

**WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF THE SCAPULAR PARISH
AND THE HISTORIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**



**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish founded 1899
St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish founded 1914
St. Helena Parish Founded 1925
Our Lady of the Scapular Parish founded 2013**

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHURCH & THE PARISH

On Sunday morning, June 4th, 1916, Bishop Edward D. Kelly, the auxiliary bishop of the then Diocese of Detroit, represented the ordinary of the diocese, Bishop John Foley, and returned to Wyandotte to dedicate the the newly completed church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was Bishop Kelly who blessed the cornerstone one year earlier on May 9th, 1915. From the founding of the parish in 1899 until then, the congregation had been worshipping in a combination church and school building that had been opened in July of 1900. That building once stood where the front parking lot is now. The “new” church was at the corner of Tenth Street and Superior Avenue.

The pastor of the parish at the time was Reverend Alexander Grudziński. He was the fourth pastor of the parish arriving in 1911 and remained until 1918. Father Grudziński was born in Poland in 1874 and came to Detroit in 1891. He was ordained at age 26 by Bishop Foley in 1900. In 1935, the ordinary of Detroit, Bishop Michael Gallagher, made Reverend Grudziński a Monsignor. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish was his fourth assignment. He was 37 years old when he received the assignment and had been a priest for eleven years.

In 1916 the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was just seventeen years old. The first pastor of the parish was Reverend Bernard Żmijewski. Father Żmijewski was born in 1864 in that section of Poland which was under Prussian rule. He was educated in Poznań and then studied in Rome. He was ordained in 1888 at age 28 in Bulgaria as a priest for the Resurrectionist Polish Missionary Order. In 1891 he was sent to Chicago and in 1894 he left the Order and became a secular priest. He first worked in San Antonio and then came to Detroit where he was an assistant at St. Albertus and then St. Casimir until 1899 when he became the founding pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wyandotte. At that time, this area was called New Jerusalem and then Glenwood before becoming part of Wyandotte proper. He remained here until 1906 and in 1907 he became the founding pastor of St. Florian Parish in Hamtramck. After finishing his assignment at St. Florian in 1911, Fr. Żmijewski moved to Springwells, which later became Dearborn and there he died on November 24th, 1916.

By 1915, the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel had grown in size and the combination church and school building, that had been built in 1900, was not able to satisfy the needs of the parish. Rev. Grudziński engaged Mr. Harry J. Rill of Detroit to design a new church building for the parish. It was to cost \$75,000.00 to build. Mr. Rill had already designed St. Leo Church in Detroit in 1908 and St. Stanislaus Church also in Detroit in 1911. Later in 1916 he would design St. Hedwig Church in Detroit.

The architectural style of our church is Italian renaissance. It is built of “solid brick with structural steel and slate roof.” The dimensions are 73 feet wide and 153 feet deep, with a seating capacity of 900 persons. The original plan was to finish the interior of the church with marble. The floor was to “be of reinforced concrete with granolithic surface.” In many ways Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church is similar to Mr. Rill’s other designs, namely; St. Stanislaus, St. Leo and St. Hedwig. What distinguishes the church from the others are the two bell towers. The bell towers give the church the look of a typical church style found in Poland. Similar churches can be seen in Warsaw and Poznań. The south tower houses three bells installed in 1921. They are named: St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Angels and Queen of Poland.

Inside the building of note are the fine stained glass windows original to the church. They were crafted by the Munich Stained Glass Company of Chicago. The two side altars are original to the church, while the high altar was installed in 1942 replacing the original. The entire church has been renovated several times. The current painting of the church is from 1974. The murals above the high altar, side altars and on the ceiling of the transept are from much earlier and were painted by the well known Polish-American artist, Joseph Mazur of Buffalo. The current altar of sacrifice came to our church from the former St. Anthony Lithuanian Church in southwest Detroit. That parish, founded in 1920, was closed in 2013. It is the lower portion of the side altar of the Blessed Virgin’s altar from that church. It was installed in May of 2016 for the centennial of the church building.

The first babies to be baptized in the church after its dedication were Bronisława Dziejdzic and Anthony Cirklicki. These Baptisms took place on Sunday, June 4th of 1916, the very day of the dedication. Bronisława was the daughter of Helen Dziejdzic and her godparents were Alexander Gurzenda and Bronisława Niewierska. Anthony was the son of Joseph Cirklicki and Rosalia Górka. His god parents were Stanislaus Singer and Josepha Kaczmarek. Both babies, born in late May of 1916, were baptized by the pastor, Fr. Grudziński. In 1941 Anthony married Catherine Vargo at St. Patrick's Church here in Wyandotte.

The first wedding to take place in the newly dedicated church took place on Monday June 6th, 1916 and was between Alexander Garlej, son of Stanislaus and Frances Garlej and Theresa Jezak, daughter of Anthony and Frances Jezak both of Wyandotte. The witnesses for this wedding were John Więclaw and Magdalena Jezak. This wedding was also celebrated by Fr. Grudziński.

The first funeral to take place in the newly dedicated church was that of Wanda Mrockowska on Tuesday, June 12th, 1916. Since those early days of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, hundreds and hundreds of babies have been baptized in the church, hundreds and hundreds of weddings have taken place here as have funerals. There have been over a hundred years of First Communion and Confirmations. A hundred plus years of Christmas and Easter in the unique Polish Tradition as well as Forty Hours, Stations of the Cross and Gorzkie Żale. We continue to thank God for the blessing of having such a fine church that has been so well used over the last century, but we also pay tribute to the many, many men and women who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much to build the church and to maintain it! So many hours have been spent cleaning, organizing, decorating and repairing the church by parishioners who sincerely cared for the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Nine of Mount Carmel's thirteen pastors ministered from this church building. Father Mark Borkowski is the first pastor of Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, founded on August 1st, 2013.

The cornerstone of the church is inscribed in Latin and in Polish and reads: **Ecclesia B.V.M. Monte Carmelo A.D. 1915**, which is translated as: The Church of Mount Carmel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the year of Our Lord 1915. In Polish: **Kościół Matki Boskiej Szkaplerznej R. P. 1915**, which is translated The Church of the Mother of God of the Scapular, the year of Our Lord 1915. In English the Church and Parish was known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel until August of 2013. On August 1st, 2013 the parishes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Stanislaus Kostka were merged together. The third Polish Parish in Wyandotte, St. Helena, had already been incorporated into St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in 2008. The new parish formed was named Our Lady of the Scapular. It is a strong parish built on the Polish-American traditions of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (founded 1899), the mother church of the Polonia of Wyandotte and her two off-shoots, St. Stanislaus Kostka (founded 1914) and St. Helena (founded 1925).

At present the church building only is still referred to as Mount Carmel while the Parish is known as Our Lady of the Scapular. In Polish it is always referred to as **Matki Boskiej Szkaplerznej**.

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish
976 Pope John Paul II Avenue (Superior)
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192
734-284-9135
Masses: Saturday – 5:00 PM,
Sunday – 9:00 AM in Polish & 11:00 AM

Significant things to be seen in our Church

Stained Glass Windows – beginning from the vestibule on the north side of the church:

1. Christ and the little children
2. St. Anthony of Padua
3. St. Simon Stock receives the Carmelite habit from Our Lady
4. The death of St. Stanislaus Kostka
5. The Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

In the sanctuary:

6. The Lamb of God
7. The Annunciation
8. The Visitation
9. The Nativity of Our Lord
10. The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
11. The Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple
12. The Holy Eucharist

On the south side of the church:

13. Our Lady of Loudes and St. Bernadette
14. St. Wojciech of Poland
15. The Holy Family
16. The Baptism of the Lord
17. St. Peter receives keys from the Lord

In the vestibule over the doors:

18. The Papal Tiara
19. The Cross and the Crown
20. The Mitre and Crosier

In the balcony:

21. St. Casimir (obscured by organ)
22. Our Lady of Mount Carmel
23. St. Caecilia (obscured by organ)

Statuary and Sacred Images – beginning from above the north side door of the vestibule:

1. Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 2. St. Agnes
 3. St. Helena
 4. Our Lady Help of Christians
 5. The Infant of Prague
 6. St. Michael the Archangel
 7. St. Joseph
- The north side altar – The Sacred Heart
Our Lady of Częstochowa Icon
8. St. Matthew
 9. St. Mark
 10. St. Luke
 11. St. John
- Divine Mercy Image
The south side altar – Our Lady of Mount Carmel
12. St. Anne

13. Our Lady of Fatima
14. St. John the Baptist
15. St. Rosalia of Palermo
16. St. Jude
17. St. Therese, the Little Flower
18. St. John Paul II
19. St. Stanislaus Kostka
20. St. Rita
21. Our Lady of Grace

On the back wall of the church:

22. St. Francis of Assisi
23. St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

In the vestibule:

22. The Risen Christ
24. The Guardian Angel

Murals in the Church:

Above the High Altar – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Above the Sacred Heart Altar – Christ the King

Above the Blessed Virgin's Altar – Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Dominic & St. Catherine of Siena

On the ceiling – St. Ladislaus of Hungary, St. Andrew Bobola, St. Hedwig of Śląsk, St. Bronisława

The Thirteen Pastors of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wyandotte

Rev. Bernard Żmijewski 1899-1906

Rev. Joseph Lempka 1906-1909

Rev. Constantine Dziuk 1909-1911

Msgr. Alexander Grudziński 1911-1918

Msgr. Adalbert Żądała 1918-1919

Msgr. Maximillian Gannas 1918-1919

Rev. Leon Jarecki 1920-1921

Rev. Peter Kruszka 1921-1938

Rev. Ladislaus Krych 1939-1956

Rev. Jerome Juchniewicz 1956-1963

Rev. Venanty Szymański 1963-1972

Rev. Stanislaus Redwick 1972-1993

Rev. Walter Ptak 1993-2013

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski – Pastor of Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, 2013 -