THE ROOTS OF RESURRECTION ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

Established July 22, 2009

A Lifetime of Memories and Ethnic Traditions

JOHNSTOWN, PA



Rise Up, Resurrection!

Father Alan E. Thomas and the parishioners of Resurrection Parish welcome you to the Cambria City Ethnic Festival!

Resurrection Roman Catholic Parish is the faith community created on July 22, 2009 from five separate parishes in the historic ethnic neighborhood of Cambria City in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. We can attribute the union of these five ethnic parishes to decreased parishioner enrollment, a shortage of priests and to some financial challenges—all real struggles that the Diocese had to address, as have many Dioceses and parishes across the country for many years. But perhaps there is more. ... Perhaps the parish has been selected to answer a special call for harmony and peace, for love of God and neighbor. Who would have thought we would ever be so honored? Few have the privilege of building a new parish. This can be our legacy.

The parish is comprised of the former Immaculate Conception, SS. Casimir & Emerich (merged in the 1990s), St. Columba, St. Rochus, and St. Stephen's parishes. The faithful of Resurrection Parish belong not just to the Cambria City neighborhood but to other neighborhoods in the surrounding area, a testament to the strength of the previous and current faith communities that brought them here to a home for worship.

Originating in roots that reach across lands and time, Resurrection Parish has already grown to bear the fruits of new life in its first year, blessing the faithful and the wider community it enriches. Today's vibrant parish springs from its heritage in the five former parishes, from the leadership of Father Alan, who volunteered to shepherd this new venture, and from the presence and participation of the faithful in worship and events like the Cambria City Ethnic Festival. The parish is blending old traditions of worship, service and community with new traditions of its own. We are happy to share all of these with you.

Resurrection Parish is grateful for the following resources that were used in compiling information regarding the former parishes: Photographs by Bill Cominsky (cuda340710@aol.com); Documents from the Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AHHP), available at www.johnstowncafe.com; Pennsylvania Highlands Community College's Cambria City Churches Digital Library Project (http://www.pennhighlands.edu/library/CambriaChurches/index.htm); the former St. Rochus website (http://webpages.charter.net/strochus/liferoch.html); and documents from the previous parishes now in the archives of Resurrection Parish.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

308 Broad Street & Third Avenue • Johnstown, PA



originally called St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception was the oldest parish in Cambria City, established by Germans on December 8, 1859. The parish established the first parochial school in Cambria City in 1862.

Construction on a second church building had begun in 1889, when the Johnstown

Flood destroyed the almost completed foundation and killed 160 parish members. Work on the second church was begun again and completed in 1891.

St. Stephen's Slovak Catholic congregation used the first church building for several years until the building was torn down.

In 1906, the cornerstone was laid for the third and current church building and the church was dedicated in 1908, by which time the congregation was using the present name. The church school and the convent were located directly across from the church on the opposite side of Broad Street.

A gallery with an Adam Stein organ of almost 2,000 pipes is in the rear of the church.



ST. CASIMIR PARISH

501 POWER STREET • JOHNSTOWN, PA MERGED WITH ST. EMERICH PARISH IN THE 1990S



In the late nineteenth century, newly arrived Polish immigrants used the Slovak Church of St. Stephen's as there was no Polish parish available in Johnstown. In 1892, the Poles established St. Casimir Lodge and shortly afterward this organization formulated plans for the establishment of a parish for the Polish-speaking people.

On November 22, 1901, two lots were purchased. In July 1902, the parish suffered a setback. Forty-one men of the congregation were victims of the disastrous Rolling Mill Mine explosion. The parish felt the loss as two societies connected with the church, St. Casimir Lodge and St. Martin Society, were wiped out by the disaster. Plans went ahead, however, and the laying of the cornerstone for the basement of the church took place on September 4, 1902. The dedication of the basement church took place on December 21, 1902. Work on the completion of the church structure was renewed in 1906 and the church was dedicated in 1907.

St. Casimir Church was designed by a prominent local architect, Walter Myton, with C.C. Hornick as the contractor.



ST. COLUMBA PARISH

918 Broad Street • Johnstown, PA



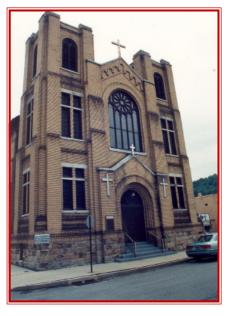
t. Columba was predominantly an Irish parish when it was founded. The church's patron, Columcille, or Columba, was an Irish nobleman, scholar and poet who founded a number of monasteries, including in Ireland and one on the island of Iona, off the coast of Scotland. The first church, built in 1888, was badly damaged in the 1889 flood. The new church building, designed by church architect John T. Comes of Pittsburgh, was dedicated in 1914. The structure was completely paid for in four years.

The painting above the main altar is a work by New York artist Felix H. Leiflucher. The fundamental idea underlying the composition is to represent the consolation of religion for distressed and suffering humanity, to impose hope in a war-ridden world. The central figure is the crucifixion of Christ with Adam and Eve clinging to the foot of the cross; because of their fall, the world needed a Redeemer.



ST. EMERICH PARISH

FORMERLY 600 CHESTNUT STREET • JOHNSTOWN, PA Merged with St. Casimir Parish in the 1990s



Hungarians in 1905 and was originally called St. Ladislaus. The first church building was located on Power Street. The second church building was constructed in 1913 and the name was changed at that time. The church suffered extensive damage in the 1936 and 1977 floods, and was restored through the efforts of the parishioners and their pastors.

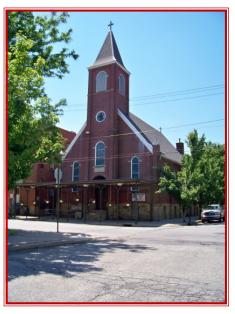
St. Emerich's longest-serving pastors were Father Francis Sasvary, who served from 1915 until his death in 1947 (he is buried in the parish

cemetery), and Father George Talaber, who served from 1947 until 1972, when he retired and returned to his native Hungary.



ST. ROCHUS PARISH

314 EIGHTH AVENUE • JOHNSTOWN, PA



St. Rochus Parish was founded in 1900 by a group of Croatian immigrants. Croatians who had been attending St. Stephen's Parish gathered to form the St. Rochus Society in 1894. This group created the Johnstown Chapter of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Lodge No. 5, known as the Croatian Lodge, located on Broad Street. The church building was completed in 1901 and the parochial school was founded in 1908.

The parish experienced a number of difficult losses. In the Cambria Steel Company mine disaster on July

10, 1902, 112 men were killed, including 11 from St. Rochus. During the 1977 flood in Johnstown, eight parishioners were killed. Despite the damage to the parish from the flooding, the parish served as a Red Cross shelter, with its pastor, Father Stephen Slavik, helping to lead the relief effort for Johnstown. Father Slavik died in a car accident in February 1982

A "Wailing Wall" forms one side of the back interior wall of the building. The wall, in the spirit of the Western Wall of the Old Temple in Jerusalem, has crevices into which petitioners could tuck their prayers.



ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH

324 CHESTNUT STREET • JOHNSTOWN, PA



The Slovakians of Johnstown founded St. Stephen's Parish in 1891. They worshipped in the former St. Mary's (Immaculate Conception) church building until completing construction of a church in 1895. Construction on a second building for the parish was completed in 1911. The parish claimed the largest Slovakian Catholic congregation in the United States in the 1940s and 1950s.

The parish was spared loss of life in the 1936 and 1977 Johnstown floods yet one witness remembered, "We spent the long terrifying night in the old slaughterhouse (now the Resurrection Parish Center). We

watched all night as the utility poles collapsed into the water churning when the electric wires sizzled in it." Other eyewitnesses recalled with gratitude "our Amish friends who formed bucket-brigades to remove the dirt and mud in the church."

The church's steeple bells were installed in 1925 and each was given a

name—the largest, St. Michael, the second, St. Gabriel, and the smallest, St. Raphael.

Father John Martvon was the longest-serving pastor of the parish, from 1894 to 1948.

