

## History of Holy Spirit Parish

The history of Holy Spirit Parish dates back to the mid-1940's, approximately nine years after Pope Pius XI created the Diocese of Paterson in 1937. Bishop Thomas Henry McLaughlin was appointed to head the new Diocese, and he named Fr. John Hewetson as the Pastor of what would become St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lincoln Park. Fr. Hewetson not only built up St. Joseph's Parish, but began a Mission in Pequannock, which later became Holy Spirit Parish.

In June 1946, Fr. Hewetson celebrated Holy Spirit's first Mass in the Pequannock Firehouse at the corner of Lincoln Park Road and Oak Street. Midnight Mass was celebrated there for the first time on Christmas Eve, 1947. In 1948, a movement began to build a Catholic Church in Pequannock, and permission was granted in 1949 for construction to begin.

The first Mass at the new Holy Spirit Church was celebrated on February 12, 1950, and on June 18, 1950, Bishop Thomas A. Boland dedicated the new church building. On September 9, 1950, Fr. Joseph R. Brestel was appointed Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish. The first religious instruction classes were instituted that year, and the first Confirmation was celebrated on May 18, 1952.



On December 2, 1954, Fr. John H. Dericks was appointed Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish. On May 1, 1955, the rectory was dedicated by Bishop James A. McNulty.



The Blessing of the cornerstone for Holy Spirit School was on September 8, 1956. Sr. Josephine Cucuzzella, MPF, was the first principal. The Holy Spirit



convent opened in 1959, and in 1960, Holy Spirit School had all eight grades for the first time. Also in 1960, the church wing was completed through the work of 100 parish volunteers.

In 1966, Msgr. Eugene McQuaid was appointed as Pastor. Serving the parish with Msgr. McQuaid were Fr. Pat Rice and Fr. Thaddeus Lee. On July 9, 1970 was the groundbreaking for what has been known as the “parish center”, and which serves as the school gymnasium.

The year 1972 saw the first kindergarten class at Holy Spirit School, and in 1992, the front section of the convent was transformed into the Msgr. McQuaid Pre-K Center.



In 1994, Fr. Alfred J. Lampron was appointed Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish. Serving with Fr. Al was Fr. Ed Collins as parochial vicar from 1995 to 2006. In

1999, Holy Spirit School dedicated an addition to the school, the new James Wright Science Center.

In 2006, with the reassignment of Fr. Al, Fr. John Tarantino was named Administrator of Holy Spirit parish. During Fr. Tarantino's ministry at Holy Spirit Parish, from 2006 to 2012, the property underwent a transformation, involving upgrading of the property, repairs to the aging church structure, and installation of safety measures.

Holy Spirit Parish was "twinned" in 2012 with St. Joseph's Parish in Lincoln Park, NJ, located less than two miles from Holy Spirit. Fr. Philip LeBeau remained as Pastor of St. Joseph's, and was named Administrator of Holy Spirit. Fr. Aleksander Bialas, ordained in 2012 in the Diocese of Paterson, was assigned "in residence" at St. Joseph's in June 2012, serving at both St. Joseph's and Holy Spirit. In 2013, Fr. Phil was installed as Pastor of Holy Spirit, in addition to being Pastor at St. Joseph's, and Fr. Aleks was named parochial vicar for both parishes. Illness forced the medical retirement of Fr. Phil in June, 2014, at which time Fr. Tom Mangieri was named Administrator of both Holy Spirit Parish and St. Joseph's.

In June 2016, Bishop Serratelli announced the end of the twinning of Holy Spirit and St. Joseph's parishes, and assigned Fr. David Monteleone as Administrator of Holy Spirit Church.