

God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her,
Thru the night with a light from above;
From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America
My home, sweet home;
God bless America
My home, sweet home.

Sing Praise to Our Lord

Sing praise to our Creator, O son of Adam's race, God's children by adoption, Baptized into His grace.

Praise the Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity; Holy God, Mighty God, God Immortal, be adored.

Serdeczna Matko

Serdeczna Matko, opiekunko ludzi, Niech Cię płacz sierót do litości wzbudzi, Wygnańcy Ewy do Ciebie wołamy, Zmiłuj sie zmiłuj niech sie nie tułamy.

Do kogóż mamy wzdychać nędzne dziatki? Tylko do Ciebie, ukochanej Matki: U której serce otwarte każdemu, A osobliwie nędzą strapionemu.