

The Parish Polish Festival #48

After a two year hiatus, due to the pandemic, we will try once again to put together a parish festival this summer. This would be the 48th time the parish has presented a Polish Festival for the downriver area to enjoy. Since our last festival in 2019 the world has changed dramatically. So many of the things we used to enjoy are gone now for good, many, many other things are drastically changed these days. It would be naïve to think that all of this would not have an effect on our festival. Before describing the plans for this year's festival, let me first remind everyone of the genesis of our parish festival.

In 1973, Fr. Stanley Redwick, pastor of the parish, initiated the idea of a festival to generate funds for painting and renovating the church for its up-coming 75th anniversary. It was a great success. From that time on an annual parish festival was held primarily to defray the enormous cost of running two schools. The festival grew in size and popularity. It became one of the biggest events of the summer for the down river area. A festival of such great size was possible because the parish was so large and there were so many families involved with the school. There were plenty of volunteers to be had.

Of course time marches on and things change. The schools declined and closed. Parishioners grew old and many, many passed from this life. Of course the financial needs were still present. After the Mount Carmel Schools closed the parish then was required to make an annual donation of \$100,000 to the newly opened John Paul II School. The greater part of the festival profits went toward this obligation. In 2019 the parish was freed from this financial responsibility. All the profits of that festival remained in the parish, which was a great help. And then came the pandemic.

Now life has resumed for the most part. But make no mistake, things are different. There are less people coming to church these days, and the last two years seem to have greatly aged our church population. Do we still need money? Of course we do. We will always need to do fund raising. There is no longer the urgent need for school support funds but the parish still has a debt. The debt is being paid off slowly but surely and the financial future of the parish looks very positive. Parishioners are very generous with their donations and all our bills are being paid. Still the social aspect of the festival and the tradition of the festival are things we would like to preserve. This is the challenge we face now. With the rather limited number of volunteers we have to work the festival, most of whom are seniors, it just is not possible for the festival to continue on just exactly as it has been in the past.

And so, the festival planned for this year will be a two day affair, taking place on Friday, August 26th from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM and on Saturday, August 27th from 1:00 PM until 11:00 PM. The most important aspects of the festival will remain, the grand raffle, Polish Music and dancing, and Polish food and of course beer. Bingo will return. The basket raffle will return. There will be a limited number of children's games and these will take place in the classrooms of the school. There will be no Las Vegas tent, nor Candy tent. There will however be a bake sale, and sweets and ice cream available. The 50/50 and rip-off rickets will also return.

Of course our ability to pull off any kind of festival depends on volunteers. It is hoped that those who volunteered in the past will return and volunteer again. And of course it is hoped that new volunteers will present themselves to help. Also you can help defray the many festival expenses by using the special pink festival envelope in your monthly packet. This festival will be a test to see if the smaller parish we have become can still pull off a festival. Hopefully it will work. If we cannot manage this however, it may be time to give up this part of our history. I am optimistic that we can do this and what we present this year will be very enjoyable for all those involved.

OUR LADY OF THE SCAPULAR PARISH

2609 Tenth Street & Vinewood – Wyandotte, MI (734) 284-9135 For More Information or
<http://www.ourladyofthescapular.org>

2022 POLISH FESTIVAL

Friday, August 26th

Hours: 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM

The Polish Muslims

from Hamtramck, Michigan

6 – 9 PM

P.R.C.U. Rogalin Polish

Dancers

of Wyandotte, Michigan

@ 7:00 PM

Saturday, August 27th

Hours: 1:00 PM – 11:00 PM

The Kielbasa Kings

from Dearborn, Michigan

4 – 7 PM

Echoes of Poland Dancers
of Toledo, Ohio @ 7:00 PM

Tony Blazończyk

from Chicago, Illinois

7 – 10 PM

Mass Schedule: Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 (Polish Mass), 12:00 noon

Polish Music - Hourly 50/50 Raffle – Polish Beer – Raffles – Dancing – Polish Food – Basket Raffle – Church Tours – Wooden Dance Floor – Italian Desserts and Pastries

Bingo – Friday 5 – 10 PM, Saturday 2 – 10 PM

NO ADMISSION CHARGE NO COOLERS OR OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE ALLOWED!

Grand Raffle featuring \$12,000.00 1st Prize \$4500 in Additional Prizes

- *Band Hours Subject to Change*

FREE OFF STREET PARKING ON ELECTRIC AVENUE COURTESY OF DTE