

Celebrating the Enduring Legacy of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Karol Wojtyła, son of Emilia and Karol Sr., was born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland, where he lived for 18 years in a modest tenement at Kościelna Street 7. Recalling his roots during a later visit, he said, "With filial devotion I kiss the threshold of the family home, expressing gratitude to Divine Providence for the gift of life handed to me by my parents ... for the love of my dear ones that gave me a sense of security and strength, even when the time came to encounter the experience of death and the hardships of everyday life in difficult times."

Through war, loss, and faith, young Karol rose from small-town beginnings to become Pope John Paul II—one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the 20th century. Before his election to the papacy on October 16, 1978, he twice visited the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan. In 1969, as Archbishop of Kraków, he celebrated Mass and met with students, offering wisdom and encouragement. When he returned in 1976 as Cardinal, he delivered a powerful

address emphasizing the importance of Catholic education and Polish heritage. His visits left a legacy, inspiring generations of students and strengthening Polish American ties.

In recognition of these historic visits and his deep connection to the Orchard Lake Schools, the Archdiocese of Detroit designated the Shrine Chapel on campus as the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II. The designation honors not only his physical presence on the grounds but also the spiritual impact he had on the Polish American community and the broader Church. The chapel now serves as a place of pilgrimage, prayer, and reflection, celebrating his enduring legacy of faith, courage, and cultural pride.



SHRINE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II: JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE SITE

Did you know that the Archdiocese of Detroit has designated our Shrine Chapel at Orchard Lake one of 12 Detroit-area pilgrimage sites ahead of the Jubilee 2025; a place for pilgrims to visit and receive a plenary indulgence?

The Church celebrates ordinary jubilees every 25 years. In December 2024, the late Pope Francis ushered in the Holy Year 2025 by opening the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for a year of grace, forgiveness and renewal — centered on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope."

In 1470, Pope Paul II established the practice of celebrating jubilees every 25 years, instead of 50, to allow more people to experience a Holy Year within their lifetimes.

