

The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick
(Formerly St. Stephen's Church)

Table of Contents

- I. Updated Church History
Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick
- II. Correspondence Regarding the Merger of
St. Stephen-St. Patrick
- III. Dedication of the New St. Patrick's Church – 1962
- IV. 50th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church on
Keibel Road
- V. 125th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church
1872-1997

UPDATED HISTORY

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
OF ST. STEPHEN –ST. PATRICK**

(FORMERLY ST. PATRICK CHURCH)

WHITNEY POINT, NEW YORK

DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

2016

**Catholic Community of St. Stephen- St. Patrick
Whitney Point and Marathon, New York**

I. TITLE AND DATE OF ORIGIN

1. Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick
Keibel Road, Whitney Point, New York 13862
2. Established as a completely independent parish on June 10, 1966.
3. Incorporated on May 31, 1889
4. St. Patrick's in Whitney Point and St. Stephen's in Marathon merged on July 1, 2009 and became the Catholic Community of St, Stephen -St. Patrick. At this time Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus became a mission church of the Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick.

II. TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5. The parish was formed from St. Stephen Church, Marathon, N.Y. to which St. Patrick Church had been previously attached as a mission church. The area of the parish included all of the Towns of Barker, Lisle, Nanticoke, and Triangle in which Whitney Point is located.
6. With the merger in 2009, the Towns of Marathon and Cincinnatus have been added to the previous territory. This increase was obtained from the merger with St. Stephen's in Marathon and the mission church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
7. Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus became a mission church of the Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick on July1, 2009.

III. CHURCH PROPERTY

8. In the 1860's Father Hourigan of St. Patrick Church in Binghamton came two or three times a year to celebrate Mass in the homes of the few Catholic families in the area. These were Irish families who immigrated here in the early 1850's to work on the Syracuse-Binghamton railroad. Other Irish families came to take advantage of available farmland. In 1869 Rev. Michael P. Renahan was appointed pastor to Whitney Point by the Right Reverend John J. Conroy, Bishop of Albany. In 1870 the Catholic community purchased for \$1300 a wagon shop in Whitney Point. This was located on the south side of Main Street, three lots west of its intersection with Academy Street. This wagon shop served as the Catholic Church until 1875.

9. While Rev. Michael Renehan was pastor, Alonzo Collins donated a parcel of land to the church between Park Street and Prospect Street (Monroe Heights) on which a church was erected at a cost of \$7000. Since money was not plentiful, the men of the parish dug the cellar with pick and shovel. The cornerstone was placed with appropriate ceremony on November 20, 1873. The building was completed in 1875. This white clapboard church was in the Gothic revival Style with a steep pitched slate roof, and pointed stained glass memorial windows along the sides. A large circular stained glass window in shades of blue and red was above the main altar. The main and side altars were painted white, again in Gothic style. Cruciformly shaped, with natural wood wainscoting, there was a choir loft in the rear. The pews were made of pine and oak. The first lighting was by kerosene bracket lamps along the side walls. These were replaced with electric overhead lights in the 1920's. Sheds for parishioners' carriages were north of the church. There was a hitching post for the priest's horse. After 1875 St. Patrick Church was an out-mission served by the priest at Marathon. Until after 1900, Mass was celebrated in Whitney Point only every other Sunday. By the 1920's a policy was established to alternate 8:30 and 10:30 Mass times with Marathon.
10. In the spring and summer of 1960, Rev. William McCabe started a pledge program to build a new church. The existing 85 year old building needed expensive repairs and its location had become undesirable. The location on a hill, with a long flight of steps leading to it made it difficult for the elderly to attend. Many times in the winter cars could not go up the hill to the church. Long time parishioner, Alice Mesceda recalled that Nora White, the organist, was killed when her car ran away going down the hill from church. In addition, there were no facilities for parish activities for the increased number of families in the parish. In August 1960 Robert and Katherine Taylor donated 3.7 acres on Keibel Road. The new church, a brick faced building large enough to seat 375, was planned by Architect James Mowry. William H. McFarland was the engineer and Stanley Pogorzelski the general contractor. The building, with a full basement, cost \$120,000. As with the first church, costs were cut as a result of work done by parishioners. On February 25, 1962 St. Patrick Church was dedicated and blessed by the Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse.
11. When the church was made a separate parish in June 1966 there was no parish house so Rev. Leo Kalinowski continued to live in Marathon. When Rev. John Mulranen became pastor in September 1966 he felt that the pastor should live in the parish so he had a part of the church basement converted into his living quarters.

12. On January 10, 1967 a brick house adjacent to the church was purchased for \$25,000 from Clarence and Lillian Ames. An addition to the house provided room for an office. Rev. John Mulranen was the pastor.
13. As of July 1, 2009, with the merger of St. Stephen and St. Patrick, the buildings include St. Stephen's Church and Rectory and St. Patrick's Church and Rectory. St. Stephen's rectory was sold for \$73,026.36 on August 4, 2016.
14. Pictures

IV. CATHOLIC POPULATION

15. There were about a dozen predominantly Irish-American families when the first church was built in the 1870's.
16. By the 1920's the parish roll had increased to about 40 families. The majority were of Irish descent. At the present time there are 345 families in the Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick. There is no predominant ethnic group.
17. Jeremiah O'Driscoll was a trustee when St. Patrick Church was incorporated in 1889. His father, Cornelius, had immigrated here from Ireland in the 1850's. Two of Jeremiah's grandsons, Richard and Joseph, were long time parishioners and both served as trustees. Jeremiah's nephew, Arthur Driscoll, was a trustee for many years.
18. No boys or girls have entered the religious life directly from St. Patrick Church. One boy, Theodore Gerkin, who was baptized and received First Communion from St. Patrick Church became a member of the Columbian Fathers after completion of his education in the Buffalo area.
19. Annual parish picnics, usually held around the fifteenth of August, were for a long time both a money making and community social event. As far back as 1869 this was referred to locally as "The Irish Picnic." In recent years, The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick has held an outdoor Mass and picnic, in mid-August on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church.

V. PAROCHIAL CLERGY

20. Pastors of St. Patrick Church

- 1869 **Rev. Michael P. Renehan**
Purchase of wagon shop for church use; construction of church building in 1875
- 1878 **Rev. James J. Renehan**
Incorporation of the church
- 1879 **Rev. William Dougherty**
Purchase of land for a cemetery
- 1883 **Rev. James L. Meagher**
- 1885 **Rev. Bernard A. Smith**
- 1889 **Rev. Phillip F. Harrick**
Church debt cancelled
- 1892 **Rev. Charles Vincent McGuire**
Improvements to church without adding debt; building cement steps to the church; purchase of land between Park Street and the railroad
- 1922 **Rev. Joseph P. Egan**
- 1923 **Rev. Luke V. Gallagher**
- 1926 **Rev. Thomas G. Fitzgerald**
- 1934 **Rev. James E. Meagan**
Establishment of a Sodality for girls
- 1937 **Rev. J. Norbert Lutz**
- 1942 **Rev. John Mahoney**
- 1944 **Rev. Frank Dempsey**
- 1945 **Rev. Jeremiah W. McCarthy**
Start use of Release Time Instruction
- 1948 **Rev. Roger A. Bowen**
- 1951 **Rev. Dominic J. Donnelly**
- 1954 **Rev. Arthur J. Blodgett**
- 1959 **Rev. William J. McCabe**
Building of new church on Keibel Road
- 1964 **Rev. Joseph J. Mulrooney**
- 1964 **Rev. Leo J. Kalinowski**
Establishment of St. Patrick as an independent parish
- 1966 **Rev. John J. Mulranen**
First pastor to reside in the parish; purchase of a Parish House; Member of Priests' Senate; addition of two masses to the weekend Schedule; initiation of Sunday bulletins; first concelebrated Mass; first complete Holy Week services; establishment of Parish Council;

first Ecumenical services
 1970 **Rev. Wilbur Votraw**
 Member of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal; Wednesday evening
 summer social gatherings for teenagers; use of Church Hall for
 preschool program operated by Opportunities for Broome

1974 **Rev. Robert Bogan**
 Appointment of a Sister to serve as Director of Religious Education;
 adoption and settlement locally of a Vietnamese family;
 inauguration of a monthly collection for the needy; establishment of
 a Food Pantry for the poor; adult education program; adoption of
 two orphans through the Catholic Relief Organization

1984 **Rev. James O'Hanlon**

1987 **Rev. C. Patrick Keating**

1993 **Rev. Douglas Cunningham**

1994 **Rev. James Serowik**

1997 **Rev. Robert Hyde**

2004 **Rev. Jerome Katz**

Construction began, in 2008, on a new building, next to the church,
 to house our Food Pantry. The Pantry began to serve the area in
 January 2009. In 2014, other churches in the area became involved in this
 ministry and it is now known as the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

2010 **Rev. Douglas Cunningham**

Addition to our Food Pantry in 2013 houses a Clothing Bank. Both
 the Food Pantry and the Clothing Bank are now an ecumenical endeavor by
 members of the faith community of Whitney Point, Marathon, and Lisle.
 Establishment of a bereavement committee; a men's group, a women's
 Group, and a spirituality group.

20. There have been no transfers of secular to religious or vice versa.

21. There have been no assistants attached to the parish.

22. Deacon Joe Caminiti served at St. Stephen's in Marathon from 2002-2009 and
 continued with The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick from July 2009
 until his death in December 2010.

VI. EDUCATION

A. PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS (Active and Closed)

Items 25-37 do not apply to this parish as we have never had a Parochial School.

B. FAITH FORMATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN

38. Enrollment -2015-2016

Whitney Point: Elementary students: 40

Secondary students: 18

Marathon: Elementary students: 18

Secondary students: 9

39. Staff:

Cecelia Carsten's -Director of Faith Formation for students in Whitney Point

Teachers 7

Helen Mathews- Director of Faith Formation for students in Marathon

Teachers 5

40. Methods of Faith Formation Support

A special collection is taken to support our Faith Formation program. When we have had mission trips in the past, the students have done fundraisers to help fund the trip, such as a spaghetti supper, pancake breakfast, and raffle baskets.

C. ADULT FAITH FORMATION

41. Adult faith formation is organized by the Spirituality Committee.

42. Sacramental life in the parish is promoted by inviting speakers that address timely topics such as evangelization.

VII. PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

43. Parish Council

~ The first meeting of the Parish Council was held on May 5, 1968. It was decided to have 2 meetings per year. With the merger of St. Stephen's and St. Patrick's in 2009, the councils from each church combined to form one council. The council has eight members and meets once a month. Donald Alexy and Donald Barry are co-chairs.

~ Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee evolved when the Altar-Rosary Society ceased to exist in the late 70's-early 80's. Nola McDonald chairs the committee. The committee meets once a month from September-June. The committee puts on funeral luncheons, provides refreshments following First Communions and Confirmations. Refreshments are, also, provided when we host a speaker. Hospitality delivers a plant each Easter and Christmas to our shut-ins and sends cards to parishioners who are ill or have lost a loved one. For the past three years, we have provided a Community Dinner for area residents on the last Thursday in July. (The Community Dinner, an outreach program of the Methodist Church, is a year round program that serves a meal on the last Thursday of each month.) Our parish takes the month of July to give the regular workers a rest.

~ Human Development

The Human Development Committee was formed in the late 1990's. The current Chairperson is Peg Orzel. The Human Development Committee provides a Thanksgiving and a Christmas basket to those families who have registered through Catholic Charities. Those families with children 18 and under are, also, eligible for our Christmas Star Program. Parishioners provide the gifts for these children. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas programs serve an average of 35 families. The committee also assists families with fuel bills, rent, and transportation on emergency basis.

~ Christian Men of Faith

The group was formed in 2013. This group is chaired by Mike Thayne and meets twice a month. They have sponsored Sunday morning brunches after Mass, the church picnic, and Thursday night Adoration during the Year of Mercy.

~ Women's Faith Group

The group began in 2016 and is chaired by Peg Orzel. This organization meets twice a month to discuss the previous Sunday's readings.

~ Spirituality Committee

This committee began in 2015 and meets a few times a year. The group arranges to have speakers at least twice a year. It collects donated religious books places them in the pews for the congregation to borrow. The committee plans liturgical services and sponsors a book club.

~ Bereavement Committee

This committee was formed in 2015. Linda Caminiti is the chairperson. A member of this committee contacts bereaved families and assists them in the funeral liturgy.

~ Parish Prayer Chain led by Dottie Angel in Whitney Point and Pat Canfield in Marathon.

~ Homebound Visits: Peg Orzel, Linda Crowley and Dawn Odinek

VIII. HISTORICAL RECORDS

44. Extant sources of information: Sacramental records, census records, and histories from St. Patrick's Church and St. Stephen's Church are at St. Patrick's Church.

IX. PARISH CEMETERY

46. St. Patrick's Cemetery is located at the end of Nanticoke Drive. Nanticoke Drive is accessed by turning left off West Main Street, in Whitney Point, on to Ford Hill and taking the first left on to Nanticoke Road. The land for the cemetery was purchased between 1879 and 1883 during the pastorate of Rev. William Dougherty. During Rev. Wilbur Votraw's pastorate, land already owned but unsuitable for burials was improved so lots could be sold in that area. In 1996, an additional 5.5 acres of land was purchased.
47. The cemetery is a private association.
48. Prior to the opening of St. Patrick's Cemetery, Catholic burials were in St. Patrick's Cemetery on Riverside Drive in Binghamton, New York. Some who were buried in Binghamton were transferred to the new Cemetery in Whitney Point.
49. The date of the first burial is not known.
50. On Memorial Day, since 2014, an outdoor Mass has been said in the cemetery. After the Mass, the local American Legion has a short service to honor the veteran's.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

51. On July 1, 2009, St. Stephen's Church in Marathon and St. Patrick's Church in Whitney Point merged to become The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick during the pastorate of Rev. Jerome Katz. Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus became a mission church of The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick. A Mass of Unity was celebrated on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 beginning with The Liturgy of the Word in Marathon and concluding with The Liturgy of the Eucharist in Whitney Point.

52. Neither church closed. The last Mass celebrated by St. Patrick's and St. Stephen's as separate parishes was on June 28, 2009. On July 1, 2009, the two churches merged and became The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick with Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus as our Mission Church. The first mass of the merged parishes was held on July 5, 2009.

53. Linda Crowley is the only commissioned lay minister.

54. At the present time, there are 11 Eucharistic Ministers and 13 Lectors at the Marathon campus. At the Whitney Point campus there are 16 Eucharistic Ministers and 10 Lectors.

55. There are no nuns assigned to our parish.

56. No one from our parish is studying for a religious vocation.

57. The following are the staff positions in our parish:

Administrator	Rev. Douglas Cunningham	
Church Secretary	Mary Weid	
Organist	Jennifer Cafferty	
Director of Faith Formation	Cecelia Carstens	Whitney Point
DRE	Helen Mathews	Marathon
Rectory Cleaner	Rita Accardi	
Church Cleaner	Yvonne Austenfeld	WhitneyPoint
Church Cleaner & Maintenance	Volunteers from St. Stephen's & Francis Barry	Marathon

58. Our church organist is Jennifer Cafferty. She plays an Allen Digital Organ in Whitney Point. The organ was purchased from St. Rita's Church by Anne and Stan Jennings and donated to St. Patrick's Church.
59. While there is no formal choir, St. Patrick's and St. Stephen's each have a few parishioners who sing in the choir. For special occasions, the groups combine.
60. There is currently no parish historian.
61. Our church basements are used as a community room.
62. Our parish buildings are handicapped accessible.
63. Additions and renovations

St. Patrick's

- ~ Altar moved forward in the sanctuary for the priest to be closer to the Congregation.
- ~ A section of pews removed from the front pew and back pew to allow room to maneuver the casket during a funeral mass.
- ~ New flooring was donated and installed in 2016 at St. Patrick's through the generosity of a parishioner.
- ~ A Peace Garden was added to the grounds of St. Patrick's Church in 2016. The garden will have a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishioners have the opportunity to purchase a brick that can be engraved in honor or memory of a loved one.
- ~ A stained glass window was repaired at St. Stephen's Church in 2016
- ~ Partitions have been added to part of St. Stephen's Church Hall (basement) to provide space to hold faith formation classes for our youth. St. Stephen's Rectory, which previously provided classrooms for Faith Formation, was sold in 2016.

St. Stephen's

- ~ New entranceway to the Parish Hall (basement) in 1992
- ~ New addition on the back of the church in 1996, with restrooms, one of which is handicapped accessible

- ~ Remodeling of the sanctuary, with new lighting in 1996
- ~ New concrete stoop and steps in front of the church in 1998, with new vinyl handrails for steps and walkway
- ~ New sound system for the church in 1999
- ~ Air conditioning system installed in 2000, donated by Intertek Testing Services on NY, through Wayne Niggli
- ~ Two stained glass windows, that face front on the left side of the church, were repaired in 2016.
- ~ Partitions added to church basement for Faith Formation Classes in 2016.
- ~ Storage shed was built in 2016.

Sale of St. Stephen's Rectory

The sale of St. Stephen's Rectory was sanctioned by our Administrator, Father Douglas Cunningham, the Trustees, Parish Council and input from the parishioners in early 2016. The sale was completed on August 4, 2016. The sale required the relocation of Faith Formation classes to St. Stephen's Church basement. Sound proof partitions were installed to create four classrooms. Tables, chairs and materials were transferred to the church and classes began in September 2016 in the new location.

64. There are two sets of relics at St. Patrick's Church. One set is in the main Altar. Those relics are sealed and no information was available about those relics. The other relics are in the floor in front of the altar where the priest says Mass. These relics appear to be small stones but the significance of the stones is not known. There is no information available on the relics at St. Stephen's Church.
65. A new stained glass window was installed in the front of St. Patrick's Church in 1996 to replace the plain amber glass from when the church was built in the early 60's. The new window depicts the history of St. Patrick's. The original church is depicted in the lower left corner and the present church in the lower right corner of the window. Above the old church, St. Patrick is baptizing the royal family of Ireland and above the present church are

immigrants standing on Ellis Island with the statue of Liberty in the background. The top three panels have the symbols of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. In the center panel of the window is St. Patrick, our patron saint. The stained glass window was dedicated by Bishop James Moynihan during mass on Sunday, December 8, 1996.

The stained glass windows at St. Stephen's Church were made in Richmond, Virginia by a C.P. Rowland. In 1974 the exterior of the windows were covered with a Lexicon protective material. This helped with heating expense savings, but now there is a buckling of the glass due to sun exposure. It is recommended that vents be installed to prevent further deterioration.

66. Other interesting items

~ Children's Liturgy at our 8:30 mass at St. Patrick's. Children leave Mass just before the readings and return after the Creed. During this liturgy, the children listen to the readings at their level and then discuss. Children are given a follow-up sheet, related to the day's readings, to complete at home.

~ In the recent past, young people in our parish have participated in week long bike trips, during the summer, with an emphasis on spirituality and fellowship.

~ Students in the recent past have done weeklong Mission Trips. These trips were an outreach for service to people in need. The outreach has included trips to Oil City and Pittsburgh, Pa where students painted, cleaned lawns, cleaned the grounds at Convents. Near Baltimore, MD, helped clean classrooms, painted, sorted books and did landscaping in the Baltimore City Schools.

~ Don Alexy has completed the second year of the Formation for Ministry Program and was commissioned in October 2016.

~ Michael Thayne, John Mihalko and Don Barry are in their second year of The Formation for Ministry program.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 East Onondaga Street

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Syracuse, NY 13201-0511

(315) 422-7203

Fax (315) 478-4619

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 2, 2008, the trustees and pastoral councils of St. Stephen's Church, 12 Academy Street, Marathon and St. Patrick's Church, 59 Kriebel Road, Whitney Point recommended that Bishop James M. Moynihan, D.D., J.C.D., president of their respective NYS Religious Corporations, allow their Religious Corporations to merge, while permitting the two parish campuses to continue in their ministry.

The structure recommended by the trustees and parish pastoral councils recognizes indicated their current linkage with one pastor, and facilitates their administration as the two parishes gain responsibility for the care of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 2708 Cincinnatus Road, Cincinnatus, New York.

On March 20th, 2009, Bishop Moynihan approved the request of the trustees and pastoral councils of these churches that upon their merger on 1 July 2009 they would be known as: **The Catholic Community of St. Stephen – St. Patrick.**

The parish offices of The Catholic Community of St. Stephen – St. Patrick will be located at 59 Kriebel Road, P.O. Box 711, Whitney Point, New York 13862-0711.

Kindly assist Reverend Jerome A. Katz the pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Stephen – St. Patrick as he coordinates the actions required by the approved merger plan.

Sincerely

Rev. Clifford H. Auth
Chancellor

30 June 2009

Rev. James P. Lang
Vicar for Parishes



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. STEPHEN - ST. PATRICK

59 Keibel Road - P.O. Box 711

Whitney Point, New York 13862

Phone: (607) 692-3911

Fax: (607) 692-7171

from the desk of Father Jerry

June, 2009

Dear

As you are so probably aware, we are standing on the edge of some very exciting times within our Catholic Church. The trend that has swept through the country and around our own diocese over the past few years, has finally caught up with us. On July 1, 2009, our two churches, St. Stephen and St. Patrick, will merge into one new faith community, to be known as *The Catholic Community of St Stephen - St. Patrick*, with Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Cincinnati to be our mission church.

Over the past two-plus years, your pastoral leadership and I have been working most diligently to create this new expression of Catholic faith in Southern Cortland and Northern Broome Counties. We planned with great care that none of our present churches would face closure because that would cause a great strain and burden on so many of our faithful parishioners, if they had to travel an additional 10 to 20 miles to attend church services or functions. Obviously, the greater burden rests upon your Pastor who will have to do much more traveling to meet the needs of people in all three settings.

Time and time again, in our Pastoral Council meetings, we have discussed the disturbing trend of so many of our Catholic members no longer worshipping with us on Sundays and seem to be removed from church life altogether. Even in my five short years among you, I have noticed a decline in membership as well. Perhaps you are one of those who presently claim the title, *unchurched*...now one of the largest groups of Christians in the country, if not the world.

In the technological, stressful, and demanding society in which we now live, it might have been easy to slip away from regular church attendance. Perhaps you felt that you were not being spiritually fed or moved. Or, perhaps you had a bad church experience with a pastor or in the confessional and you were emotionally wounded and hurt, or felt betrayed and didn't know where to go for healing or to be reconciled. Or perhaps, you've reached a point in your life where you no longer feel or believe that a particular faith or organized religion is necessary for your happiness - - your life is fine without any of it.

Well, one of my intentions for writing this letter is to reach out and invite all our parishioners - our active catholics, the not-so-active catholics, and the once-catholics - to join us in this new endeavor of church. I feel our new parish will be most alive and active and challenging. We offer wonderful opportunities for involvement in a variety of ministries; our children have a wonderful faith formation program for grades 1-11; our ministry to our elders (65 and older) is expanding; our liturgies are alive and spirit-filled; we are broadening our ministry to families and their needs; our outreach is expanding; our social life is varied and inclusive; our adult catechesis programs of Advent and Lent are thought-provoking; and our sacramental life is prayerful and innovative. And I want YOU to be a part of it all.

Come July 1st, a new era in catholicism will dawn upon us. Together may we forge new pathways in faith; may we forget the hurts and disappointments of the past; and may we celebrate our life in the Lord Jesus with new vigor and intensity. If you are one of those who have been away and may be timid to return, fear not...I only bite rabid dogs after they have bitten me. Please, give me a call, let's talk, and allow me to welcome you back home, where you belong.

We will celebrate a Mass of Unity on Wednesday night, July 1, 2009 at 7:00p.m. - beginning with the Liturgy of the Word at the church in Marathon and then traveling for the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the church in Whitney Point. Won't you join us for this special occasion?

With gratitude in my heart for being your brother in ministry over these past few years, I remain,

Sincerely,

Father Jerry

Father Jerry, Pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Stephen - St. Patrick

New Mass Schedule Beginning the Weekend of July 4/5

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00p.m.

Whitney Point - January, March, May, July, September, November

Marathon - February, April, June, August, October, December

Sunday

8:00am - Whitney Point + 10:00am - Marathon + 12:15pm - Cincinnati



DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE BISHOP'S OFFICE

REV. CLIFFORD H. AUTH
Chancellor

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter will attest to the fact that the Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham, Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, and president of the Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Cincinnatus, New York, has appointed Reverend Jerome A. Katz as Pastor of the aforementioned Church.

This appointment is effective as of July 1, 2009.

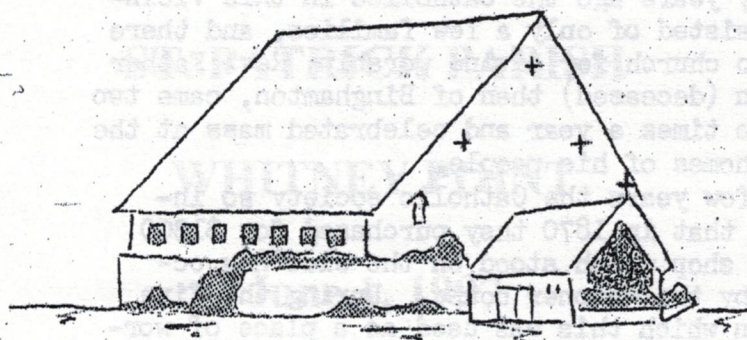
As Pastor, Reverend Jerome A. Katz is also Treasurer of the Church corporation, authorized to make deposits and withdrawals in the name of the Church. We therefore request that you recognize Father Katz's signature on all checks drawn on accounts held in the name of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnatus, New York.

With appreciation for this courtesy and with every good wish, I am

Very truly yours,

Rev. Clifford H. Auth
Chancellor

DATE: September 10, 2009



St. Patrick's Church

Keibel Road

Whitney Point, N.Y.

Dedication

February 25, 1962

ST PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

by

Miss. Elizabeth Allen

Thirty years ago the Catholics in this vicinity consisted of only a few families, and there being no church for divine worship, Rev. Father Hourigan (deceased) then of Binghamton, came two or three times a year and celebrated mass at the humble homes of his people.

In a few years the Catholic society so increased that in 1870 they purchased for \$1300 a wagon shop which stood on the side now occupied by the Wagoner house. During the five years in which this was used as a place of worship, Rev. Michael Renehan was pastor. In 1872 Alonzo Collins donated to the Catholic society the land where the Catholic church now stands. For three years Father Renehan labored amidst the greatest difficulties for the erection of the church which was completed in 1875 at a cost of \$7,000. Father Renehan having been appointed to a broader field was succeeded by Rev. Father Dougherty. During his brief pastorate, Father Dougherty purchased the land for the Catholic cemetery, burials heretofore having taken place in Binghamton. After his death, which occurred in 1882, Rev. James Meagher was appointed pastor and remained three years. He was succeeded by Rev. B. A. Smith, and afterwards Rev. P. R. Herrick was pastor for about five years. By his labors, Father Herrick cancelled the debt on the church, besides causing numerous repairs. After his death which occurred in 1892, the present pastor, Rev. C. V. McGuire was appointed.

The following brief biography of Father McGuire may prove interesting to our readers.

He was born in Ireland in 1860; educated in the public schools, and afterwards graduated from

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

125th ANNIVERSARY

ST. PATRICK PARISH

WHITNEY POINT

June 1, 1997

**125th ANNIVERSARY MASS
ST. PATRICK PARISH
Whitney Point, New York**

June 1, 1997

Entrance Song: Table of Plenty #581

Welcome: Rev. James P. Serowik

Penitential Rite: Bishop James M. Moynihan

Gloria: sung

Opening Prayer: Bishop Moynihan

First Reading: Ex 24:3-8 read by Patricia Brooks

**Responsorial Psalm: Taste and See, Taste and
See, the goodness of the Lord, O Taste and See,
Taste and See, the goodness of the Lord, of the
Lord.**

**Second Reading: Heb 9:11-15
read by Mariruth Kim**

Sequence: choir

Alleluia: sung

Gospel: Mark 4:12-16, 22-26
read by Rev. James Serowik

Homily: Bishop Moynihan

Prayer of the Faithful: read by Carol Hunt

Offertory: Panis Angelicus #419

Holy Holy: sung

Memorial Acclamation: sung

Great Amen: sung

Our Father: recited

Lamb of God: sung

Communion Song: This Bread That We Share -
#531

Communion Mediation:
Our Peace and Integrity sung by the choir

Closing Prayer: Bishop Moynihan

Final Blessing: Bishop Moynihan

Closing Song: One Spirit, One Church - #705

Bishop James Moynihan - Presider

Rev. Joseph Zareski - Secretary to the Bishop

Rev. James Serowik - Pastor

Concelebrants

Rev. Robert Bogan

Rev. Christopher Boretto

Rev. Douglas Cunningham

Rev. Richard Dellos

Rev. Stanley Gerlock

Rev. Robert Hyde

Rev. C. Patrick Keating

Rev. John Mikalajunas

Rev. John Mulranen

Rev. James O'Hanlon

Rev. Mark Pasik

Rev. Simeon Rukstalis

Rev. Lester Smith

Rev. Donald VanAmburgh

Rev. Wilbur Votraw

Rev. Matthew Wieczorek

Representing the Whitney Point Council of Churches

Rev. Carol Johnson

Rev. Robert Wood

Rev. Steve Johnson

Rev. Delbert Wemple

A special **THANK YOU** to the Anniversary Committee for all their hard work; Sandra Chesna for decorations; the choir under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Cafferty; our musicians: Sam LaDue and Stephanie Anthony on flute, Megan and Kevin Bensley on trumpet and Kevin LaDue on guitar. Our altar servers: Steven Calice, Matthew Decker, Chris Jordak, Shannon Quilty, Edward and Kevin Valenta. An extra special **THANK YOU** to Colette LaDue and Sue McDonald for creating the stoles for today's celebration.

St. Mary's College, Dundalk. He then went to France where he studied at Lyons and Bordeaux, becoming proficient in the French language. He afterwards spent several years in the Catholic universities at Dublin. In 1884 he came to America and on December 21st of the same year was ordained at New Orleans by Bishop Leroy, after which he spent three years as teacher of sciences and classics in the University of Jefferson, Louisiana. He then entered missionary life at New Orleans but was forced by illness to join his people in Syracuse. He was connected with the cathedral at that place until his appointment to this parish, excepting one year, in which he acted as assistant in St. Patrick's parish, Binghamton. During his pastorate here Father McGuire has been untiring in his many improvements, besides purchasing the land at the front of the church reaching to the foot of the hill; and notwithstanding those expenses that church remains entirely free from debt.

Father McGuire has also labored zealously in the northern part of his parish, the result of his labor being one of the finest churches of its kind in the state. This parish includes the villages of Messengerville, Marathon, Killawog, Lisle, Whitney Point and Chenango Forks, and the surrounding hamlets of Center Lisle, Nanticoke, Triangle and Barker.

During the winter months Sunday services are held alternately at Marathon and Whitney Point, while for the remainder of the year mass is celebrated every Sunday at both of those places.

The number of Catholic families in this section of the parish, which in 1868 was less than a dozen, is now nearly ninety, making a total membership of more than three hundred.

(Copy of article which appeared in the Illustrated Souvenir Edition of the Whitney Point Reporter--Whitney Point--Old and New--April 23, 1898.)

1898-1962-Priests of St. Patrick's

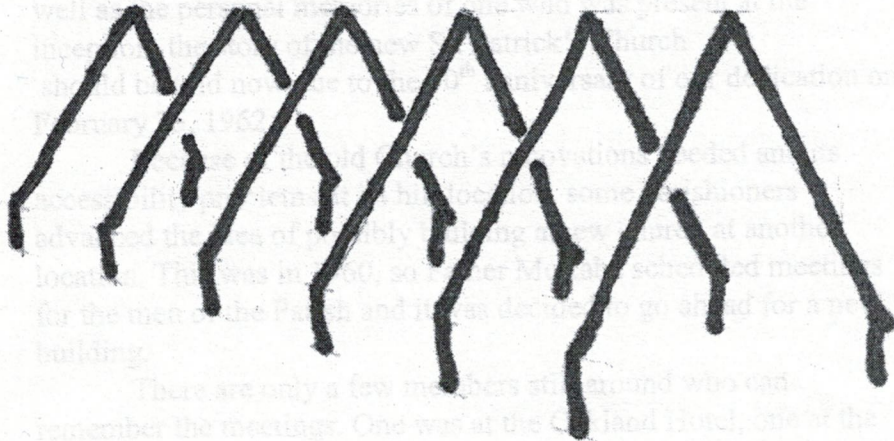
Father McGuire	Father Lutz
Father Egan	Father Dempsey
Father Gallagher	Father McCarthy
Father Fitzgerald	Father Bowen
Father Meagan	Father Donnelly
Father Maloney	Father Blodgett
Father McCabe	

Grateful Acknowledgment:

Generosity of the parishioners.
Benefactors of the Parish
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor-land.
Mr. William McFarland-Consulting
Engineer.
Mr. Leigh St. John-Consulting En-
gineer.
James R. Mowry-Architect.
Stanley Pogorzelski-General Con-
tractor.

St. Patrick's Church

WHITNEY POINT, NY



Stories About Building It On Keibel Road

Dedication
1962

Anniversary
2012

St. Patrick's Church

Stories About Building It On Keibel Road

There are two really good histories of St. Patrick's Church, both written by Marie Scott. The first covered the Centennial of 1872-1972 and the other was 25 years later for the anniversary of 125 years in 1997. Taking information from Miss Scott's histories as well as the personal memories of one who was present at the inception, the story of the new St. Patrick's Church should be told now due to the 50th anniversary of our dedication on February 25, 1962.

Because of the old Church's renovations needed and its accessibility problems at its hill location, some parishioners advanced the idea of possibly building a new church at another location. This was in 1960, so Father McCabe scheduled meetings for the men of the Parish and it was decided to go ahead for a new building.

There are only a few members still around who can remember the meetings. One was at the Oakland Hotel, one at the Otselic Hotel, and another at the American Legion, plus other meetings. Now here is where our good fortune came in. We had the landowner, the engineer, the contractor, a "builder priest," and volunteers all within the Parish, plus parishioners who gave full support. Things moved ahead quickly - Robert and Katherine Taylor donated 3.7 acres of land, Wm. McFarland, of McFarland/Johnson Fame, furnished all the engineering, plus he paid James Mowry to do the architectural design, Stan Pogorzelski, a prestigious homes builder, got the bid to build it. Taylors, McFarlands, and Pogorzelski are all now at rest in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

On the left front of the road a parcel of land had been previously sold which was needed and trustee, Dr. Richard Driscoll, purchased it on his own and then later donated it to St. Patrick's Church. A few years later, New York State took the rear portion of

the 3.7 acres for the construction of Interstate Route 81 and this brought a good sum which enabled the Parish to purchase the neighboring brick house to become our Church Rectory in Father Mulranen's time.

Some notes on the actual building itself - from inside you may notice the huge beams or rafters which when they were first erected, they stood alone for a while. One volunteer remarked that it looked like there should have been one more beam and it reminded all of us about the vote we took on the size of the new church. It was almost unanimous, the smaller, less expensive one was chosen, but then at the last moment John Cronin spoke up and said "I think we should go for the bigger one." Maybe he was right.

Moving along to when everything was almost completed, Father McCabe held another meeting and told us there was no money left for pews. So, once again, we had to go back to the parishioners for another pledge. At that time there were two collections taken up, the first for our Parish and the second for the church debt. Joking, John Hayko said "I've got an idea, let's take up a third collection and say 'this one is for us.'" This was ridiculous, but it did show us we had gone about as far as we could go with pledge envelopes.

Actually, a few pews from the old church were brought down and went into our choir loft and as I remember the rest went to the new Baptist Church being built on Route 11. Also brought down were the Stations of the Cross, which when they were renewed, were quite beautiful, but yet were discarded just a few years later. Another thing brought along was the tiger maple christening table, a small treasure still being put to use where needed. From an early photograph it appears there was a large cross on the right front of our Church, but there are no signs of it now. The building is strongly built and the roof boards are 4 inches thick.

Ok, the church is done, but there is still work to do. The

parking lot area was rough and needed to be graded. Dr. Richard Driscoll, who owned Ford Hill country Club, sent down a large bulldozer and a tractor rake. Bob Driscoll and Jack Taylor ran the equipment all one day to smooth out the area. At one point Bob got too close to the utility pole on the Rectory side and he grazed the pole. The mark is still there today. It was Saturday afternoon and after we finished we took a break down in the church basement. Someone had left a six pack of beer and just then Reverend Davis from the Methodist Church came down. Of course the first thing he noticed was the six pack and he said "look at that, look at the beer cans," and we all had a good laugh.

The church itself actually looked a little stark at first, so the volunteers went to Moon Mullin's and Joe McDonald's, and dug up Evergreen trees and brought them down and planted them.

There was much more than the physical work to be done now. Money was needed to be raised and who can forge the chicken barbecues and games over at Jim Green's, as well as other fundraisers.

Going back to the original church in the 1870's, Miss Scott states that there was a hitching rail provided at the rear of the church for the Priest's horse and when you consider that nowadays, Father has to park wherever he can; wouldn't it be a nice idea if we erected a rail with a sign "Reserved for Father." This could be a connection with our old church.

Also here we must give much credit to the women of St. Patrick's for their work and support all along the way. Some big memorable roast beef dinners raised funds. Stella West cooked the roasts at the Adams School kitchen and carried them over to the church basement. Some ladies gave up some prized possessions for a small auction sale at Kiley's store. Then, as now, the women provided not only the fortitude, but the hands on participation for all our parish programs.

As mentioned, the dedication took place on February 25,

1962 with our Bishop Walter A. Foery. He was the only bishop most of us ever knew because he had served since the 1930's. Fran Decker was organist on our old organ. I can't remember anything in particular about that day except I wondered if he knew what a huge effort it was on our part getting this church built. Still, let's think back to the original St. Patrick's Church of 1872 when the men of the parish dug the cellar by hand with pick and shovel. This was when churches were made of wood and the men were made of iron. This was even before there was a Diocese of Syracuse.

Another thing the parish provides is our own St. Patrick's Cemetery, the resting place for our early parishioners, many of whom were born in Ireland. Kate Costello told us how her mother came over from Ireland on a windjammer around 1860. This Holy Ground is for all of us to use if we choose.

Many names have been mentioned here and it's good to hear of them again. Most are long gone, but should be remembered because of their commitment through their years at our church.

Switching back to the present day, our situation now is a merge church of St. Stephen/St. Patrick, with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, as mission. We are indeed fortunate to have Father Douglas Cunningham for our Pastor and Administrator as we continue to function quite well.

Let's end with quotes from Marie Scott's histories, "God has blessed St. Patrick's Church with fine pastoral leadership and with parishioners who volunteer when needed. So it is that St. Patrick's Church in Whitney Point has, with blessings of Almighty God, developed since 1872."

Jack Taylor

(with thanks to Mary Wied)

Some Volunteers Were

Jack Lantry

Joe Smith

Paul O'Donnell

Jack Halloran

Ed Driscoll

Jack Taylor

Mike Farrell

McDonald Boys

Tom Decker

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Another Patrick's Cemetery, the any of whom were b or mother came over the his Holy Ground in for

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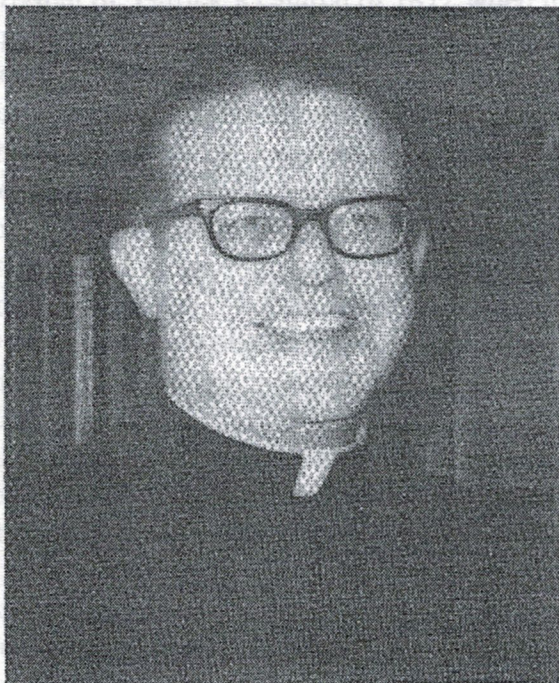
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Jack Taylor

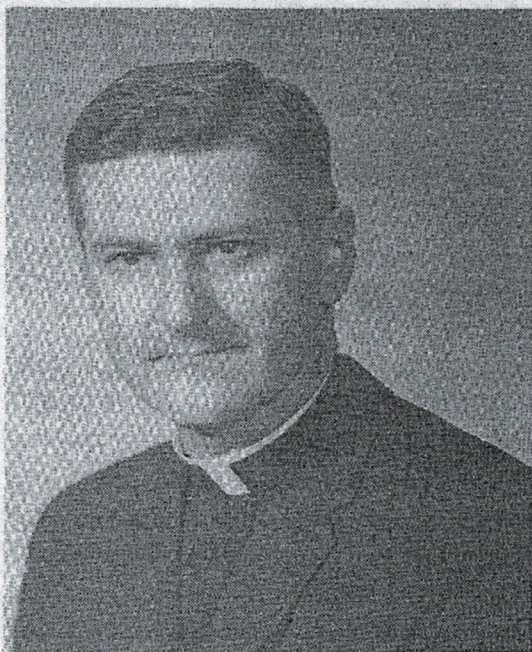
1980 photo by Mary Wilson



Reverend William J. McCabe

50th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church on Rebel Road

St. Patrick's, our church and more
not only for Mass, but activities galore



Reverend John Mulranen

Keweenaw Children 1971
By Jack Taylor



Kemak Children 1971

50th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church On Keibel Road

Hail St. Patrick's, our church and more,
not only for Mass, but activities galore.

We gather not only for personal reflection,
but also to see if our soul needs inspection.

The readings are heard and are for us to digest,
Petitions are for those who are ill, then for those at rest.

To begin, let's give thanks for this space,
it didn't come easy building this place.

St. Patrick - thanks for your name and to you we salute,
though we're more diverse now,
we remember your roots.

Yesterday was our 50th Anniversary for us over here,
now this place has memories that we all hold dear.

Lucky for 20 years with Fathers Pat, Jim, Robert, Jerry,
and Father Doug, twice,
we believe they were well chosen and
not a roll of the dice.

The Liturgies are still changing,
but somehow we get along,
just as when music came, we learned all the songs.

Times have changed and we have changed to boot,
our fathers always went to Mass in a three piece suit.

Though you may travel far and wide, have no fear,
there is no place any better than this place right here.

By Jack Taylor

Dedication
1962

Anniversary
2012

50th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church On Keibel Road

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By Jack Taylor

Anniversary Date: February 25, 2012

St. Patrick Church

Whitney Point, N.Y.



*Anniversary
1872 - 1997*

St. Patrick Church

Whitney Point, N.Y.



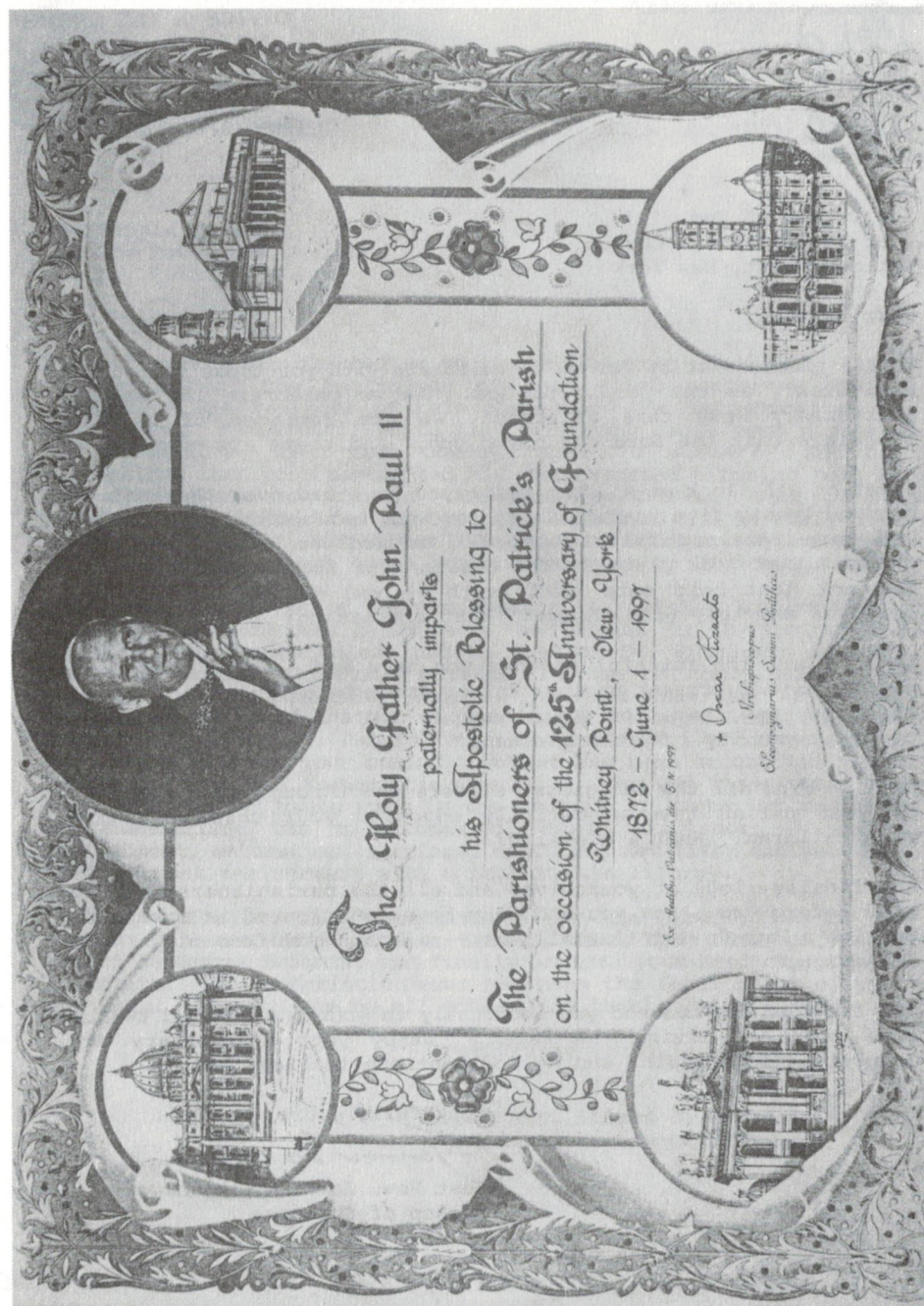
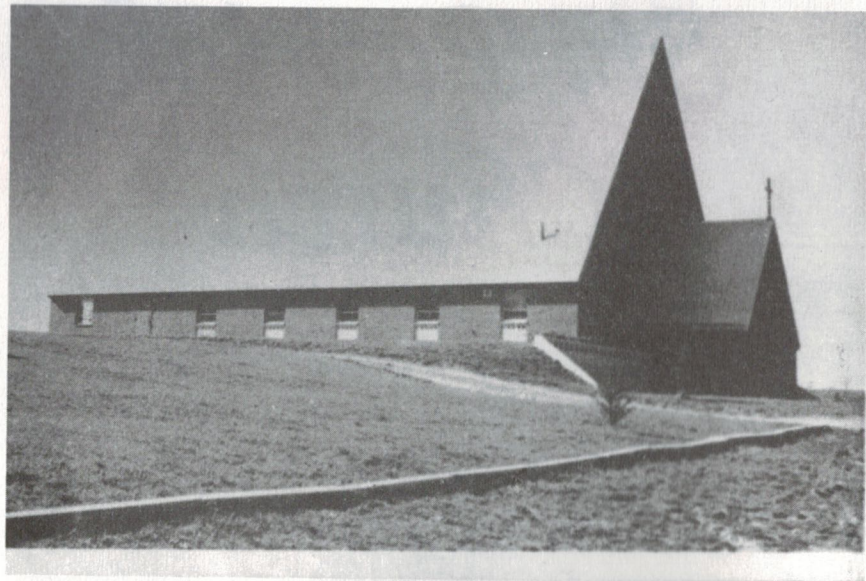
Diocese of Syracuse

Rev. James Serowik, Pastor

Anniversary Committee

Chairpeople: Rev. James Serowik
Jon Abbott
Helen Driscoll
F. Marie Scott

Committee: Patricia Brooks, Jennifer
Cafferty, Sandra Chesna,
Evelyn Halloran, Ingrid
Jordak, Colette LaDue
Lawrence McDonald, Thomas
Stowell, Edward Valenta





June 1, 1997

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
240 East Onondaga Street
Post Office Box 511
Syracuse, NY 13201-0511
(315) 422-7203
Fax (315) 478-4619

The People of God
of St. Patrick's Church
Whitney Point, New York

Dear Friends:

What a pleasure it is for me to celebrate with you today your 125th anniversary as the people of God. As we celebrate the special anniversary Mass this afternoon, we are reminded of all the blessings that the Lord has given you. And there are many!

First of all, look at all the faith you have had over the last one hundred twenty-five years. Since you were established as a parish, you have remained faithful to God regardless of all the many changes that took place in the Church over those years. And you did not just hold onto that faith -- you shared it with your children and they with theirs. What a blessing!

Look at all the faithful pastors you have had -- from your first pastor or your present pastor, Father James Serowik. They, each in their own way, have led you closer to God and have built up your parish community. What a blessing!

Call to mind all the religious sisters who throughout the history of your parish have wonderfully educated your children and/or grandchildren. What a blessing!

And finally, look at yourselves and all the parishioners who have gone before you. How you and they have contributed in making St. Patrick's Parish what it really is -- a true Faith Community. What a blessing!

So, the Lord has blessed you abundantly in your one hundred twenty-five years of living the Faith. Enjoy your anniversary day. Congratulations again, and my God continue to bless you.

Faithfully yours,

James M. Moynihan
Most Rev. James M. Moynihan
Bishop of Syracuse



DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE BISHOP'S OFFICE

MOST REV. THOMAS J. COSTELLO, V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse

June 1, 1997

The People of God
at St. Patrick's Church
Whitney Point, New York

Dear Friends:

Father Serowik has alerted me to the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginnings of your first permanent church building. His reminder of this observance has introduced me to your story. I was thrilled to find prominent among your pioneers the Costello's, even from County Cork. I wonder? And how fascinating that your pastor had his own reserved hitching post at the rear of the new church. And this, even though Mass at St. Patrick's was at one time deliberately scheduled for an early hour so that the priest, who often came down on Saturday night, could catch the nine o'clock train back to Marathon on Sunday morning.

There have been a lot of pancake breakfasts, chicken barbecues and roast beef dinners over these years, and August "Irish Picnics" and bazaars and rummage sales, not to mention St. Patrick's Day Hat Shows and annual Christmas parties for the children. You have certainly built community, but it is more than just a social relationship. From the outset when Father Hourigan came periodically from St. Patrick's in Binghamton to offer Mass in a parishioner's home, your coming together has been around the table of the Lord -- as a Eucharistic Community. For all these years the Lord has dwelled among you; in the context of Eucharist you have sacramentalized the milestones of human existence -- birth, nourishment, maturation, marriage, death and new life. And you mark this current anniversary with a Eucharistic liturgy.

Thank you for erecting a tabernacle for the Lord, first in the converted wagon shop on Main Street, then the first permanent church on Monroe Heights, and finally in 1962 your handsome present structure. The Eucharistic Jesus has been the focal point of your ecclesial life; to Him be all praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Thomas J. Costello
+ Thomas J. Costello
Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello, V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

P.O. Box 711
59 Keibel Rd.
Whitney Point, N.Y. 13862
(607) 692-3911

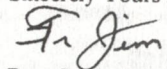
Dear People of St. Patrick's,

It is with much joy and happiness that I share some thoughts with you on the occasion of our 125th Anniversary as a parish community. It is a great testimony to the faith of the people of St. Patrick's that we celebrate 125 years of witnessing to the presence of Jesus Christ in the community of Whitney Point and the surrounding area. It is truly a great accomplishment!

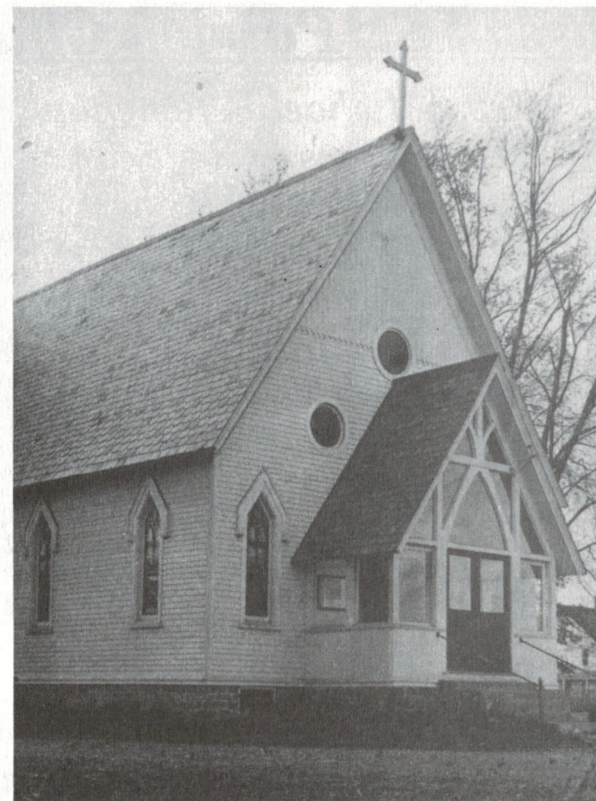
One can only imagine the number of people who have met Jesus Christ in the sacrament of baptism over the course of the last 125 years. It is hard to begin to calculate the number of souls that have been nourished by Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The number of sins that have been forgiven in the name of Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation must be enormous! The number of couples that have been united in Matrimony in the name of our Lord Jesus must number in the hundreds! For the past 125 years Jesus Christ has been present in our midst. His message of love has been proclaimed by the people of St. Patrick's.

As we begin to look ahead to the years to come, I pray that Jesus Christ may always be celebrated by the people of St. Patrick's. May we always strive to proclaim the presence of a loving God by our care and concern for those around us, especially the poor and those who are needy. May our anniversary celebration serve to strengthen us as we continue to live out our lives of discipleship as a parish community.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Rev. James P. Serowik

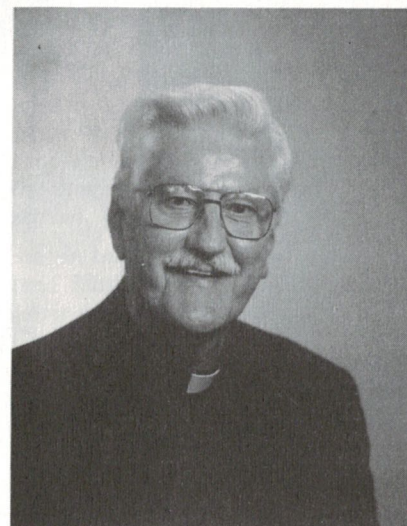


St. Patrick Church 1872-1962



Pastors of St. Patrick Church

1869	Rev. Michael P. Renehan
1878	Rev. James J. Renehan
1879	Rev. William Dougherty
1883	Rev. James L. Meagher
1885	Rev. Bernard A. Smith
1889	Rev. Philip F. Herrick
1892	Rev. Charles Vincent McGuire
1922	Rev. Joseph P. Egan
1923	Rev. Luke V. Gallagher
1926	Rev. Thomas G. Fitzgerald
1934	Rev. James E. Meagan
1937	Rev. J. Norbert Lutz
1942	Rev. John Mahoney
1944	Rev. Frank Dempsey
1945	Rev. Jeremiah W. McCarthy
1948	Rev. Roger A. Bowen
1951	Rev. Dominic J. Donnelly
1954	Rev. Arthur Blodgett
1959	Rev. William J. McCabe
1964	Rev. Joseph L. Mulrooney
1964	Rev. Leo J. Kalinowski
1966	Rev. John J. Mulranen
1970	Rev. Wilbur Votraw
1974	Rev. Robert Bogan
1984	Rev. James O'Hanlon
1987	Rev. C. Patrick Keating
1993	Rev. Douglas Cunningham
1994	Rev. James Serowik



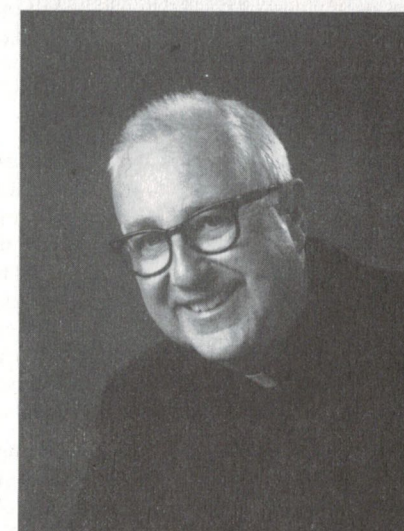
Rev. John Mulranen
1966 - 1970



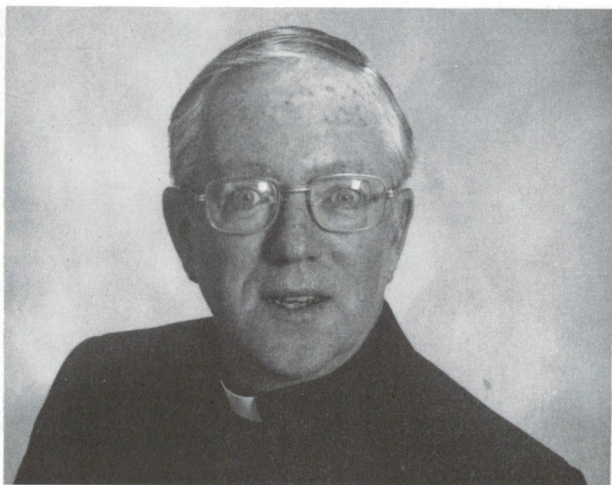
Rev. Wilbur Votraw
1970 - 1974



Rev. Robert Bogan
1974-1984



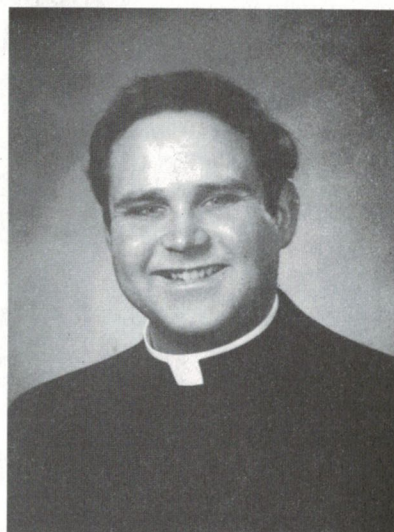
Rev. James O'Hanlon
1984-1987



Rev. C. Patrick Keating
1987 - 1993



Rev. Douglas Cunningham
and his son,
Donald John Cunningham
1993-1994



Rev. James Serowik
1994-1997

A History of St. Patrick Church

The story of St. Patrick Church in Whitney Point is one of pastors and people who created an atmosphere for spiritual growth in the parish. It is also the story of two church edifices, of a mission church and of an independent parish.

In the beginning, the few Catholics in northern Broome County could attend Mass only when Father Hourigan came from Binghamton two or three times a year to celebrate Mass in their homes. In 1869 the Rt. Reverend John J. Conroy, Bishop of Albany, appointed Rev. Michael P. Renehan to serve the Catholics in this area. A wagon shop on Main Street, just west of the present post office, was purchased for \$1300 and used as a church until a proper one was built.

The founding families were mainly Irish settlers who brought their Catholic faith with them. Census records of 1865 show that most of these Irish were young people who worked as hired farm hands or in the Center Lisle tannery. A few owned farms. By 1880 the largest concentration of Irish was in the Towns of Triangle and Nanticoke. The head stones in St. Patrick Cemetery tell us of Costellos, Cronins, Daverns, Hallorans, O'Driscolls, Sullivans and many others who came from Limerick, Cork and Tipperary. It is understandable that the church they built honored St. Patrick.

The building of the first church was made possible in 1872 when Alonzo Collins donated to the Catholics some land bordering Park Street near Monroe Heights. It is that anniversary that we now celebrate. Men of the church laboriously dug the cellar with picks and shovels, then laid up the foundation wall. It was slow work so the cornerstone laying did not occur until Thursday, November 20, 1873.

Finally completed in 1875, the church was one the people could be proud of. The style was Victorian Gothic with a steep pitched roof, an interior laid out in the form of a cross, stained glass windows on each side that included the names of the donors, a beautiful circular blue stained glass window, donated by John Costello, that was high above the white altar. The interior of the church was typically Victorian with natural wood wainscoting, oak pews with cherry trim and a pointed end post. Lighting was by kerosene lamps in brackets along the side walls. Horse sheds were built at the back north side of the property to accommodate parishioners who came some distance by horse and carriage to attend Mass.

St. Patrick Church was then an out-mission church served by the priest in Marathon, a situation having great impact on the people and on the operation of the parish. Transportation and timing for the priest was complicated. For the pastor's convenience, if he rode by horseback from Marathon, a hitching post was placed at the rear of the church. Sometimes he came by train, sometimes he was transported by parishioners. Often he came on Saturday to stay overnight with nearby Catholic families. Until well after 1900 winter masses were celebrated bi-weekly in Whitney Point. By the 1920's Mass time was alternated with Marathon: 8:30 one Sunday, 10:30 the next. Being a mission church meant having no priest regularly in the community to meet the needs of the people.

Father Charles Vincent McGuire's pastorate was unique and his background impressive. Born in Ireland, he had studied in Ireland and France, spoke several languages and, as a Marist father, had experience in university teaching in Louisiana. He came to New York due to ill health and to be with his parents who had immigrated to Syracuse. He served the parish for thirty years (1892-1922) and accomplished much in improving the physical facility. An organ gallery was added. A slate roof was put on the church. The land between Park Street and the railroad station was purchased to provide an approach for pedestrians. In 1907 cement steps with railings on each side were built up the hill. All of this was accomplished without going into debt.

St. Patrick Cemetery opened about 1880 on Nanticoke Avenue, then accessible from West Main Street. Three priests are buried in the cemetery: Rev. William Dougherty, Rev. Philip Herrick and Rev. Patrick Ronan who was a Civil War veteran. Both Father Dougherty and Father Herrick died in their mid-thirties while serving in the parish. The Whitney Point American Legion Post is named for George F. Riordan, a Marine casualty of World War I, who was first buried in France then reinterred in St. Patrick Cemetery. At first there was neither a Cemetery Association nor perpetual care. Mowing was often done by volunteer parishioners, as it is now. Over the years improvements have been made: the original wire fence has been replaced and during Father Cunningham's pastorate a tool shed was erected on the property. With a look to the future, during Father Keating's pastorate 5.4 acres across the road were purchased to provide adequate burial space.

In the early days, social events were usually attended by about everyone in the parish bringing a sense of community in the parish. Card parties, held in various homes, were popular during the winter months. Fund raising picnics were held annually in August. Although most of these were held on the Fairgrounds, other locations were sometimes used. In 1878 the picnic was at the Maple Grove Trout Ponds located at the southern end of Park Street where, in a grove of maple trees, there were live foxes and mink, stuffed birds and ponds stocked with goldfish and trout. The 1878 party continued with an evening festival in the dance hall. In 1899 a ball game with Whitney Point vs. Marathon was a highlight of the day. In 1907 the Whitney Point Citizens Band provided entertainment. After the new church on Keibel Road was built there was outdoor space on that property for barbecues, festivals and Easter egg hunts, plus a Church Hall for such events as St. Patrick's Day and Valentine Day dinner dances, for Advent wreath making, Christmas parties and other social events.

The Sunshine Club, the first women's social group, began meeting in members' homes about 1920. Each member contributed five cents per meeting to a fund for cemetery care. This was really a literary club where one member read aloud as the members sewed or did fancy work. After a few years they invited their Protestant friends to join and the club eventually developed into the Whitney Point Shakespeare Club.

The 1960's saw a new era opening for St. Patrick Church. Demographics of the parish had changed so that it was no longer a parish of mostly Irish families. By the 1960's parishioners represented a variety of national origins. Parish population had grown steadily as the area's population had grown and become a bedroom community for commuters to the city. It was evident that the original church building would soon need costly repairs, that the location on the hill

made winter access a problem and that there were no facilities for religious education classes or for parish activities.

Father William McCabe, known as the "Builder Priest" is due the credit for the planning and construction of the new church. In June 1960 the decision was made to build on land on Keibel Road that had been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor, Sr. Mr. William McFarland, a parishioner offered his services in designing the church. By July \$36,395 had been pledged by almost 100 people. Planned by Architect James R. Mowry, the church cost about \$100,000. Dedicated in February 1962, it was of brick construction, the front window designed to represent the entrance of the first church. The interior with brick altars was designed for beautiful simplicity. The front window of the facade was intended to be of stained glass but, due to cost, was made with amber glass. That situation was happily remedied by Father Douglas Cunningham who started a stained glass window fund and by Father James Serowik who implemented the installation of the window. Bishop Moynihan blessed the window on December 8, 1996. A shamrock in the background, a large image of St. Patrick in the center, representations of the old and new churches, St. Patrick baptizing the royal family of Ireland, and immigrant family at the Statue of Liberty, symbols of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation are the components of this window.

In June 1966 wonderful news arrived from the Diocese. Whitney Point's St. Patrick Church was an independent parish! Father Leo J. Kalinowski, the first pastor, continued to live in Marathon since there was no rectory in Whitney Point. When Father John Mulranen became pastor in September 1966, he realized the need for a resident pastor so he chose to live temporarily in the church basement until the house adjacent to the church was purchased in 1967 for a rectory which Father Mulranen had remodeled to make room for office space. Under his guidance we saw many changes: full Holy Week services, the first Concelebrated Mass, publication of Sunday bulletins, and three Sunday Masses. Monsignor John Zeder, Father Donald VanAmburg and Father Michael Meagher were regular assistants.

The years since 1966 have been ones of spiritual and social progress. Father John Mulranen and Father Wilbur Votraw were responsible for implementing the decrees of the Second Vatican Council which brought about many changes.

Fathers Mulranen and Votraw promoted ecumenical friendship within this community through personal contacts, especially with Rev. David L. Davis, the Methodist minister. Since then, there has been increasing friendship with other denominations accomplished by the Whitney Point Council of Churches composed of seven churches, including St. Patrick Church. Over the years the Council has sponsored annual Thanksgiving Services, Lenten Programs, World Days of Prayer and Baccalaureate Services. Special events have been a Day of Recollection for all denominations at St. Patrick Church and a presentation by Father Girzone. In April 1997 the Council sponsored a Hunger Walk that raised more than \$1900 for the Food Pantry.

Although procedural changes affected everyone, timing was such that the changes were made gradually. At first the men lectors were solicited through letters from Father Mulranen. However, Parish Council minutes of 1972 stated "plans are being made to expand the number of lectors to possibly include women." Parish renewals were scheduled and study groups were formed. The Rite of Chris-



Patricia Halloran on her Baptism Day with Rev. William McCabe and her parents, Jack and Evelyn, May 1961



Sandra Chesna on her First Communion Day with her parents Joseph and Olga and Godmother Ceil Stary, June 1952

tian Initiation of Adults brought new members into the church. This year at the Easter Vigil Mass ten people joined our parish community. Upon arrival in the parish, Father Cunningham and Father Serowik each held Listening Sessions with small groups in parishioners' homes in order to hear the opinions and hopes of the people. Mass said facing the congregation, elimination of the altar railing, the use of altar girls, congregational singing were decided changes with the past. One very successful innovation, now an annual event, is a special Mass on All Souls Day to honor our deceased loved ones. A book of Remembrance is placed in the Sanctuary to record the names of the deceased of the parish and of others we wish to remember. The idea was originated by the Hospitality Group who, after the Mass, serve luncheon to a capacity crowd.

Although the Altar-Rosary and Holy Name Societies had been in existence since the 1920's, it was not until Father Jeremiah McCarthy's pastorate that a formal charter was issued in 1947 to the societies. Under Father McCabe's leadership the two organizations became very active in fund raising by sponsoring hat shows, roast beef dinners, pancake breakfasts and bazaars. Interest in these two societies waned as new parish ministries were formed. In 1990 a new group, the Hospitality Group made up of both men and women, was formed. Its mission statement is "To serve all the people of our whole parish." This very active organization is concerned with the bereaved, ill, unfortunate and with the social needs of the parish. They cater funeral dinners, visit the house-bound and send them gifts and serve refreshments at church functions. They have formed the Ecumenical Quilters who make quilts for the homeless and needy. Frances Decker served as the first chairperson. Presently Eloise Dauley and Marsha Brown are co-chairpersons and Evelyn Halloran is secretary-treasurer.

The Human Development Ministry was established by Father Robert Bogan with Sandra Solomon as chairperson, a position she continues to carry out. Sharing is the key to this ministry that gives Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, supplies clothing and other necessities to the needy, serves special occasion dinners at the Senior Citizens Housing unit. This group established a Food Pantry in the Rectory basement which supplies food to the needy on an emergency basis. Administered by St. Patrick Church, it is now a community project financed by donations of food and money from St. Patrick Church and from other churches, the American Legion, Rotary Club and groups in the Whitney Point Central School system. SHARE-USA was first sponsored by St. Patrick Church to assist people in buying food at a reasonable price.

The Music Ministry dates back to the addition of an organ gallery in the old church. Organists have traditionally both played the organ and led the choir but early organists had to add pumping the organ to their talents. While still in the old church an electric organ was purchased and it was one of the few objects moved from the old to the new church. When that organ needed expensive repairs Father James O'Hanlon was more than willing that we purchase an organ that Rev. Charles Murn, the local Presbyterian minister, had located for us in Florida. Thelma Monk served as organist in both churches and organists since then have been Frances Decker, Susan McDonald and Jennifer Cafferty, with substitutes Robert Twining and Rev. Murn. After some non-melodious starts at congregational singing, parishioners can now claim to sing as well as anyone.

The current CCD program is a vast improvement over the one used in the first church where children learned the catechism by rote and received minimal



St. Patrick and St. Stephen Choir and Altar Boy picnic, 1954



Peace Camp 1996

preparation for First Communion and Confirmation. Catechism class was taught in two classes after Sunday Mass, high school age by the priest and grade school age by a lay person. Weekday instructions on release time from school were started by Father Jeremiah McCarthy, these being held first in the John Fordham home, later in the Grange Hall. To provide transportation for release time religious education students Father Mulranen arranged for the purchase of a second hand school bus, subsequently painted green and referred to as either "Shamrock One" or the "Green Dragon." He organized a more extensive CCD program that included an evening class for the high school group. During the pastorate of Father Bogan, who felt that more emphasis should be placed on religious education, St. Patrick Church employed Sister Irene as Director of Religious Education on a full time basis to assist with CCD, adult education, liturgy, and home visitations. In the DRE position, Eileen Peters and Ingrid Jordak have continued Sister's work. Classes now meet in rooms partitioned in the Church Hall with, in 1997, 142 students taught by ten teachers. The children participate in liturgies especially planned for them, in a summer peace camp and in activities that range from a trip to Auriesville, to collecting items for the Food Pantry, to sending cookies to college students, to an egg hunt on Easter morning.

Today's youth of St. Patrick Church have participated in many activities under the leadership of the pastors and Youth Ministers Sandra Solomon, Kathleen Nichols and Thomas Nichols. Young people attending the old St. Patrick Church were not so fortunate. It was not until the 1930's that there was a Young Ladies Sodality, organized by Father Meagan. The Sodality raised money, no easy task in those Depression times, to buy a gold chalice for the church. Used for many years and eventually needing refurbishing, it was relegated to a cupboard until discovered by Father Cunningham who, recognizing that it was important part of our parish history, had the chalice replated. It is once more in regular use. Father Arthur Blodgett organized a unit of the CYO in the late 1950's that continued to be active after the move to the new church. Father Votraw opened the church hall one night a week for teenagers to meet. The youth of the parish have taken part in Youth Masses and Prayer Meetings, they have taken trips to the Weston Priory, to sports events, to Youth Rallies, to the 1992 National Youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio, and in 1993 to Denver for the World Youth Day and the visit of Pope John Paul II. Father Serowik introduced an evening Mass for youths and, in 1996, a weekly Vocations Mass.

Parish governance in the early days was in the hands of the parish priest and two trustees. Since Vatican II a Parish Council, consisting of both elected and non-elected members, exists in an advisory role. Parish Council responsibilities have vastly increased since the days of the first Parish Council of 1968. Meetings per year have expanded from two in 1968 to ten or more at the present time. There were twelve Council members in 1968. Now there are twenty. Council officers for 1996-1997 are: President Thomas Stowell, Vice-president Kenneth Bates, Secretary Sandra Chesna. The Council works as a team with the pastor.

God has blessed St. Patrick Church with fine pastoral leadership and with parishioners who volunteer when needed. We anticipate an equally successful future.

- F. Marie Scott, Parish Historian



***Fr. Keating presents award for Choir service to
Richard Mesceda, 1992***



Thomas and Ethel Zelsnak ,Golden Wedding Couple



Mary Halloran and Robert Shea

August 24, 1996

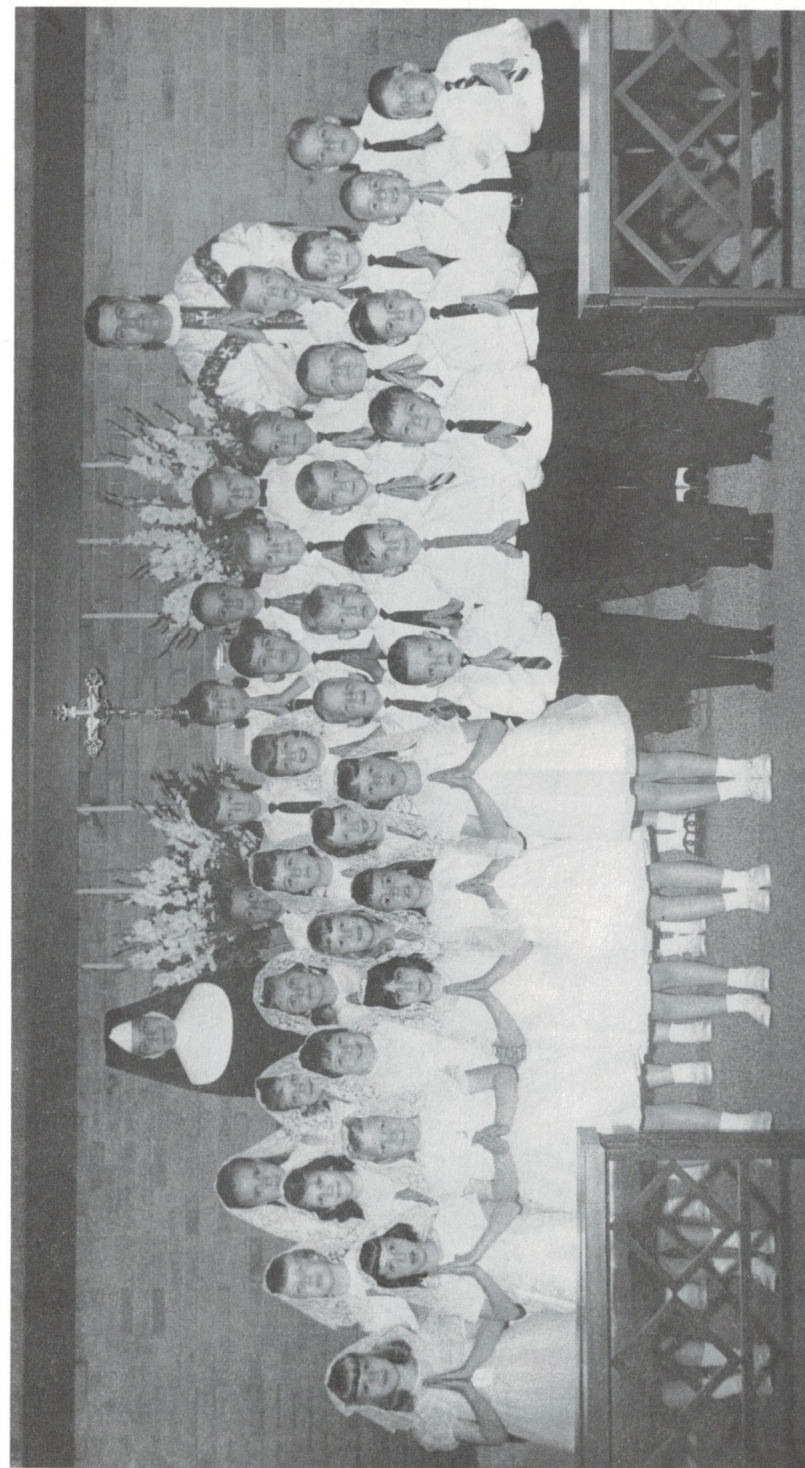
Father Keating, Father Serowik



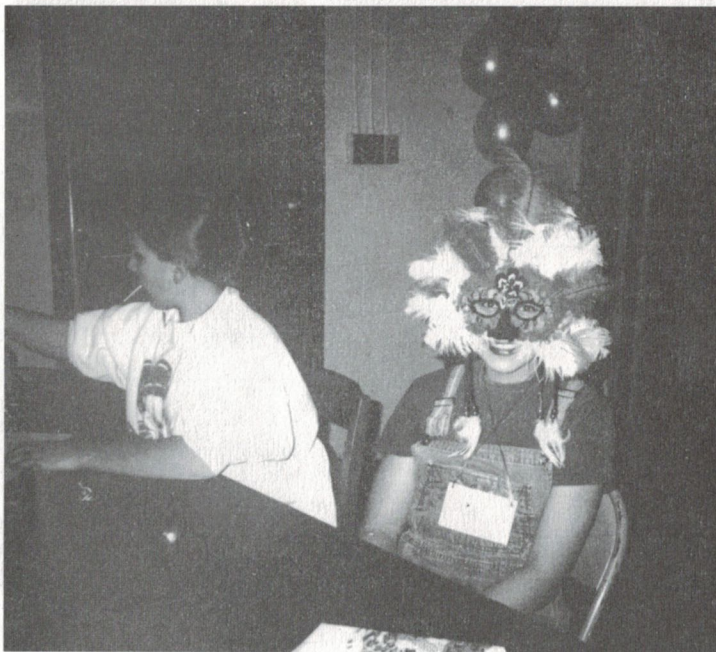
***Father Keating, Richard Bensley, Father Cunningham
July 1993***



Ice Cream Social 1993



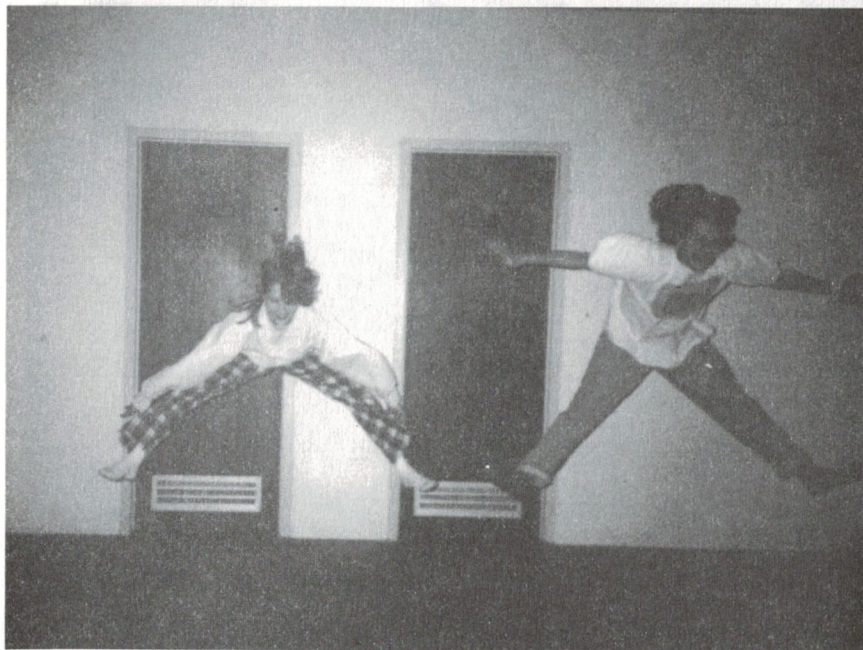
First Communion Class 1967



Mardi Gras - February 1966



Festival 1995



Fun at the Lock-in - January 1997



St. Patrick Youth Root for the Mets 1996



*Religious Ed
All Saints Day Program*



The Altar at Easter

