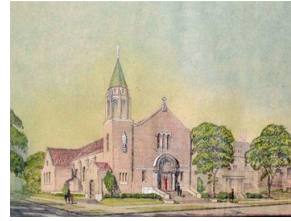


St. Barbara Church

In its 105 year history as a parish, St. Barbara's demonstrated a determination to continue, in spite of a fire and the construction to two major highways, which permanently altered the neighborhood. In 1905, the parish had used a firehouse for Mass, and after the 1916 fire, used a fraternal group's hall. At last, in 1952, the church we see today was built at Denison Avenue and West 15th street, overlooking the Steelyard Commons and route 176. The parishioners, rugged Polish workmen who toiled in the steel mills, rendering plants, tanneries, fertilizer factories, a wallpaper factory and a chemical plant raised \$250,000 to build the new church through festivals, donations and sacrifice.

The church was of the Lombardic round arch style, built with dark red bricks and limestone trim. Halfway up the 65 ft. bell tower is the statue of the church's patron, St. Barbara. The



artist's rendering

school children raised the funds to purchase the stained glass window of St. Barbara, one of many beautiful windows in the church.

On Mother's Day, May 9, 2010 the bells of St. Barbara's called parishioners to Mass for the last time. Before it started, Bishop Lennon announced sadly that the last resident priest, Rev. Father Michael S. Dyrzcz, had been found dead. Father Dyrzcz had been retired for health reasons by Bishop Lennon in October 2007. His obituary appeared in the Plain Dealer for May 12-13.

The parish has since been re-opened.