

The Good Shepherd Parish in Aktjubinsk **The first catholic community was established in the 1950's** **The parish was officially registered in 1983**

Pastor – Fr. Tadeusz Smereczyński
Has been working in Aktjubinsk since 1993
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Mass Schedule:

- Saturdays 7:30 a.m.
- Sundays 10:00 a.m.
- Weekdays: Monday to Friday 6:00 p.m.

The parish in Aktobe belongs to the oldest in Kazakhstan. The Roman-Catholic Church in Aktobe had its presence felt at the end of the Second World War due to the forced displacement of the “Volga – Germans”. In 1978 the house was bought and adapted as a chapel. The first pastor was Fr. Karl Thomas Gumpenberg (1904 – 1984). After receiving permission from Moscow, the construction of the church began in May 1981 and was finished in 1983. The church was consecrated by Bishop Valerians Zondaks (1908-1986) from Ryga on the 9th of October 1983. The priests who served in Aktobe were: Fr. Jan Pawlowski (1984.), Fr. Aleksander Bien (1985). Fr. Josef Werth SJ, the present bishop in Nowosybirsk (1985-1988), Fr. Jonas Zubrus 1989-1992, Fr. Klemens Pickel, the present bishop in Saratow (1992-93), Fr. Guido Becker (1993-1998). Since 1993 Fr. Tadeusz Smereczyński has been working in Aktobe.



From 1995 to 2003 the parish's territory was increased by the purchase of the adjacent lots (an increase from 660 m² to 5,257 m²). Near the church is the rectory and a house for visitors, a house for evangelization, a library, as well as a building reconstructed in 2006-2007 for the purpose of charity activities. Since 2003 there is a soup kitchen for the poor and an ambulatory care centre.

Unfortunately, the rectory and the house that are used for pastoral activities were, at one time private houses, which are now in a bad state of repairs and their maintenance becomes more and more expensive. In this situation we are facing a dilemma whether to repair them or to build a new rectory and pastoral centre on the present lot.

After making a cost - effective analysis, it seems that it is a better solution to build a new building for the present pastoral needs. The draft project of such a building was prepared with special attention to its effectiveness and economy. The construction of the building could be carried out on the parish property and without great inconvenience for parish functions.

