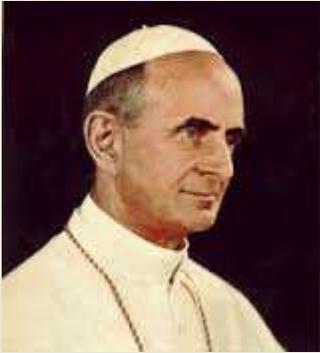


Timeline of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

1978



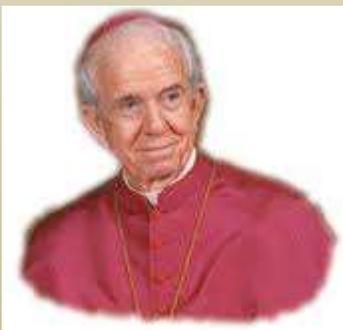
Pope Paul VI



Pope John Paul I



Pope John Paul II



Bishop William G. Connare

The founding of a parish marks a significant moment in the growth of an area and the spread of the Gospel. **The establishment of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in 1978** marked one of those signature moments in the Irwin/North Huntingdon area.

A long and wonderful history is rooted in the life of Immaculate Conception Parish in Irwin. As populations grew and the Church became larger, a daughter parish was formed at Saint Agnes off Clay Pike, and a transition took place in the lives of many families as they built their new church community. But populations continued to grow as did the number of Catholics in the area, prompting Bishop William G. Connare to establish a third parish, not between Irwin and Jeannette as some thought, but on the Western front near the Allegheny/Westmoreland county line. Many of those same people who moved to Saint Agnes now found themselves building again under the patronage of a “new” saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, canonized in 1975. They rallied around a young priest named their pastor, **Father Richard Mackiewicz (Father Mack)**, and on June 18, 1978, celebrated their first Mass as a family at Hartford Heights Fire Hall. Inspired, motivated and challenged by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, these veterans of establishing new parishes, joined by countless others over the years, are spirit filled, good, hardworking, dedicated people of Faith.

In the early days, each weekend saw the transformation of the Hartford Heights Fire Hall into a place of worship. Chairs were set up, altar brought in, banners hung, and people gathered, as they once did at the old Jacktown Hotel and at Immaculate Conception before that. Father Mack lived with the priests at Saint Agnes, and established an office and celebrated daily Mass across Route 30 in the Oddo Plaza Building, owned by a parishioner.

Land was purchased off of Leger Road, and on **September 16, 1980, ground was broken for the new church.** As the complex was being built, the parish family was being formed into ministries,

Timeline of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

organizations and confraternities, religious formation, pledge campaigns, raffles, dinners, and so much more that makes a parish a vibrant community of faith.

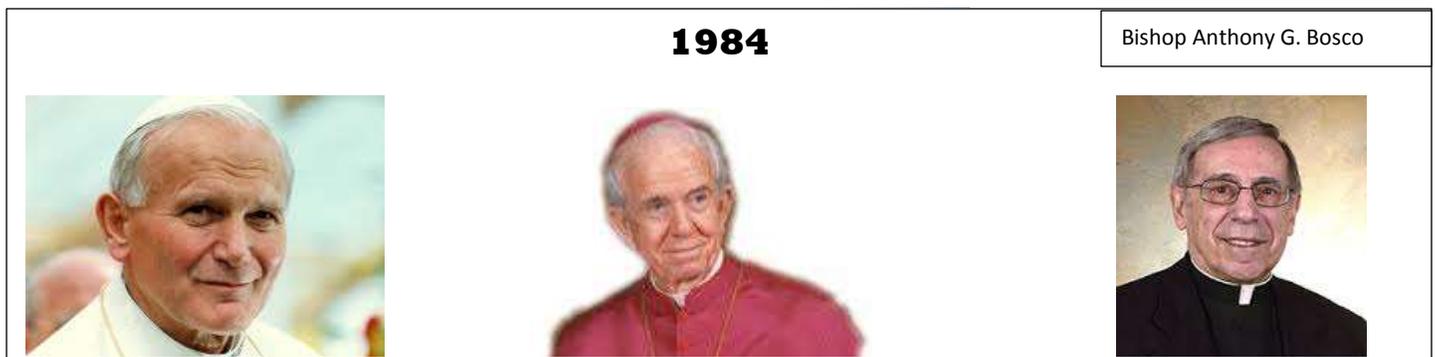


Father Mack

Finally on **March 29, 1981**, the Church was dedicated by Bishop Connare and Father Mack, along with our neighboring pastors of Father Sanesi and Father Brannon. With a banner on the window that quotes “Live simply that others may simply live”, this parish family moved into a simple but beautiful house of worship that day, to begin living the Gospel in their new home. Along with the Church, there was a large hall and kitchen on the lower level, an office area, and a rectory for the priest, as well as ample parking in both the front and the rear of the building. A number of beautiful windows depicting the life and ministry of the Sisters of Charity were incorporated into the vestibule as a gift of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg.

The years that followed saw sacraments received, Holy days and holidays celebrated, Seder suppers, festivals, ethnic dinners, picnics and prayer services and Benedictions. They saw other priests and seminarians join with us—Fathers James Bump, Peter Peretti, Tom Federline, Ken Zaccagnini, Joe Traynor and many others.

Finally, after six years, and with much sadness, Father Mack was transferred. His gifts and legacy as our founding pastor left an indelible mark that is still remembered. The social hall bears his name with gratitude.



Timeline of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



Father William McGuire

He was replaced in **June of 1984** by **Father William McGuire**. With Father McGuire, the work continued with great enthusiasm and gusto. A party person, Father McGuire continued the good work that had begun. He was determined to eliminate the parish debt within his tenure, and worked hard to accomplish that task. He never missed an event held at the parish. He had a special love of decorating, especially at Christmas.

Sadly, it was at Christmas in 1992 – the day after to be exact – that tragedy struck, and a devastating fire destroyed the rectory. During the fire, Father McGuire died of heart failure, just shy of his 25th anniversary of ordination, compounding the loss. The kitchen in Mack Hall, where he spent so much time, was named after Father McGuire.

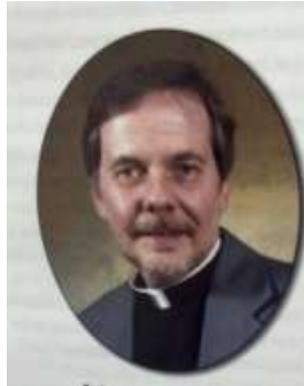
1993



In **June of 1993** another young priest, **Father Michael Crookston**, a local boy from North Irwin, took the reins as pastor. Father Mike had the task of leading the parish in the healing process, and of replacing what was lost. For the next four and half years, the parish family continued to celebrate their Faith and share their joy with others. Father Mike, along with the diocesan officials, made a bold decision and did not rebuild the rectory attached to the church. Instead,

Timeline of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

they purchased a house just a little over a mile from the church complex as a residence for the priest.



Father Mike Crookston

Later in time, a Westinghouse Office building adjacent to the church property came available, and was purchased by the parish as the Seton Center, providing office space, religious formation sessions, meetings and the like. Father Mike, easy and outgoing, was a friend to many and a spiritual guide to all. He was transferred in January of 1998.

Pope Benedict



1998



Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt



The next shepherd for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was **Father Richard Kosisko** who served from **January of 1998 through June of 2008**. Father Rick, who divided his time between here and the Marriage Tribunal of the Greensburg Diocese, brought that same spirit to the role as his predecessors. His great liturgies and outstanding preaching moved us forward spiritually. A new organ was purchased, the sanctuary floor tiled, Mary's Garden established by the

Timeline of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

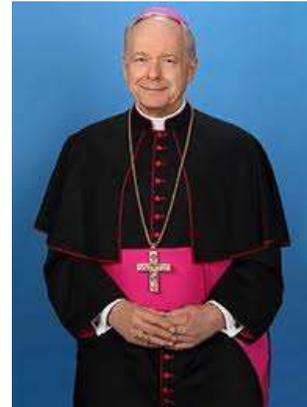
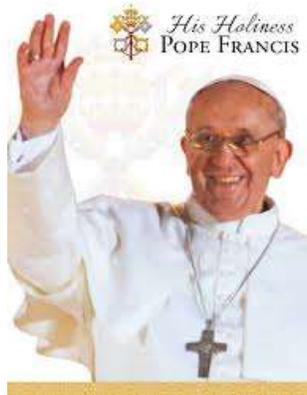
Christian Mothers, a new roof placed on the church building (during which was the unexpected deluge experience on that Saturday night), and so many other enhancements.



Father Rick Kosisko

The parish continued to grow in numbers and in spiritual strength during his leadership. Having served the longest tenure, a great party was held to celebrate his tenth year with us.

2008



Timeline of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



The current pastor, **Father Leonard Stoviak**, arrived in June of 2008, and installed as pastor on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2009 by Bishop Lawrence Brandt. We celebrated the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the church in March of 2011.



What does the history of a parish say to the future? It provides a glimpse of what the foundation is made of, it celebrates the present moment of God's presence and love, and it provides a challenge to the future generations to "Live simply so that others may simply live".

God watches over and blesses.