



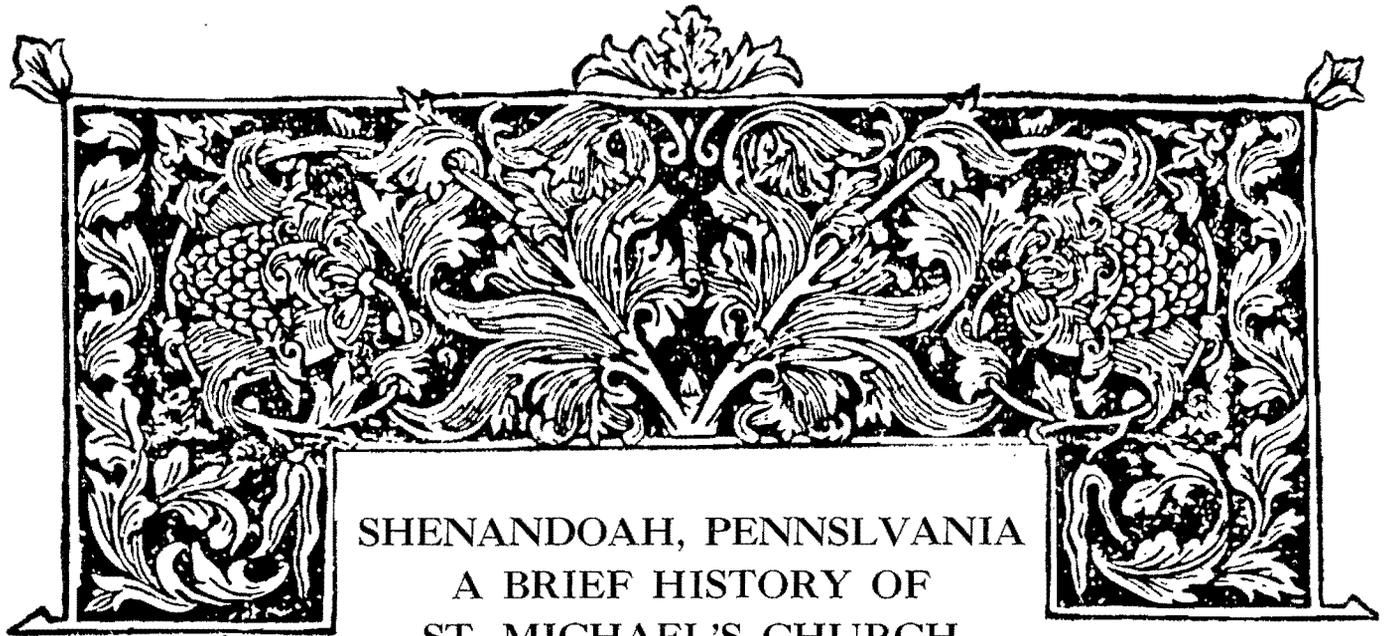
**FIRST ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH — Started by Father John Wolanski
in 1885 and completed for St. Michael's Feastday, November 21, 1886.**



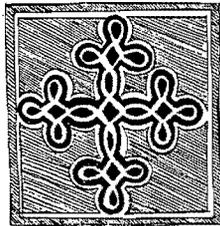
**SECOND CHURCH — Started 1907. Cornerstone blessing 1908.
First Divine Liturgy, Palm Sunday 1909.
Destroyed by Fire on Easter Monday, April 7, 1980.**



PRESENT (New) CHURCH — Started 1982.
Cornerstone Blessing November 27, 1983. Completed 1984.



SHENANDOAH, PENNSLVANIA
A BRIEF HISTORY OF
ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

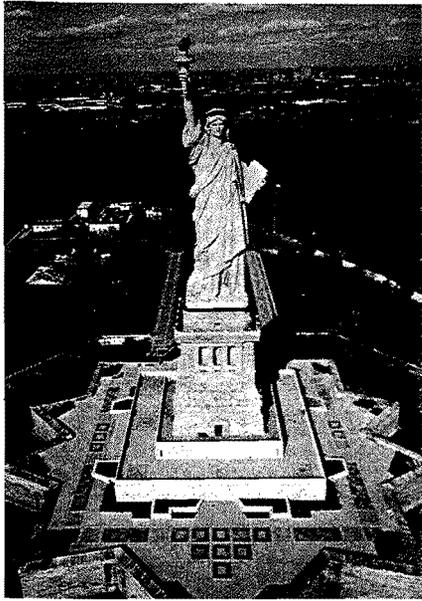


This is a brief history of one parish, the first church of the Greek Catholic Rite founded in the United States of America and known today as St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

A history of a church is a story of a Christian family united in the ideals and teachings of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The history of the struggles and joys of the past is told for the living and future generations so that one may sense the continuity of this family of believers.



Over one hundred years ago great waves of migration from all parts of Europe to the shores of the United States occurred as people sought a better life economically, politically, and socially. To escape the old social order in Europe, many sailed to America, the land of hope. Our immigrants came from Western Ukraine and Carpathian Rus/Ruthenia of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.* These early imigrants settled in the farming districts of Massachusetts and Vermont and the coal fields of Pennsylvania. Records show that Joseph Zoliak was our first immigrant to settle in Shenandoah, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.



The early life of the immigrants was anything but easy. They had language difficulties, different customs and habits. There were few employment opportunities, especially for the unskilled. Nine hours of work brought \$1.75 to a miner which was one of the better paying jobs. Others worked for 75c a day. Work in the mines or factories was different from work in the fields and much more difficult. They were exploited, abused and looked upon with distrust. They were new immigrants in a strange land, without a priest, a church and with little support from other Christian communities.

The first settlers in Shenandoah suffered spiritually without their church. They saw the need for spiritual leadership. They wanted their own church where they could worship according to their own rite, traditions and customs. Until now, they had attended St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church. But a sense of longing for a church of their own intensified.

In 1882 about 70 Ukrainian-Ruthenian families in Shenandoah held their first meeting under the direction of Carl Rice (Karol Ruchus), an immigrant from Lithuania, and sent a petition to the Metropolitan of Galicia, the Most Rev. Sylvester Sembratovich, Archbishop of Lviv, pleading for spiritual guidance. Their plea was answered on October 24, 1884, when the Rev. John Wolanski was appointed as the first Greek Catholic Pastor in America. The Metropolitan sent a pastoral letter to the immigrants. In it he wrote:

"Beloved in Christ, my dear Ruthenians, faithful of the Greek Catholic Rite in America! Praised be Jesus Christ! Having been invited for the blessing of a church in Krynytsi, I visited that mountainous region near Horlycy, Yaslo, Zmyhorod, Duklia. I was also in the towns of Zegestiv, Mushyna, Nova Wes, Rozdil, Bodnarka, Perehrymty, Doshnytsia, Mshana and other towns and villages, and there I heard that many of our people had gone



Hand-carved processional cross brought by first immigrants. Restored in 1980.

away to find work. I was very sorry to hear that they did not have their own spiritual father who would in time of necessity, be able to encourage them and to give them God's graces, take care of their spiritual needs, confess them and nourish them with Holy Communion, reunite them with God, when the Lord God would call them to Himself. I was therefore, very pleased when I received your letter with your signatures and request for a pastor of souls. At this moment I have for you one of our Ruthenian pastors from the Archdiocese of Lviv. He will leave for America shortly, as soon as passage money can be obtained, and since he is married, even though he does not have any children, the fifty dollars you sent is not enough for the two of them to make the trip. He will be ready to go to Shenandoah in America in a few days. His

name is John Wolanski and I presume that you will be pleased with him.

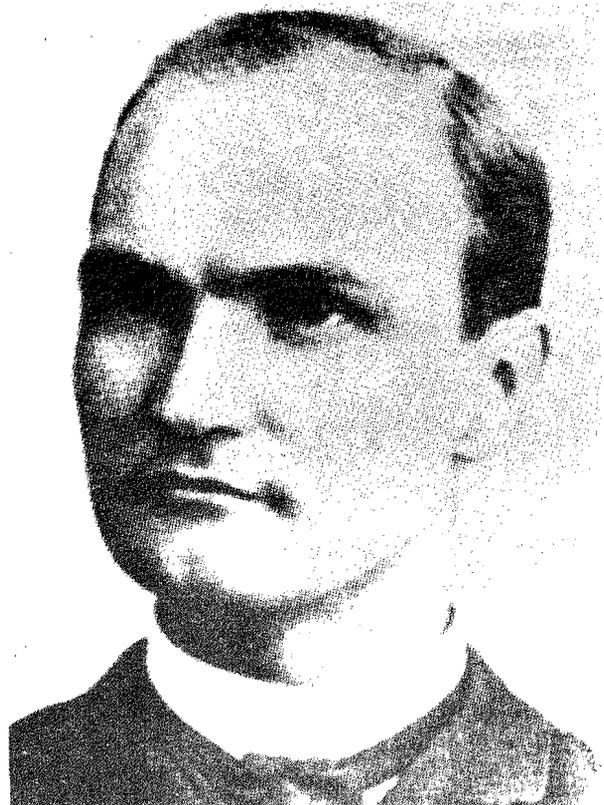
"Strive to remain true to your Ruthenian Rite and our Greek Catholic Church and the merciful God will not abandon you, but will send you His Heavenly blessings, for which I pray and which I myself send you.

"For the time being, I am writing to you briefly. Write to me concerning whatever you may need, and I will see to it that you receive it. May God grant you an abundance of graces and all good things. I greet you once more and admonish you to behave yourself morally, industriously, virtuously, soberly, as true Christians."



HIS EMINENCE
SYLVESTER CARDINAL SEMBRATOWICH
Metropolitan and Archbishop of Lviv

Upon learning that a priest would arrive in America in a short time, the people were very grateful and began plans to raise money for his transportation fees. Members of the first committee appointed for this purpose were: George Hur-etyak, Paul Matyash, Andrew Kosar, Stephen Shwetz, Michael Kushwara, Simeon Kotsur, Andrew Bishko, Simeon Kuryla, Alex Fedorchak, and Wasyl Mizik. When the Polish priests heard that the Ukrainian immigrants were making plans for their own priest and church, they tried to discourage the optimism, saying that the Vatican and the American government would not allow married Greek Catholic priests to come to this country. Some were duped into this belief and when fundraisers went to Shamokin, Excelsior and Hazleton, they were unsuccessful.



FATHER JOHN WOLANSKI
Pastor of St. Michael's

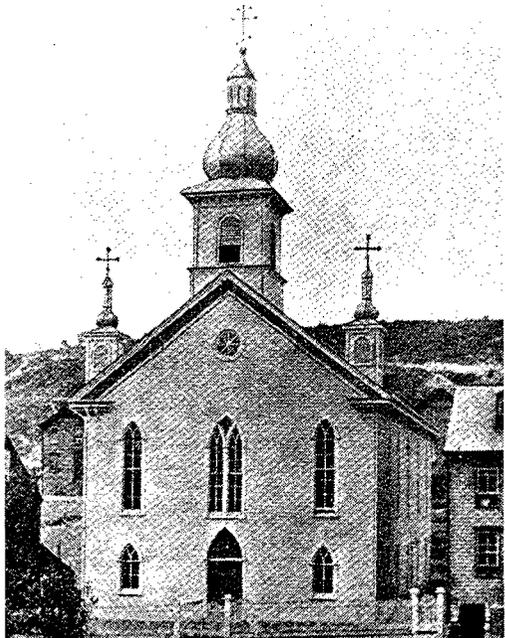
Father Wolanski left Europe in November 1884 and arrived in New York. He stayed in Jersey City, N.J., for a few days, and on December 10, 1884, came to Shenandoah, Pa. Here he was greeted with great joy and an outpouring of emotion as many wept joyfully. Father Wolanski asked permission of Rev. Joseph Alex Lenarkiewicz, the Polish priest, to conduct services in St. Casimir's Church but was refused. Not to be dismayed, Father Wolanski made arrangements for the rental of Kern Hall on North Main Street. It was here that he held the first Services on American soil — vespers on the eve of the feast of St. Nicholas, December 18. These services were held on the second floor of Kern Hall. Father Wolanski had living quarters above on the third floor. The cantor was Michael Dolney, serving from 1884-1886.

The Chapel in Kern Hall was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God in preparation for the feast on December 22. This small chapel was now "church" to the people. The first child baptized on December 25, 1884, was Maria Maruszyn, daughter of Michael Maruszyn and Anna Kutchin. The first marriage was that of Michael Pringel and Maria Ivanko, children of John Pringel and Maria Fedorowa, and Simeon Ivanko and Dorothy Nyahaj, on January 9, 1885. The first funeral services were on January 25, 1885, for a child named Maria Fedorcak, daughter of Alexander and Maria Fedorcak.

Early in 1885, the parishioners called a meeting, elected a church council and appointed collectors to raise money to build a church. Each family



on the second floor. Father Wolanski lived on the first floor until a double house in the rear of the church was bought for \$6,000. Later, three bells were acquired (named Sylvester, John and Julian) which were a source of pride for the Ukrainians in Shenandoah, because in all of Schuylkill county until this time only one church in Pottsville had three bells at once, and Shenandoah's was the second.

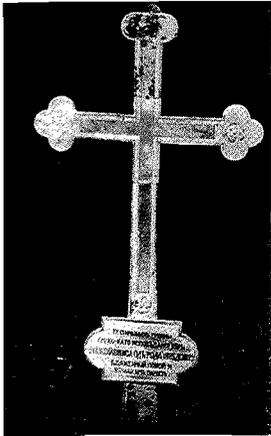


was assessed \$10, single persons \$5, plus monthly dues of \$1.00 from a family and 50c from a single person. On January 18, 1885, the St. Nicholas Brotherhood was organized. Two lots, both 40 ft. x 70 ft., located on the north side of Centre Street were brought from James and Ellen E. Ryon of Ashland, Pa., for the sum of \$750. Interestingly the deed was made to Rev. John Wolanski.

Because of misinformation, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Philadelphia refused to recognize Father Wolanski as a Catholic priest and suspended him. After the deceased were refused burial privileges in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, the people purchased a lot adjoining the Odd Fellows Cemetery for \$200, in 1885. However, this cemetery was soon filled since deceased were brought there from Wilkes-Barre, Olyphant, Kingston, and Jersey City. A famous item from that cemetery is the Memorial



After this initial organization begun by Father Wolanski, the first Greek Catholic parish was established in America and now the task of building the first church in America, St. Michael's of Shenandoah, Pa., came next on the agenda. A carpenter named Smith with his three sons built the church on West Centre Street at a cost of \$20,000. But the roof collapsed due to faulty construction and the church had to be rebuilt causing a one year delay. Finally, on St. Michael's day, November 21, 1886, Father Wolanski blessed the first Greek Catholic Church in Shenandoah. Services were held



This cross marks the burial place of the early immigrants who settled in Shenandoah, Pa. The inscription reads, "Here rest Ruthenians professing the Greek Catholic faith who have been laid to rest from the year 1885 to 1889. Blessed are they who rest in the Lord and grant them eternal memory."

Cross. On October 17, 1905, four and eight hundredths acres of ground were purchased from the Girard Estate at a cost of \$438 for use as a cemetery.

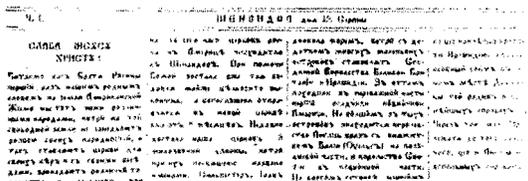


St. Michael Cemetery

When news reached neighboring towns about the leadership of Father Wolanski, other communities wanted to establish parishes and build their own churches. Father Wolanski was in much demand for his spiritual services. Since banks were mistrusted, many placed their savings with Father Wolanski in the church treasury for which they were given a receipt. This fund provided the revenue to organize and build other parishes, namely: Kingston, 1886, Shamokin, 1886, Hazleton, 1887, Olyphant, 1888, Mt. Carmel, 1891, and Minersville, 1896.

After these churches were built and people returned the money to the Shenandoah church treasury stores (cooperatives) were established in Shenandoah, Hazleton, and Olyphant. In 1888 a printing press was shipped from Europe, which Father Wolanski purchased. A bimonthly newspaper "America" was started and published in Shenandoah until 1890. Father Wolanski clearly stated that the goal of the newspaper was to provide useful information to his congregation encouraging them to be good Christians and good citizens.

AMERICA



First Ukrainian newspaper printed in the United States AMERICA (AMERYKA) — Shenandoah, 1886 - 1890

The SHENANDOAH EVENING HERALD paid the following tribute to Father Wolanski (May 30, 1887):

"Although young, barely more than 30 years of age, tall and slim, though compactly built, and fairly good looking, Father Wolanski has no superior as a worker. He scarcely permits himself any rest, so thoroughly is his soul in his work. If life and health stands the test, his religious standing

and that of his church will in a decade or two of years rank high and firm in America, and he will then be able to enjoy with ease the honors he will have richly earned."

Father Wolanski began organizing the parish in Kingston. On March 31, 1887, Metropolitan Sembratovich sent Rev. Zenon Lachowich to assist Father Wolanski. Vladimir Simenovych, a highly educated layman from Lviv, arrived with Father Lachowich. Within a half year Father Lachowich was transferred to Kingston, Pa. He died suddenly on November 4, 1887, in Wilkes-Barre and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Shenandoah.

Rumors were spreading that Metropolitan Sembratovich would recall Father Wolanski to Europe because of the protest of the Roman Catholic Bishops. The bishops protested also the fact that Father Wolanski was now a member of the Knights of Labor. The parishioners sent Vladimir Simenovych to Galicia with a petition requesting another priest for America. In 1888, Vladimir Simenovych accompanied Rev. Constantine Andruchowich to Shenandoah. Father Wolanski turned over the parish and the cooperative stores to Father Andruchowich before departing for Europe. Life was flourishing in the parish — an evening school, a printing press, the St. Nicholas Brotherhood, and a literary club where people enjoyed reading books and newspapers.

In the beginning of Father Andruchowich's pastorate all parish work progressed smoothly until the managers of the cooperative stores could not give an account of their cash dealings. Father Andruchowich organized another store. The store managers requested Metropolitan Sembratovich to appoint another priest.

In November 1889, Father Theophan Obushkewich came to Shenandoah with credentials from the Metropolitan but for six months was unsuccessful in settling the dispute. In the summer of 1890, Father Wolanski came to Shenandoah from Brazil and tried to restore harmony to the parish but did not succeed and returned to Western Ukraine in 1892. In the meantime people became very discouraged and withdrew their savings from the Church treasury and also their shares from the stores. The Church was put up for auction. It was bought by John Smith (Andrew Zynchak) from Mahanoy City for \$5,000. A short time later the church was restored to the parish.

During this episode Father Andruchowich returned to Europe leaving the parish without a pastor. During the month of March in 1892, Father Augustine Lawrisin from Mahanoy City filled the needs of the parish. It was under these circumstances that the church charter was obtained by twelve men of the parish on April 20, 1892.

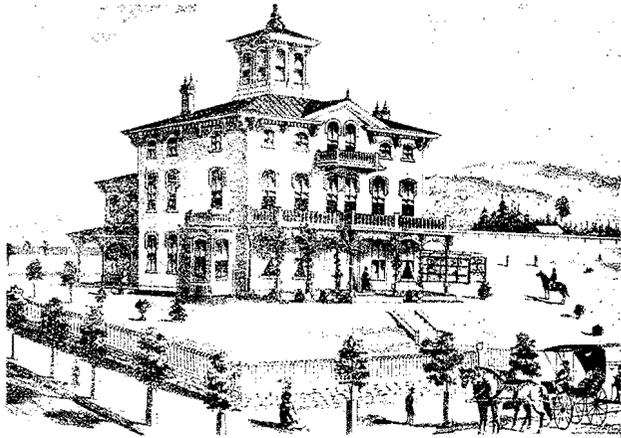
The SHENANDOAH HERALD gives this account on Thursday, November 24, 1982:

GREEK CATHOLICS IN LINE: THEY CELEBRATE THE RECEIPT OF SACRED PICTURES

"Some time ago the trustees of the Greek Catholic church of town sent to Lemberg, Galicia, for several sacred pictures with which to ornament the interior of the church, and today was fixed for

formally receiving the pictures and putting them in place. A parade was arranged and the trains arriving this morning, including a special P. and R. train from Shamokin, brought in Greek Catholic societies from Lansford, Mahanoy City, Mt. Carmel and Shamokin. The Greek Catholic band, of Shamokin, and the P.O.S. of A. band of Mt. Carmel assisted the Lithuanian band of town in furnishing music for the parade. The occupants of the carriage at the head of the parade were four Greek Catholic priests, Rev. Aubuskowicz, of Olyphant; Rev. Lawriszyb, of Mahanoy City; Rev. George Huska, of Jersey City; and Rev. Cornelius Lauriszym, of town. The route of parade ended at the church, and after the societies disbursed the receipt of the pictures was acknowledged by services in the church."

(Original spelling of newspaper story.)

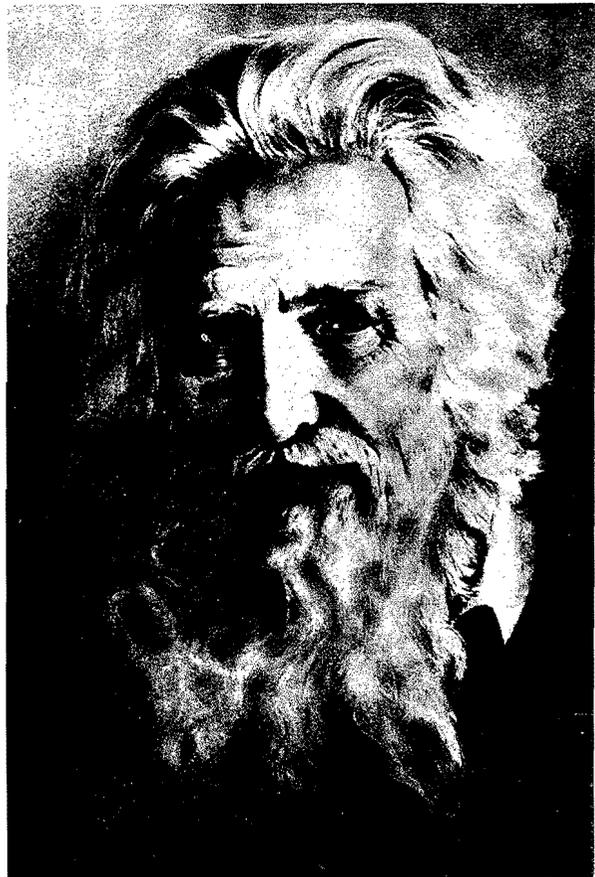


ORIGINAL SITE OF PRESENT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Rev. Cornelius Lawrisin was assigned as pastor in April 1892. On January 5, 1893, the parish bought lots from John Smith for \$5,805, adjoining St. Michael's Church. Finally, a deed was recorded on August 7, 1896, describing the land on which the church was built. An assistant, Rev. Basil Volosin was assigned to Father Lawrisin in October 1901 and served until January 1903. From 1894 to 1906 Professor Joseph Kowal served as Cantor. In February 1905 St. Mary's Society was organized under the guidance of Rev. Cornelius Lawrisin. This is the oldest Ukrainian ladies society in the United States. A new cantor came to the parish in 1906, Prof. Gregory Hirsky, who served until 1908. Through his efforts the first St. Michael's church choir was organized. In April 1907, Rev. Leo Levytsky was assigned to the parish from St. Nicholas' in Minersville. The parish was experiencing rapid growth, as huge numbers of immigrants were arriving in America to work in the coal mines with the guarantee of steady work and good pay. To accommodate the large number of faithful, the people began thinking of a new church. On June 24, 1907, the parishioners purchased a plot of ground on Oak and Chestnut Streets for \$30,000. The deed to this plot was recorded in the name of St. Michael's Parish on September 27, 1907.



Pope St. Pius X



THE SERVANT OF GOD
THE MOST REVEREND
COUNT ANDREW SHEPTYSKY, O.S.B.M.
Archbishop of Lviv
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church

In 1907, at the request of the Most Rev. Andrew Sheptytsky, Metropolitan of Lviv, Pope St. Pius X appointed the Most Rev. Soter Stephen Ortynskyk, O.S.B.M., the Ecclesiastical Superior for all Byzantine-Slavonic Rite Catholics in America. Preaching the sermon at the first solemn Pontifical Liturgy of Bishop Ortynsky was Father John Wolanski, the pioneer priest of America. Bishop Soter Ortynsky arrived in this country on August 27, 1907.



First Bishop in America
THE MOST REVEREND
SOTER S. ORTYNSKY, O.S.B.M.

The following year, 1908, the new church was built at a cost of \$50,000 through the efforts of the pastor, Rev. Leo Levytsky, and the help of the trustees. (This church, the second for St. Michael's would last until a tragic Easter Monday fire of April 7, 1980.) The first Divine Liturgy in the new church was celebrated on Palm Sunday 1909. The first couple married in the new church were Alex Humetsky and Mary Blaschak. When the new church was ready for services, all the church vestments, bells, utensils, and vessels were transferred from the first church, the latter now being used for a parish hall and school rooms. (This building would again be used as a church from 1980 to 1983 after the Easter Monday fire of 1980.) A double home on Chestnut Street was purchased for \$7,000 to serve as a rectory for Father Levytsky.

The SHENANDOAH HERALD reported the following on Saturday, April 3, 1909:

NEW GREEK CHURCH OPENING TONIGHT

"The handsome new church of St. Michael's

erected at the southwest corner of West Oak and South Chestnut Streets will be formally taken possession of this evening by the Greek Catholic Rector and congregation, after a grand procession of the church societies and congregation which will escort the Blessed Sacrament from the old church on West Centre, new Catherine Street, to the new church, starting at 5:30 o'clock promptly, and the first high mass will be said in the church at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning, Palm Sunday, by the Rector, Rev. Leo Lewicki. He will deliver a sermon on the gospel of the day. There will be vespers at 5:00 o'clock Sunday evening with a sermon.

"This being the lenten, penitential season, no music will be in the procession other than the chanting of the choir under the leadership of Harry Hirski. Rector Lewicki will be assisted at the service of the reception of the Blessed Sacrament in the new church by Rev. Andrew Kaminsky, of St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church, St. Clair. The societies that will take part in the procession are St. Michael's, St. Nicholas, Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Mary's, St. Vladimir, St. Dimitri, St. George's and St. John the Baptist.

"In addition to having one of the most prominent sites in town, the church is one of the most imposing in appearance in the county. Its large proportions and three towers surmounted by gilded crosses and beautiful stained glass windows, are artistic and magnificent. Wm. D. Hill of Pottsville, is the architect, and E. D. Smith, of St. Clair, the contractor. The foundations and the massive cellar which covers the ground under the church are of solid concrete work, the coping on the cement walk at the front outside porchsteps is of manchester white marble, and all stone is tooled and drilled. The front step walks are faced with enameled bricks, of first quality, and the interior walls are covered with two coats of granite plaster. The galvanized iron work is no. 26 of the style known as Mullens' catalogue no. 7004 and the cornice work is particularly fine. All the crosses are of galvanized iron, and the big globe ventilators are of the same material.

"The splendid building is frame, constructed of the lumber in a substantial workmanlike manner, under the personal direction of contractor Smith, according to the specifications of architect Hill, and both have been complimented upon the success attained. Fred Hofel, of Pottsville, who had the sub-contract for the cornice work, came in for a share of the commendation. The sanctuary floor is of North Carolina yellow pine and the auditorium of Georgia pine. Both the inside and outside of the church has been treated to two coats of paint or varnished. A large gallery for the organ, with small music rooms adjoining is located at the north end of the church, and there are two baptistries on the auditorium floor near the entrance. The church is of the splendid proportions provided for by the Grecian style of architecture, which has been closely adhered to. There are five elegant stained glass windows on each side and stained glass windows at the front and rear each having a sacred significance. These stained glass windows should be seen from the inside of the church to be properly appreciated for their richness of color-

ing and the chaste beauty of the figures. In the massive dome of the sanctuary, just as you enter the door, you can see a picture of Christ and the Twelve Apostles at the Last Supper. And there are pictures at the front above the gallery and in the front below the gallery, as well as in the side windows. The stained glass windows cost about \$4,000 and were contributed by the societies already named, by the Rector, Rev. Leo Lewicki, by the Greek Local Union of the U.M.W. of A., George Retick, W. D. Hall, E. D. Smith, the Greek Citizens Society, the Greek Corps. One of the windows cost \$300.

"The site of the church, including a handsome double rectory on the south end of the lot, cost \$30,000, and the contract price of the building is \$26,500. The latter has been practically paid, and the congregation, rector and committee deserve great credit for the thoroughness of their work. New seats to cost \$1,500 have been ordered, and in time a big pipe organ will be put in along with a set of chime tower bells. The work of preparing the foundation was begun in October, 1907, and the construction has been going steadily ever since, resulting in the full fruition of the grand design aimed at.

"The change from the old to the new church will be made with some deep emotion by both rector and congregation and the old St. Michael's Church is the oldest Greek Catholic Church in the United States of America. It was erected in the year 1885 and Rev. John Wolanski was the first pastor. The next pastor was the Rev. Constantine Androkowich and the third rector was Rev. Zemil Lachowich, who died here and whose body is buried in a vault in the parish cemetery. He was followed by Rev. Cornelius Laurisin, the fourth rector, who served until 1907. Rev. Leo Lewicki, the present energetic and popular rector, took charge on Easter Sunday 1907, and has fully demonstrated the executive ability necessary to achieve the purposes intended. Bishop Ortynski will dedicate the church some time this summer." (The spellings of proper names in this article are those of the original Herald journalist.)

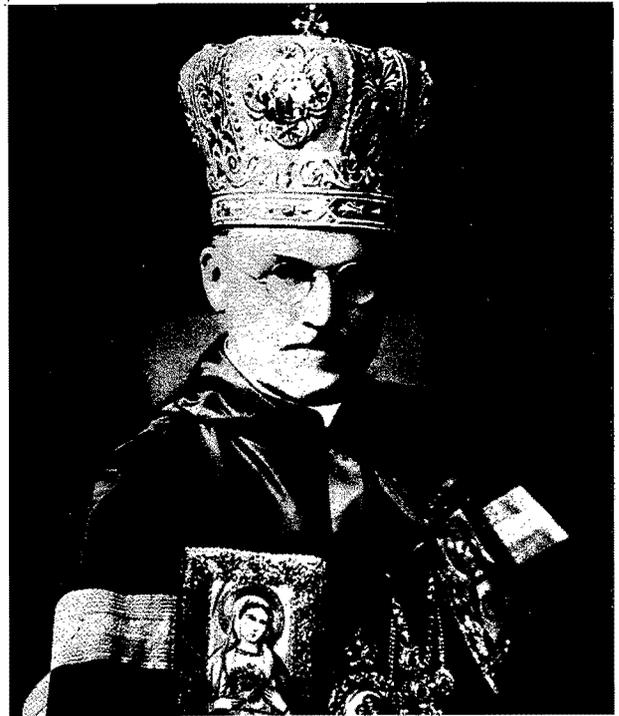
His Excellency, Bishop Soter Ortynsky made his Canonical Visitation to the parish on November 8, 1914. In March 1916, Rev. Basil Maniowsky was appointed assistant to Father Levytsky. At this time, some parishioners broke off from the church and organized the Russian Orthodox Church in Shenandoah. In July 1916, Father Levytsky and Father Maniowsky left Shenandoah, and Father Ulanytsky succeeded them for a short time. Bishop Soter Ortynsky died on August 24, 1916, and Rev. Peter Poniatishin became Administrator of our Diocese for eight years.

Father Demetrius Chomiak replaced Father Ulanytsky and served until August 1917. In September 1917, Father Vladimir Obushkevych was appointed pastor and served until April 1918. After Father Obushkevych, Father John Perepylycia served one month. Likewise, Rev. John Dorohowich also served one month. In June 1918, Rev. John Zacharko came until December 1918. He was replaced by Rev. John Woloshchuk, who served until

June 1920. In 1919 St. Michael's Club was organized. A beautiful and expensive chalice was bought for the church at this time which was regilded and blessed in May 1959.

In June 1920, Rev. Peter Yezersky became pastor and served until his death April 14, 1923, and was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery. After his death, Rev. Nicon Romaniuk was pastor for one month from April 1923 to May 1923. He was replaced by Rev. Peter Sereda who served until July 1929.

In May 1924, it was announced that the Holy See had nominated the second bishop for America, His Excellency, Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky.



HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST REVEREND
CONSTANTINE BOHACHEVSKY

While many cantors served the early St. Michael's Church, in April 1929, Professor Joseph Lesko came cantor of St. Michael's — a position he still holds at the present time.

January 7, 1929, Christmas on the Julian calendar, the parish mortgage in the sum of \$40,000 executed on November 1, 1907, for church construction was ceremoniously burned.

At the end of his pastorate in St. Michael's, Father Peter Sereda left our diocese. In July 1929, the parishioners asked him to leave the parish and appointed a delegation to call on Bishop Bohachevsky in Philadelphia to request the appointment of a new pastor for the parish. In the interim, the neighboring priest, Rev. John Fekula of Maizeville, served our parish for three months. In September 1929, Rev. John Ortynsky was appointed the new pastor by Bishop Bohachevsky, a position he held until March 1935.



The funeral of Rev. Peter Yezersky — April 1923

In March 1935, Father Ortynsky was replaced by Reverend Alexander Pawlak who only served for two weeks. In April 1935, Reverend Michael Kapec became pastor and was in charge until his death on February 22, 1945. After his death, parish affairs were taken care of by Reverend Simon Milanich for four months. In May 1945, Reverend Joseph Haniak was assigned pastor of St. Michael's. He served until December 1957, and then became Pastor Emeritus. In November 1948, Reverend Roman Bodnar became assistant to Father Haniak and remained until May 1949. He was followed by Reverend Yaroslaw Kekish.

The Apostleship of Prayer of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was canonically installed on February 18, 1952. In May of 1952, Reverend Simeos Fetzko became assistant to Father Haniak and in December of 1953, Reverend Michael Skordinsky arrived as assistant. He served until December 1957. The Stations of the Cross were canonically installed on March 20, 1955.

His Excellency, Bishop Ambrose Senyshyn, O.S.B.M., made a Canonical Visitation to the parish in 1955. In November 1955, the Ladies Auxiliary Society was organized with the purpose of faithfully and devoutly serving the Church.

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph Schmondiuk visited the school children on May 21, 1957. On October 20, 1957, His Excellency, Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky made a Canonical Visitation to the parish.

In December 1957, Rev. Vladimir Wozniak was assigned as the new pastor of St. Michael's Church. First Friday Devotions were introduced in March 1958. A summer school was originated on July 1, 1958, under the direction of Sister M. Christine, O.S.B.M., and Sister M. Vitalis, O.S.B.M. Former pastor, Reverend Joseph Haniak, through the efforts of Reverend Vladimir Wozniak, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination on October 12, 1958. Evening Divine Liturgies for Holydays on week days started in November 1958.

His Excellency, Archbishop and Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky visited the parish on February 22, 1959. A Jubilee Mission was conducted by Reverend Marianus Horishny of the Order of St. Basil the Great from April 5 to April 12. Over four hundred faithful were enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Mary. Preparations were started in 1959 for the organization of a Holy Name Society.

In 1959, the parishioners and Father Wozniak organized a Diamond Jubilee celebration of St. Michael's parish which included a commemorative book and special anniversary activities on Labor Day, September 7, 1959.

While pastor of St. Michael's and on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence, Father Joseph Kedorek delivered the invocation in the United States Senate.



Left to right: Dr. Lev Dobriansky, Senator Everett Dirkson, Father Fedorek, President Lyndon Johnson, Senator Hugh Scott.

Father Joseph Fedorek replaced Father Wozniak in the latter part of 1959 and served as pastor of our parish until his transfer in the fall of 1965. On June 12, 1960, St. Mary's Society celebrated its 55th Anniversary with a dinner in the parish hall. On September 4th parishioners were invited to visit the parish rectory to see recently made improvements. On September 14, Martin Canavan entered St. Basil's Seminary, Stamford, Connecticut, to study for the priesthood.

In early 1961, the parish joined with the Ukrainian Catholic community to mourn the death of Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky. The new spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia became Metropolitan-Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn, O.S.B.M.



ARCHBISHOP-METROPOLITAN
AMBROSE SENYSHYN, O.S.B.M.

On Sunday, February 18, 1962, the faithful prayed with Ukrainians throughout the world for the "Silent Church" behind the Iron Curtain. Special attention was given to Metropolitan Joseph Slipyj on the occasion of his 70th birthday. This confessor of the faith was still in Soviet imprisonment in Siberia.

The leadership of the new Metropolitan was evidenced by the Chancery directive that as of November 15, 1962, the Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian calendar. Plans were made for a new cathedral of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. To finance this, St. Michael's assessment was \$31,856.21. The church board of trustees agreed that this assessment would be met without imposing individual assessments on parish families.

1962 was highlighted by two noteworthy events. On August 26, His Grace, Metropolitan-Archbishop Senyshyn made a Canonical Visitation to the parish. In October, St. Michael's served as host parish where all Catholic faithful of the Shenandoah area gathered to give Glory to God and ask for His Blessings for the forthcoming Ecumenical Council being convened by Pope John XXIII. The youth of the parish were also active with the altar boys participating in the fall convention in Stamford, Connecticut. In 1964, the altar boys enjoyed a trip to the New York World's Fair. On September 26, 1965 funeral services were held for Father Haniak.

The parish was surprised to hear the news that as of October 31, Reverend Joseph Fedorek, after serving the parish for six years, was assigned to St. Vladimir's Parish, Elizabeth, New Jersey. The new pastor of St. Michael's was Reverend Stephen Hotra.

During the Second Ecumenical Council in Rome, all Ukrainian Rite bishops agreed to modifications of the Divine Liturgy, with the elimination of certain ektenias and the second antiphon. These changes were implemented on the first Sunday of February 1966.

The week of August 28 to September 4 was Centennial Week in Shenandoah, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the community. The parish was very involved in the festivities sponsoring marching groups and a magnificent float in the huge parades. A Ukrainian flag was donated by the Centennial group to the church.



Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral
of the Immaculate Conception
Philadelphia, Pa.

On October 16, the new Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Franklin Street in Philadelphia was dedicated and the cornerstone was blessed. With the conflict escalating in Viet Nam, the parish participated in a Day of Prayer for Peace proclaimed by President Lyndon Johnson.

On Sunday, December 3, the Most Reverend Metropolitan-Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn observed his 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration with a Pontifical Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A chartered bus sponsored by the parish provided transportation for our representatives to the celebration.

A documentary film titled "From Metropolitan Andrew to Cardinal Joseyf" was shown in the parish hall on February 25, 1968, which included the ceremony of the elevation to Cardinal of the Major Archbishop Josyf Slipyj, who had been released in 1963 from imprisonment in the Soviet Union.

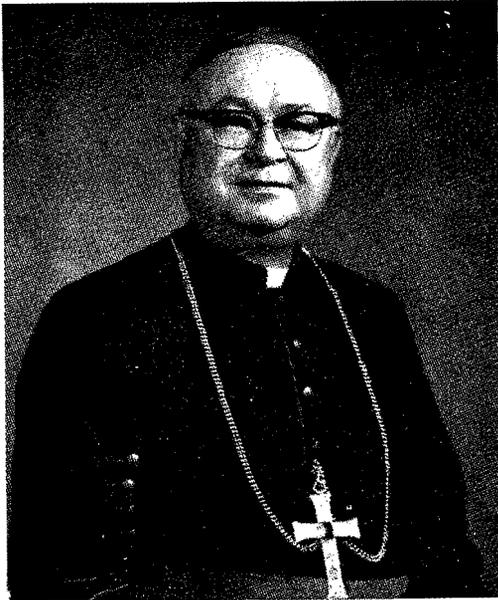
A Canonical Visitation to the parish was made by His Grace, Metropolitan-Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn on May 12, 1968.

The parish celebrated a joyous and memorable occasion on May 23, when the Reverend Mr. Martin Canavan was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Metropolitan Ambrose. Two chartered buses of friends and parishioners witnessed the first son of the parish ordained to the Sacred Priesthood. Father Canavan celebrated his solemn Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 2, in the church, followed by a testimonial in the parish hall.

On August 4, 1968, the Major Archbishop Josyf Cardinal Slipyj was the main celebrant at the Annual Pilgrimage for World Peace held at the Franciscan Monastery in Sybertsville, Pa.

Reverend Stephen Hotra celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the Priesthood with a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving on June 15, 1969. Priests of the Shamokin Deanery sang the responses to the Divine Liturgy. The following spring, March 29, 1970, Father Hotra was transferred to St. John the Baptist Church, Maizeville, Pennsylvania. The faithful of St. Michael's were now served by the Reverend Theodore J. Danusiar.

A great tribute was paid to St. Michael's on November 1, 1970, when the church was designated a landmark by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A beautiful plaque was installed on church grounds designating St. Michael's a historical site — the first Greek Catholic Church in America. The Services began with Moleben at 3:00 p.m. followed by the unveiling of the marker by the Very Reverend Monsignor Stephen Chehansky, who represented Metropolitan Ambrose. A dinner-dance followed in the parish hall. During the 1970 Christmas season, Father Danusiar had the children of the parish present a very entertaining concert of Ukrainian and English music.



BISHOP JOHN STOCK

On February 24, 1971, announcement was made that Pope Paul VI nominated a new auxiliary bishop for the Philadelphia Archeparchy, Monsignor John Stock, a native of St. Clair, Pa. That same year, on July 25, St. Michael's was the host parish for the Annual Lakewood Ukrainian Seminary Day. Bishop John Stock was the main celebrant at the Moleben Prayer Service and he thanked the Shenandoah parishioners for their diligent efforts in making it a successful Ukrainian Day. The joy of that day turned to tragedy as the parishioners were informed the following June that Bishop John Stock was called to his Eternal Reward as the result of an automobile accident.

In September 1972, Archepiscopal approval was given for the introduction of the English language Divine Liturgy. The English language Liturgies were celebrated on Saturday evenings.

— The Golden Domes of St. Michael's were refurbished in September 1973 with a new gilding that made the community landmark even more beautiful in the Shenandoah skyline. His Excellency, Bishop Basil Losten visited St. Michael's parish on November 10, 1974 to install the new officers of the Deanery Holy Name Society.

On April 20, 1975, His Grace Metropolitan Ambrose Sensyshyn designated St. Michael's as one of the places of pilgrimage for persons wishing to receive the spiritual benefits of the Holy Year. Since St. Michael's Church in Shenandoah is the Mother Church of all the churches of the Byzantine Rite in the Americas, it had the distinct privilege during the Holy Year to confer the indulgences and graces upon the pilgrims.

A special Divine Liturgy was celebrated on October 19, 1975, by His Excellency, Bishop Basil Losten for Father John Wolanski, the clergy and pioneer laity of our Church in America. After the Liturgy, a special memorial plaque, donated by the Wolanski family in memory of Father Wolanski



BISHOP BASIL H. LOSTEN

was unveiled. This plaque is installed in the vestibule of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, Pa.

1976 marked the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States of America. In commemoration of that event, several historical articles were loaned to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for display in the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg which depicted the history of the Catholic Church in America. On July 4, the parishioners participated in a special Divine Liturgy marking the 200th birthday of the Declaration of Independence. The choir of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hemstead, Long Island, New York, made a special pilgrimage to the "Mother Church" and sang responses to the Divine Liturgy. During the first week in August, the 41st International Eucharistic Congress convened in Philadelphia. Various articles from St. Michael's were put on exhibit at the Philadelphia Civic Center Exhibition Hall. The pastorate of Father Danusiar at St. Michael's ended when the Archdiocesan Personnel Administration announced his transfer to Trenton, New Jersey.

Replacing Father Ted was Reverend John Bura, who has continued the spiritual direction and guidance of the faithful to the present.

Faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic community were saddened to hear of the death of our spiritual leader Metropolitan - Archbishop Ambrose Sensyshyn, O.S.B.M., on September 19, 1976. On October 9, 1977, it was announced that Pope Paul VI appointed Bishop Joseph Schmondiuk, of the Stam-

ford Diocese since 1961, as Archbishop-Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Archbishop Joseph became the first American born bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States in 1956.



ARCHBISHOP-METROPOLITAN
THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH M. SCHMONDIUK

Already in 1978, various religious articles of the church were being refurbished and regilded in anticipation of the parish centennial in 1984.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church was saddened and shocked when news of the death of His Grace Joseph Schmondiuk, Archbishop-Metropolitan was announced. The late Metropolitan passed away on Christmas Day 1978, after having served as Archeparch of Philadelphia for a year.

An historic milestone was celebrated on May 20, 1979. A testimonial in honor of Professor Lesko was held commemorating his fifty years of faithful service as cantor of the Mother Church, a position he holds at the time of this writing today.



50 YEARS AS CANTOR

The Rev. John Bura of St. Michael's Greek Catholic Church, Shenandoah (left), offers congratulations to Joseph Lesko on his 50 years of service as cantor of St. Michael's, during a testimonial banquet and dance in Lesko's honor. With them are Mrs. Anna Lesko and Monsignor Joseph Batza of St. Michael's Ukrainian Church, Frackville.

Pope John Paul II announced that Monsignor Myroslav J. Lubachivsky will be consecrated Archbishop-Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia on November 12, 1979, in the Sistine Chapel. The parishioners traveled to the Cathedral to see the Pope on October 4, 1979.



Pope John Paul II delivers his homily in the Cathedral
October 4, 1979 — Philadelphia, Pa.

From the period 1946 to 1979, renovations, donations, additions, maintenances, donations of religious articles, liturgical vessels and vestments were all donated by parish activities or individual benefactors to increase the deeply spiritual meaning of liturgical services. Organizations and the whole parish financially contributed to the support of the church, just as their forebears did, proud of the rich heritage of St. Michael's as the Mother Church of the Eastern Rite in the United States and mindful of the upcoming Centennial celebration in 1984, marking 100 years of the founding of the historic church.

Anticipation was already building for that celebration. Plans were being made for repainting icons, refinishing woodwork, and giving the church of St. Michael a new appearance for the 1984 celebration. It was with this spirit that the faithful celebrated the beautiful Resurrectional Matins and Divine Liturgy with Father Bura on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1980 — little realizing at the time that this Divine Liturgy would be the last celebrated in the historic structure.

Sometime during the night of April 6 and Monday April 7, 1980, what had been an imposing structure of Byzantine grace and beauty was transformed by the ravages of fire into a twisted rubble of metal, charred beams, and melted glass. What had been a beautiful house of God suddenly was reduced to smoldering ashes. All the priceless works of art, icons, stained glass and antiques were destroyed by the conflagration. Also rendered a total loss was the adjacent parish rectory. Fortunately, there was no loss of life. The county awakened to the news — St. Michael's in Shenandoah was completely destroyed. The Golden Domes are gone.

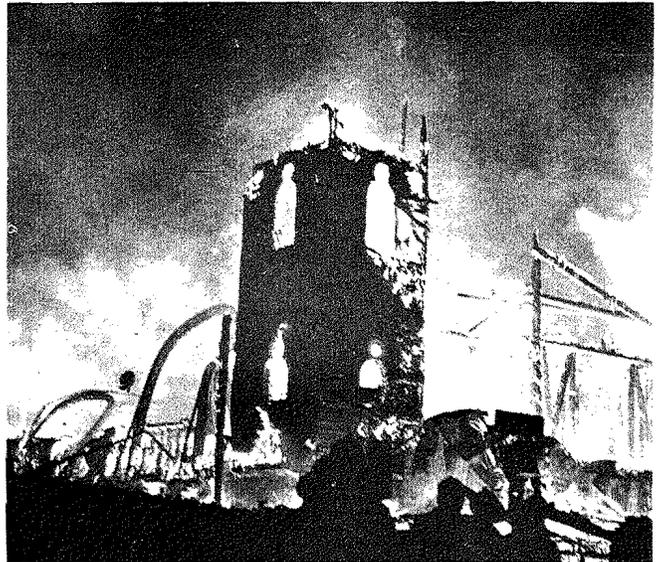
Catastrophic Fire — April 7, 1980



The main dome in flames



Smoke, flames, and sparks silhouette the cross on the back of the church.



Left tower last to go

During the fire itself, volunteer firemen from Shenandoah and neighboring communities worked fever-

ishly to prevent further loss of property.

There were many stunned reactions — disbelief, sadness, flashbacks of baptisms, weddings, funerals, in the church building which served the Ukrainian Catholic faithful of Shenandoah since 1909. But church is more than a building — church is a community of believers and from the early

morning gloom of Easter Monday morning emerged an optimism of hope. After all, these parishioners were the second, third and fourth generations of those who, a century earlier, shower their optimism and courage in settling in the new land of America and surmounted many obstacles.



Rectory ablaze



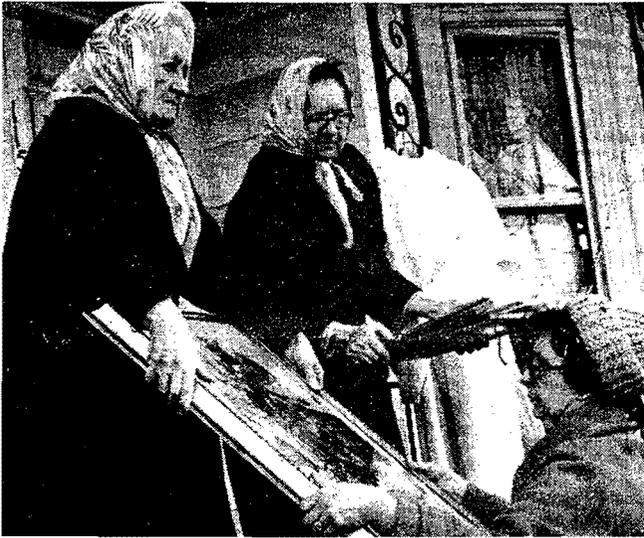
1908 Cornerstone



Main cross lying in center of West Oak Street



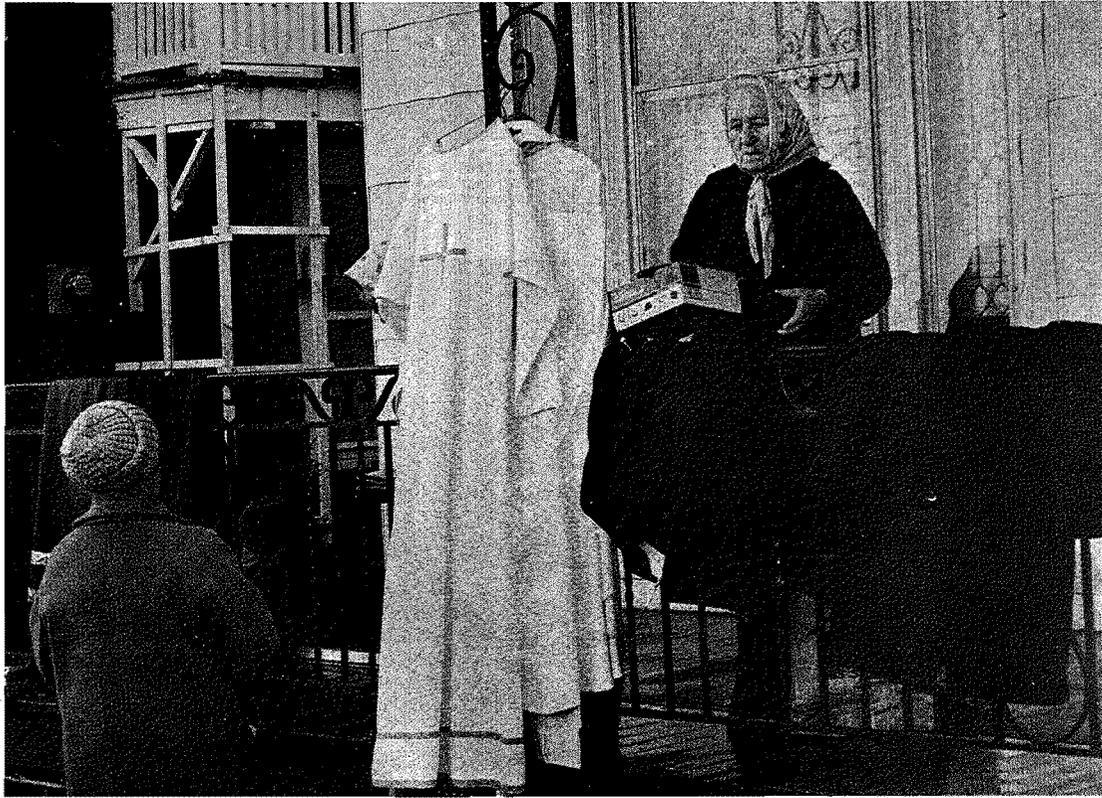
The historical marker damaged



Neighbors and members of the parish help remove religious articles and priest's vestments from the nearby rectory.



The Rev. John Bura, St. Michael's pastor, watches fire-fighting effort with neighbors





ST. MICHAEL'S GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHENANDOAH, PA.

The Church that was, or better, the Community, continues to be because the Spirit is with us and the People of God live in the everlasting hope of our Risen Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Although a famous landmark is down, with God's help, with our sleeves rolled up and with your holy prayers, another Temple of the Lord will be built. Like the Phoenix, it will rise up again from the ashes.

Our deepest gratitude to all the brave and wonderful firemen and all the Fire Companies and the Police who risked life and limb and spent many hours on the job.

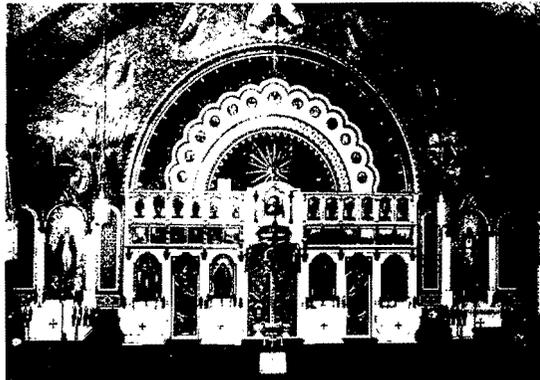
Our thanks to all neighbors and friends who offered help and assistance, a kind word, a handshake, a tear shared. Your support truly helps and sustains us.

We are grateful to all the clergy, Churches, and people who have come forth with immediate assistance: use of sacred vessels, financial donations and all other aid. Unfortunately, it is impossible to enumerate all these at this time. Many, many thanks!

We are saddened by our misfortune, but we are also saddened because our neighbors suffered damage to their homes, and courageous firefighters were injured. We humbly pray that this be only temporary and, with us, will be able to start again . . . new, fresh, looking ahead!

We are always put to the test no matter who, no matter how hard we try — to prove ourselves, our sincerity, our faith. St. Paul the Apostle, a long time ago, instructed the people of Corinth:

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we do not know why things happen as they do, but we do not give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. These bodies of ours are constantly facing death just as Jesus did; so it is clear to all that it is only the living Christ within who keeps us safe" (2 Corinthians 4, 8-10).



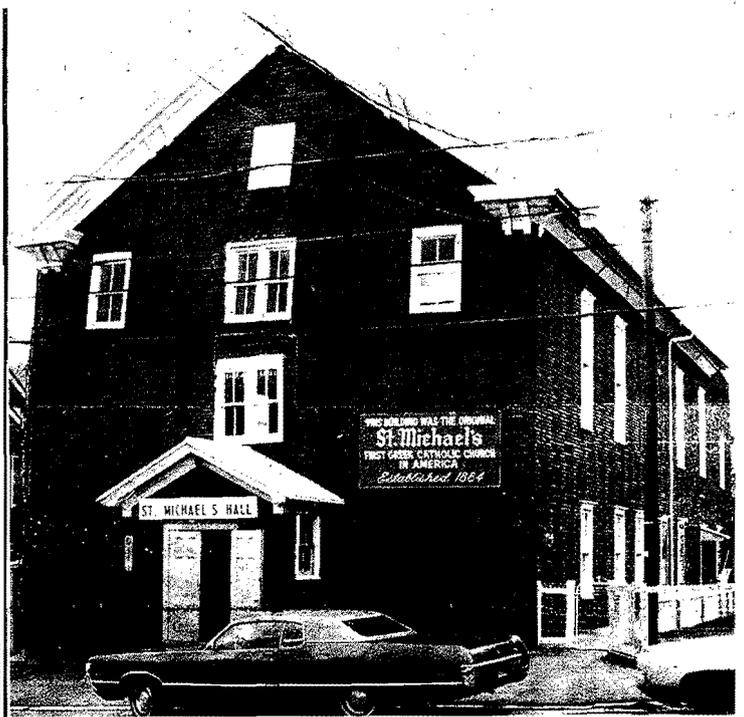
INTERIOR VIEW OF FORMER ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Thank You,
God Bless You All!
Reverend John Bura, Parish Committee
and Parishioners of St. Michael's Church

Father Bura began making immediate preparations to convert the church hall on West Centre Street to an interim church. How ironic that the building used as a Greek Catholic Church for the first time in 1885, would again be the home of those same, rich, spiritual liturgical services. Parishioners, men and women, young and old, labored feverishly in order that services could be conducted in "our" church the weekend after the fire. Perhaps it was pride, perhaps psychological — but

everyone donated his talents and energies willingly and applied them diligently. In addition, churches donated sacred vessels, vestments, icons, and other liturgical items in order that everything would be ready for the Divine Services.

On April 12, 1980, five days after the fire, the first Divine Liturgy and blessing of the hall were celebrated by Father Bura — the first Liturgical services celebrated in that building since April 3, 1909.



Shenandoah Evening Herald
Monday, April 14, 1980

St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Parish went back to its roots during the weekend, moving into the parish hall to hold worship services pending construction of an edifice to replace the historic structure destroyed by fire Easter Monday. Rev. John Bura is shown celebrating divine liturgy in the hall, which was actually the first parish church, as indicated by the sign on front. The hope of the pastor is to have a new edifice in time for the parish centennial in 1984. Vestments and other items needed for the liturgy were provided by Bishop Lubachifsky and other friends. (Kline)



SMILES OF HOPE AMID THE RUBBLE: The League of Ukrainian Catholics of America (LUC) National Board contributed \$500.00 towards the building program of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shenandoah, Pa. Pictured making the presentation are National Spiritual Director, Rev. John P. Stevensky (center) and Helen Hollack, National Civic and Educational Director. Rev. John Bura, pastor of St. Michael's Church, accepts the check.

Offers of help continued to come in. Community groups sponsored fundraisers. Local news media assisted with financial promotions. Word of the tragedy spread not only to the Ukrainian community but the major wire services carried the story of the destruction of the historic landmark to every part of the nation.

Besides working to administer to the spiritual needs of the parish, Father Bura and the parishioners had to compile an inventory and proof of loss for the church, rectory, and contents prior to

any insurance settlement. A financial committee to handle all funds was organized for the church affairs which were previously administered by the Board of Trustees. A fund raising committee was created to secure necessary revenues since it was understood any insurance settlement would not be sufficient to meet all the expenses of new construction, artwork, furnishings and appointments. Furthermore, under no circumstances did the parishioners want to borrow any funds for the forthcoming building project.



September 18, 1980 — St. Michael's receives an insurance settlement for rebuilding the church. Pictured are Thomas Fleckenstein, accountant supervisor for Aetna Ins. Co., Arthur Rohach, insurance agent for the Philadelphia Ukrain-

ian Archdiocese, Very Rev. Raymond Revak, archdiocesan insurance administrator, Metropolitan-Archbishop Myroslav Lubachivsky, Rev. John Bura, St. Michael's pastor, and Attorney John Fields, parish legal advisor.

An insurance settlement of \$1,125,000.00 was secured from the Aetna Insurance Company in August 1980, and the funds were immediately placed in interest bearing accounts. Meanwhile an architectural committee was formed and the arduous task of rebuilding St. Michael's began. At one of the first meetings, the consensus was to reconstruct a new church that would capture the grace and beauty of Byzantine architecture and would be a "jewel" — an outstanding Ukrainian Catholic Church. The parishioners wanted this new church

to be completed in time for the parish centennial in 1984, a time when the eyes of the entire Ukrainian community would focus on the church of St. Michael of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

After months of research, architectural interviews, touring of various churches, questioning, and meetings, S. Padukow of Toms River, New Jersey, was chosen as the architect to design the new structure. Drawings, schematics, clay models, and renderings were presented to the committee as the style of the new building was beginning to crystallize.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that in September 1980, at a special parish meeting, in the presence of His Grace Myroslav Lubachivsky, Archbishop-Metropolitan, the faithful voted to turn all parish books and records over to the Pastor who would thenceforth be responsible for all parish accounts. After this meeting all parish property was properly deeded to the Archeparchy in conformity with diocesan statutes, and the parish is now known as St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church.



His Excellency, Most Rev. Myroslav J. Lubachivsky, meets with parishioners after a parish meeting, August, 1980.

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church were held on Easter Monday, April 12, 1982, at which His Grace, Archbishop-Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk officiated. (Metropolitan Stephen was named by Pope John Paul II to succeed Metropolitan Myroslav, in March 1981. Metropolitan Myroslav was named coadjutor to Major Archbishop Cardinal Josyf Slipyj with the right of succession.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1982-15



HISTORIC EVENT: Henry Pascavage (left) of Frackville, who constructed and donated this cross, parishioner John Yuhas and the Rev. John Bura, pastor of Saint Michael Church, Shenandoah, participate here in cross raising Thursday, in preparation for the groundbreaking on Easter Monday for construction of a new church at Oak and Chestnut streets. The former church was destroyed by fire two years ago. (Andy Popalis photo).



Children's program following Groundbreaking Ceremonies
April 1982



The Most Rev. Stephen Sulyk, D.D., Archbishop Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, digs the first scoop of earth, left photo, during groundbreaking ceremonies for a new St. Michael's Greek Catholic Church. The Rev. John Bura, pastor of St. Michael's, at Sulyk's right, observes the ceremony. In right photo, Archbishop Sulyk blesses the site of the new Shenandoah church. Also participating in the groundbreaking service was Deacon Daniel Troyan, just left of the archbishop.

Everybody was anxiously awaiting the start of construction. After the bids were reviewed and alterations and revisions made to bring the cost within the approved budget, Metropolitan Stephen in August 1982 granted permission to award the contract to C. H. Klinger, Inc., of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania. As site preparations began, a daily stream of visitors would watch the landscape being transformed from a weed-covered hole into a concrete-block lined basement, then the decking and the laminated beams. The new St. Michael's was becoming a reality. Under construction was also the new rectory. Target date for completion of both

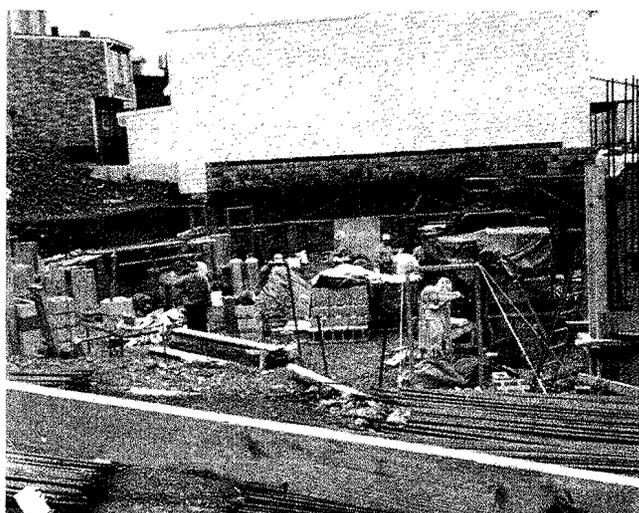
was St. Michael's day, 1983. An unusually mild winter, coupled with a relatively mild fall, enabled construction to proceed along schedule. Nevertheless, while the roof was still open, in the summer of 1983, many doubted that the first Divine Liturgy with Cornerstone Blessing would be held in a few months. Nevertheless Father Bura and the parishioners continued to plan for the formal blessing of the cornerstone. Confirmation was received from Metropolitan Stephen that Sunday, November 27, 1983, the cornerstone blessing of the new church would take place.



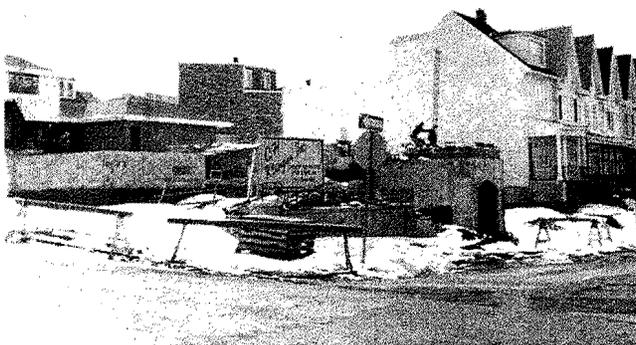
October 1982



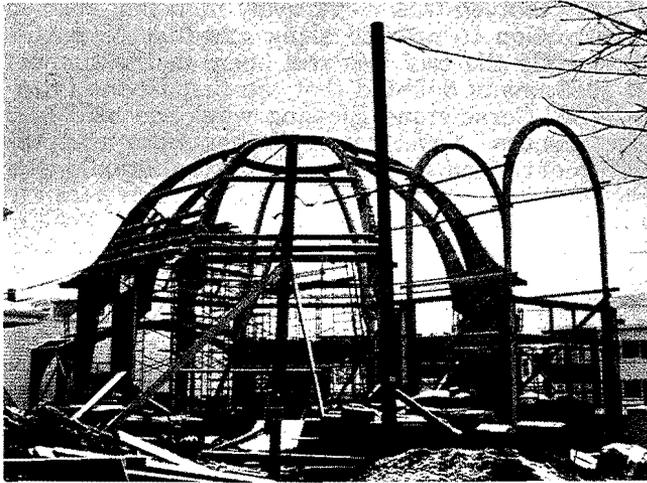
December 1982



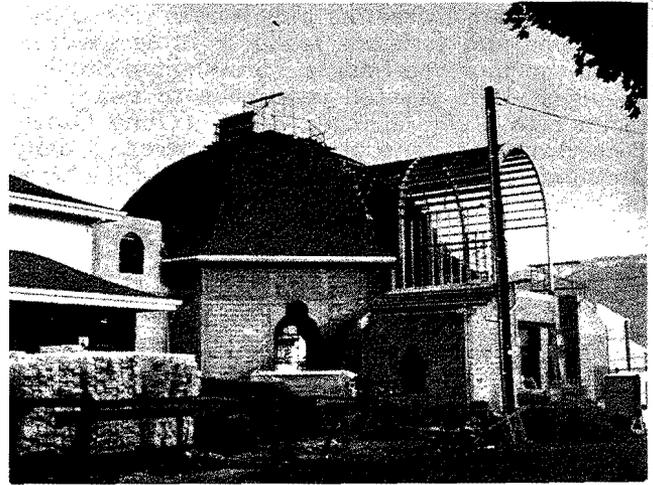
December 1982



February 1983



May 1983



June 1983

On Sunday, November 27, 1983, a visitor approaching the intersection of Oak and Chestnut Street in the anthracite coal region town of Shenandoah would have seen a monumental church of white marble exterior, trimmed in limestone. A central dome-shaped roof, in blue-green slate colored asphalt, contrasted with the white marble. The front of the church was characterized by intricate stone carvings and massive wooden doors. Two bell-towers would complete each side of the main structure. To enable liturgical processions, a walkway surrounds the entire church. Once inside, one would notice the spacious vestibule, the side chapel, the deep burgundy carpeting and the laminated wooden beams to radiate from the central cupola along the walls of the octagonal nave. Brass chandeliers provided the lighting.

And he would have noticed the large crowd of faithful, clergy, sisters, media, and would have sensed the joy of gratitude and thanksgiving as Metropolitan Stephen, with holy water blessed the cornerstone, and then with trowel, placed mortar on the cornerstone and set it into its new location. Documents/Articles sealed into the cornerstone were: A history of the parish, an official document for future generations, a rock from the tomb of St. Peter's in Rome, a piece of granite step and a nail from the church built in 1908 that burned in 1980, a nail from the original church built in 1886 and a 1983 coin proof set.

Placing the marble stone into the cornerstone's container, Archbishop Stephen included this document:



Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archdiocese

827 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19123
(215) 627-0143

No.
Refer to this number in your reply.

Office of the Archbishop

"Be it known to future generations that this stone is a part of a larger stone taken from the tomb of Saint Peter, the Apostle, in Rome, and given by Pope Paul VI of Blessed Memory, to Metropolitan-Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn, a part of which is placed in the cornerstone of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Mother of God, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and this fragment of the stone was placed in the cornerstone of Saint Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, November 27, 1983, by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, to signify the unity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (of which Saint Michael's in Shenandoah is an integral part) with the Apostolic and Holy See of Peter in Rome."

November 27, 1983

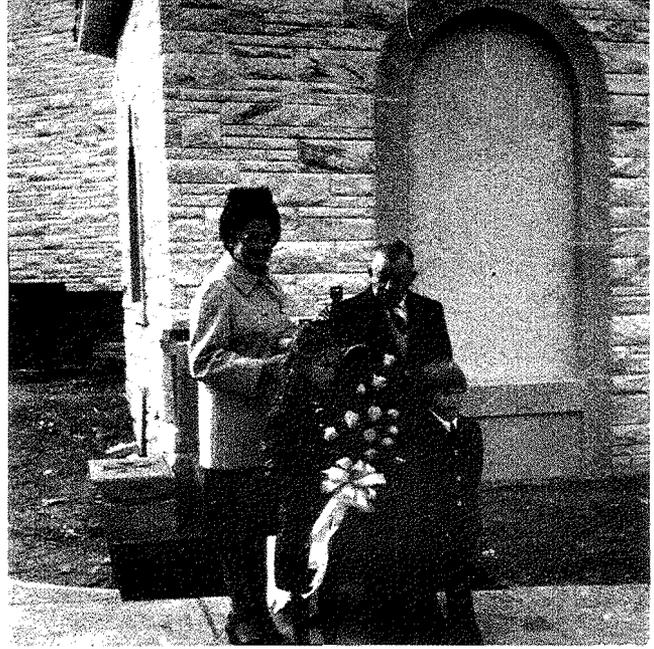
Metropolitan-Archbishop
‡ Stephen Sulyk

The first Divine Liturgy in the new church was celebrated by the Archbishop and visiting clergy and the responses were sung by the Andrew Sheptytsky Choir of the Scranton Deanery.

Cornerstone Blessing — November 27, 1983



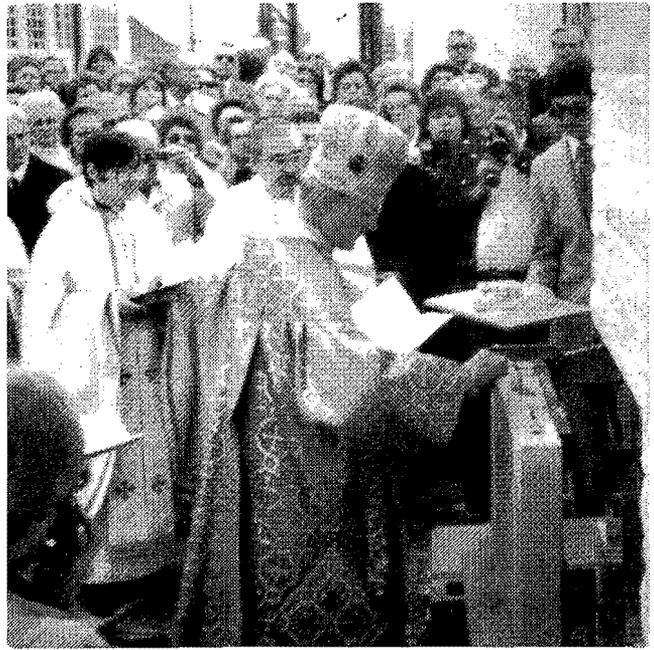
The cornerstone



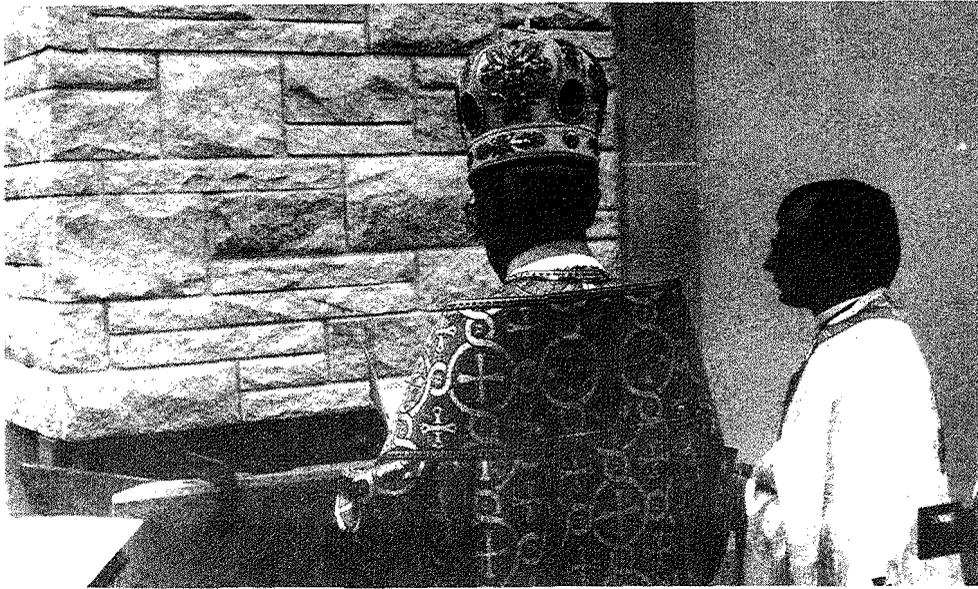
Helen Beddall, Joy Mohutsky, Joseph Wandzilak, and Stephen Breznik await to greet the Archbishop.



The Ceremony of Blessing



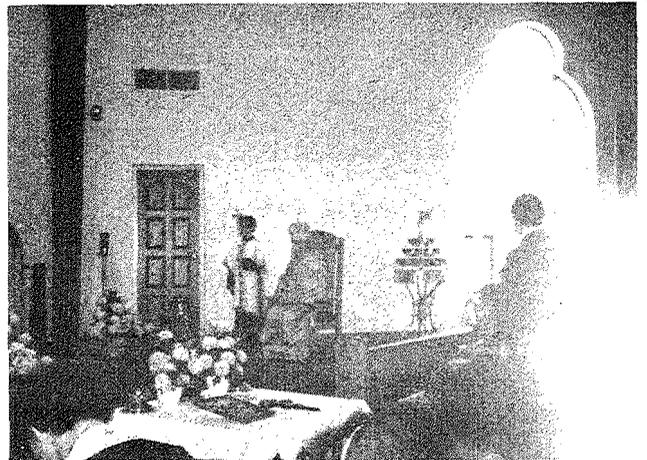
Archbishop places mortar on the cornerstone.



His Grace, Archbishop-Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk blesses cornerstone of the new Church. Pastor, Rev. John Bura looks on. November 27, 1983.



The first Divine Liturgy in the new Church begins.

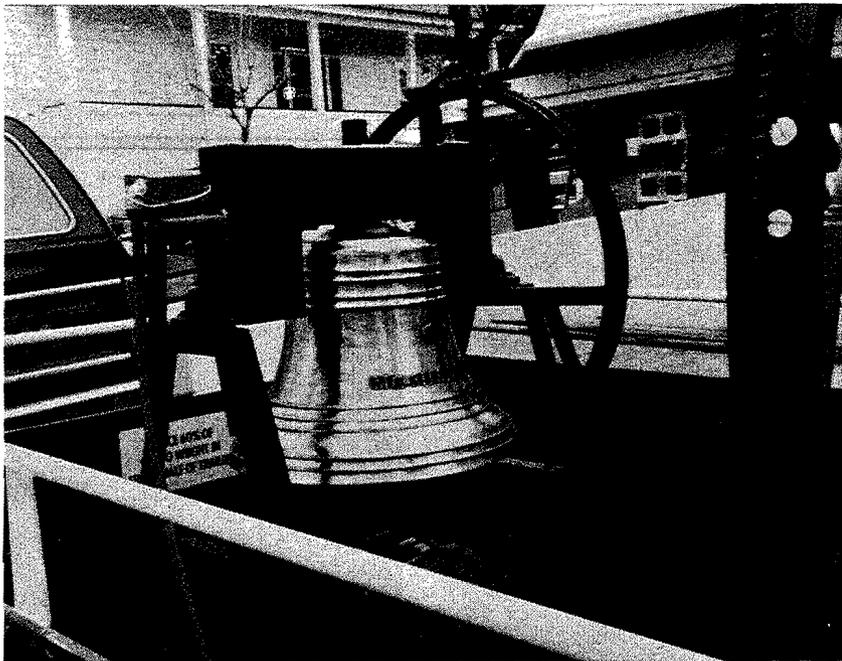
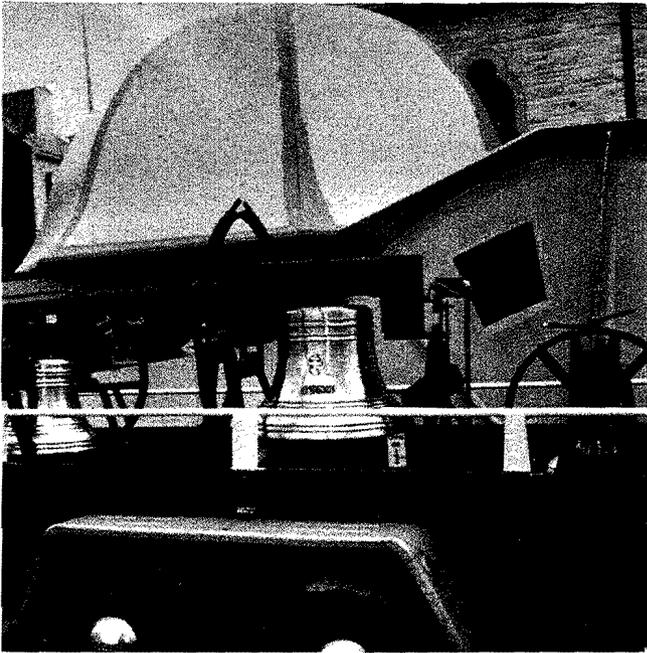


During the Divine Liturgy

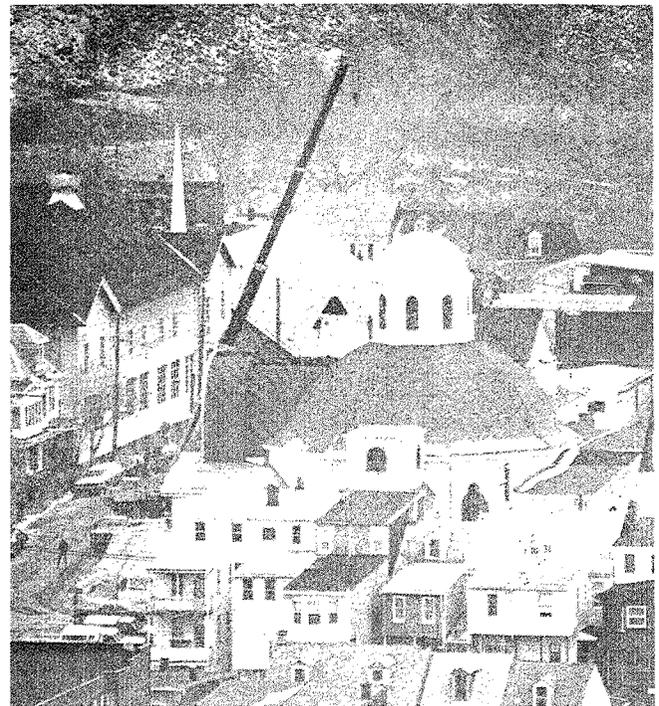
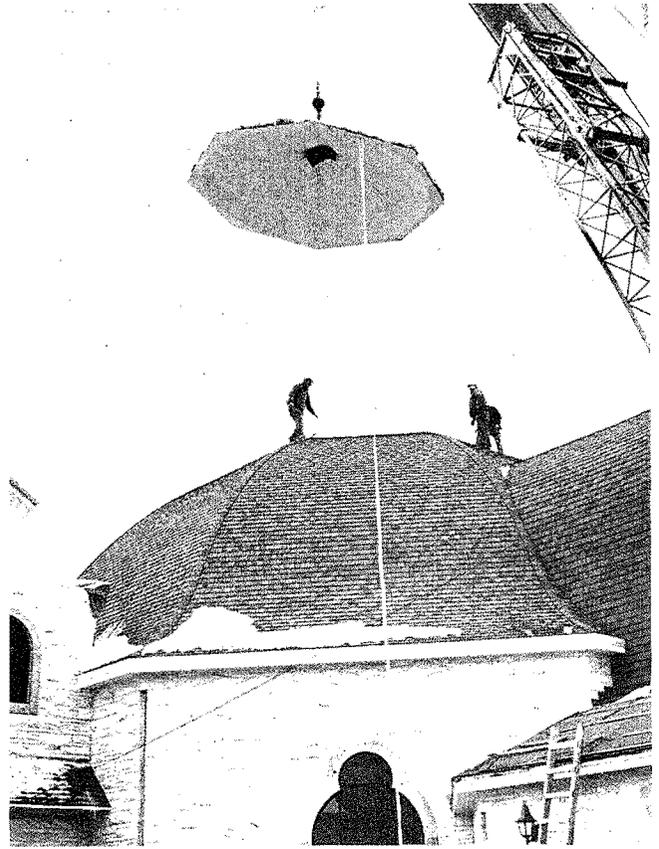


Cornerstone Blessing Reception — 1983

Recast Bells Prior To Installation



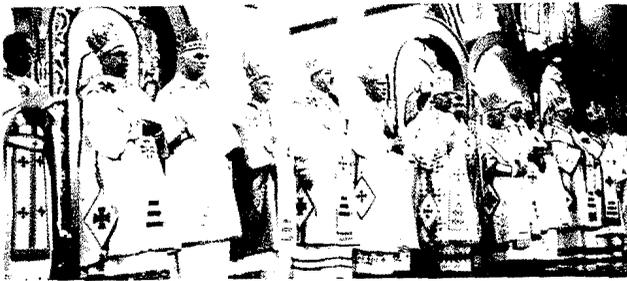
Installation of Domes



Early 1984, the centennial year, saw the installation of the central cupola. Bells recast from the melted remains of those destroyed in the fire were installed. The side domes were also set in place.

The solemn dedication of the new church will occur on Sunday, November 4, 1984 with a Pontifical Divine Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Stephen. A dinner-dance will follow in the Gus Genetti Motor Lodge, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Making plans for this celebration has been the main task of a diligent committee throughout this year.

One hundred years of life for any institution is remarkable. But, this centennial year for St. Michael's demands of us a further commitment to our faith and our church. For, from the small group of brave faithful and the untiring work of Father Wolanski a century ago, our church has grown. For God's abundant Graces and Mercies all of us must be truly thankful! As of August 1, 1984, there were 1,892 baptisms, 1,724 weddings, and 1,562 burials in the parish.



Ukrainian and Byzantine Catholic Bishops celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan See in the United States and the Inauguration of the 100th Anniversary of our Church in America, November 13, 1983, Philadelphia, Pa.

The community of St. Michael's in Shenandoah has a special reason for gratitude to Almighty God. The tragedy of three and one-half years ago did not destroy hope. We must see to it that the new church truly embodies both the whole spiritual history and the future growth of this parish. For, while previous generations have now gone to their eternal reward, their legacy of faith and tradition has been entrusted to this generation to preserve faithfully for future generations so that the children of tomorrow will be thankful for the efforts of the past one hundred years and thereby guarantee continued spiritual development for many more years to come. We begin our second century.

"O LORD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE
AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE!"

Priest's names in this historical sketch are spelled according to their own personal signatures as appear in the records of St. Michael's Parish-Metrical Registers, Shenandoah, Pa.

*Although the first immigrants came from various regions of the Austro-Hungarian empire, the common bond was their Greek Catholic Faith.

Ukraine, precariously independent for only a few years following World War I, had long been under Russian, Polish, and Austrian domination; today it an autonomous republic within the Soviet Union.

Because of these historical factors, Ukrainians were and are often referred to incorrectly as Russians, Poles, or Austrians. Various other names have been used for Ukrainians: Little Russians, Malo-Russians (Russophile political connotation); Ruthenians, Russniaks (refers more specifically to those from the Carpathian region); and Rusins (since the Ukrainian equivalent of this term was in common use among the Ukrainians during the period of the first settlements in America).

For more information about the first settlers and/or a history of the Ukrainian Church in America see the following:

Emily Greene Balch, *Our Slavic Fellow Citizens* (New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1910).

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