



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

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*St. Stephen's
Roman Catholic Church*

*Marathon, New York
1995*

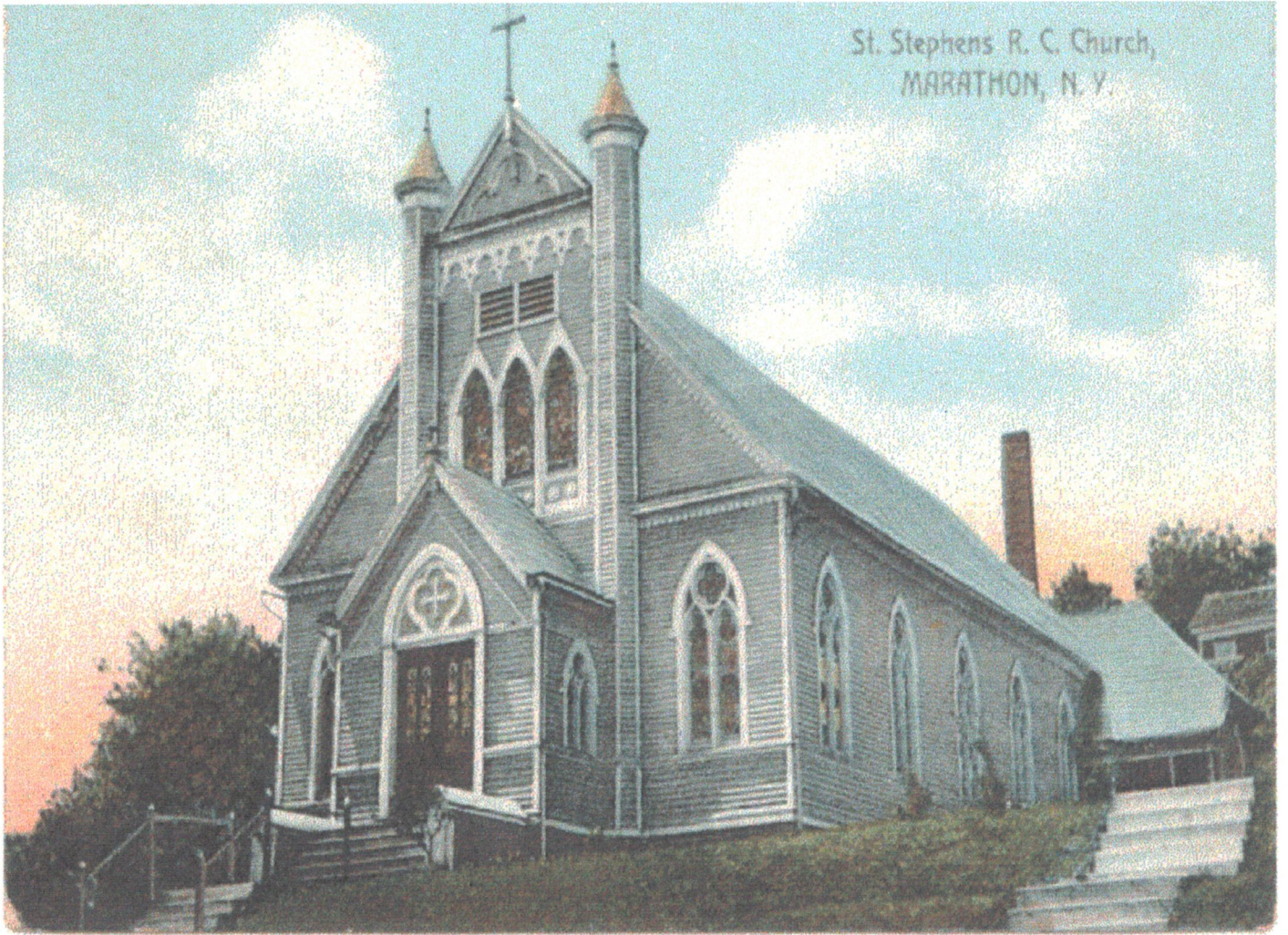




The generosity of parishioners built beautiful churches throughout the diocese. St. Stephen's church in Marathon was a Presbyterian academy before it was purchased and renovated by the Catholics. (Photo: Chancery Archives)



St. Stephens R. C. Church,
MARATHON, N. Y.



St. Stephen's Church

Marathon, New York

*Established in 1878
by Father Michael Reneham*

It was incorporated as a Parish in 1878

The first Mass was celebrated in Marathon in 1853. It was not many years later that a Father Hourigan came from Binghamton on the new Syracuse-Binghamton Railroad and celebrated Mass in homes and Peck's Hall. He began celebrating Mass in Whitney Point as well.

In 1869 Bishop Conroy of Albany made Whitney Point a parish - St. Patrick's - with Reverend Michael Renehan as the first pastor. A year later the town of Marathon was added to his charge.

In 1872 Bishop Conroy bought the Presbyterian Academy on Academy Street in Marathon from Nicholas Chevalier for \$3,000. In 1878, after much repair and remodeling, Father Reneham moved to Marathon, and Whitney Point became a Mission Parish. The north side of the remodeled Academy became a Chapel, seating 300, and the south side became the Rectory.

The new Parish included the towns of Harford, Lapeer, Freetown, Willet, and Marathon in Cortland County, and Whitney Point, Lisle, and Chenango Forks in Broome County.

In 1950 a Mission Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, was established in Cinninnatus. This Parish included the townships of Cinninnatus, Pitcher, North Pitcher, German and McDonough in Chenango County.

In February 1958, the care of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was transferred to St Mary's Church in Cortland. It was returned to St. Stephen's in 1966. At the same time (1966) St. Patrick's in Whitney Point became an independent Parish. Our Lady of Perpetual Help returned as a Mission Parish with Marathon in 19 .

The first Catholics in the Marathon area were mostly of Irish descent. They came here from New England. Many came after the Civi War and bought land to farm. Others settled in the village as merchants to serve them. Area records show that the first Mass was celebrated in 1853 in the home of a McCabe family. He continued for some years to celebrate Mass in the homes of other families - Griffin, Rigney, and Patrick Davern.

The present church is on the same property in front of the original building. It was built during the pastorate of Father Charles V. McGuire, who served the Parish from 1892-1923. The old Academy building was fast falling into decay. Many were against building a new church and only a few approved the project. However, the project was begun and on October 11, 1896 the cornerstone was blessed by Bishop Ludden. The church is a wood-frame building on a hand laid stone foundation. Mr. Archimedes Russell of Syracuse designed the new Gothic Church to have a seating capacity of 400 people. The contractor, F.A. Nichols, built the 80 x 40 feet church for a cost of \$5,000. The pews, altar rail, vestment case, etc. were made in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The opalescent art glass windows were made by C.F. Rowland in Richmond, Virginia. In the years following routine repairs and painting were made by the various pastors.

Father Dominic Donnelly (1951 - 54) had the church insulated and covered with asbestos siding. Father Arthur Blodget (1954-59) had a new roof put on the church. At this time new doors donated by the Biviano family, were placed at the entrance. Father William McCabe (1959-64) had a lightning rod system and water and septic system added. The church basement was dug out, and new side walls were constructed. A drainage system and cement floor were installed and an outside entrance was made. A new furnace and new wiring were also installed. In 1965 Father Leo Kalinowski (1964-66) had two restrooms made in a former work-room at the left of the Sanctuary. Entrance to these was made by stairs leading from the basement of the church.

In the years 1966-70 during Father Bernard Garstka's pastorate (1966-71) the church underwent rather extensive remodeling. In the Sanctuary the three steps leading to the original Altar were reduced to one. A new Altar of Sacrifice, two lecterns, and a new Altar Rail were made and donated by Neil Askew, a parishioner. New pews donated by parishioners, and carpeting were installed.

Also donated by parishioners were other new appointments - Baptismal Font, candelabra, furniture, etc. The choir loft was also remodeled. In the basement, kitchen cupboards were built by parishioner Michael Carroll.

In 1974 Father John Comesky (1971-74) purchased a new Conn organ with a generous donation from bishop Cunningham and money raised by the Altar Rosary Society. During this time the church was insulated and protective glass put on the exterior of the church windows. The result of this project was considerable saving in heating expenses.

In 1975 Father Richard Detrick (1974-80) had the Sacristy porch repaired and a parking lot and driveway created on the north side of the church. The driveway was paved so it could be used without rutting. The parking area (which holds 20 cars) was later paved. In 1976 a drop-ceiling was installed in the church basement. A new sidewalk was laid in front of the church. The funds for this project and the work were donated by the men of the Holy Name Society. The walls of the basement were painted by C.Y.O. members. Also, in 1976, the rectory and church were both connected to a new sewer system. This work was done by the men of the parish. In the Fall of 1977, electric heat was installed in the rectory and the church basement. This was also accomplished through the volunteer efforts of men parishioners. The result is a curtailment of heating expenses.

The south side of the old Academy building was used as the rectory until 1923 when Father Luke Gallagher purchased the former Grant Bliss residence at 12 Academy St. at a cost of \$7,000. This money was borrowed from the Marathon Cemetery Association. This is the present Rectory, an old frame house with an attached coal-woodshed which later was remodeled into a room for the housekeeper. Originally the house had eight rooms with a bathroom on the second floor. Father James Meegan (1933-37) had the kitchen remodeled along with the housekeepers room. Father Jeremiah McCarthy (1945-48) again had the kitchen remodeled and a bathroom added to this area. Father Roger Bowen (1948-51) had the front porch enclosed and interior painting and other redecorating done. Father William McCabe (1959-64) had the dining room, office and front had remodeled with paneling and block ceilings. Father Bernard Garstka (1966-71) had carpeting installed in the two hallways, the stairs and in the enclosed front porch. Father John Comesky (1971-74) had the bathrooms remodeled and carpeting installed in them and also the kitchen. Father Richard Detrick

(1974-80) had upstairs rooms redecorated , adding a new ceiling, closet space and paneling in the hallway. He also has had the Rectory insulated and new vinyl siding placed on the exterior. Father Lester Smith (1991--) had the upstairs front room paneled for use as an office.

The original families of predominately Irish decent, were few and spread over a wide territory. The population has grown to about one hundred ten families (1980) and includes people of Irish, Italian, German, Polish and Slovic descent.

In 1935 the flooding of the Tioughnioga River had a devastating effect on the village and all communities as far as and including the Binghamton area. It was a memorable time for the Catholic Church. Father Megan, who was pastor at that time, gave food, supplied by Catholic charities to all who needed it.

Roads and means of travel have always been a part of man's life. And so, it was of great interest, in this part of the country, when railroad was built in 1852. It was then called the Syracuse & Binghamton R.R.

As a result, many villages were started and developed. to name the entire number of settlements would be quite numerous. However, the more outstanding ones were: Blodgett Mills, Messengersville, Marathon, Killawog, Lisle, Whitney Point and Chenango Forks. All this territory was included in the Parish of Marathon.

With the coming of the railroad, came industries. The main Industry was the tanning of leather.

Sometime in the year 1853, it is believed that the first Mass was offered. This took place in the home of Mr. McCabe. It is interesting to note that the priest was Father McCabe as well. He came all the way from Norwich for some years. Other homes in which the Mass had been offered were; Jeremiah Griffin, Rigney, Patrick Davern.

It was not many years later that Father Hourigan began visiting all these places. He came from Binghamton. He began to have Mass at Whitney Point as well as Marathon.

In 1869, shortly after the Civil War, the Bishop of Albany made Whitney Point the parish. The Bishop, Most Rev. John J. Conroy made the Rev. Michael P. Renehan the Pastor of Whitney Point. A year later Marathon was added to his charge.

In the early years at the Point, Mass was attended in a wagon-shop. This later became the Wagnor House and eventually was bought by Father Renehan for \$1,300.00.

In 1872 Alonzo Collins donated the land for a new Church. For three years great work and sacrifice were endured. In 1875 at a cost of \$7,000.00 St. Patrick's Church was completed.

However, Father Renehan was thinking of Marathon as well. With the help and sacrifice of the people, he was able to obtain the old academy building. This place was originally used by the Presbyterians as an academy.

After much remodeling and repairing it was converted into a suitable Church. It was quite long and therefore, Father Renehan had it changed at one end so as to have a place to make his home. From this time on the Pastor made his home in Marathon. Whitney Point was then made an out mission.

In the year 1878, Father Renehan was succeeded by his brother, the Rev. James J. Renehan. He was not to have remained here for he changed to Marcellus.

He was followed by the Rev. William Doughty. One of the first things that he did was to purchase some land and make it into a cemetery. Formerly the dead had been buried in St. Patrick's cemetery in Binghamton. After a few years Father Doughty was stricken with a fatal illness and died. While he was ill, the Rev. Patrick J. Brady was sent in 1882 to assist him.

The following year the Rev. James L. Meagher came to take over the pastorate. After two Years the Rev. Bernard A. Smith was given charge over the Parish. He labored faithfully for four years. Then the Rev. Patrick F. Herrick was Pastor until his death in 1892.

These, indeed, were the first pioneer priests. One more must be added for he served the longest period. Father Charles V. McGuire's labor's here over the very long time of thirty-one years. One of his major projects was the building of a new church. The academy building, which had served the purpose, was rapidly wearing out. The cornerstone was put in place October 11, 1896. At this ceremony was the Most Rev. P. A. Ludden, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse. It should be noted that the diocese had been established only ten years before, on September 12, 1886.

After the death of Father McGuire in 1923, the Rev. Joseph Egan served here for a short time. Then the Rev. Luke V. Gallagher was appointed Pastor on June 23, 1923. It was noted before that part of the academy building had served as a home for the priests. Since it was so old, it was decided to get another house. So, the house at 12 Academy St. was purchased by Father Gallagher. This then, became the new rectory in Marathon.

In June 1926, Father Gallagher was transferred to Tully and the Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald became Pastor of St. Stephen's. After seven years he was given sick-leave to regain his health.

It was in January of 1934 that the Rev. James Meagan was appointed as Pastor. He came from Fulton. It was during his pastorate, in 1935, that the greatest flood happened. It had devastating effect on all the communities clear down to and including Binghamton. It was a memorable time for the Catholic Church. For She thought the Office of the Catholic Charities helped everyone including non-Catholics, with the generous supply of food.

After Father Meagan was transferred, the Rev. J. Norbert Lutz came to St. Stephen's on October 30, 1937. He was Pastor here for about 4 years. He was followed by the Rev. John Mahoney, who was Pastor for about three and a half years. After him Father Dempsey was in charge. In February of 1945 the Rev. Jeremiah McCarthy came as Pastor. He was here three years.

A large tree had been twisted out by its roots and fall on a tall chimney of the church. It demolished this and did some damage to the roof over the sacistry. It was fortunate, however, that it struck the chimney first for this took most of the weight off the crash. The damage cost over \$1000.00.

At first it was thought that no damage was done to the Marathon church. However, the next year the roof leaked and had to be reshingled. It was finally decided that the wind had loosened them.

In the following year, once again, Father Delehunt of St. Anthony's in Cortland gave Mass vestments of every color for Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus.

IN the Fall of the year 1956 a serious decision for and by the [parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help church had to be made. As hereto for stated the Cincinnatus Hotel had been used as a church. In November the owner of the hotel gave notice that the premises had to be vacated. The question immediately to be answered: "Where to go and what to do in order to carry on Church services?" At a meeting of the entire parish it was decided to form a committee to look around for an available building to be either bought or rented. This was to be remodeled and used as a church. It was decided that they would be able to build a church by volunteer labor. After looking around a piece of land was found which the owner (Glen Gardner) would sell. The Bishop was notified of the fact and he gave his permission to but the lot. This bordered on that of Mr. Gardener's house. After talking this over all the parishioners thought it would be wiser to buy two lots at the sum of \$400.00. This would give the parish a lot of 200' x 200'.

Since the parish in Cincinnatus was not incorporated, it was necessary to purchase the land in the name of St. Stephen's church, Marathon. Arrangements were made with a attorney, Mr. Hoffman of Cortland, to carry out the necessary steps for the sale of the land and acquire of the deed.

After much planning and volunteer work to build the church, the happy day came for the Dedication of the Church. This took place on December 1, 1957. The Most Rev. David Cunningham, Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse, offered the Mass. He was assisted by the Very Rev. Robert C. Sullivan. At last one more Church had been built and dedicated in honor of Our Blessed Lady.

In February of 1958. the Bishop decided to transfer the care of the Church in Cincinnatus to that of Cortland. So on Feb.23, 1958, the care of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was to be in the hands of the Pastor of St. Mary's in Cortland.

In January of 1948, the Rev. Roger A. Bowen was appointed as Pastor. Like Father McCarthy before him, He made some improvements in the house. In regard to the church, much needed work was done to the cellar and to putting in of new supports to the flooring. In the year of 1950 Father Bowen took up a census in the territory around Cincinnatus. It was found that there were around 100 souls. So, in May of the year 1950, a new mission was begun in Cincinnatus, under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It was only a temporary place used for Mass. The owner of the Cincinnatus Hotel very graciously allowed the third floor to be taken over for the use of the new Mission. A short time after St. Anthony Parish in Cortland came to the aid of this new church. They, under the leadership and thoughtfulness of Father Delehunt, gave just about all the necessary furnishings for the church. To name them should be a part of this history: a large altar with the cards missal and crucifix, three statues and stands, and finally the pews and a portable organ.

In January of 19151 Father Bowen was changed to Camden and the Rev. Dominic Donnelly was given the pastorate of St. Stephen's. during his time here the rectory was insulated. The church was given a new and beautiful siding.

On June 21, 1954 Father Donnelly was transferred to Tully and the Rev. Arthur J. Blodgett was given charge over St., Stephen's parish. Some twenty years ago the danger of floods was usually present. However in the Village of Whitney Point the Federal Government put in a wonderful dam. This would hold back the Otselic River which flows into the Tioughnioga at Whitney Point. This latter river flows from above Homer and comes down through Cortland, Marathon and joins the Otselic at Whitney Point. Then it continues toward Chenango Forks where it joins the Chenango River. Finally this latter joins the river Susquehanna in Binghamton. so, much danger was relieved from Whitney Point all the way to Binghamton. However, there is still the danger from the Tioughnioga around Homer, Cortland and Marathon and Lisle if there occurs heavy and continuous rains.

Another great threat that has begun from around the year 1950 is a hurricane. Previously hurricanes had not come so far inland. Now, practically all states on the eastern seaboard have suffered tremendous loss of lives and property.

It was in October 1954 that a hurricane, named Hazel, came through this section. There were no lives lost, nor serious injuries. However, property damage was very high. The church in Whitney Point was damaged.

It was decided, at this time to purchase a new electric stove, an electric dryer, an electric clothes washer for the Rectory. Prior to this, the freezer had been donated by the Rev. Lawrence J. Sheehan and the Rev. Thomas Hayes. A lightning rod system was installed on St. Stephen's Church and water and a septic tank system was likewise installed in the Church. At this time a new electrical inlet and a new water inlet system were installed in the Rectory.

It was decided to try to do something with St. Stephen's basement. The men, together with the pastor, began digging it out by hand. It was filled with an accumulation of debris and ashes, together with two continuous streams of water which flowed through it. It was a difficult task, but finally, with many obstacles overcome it began to shape up, open up an entrance to the outside, anew and adequate furnace was installed, new wiring system was brought in, the sidewalks were built by Mr. John Simpson of Cincinnati, N.Y. and his brother-in-law, Mr. Ervin Mackerel, of the parish. Mr. Ken O'Neil and Mr. Frank Zelsnack did the electrical work.

There is a tremendous problem of water and silt - the Church is at the foot of a hill which continually flows with this muddy mixture. It seeps in everywhere and also plugs up the drainage system. A system of drains was put in back of the Church with two catch-basins which can be periodically cleaned out as the silt fills up. Also the back wall in the Church Basement were left open for this purpose.

In January 1963 the Rectory dining room, livingroom, entrance and office were remodeled. The office was made larger. the livingroom made into an entrance, and the dining room left as it was. All were paneled and the floor was done over, together with the ceilings.

June 1964 through Sept. 15, the pastor of St. Stephen's and St. Patrick's was the Rev. Joseph L. Mulrooney. Up his transfer in Sept., to Greene, N.Y. Rev. Leo Kalinowski was assigned Pastor by His Excellency, Bishop Walter A. Foery.

In 1965 the Holy Name of St. Stephen's has taken on the project to finish off the Church Hall. James Cusick, Ken O'Neil, Neil Askew, Bill Appleby, Frank Zelsnack went to work putting in two rooms (Ladies and Men's rooms). The Holy Name took care of all expenses.

With the help of the State Highway crew we hope to have a sidewalk put in leading from the first stair landing to the front side entrance of the Church Hall.

A few months later Mrs. Biviano, of Marathon, died. Some of the children told of their Mother's request to have new doors put on the Church in Marathon. The children decided it would be most fitting to have this done in her memory.

On Dec. 4, 1959, Rev. William J. McCabe was assigned as pastor of St. Stephen's. Father Blodgett, being transferred to St. Louis in Oswego, N.Y.

At a meeting of the trustees on Dec. 13, 1959 it was decided to install a steel beam in the basement of the rectory to prevent further sagging and to replace the heating plant. This was done by R.J. Green & Co. for \$2550.00.

On May 17, 1960 it was further received by the Trustees to replace the steps to the Rectory and the walk in front of the rectory, to replace the steps to the Church with its siderails, and to re-do the interior of St. Stephen's with hardwall. The contracts were let to A. Gallucci, Cortland, N.Y. for the masonry work for a sum of \$1632.00 and to Thomas Parker for the Church interior for a sum of \$1800.00.

In June of 1960 it was decided to try and build a new Church in Whitney Point. The present Church had served its people well, but was in a state of disrepair and to fix it would have been a waste of money. It was also located in an inaccessible place on a high hill which made it most difficult in the Winter. The men of the Holy Name and the women of the Rosary Societies were highly in favor of building a new Church, Permission was given by Bishop Foery to start a drive. In July 1960 the drive was started and a sum of \$38,000.00 was pledged by the people of the parish.

Mr. Robert Taylor Sr. donated a beautiful piece of land on Keibel Road for the Church and Mr. William McFarland donated the architectural plans together with all accompanying fees. It was thus that the new St. Patrick's Church was started. Mr. Stanley Pogorzelski was chosen to be the general contractor when the plans were readied and bid on in May 1961. Like all things, however, there was a disappointing delay. The bids were over the estimated cost and there was a meeting of the people of the parish on June 3, 1961 to determine whether they wished the construction or to push ahead. It was unanimously decided to go ahead.

The Church was finished and dedicated Feb. 25, 1962 and was officially blessed by His excellency the Most Rev. Walter A. Forey, D.D., Bishop of Syracuse. The Church was filled to overflowing for the occasion and many Protestant friends and neighbors were in attendance for such a memorable event in their community.

June 10, 1966 St. Patrick's of Whitney Point was made a Parish and no longer a Mission. The first Resident Pastor, Rev. Leo Kalinowski. With this change Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Cincinnatus again became a Mission of St. Stephen's of Marathon. Rev. Bernard A. Garstka became Pastor of Marathon and Cincinnatus.

During the years of 1966 to 1970, under the Pastorate of Rev. A. Garstka, many changes took place at Stephen's Church and Rectory. Around both the church and Rectory the land was landscaped with shrubs. Awnings were put on the porch and the porch was painted inside and new furniture added. The Rectory was painted on the outside. New carpeting was put in on the porch, entrance, stairs and hallway upstairs. A new bedroom set was purchased for the Pastor's room. A new Gestener mimeograph machine and adding machine were also purchased. A new cabinet for the office and all new curtains for the entire Rectory. A telephone was installed in the office.

In the Church of St. Stephen's the old Altar was lowered from three steps to one. New P.A. System (microphone) were installed in November 1969 at the cost of \$200.00. A hand rail was installed up to the choir loft. For the Sanctuary three chairs (Sedilia), Hymn Board, water and wine table and a table for the bapistry were purchased. Mr. Neil Askew made and donated the following to the Church: the small Altar, Holy Communion Rail, two lecterns and the benches in the Sanctuary. The Communion Rail Guard (red rope on Altar Rail) was donated by the Neil Askew family also.

The Holy Name Society donated the following: repairing of the kitchen in the basement of the Church with new cupboards built by Michael Carroll; a new sink, Paid one-half for the stainless steel grill stove, two rest rooms, basement lighting and wiring, white stove.

The Altar Rosary Society donated the following: the new Baptismal Font, tow Holy Water Fonts, Holy Water Metal container, Altar Cards on the small Altar, Linens for the Altar, two new Vestment sets (one for Sunday and one for weekdays) eight sets altogether, paid one-half towards the stainless steel and grill stove, new dishes (service for 100), new pots, silverware, one dozen large tables with cart, one dozen card tables (all with chairs) and two carts for the chairs in the Basement.

In July 1970, new pews and wall to wall carpeting was installed in the entire body of the church, sacistry and choir loft. The new pews were bought from and installed by the J.P. Redingote & Co. of Scranton, Pa. at the cost of \$6505.00. The pews were paid for by donations made individually by

the people in the sum of \$100.00 a pew, plus money saved during the years in the Savings Account.

The wall to wall carpeting was donated by the Holy Name Society and the Altar Rosary Society of St. Stephen's. Money was raised by these Societies from raffles-such as the 50/50 Club, bake sales, dinners, rummage sales and other doings. The M & R Linoleum Co. of Syracuse, N.Y. installed the sunflower carpet for the sum of \$3000.00. Then, because of the severe winter, the ice and snow damaged the roof of the Church thus making it a new expense for the parishioners. The Chenango Tree & Roofing Contractors under George Gabriel & Wiley Post fixed the roof. They repaired the two front cupolas and painted same with aluminum; replaced the shingles where necessary; furnished and applied ice shields on the entire main roof (aluminum 28" wide and 20" facing to show); furnished and applied new shingles where courses were removed; a new ridge cap; two new aluminum valleys flash base of cupolas; plastic cement and flashing on chimney. All labor and materials guaranteed for a period of 15 years from the date of August 13, 1970 znc includes all contracts signed by the two above contractors. The complete cost was \$1715.00. The D.B. Insurance Co. of Syracuse for part of the damage. Bishop David Cunningham, Bishop for the Diocese of Syracuse made a donation of \$200.00 towards repairs of the Church. Other donations for repairs came from Miss Helen Betty Ryan (\$1000.00); James Zelsnack (\$200.00); Mrs. Cecelia Smetana of Hew Jersey (\$50.00) in memory of her husband Richard Smetana; John & Evelyn zelsnack (\$50.00); \$40.00 from jewelry sold by Kay O'Neil donated by Lewis Harrington.

In April 1971 new cabinets up in the choir loft were made and donated by Neil Askew. Two lamps were installed over the lecterns. Miss Helen McGraw made a donation of \$1000.00 towards the Church.

Rev. John H. Comeskey became Pastor of St. Stephen's, Marathon and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnatus on July 1, 1971.

New Construction at St. Stephen's Church

1992 – new entranceway to Parish Hall

1996 – new addition on back of Church, with restrooms, one of which is handicapped accessible

1996 – remodeling of sanctuary, with new lighting

1998 – new concrete stoop and steps for front of Church, with new vinyl handrails for steps and walkway

1999 – new sound system for the Church

2000 – air conditioning system donated by Intertek Testing Services of Cortland, NY, through Wayne Niggli



St. Stephen's Parish

Marathon, New York

1878-Oct. 22nd - 1978



Services for Roman Catholics in Marathon began in 1853 in homes visited by clergy from Norwich, Cortland, and Binghamton. In the 1870s the Presbyterian Academy was purchased and remodeled for a chapel seating 300. On the same property in 1896, the cornerstone was placed for St. Stephen's Church, designed by acclaimed Syracuse architect Archimedes Russell.



The interior in 1923.

MARATHON BICENTENNIAL

Marathon, N. Y.

Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, 1976

THE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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Velma Bliss

Treasurer

Roanna Askew

Historian

Helen Brewer

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St. Stephen's Church

by the Rev. Richard J. Detrick, Pastor



St. Stephens Church, 1907.

Records of 1853 show that the first Mass celebrated in Marathon was offered by a Father McCabe who came from Norwich. Interesting to note, is the fact that this Mass took place in the home of a parishioner named McCabe. In the years following, Mass continued to be celebrated in the homes of other parishioners. At times, Father Hourigan of Binghamton also came.

In 1870 St. Stephen's was added to the parish of St. Patrick's, Whitney Point with Rev. Michael P. Renehan as pastor. Mass continued to be offered in various homes and in Peck's Hall, until Father Renehan was able to purchase a building on Grove Street, originally used by the Presbyterian Community as an Academy. After much remodeling this building was converted into a suitable church with one part of it made into a home for the Pastor. From that time until June 1966, St. Patrick's became the Mission of St. Stephen.

Father Renehan was succeeded by his brother, Rev. James J. Renehan who was followed by the Rev. William Dougherty in 1876. During the years 1876 - 1882 Father Dougherty suffered a fatal illness and was assisted in his pastoral duties by the Rev. Patrick J. Brady. After the death of Father Dougherty in 1882 came Rev. James L. Meagher, Rev. Bernard A. Smith, and Rev. Patrick F. Herrick, successively. Following the death of Father Herrick in 1892, Rev. Charles V. McGuire became Pastor and served the two parishes for thirty-one years. It was during this pastorate that the present Church of St. Stephen was built. On Oct. 11, 1896, the cornerstone was placed and blessed by the Most Rev. Patrick A. Ludden, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse. The building with a seating capacity for four hundred people cost about \$5,000.

After the death of Father McGuire in 1923, the Rev. Joseph P. Egan served a temporary appointment and was followed by the Rev. Luke V. Gallagher who purchased the present Rectory located at 12 Academy Street. In 1926 Rev. Thomas G. Fitzgerald became Pastor and was succeeded in 1934 by the Rev. James Meegan who served until 1937.

For the next eleven years, the parish was capably cared for by the following priests: Rev. J. Norbert Lutz, Rev. John A. Mahoney, Rev. Francis Dempsey and Rev. Jeremiah W. McCarthy. During these years many needed changes were made in both the church and the Rectory.

In 1948, Rev. Roger A. Bowen was appointed Pastor. Under his leadership, in May 1950, the new Mission of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was established in Cincinnatus.

In 1951 Rev. Dominic J. Donnelly was appointed Pastor, followed by Rev. Arthur J. Blodgett in 1954. In Dec. 1959 the Rev. William J. McCabe became Pastor and was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph L. Mullroney in May 1964. In Sept. 1964, Rev. Leon J. Kalinowski was appointed and served until June 1966 when the Mission of St. Patrick was made an independent parish. Father Kalinowski became its First Resident Pastor. At this time, the Cincinnatus Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which had been a Mission of St. Mary's — Cortland, again became a Mission of St. Stephen. Rev. Bernard A. Garstka was appointed Pastor of both parishes. In July 1971 he was succeeded by the Rev. John H. Comeskey who served the two parishes until July 1974, when the Rev. Richard J. Detrick, the present pastor was appointed.

During the years 1959 - 1975, many improvements were made in the Church and in the Rectory. To mention a few — the remodeling of the Church basement into a Hall for the use of parish activities, the full carpeting of the Church and installation of new pews; insulation of both Church and Rectory; the placing of protective glass covering on the Church windows for the purpose of reducing fuel expense, the installation of a new electronic Comm organ; and recently the creation of a parking lot on the north side of the Church. These and many other projects under the guidance and encouragement of their good pastors, show that the parishioners of St. Stephen are active and interested in the care and upkeep of their House of God.

(From the program given to Parishioners at 100 Anniversary)

All Parish children attend the Marathon Central School System. Religious Education for the Elementary children is held in the Civic Center which is rented from the village. There are 65 children in grades kindergarten through six. the 45 Secondary students meet in the Church basement one night a month for class, followed by a C.Y.O. meeting and social hour. In addition to the Pastor, there are four lay teachers in the program. The funds for Religious Education are supplied from the Church treasury.

The Parish organizations are : Altar Rosary Society
 Holy Name Society
 C.Y.O. (Catholic Youth Organization)
 Parish Council

The Parish Council was started in the late 1960's when the Church was being remodeled. It generally meets four times a year - with other meetings as need arises.

Today, we joyfully celebrate one hundred years as St. Stephen's Parish in Marathon, with a Mass of Thanksgiving to God and His goodness. With our new Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Costello, presiding; our Pastor, Father Richard Detrick is principal Celebrant with Concelebrating former living Pastors; Fathers McCarthy, McCabe, Garstka and Comeskey.

A dinner attended by present and former parishioners will follow.

Dated: October 22, 1978

Weekend celebration

St. Stephen's of Marathon observes 100th anniversary

by NANCY SEITZ

One Hundred years of prayer and progress will be celebrated Oct. 22 when St. Stephen's Catholic church, Marathon, commemorates their 100th birthday.

The festivities will begin with a mass of thanksgiving at 4 p.m. Former pastor of St. Stephen's, the Rev. William McCabe (1959-64) will deliver the sermon.

A social hour and dinner will follow at the Marathon American Legion Hall. The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion will prepare and serve the meal.

Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Syracuse, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello will be guest speaker for the occasion. Present Pastor, Rev. Richard Detrick, will act as toastmaster.

Members of the Parish Council, Neil Askew, John Knapp, Helen McGraw, Michael Marano, Margaret Cashel, Kenneth O'Neil, James Cusick, Richard O'Hara and Joyce VanBelweert, in cooperation with

Rev. Detrick, have been formulating plans for the event since June.

Preparations include performing minor repairs to the church, renovating the church parking lot and a thorough cleaning of the structure.

Four former pastors of the church, the Rev. Jeremiah McCarthy, Rev. McCabe, Rev. Bernard Garstka and Rev. John Comeskey are expected to participate in the celebration.

It is anticipated that approximately 200 present and past parishioners will attend the event, in addition to the former pastors, area ministers and other church dignitaries from the Diocese of Syracuse.

The Catholic Youth Organization members with their advisor Roanna Askew, are in charge of decorating the church.

The 4 p.m. service will be an English High mass, according to Rev. Detrick with Auxiliary Bishop Costello presiding.

Parish Council members have been attempting to contact as many former parishioners as possible



The church today.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of past church members are requested to contact a council member or Rev. Detrick as soon as possible.

A parish history, prepared by Helen McGraw and Rev. Detrick, will be

available to those interested at the anniversary celebration.

Tickets for the event may be purchased from Rev. Detrick or Parish council members.

Now, joyfully celebrating 100 years as St. Stephen's parish, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be held Oct. 22 at 4 p.m. at the church. Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Costello will preside over the service with present pastor, Rev. Detrick, acting as principal Celebrant, concelebrating with former pastors, Rev. McCarthy, Rev. McCabe, Rev. Garstka and Rev. Comeskey.

A social hour and dinner will follow at the American Legion Hall, Marathon.

All present and past parishioners of St. Stephen's are invited to attend.

Cortland County parish passes century mark



Fr. Richard Dietrick stands in front of St. Stephen's Church. The Marathon parish this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary. (Staff photo)

St. Stephen's parish in Marathon, Cortland County, celebrated its 100th anniversary, with Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Costello as guest speaker.

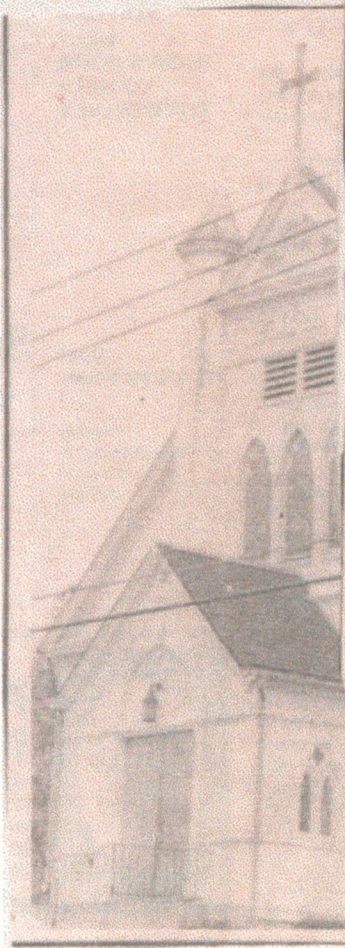
A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated during the afternoon with former pastor of St. Stephen's, Fr. William McCabe, delivering the sermon.

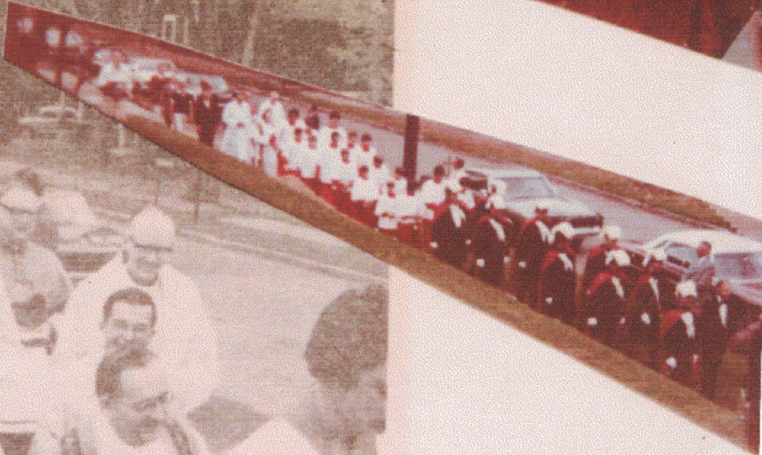
Former pastors Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy, Fr. Bernard Garstka and Fr. John Comeskey also attended. The present pastor, Fr. Richard Dietrick was the toastmaster.

St. Stephen's was established in 1878 by Fr. Michael Renehan and was incorporated as a parish in the same year. The first Catholics in

Marathon were of Irish descent and came after the Civil War from New England. The present parish has families of Irish, Italian, German, Polish and Slavic descent.

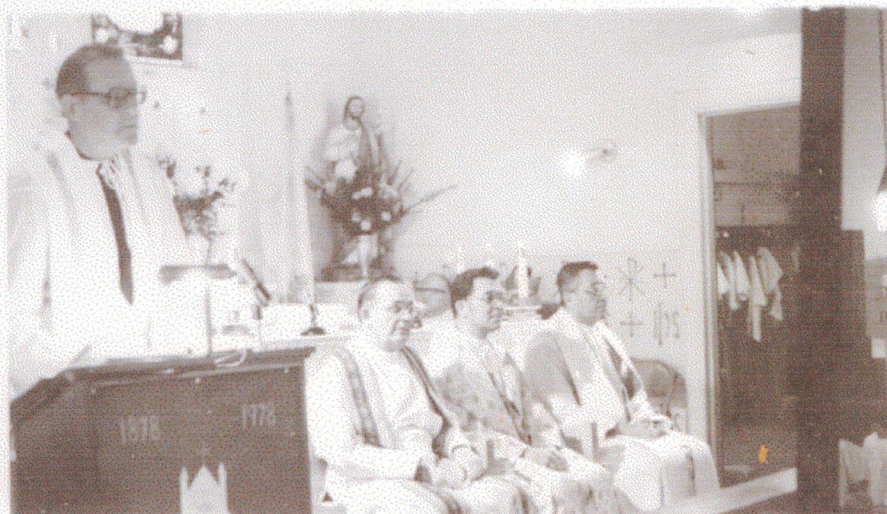
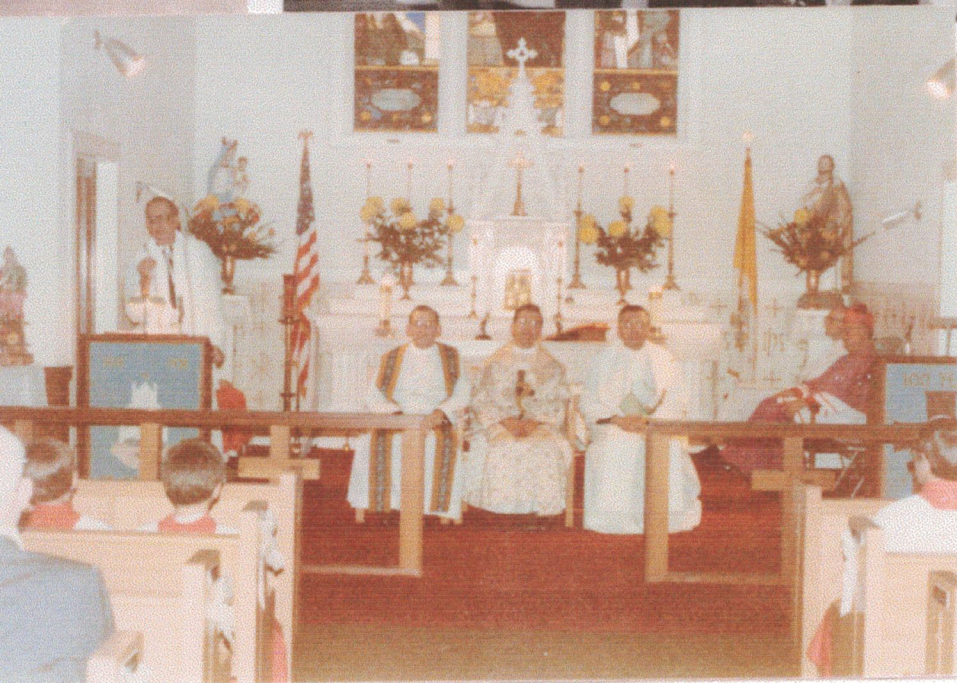
The present church is on the same property in front of the original building. It was built between 1892-1923 when Fr. Charles V. McGurie was pastor. The old church had been a Presbyterian Academy purchased for \$3,000 but was falling apart by the 1880s. The new church was begun on Oct. 11, 1896, with Bishop Ludden blessing the cornerstone. The church has been remodeled through the years, with Fr. Dietrick supervising the latest repairs in the fall of 1977.

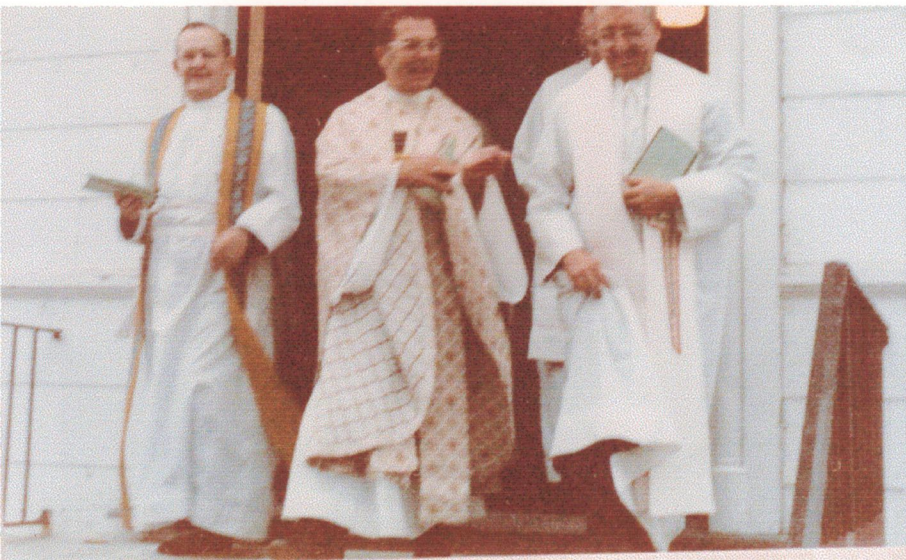




The celebration of St. Stephen's 100th anniversary as a parish in Marathon began as a procession from the rectory on Academy street to the church.









WESTERN REGION

Mike Brady carries the banner of the Newman Chapel at SUNY-Cortland during the recessional following a Jubilee 2000 Mass at St. Mary's in Cortland. The parishes that comprise the Cortland County Cluster of Catholic Churches, including the SUNY-Cortland Newman Center, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus, St. Anthony of Padua in Cortland, St. Lawrence in

DeRuyter, St. Margaret's in Homer, St. Mary's Church and School in Cortland, St. Patrick's in Truxton and St. Stephen's in Marathon, created and participated in the Mass

CLERGY WHO HAVE SERVED AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

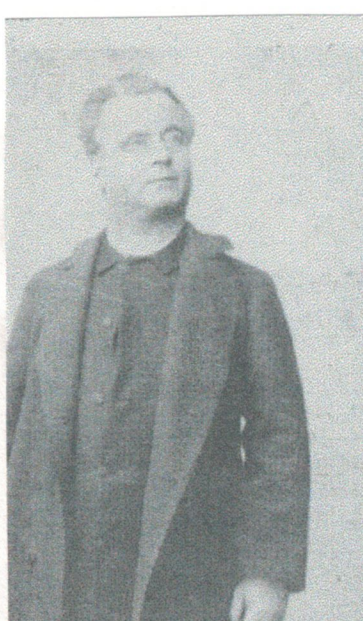
| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|
| Reverend Michael R. Renchan | 1870-78 | |
| James J. Renchan | 1878-79 | |
| William M. Doherty | 1879-82 | (buried St. Patrick's Whitney Point) |
| James L. Meagher | 1882-85 | |
| Bernard F. Smith | 1885-87 | |
| Patrick F. Harrick | 1887-92 | (buried next to Father Doherty) |
| Charles V. McGuire | 1892-1922 | |
| Joseph F. Egan | 1922-23 | |
| Luke V. Gallagher | 1923-26 | |
| Thomas G. Fitzgerald | 1926-33 | |
| James E. Meegan | 1933-37 | |
| J. Notbert Lutz | 1937-41 | |
| John A. Mahoney | 1941-44 | |
| Francis R. Dempsey | 1944-45 | |
| Jermiah W. McCarthy | 1945-48 | |
| Roger A. Bowen | 1948-51 | |
| Dominic J. Donnelly | 1951-54 | |
| Arthur J. Blodgett | 1954-59 | |
| William J. McCabe | 1959-64 | |
| Leo J. Kalinowski | 1964-66 | |
| Bernard J. Gartska | 1966-71 | |
| John H. Comeskey | 1971-74 | |
| Richard J. Detrick | 1974-80 | |
| Charles L. Foster | 1980-91 | |
| Lester E. Smith | 1991- 2003 | |
| Deacon Joseph Caminiti | 2000 - 2010 | |

CLERGY WHO HAVE SERVED AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

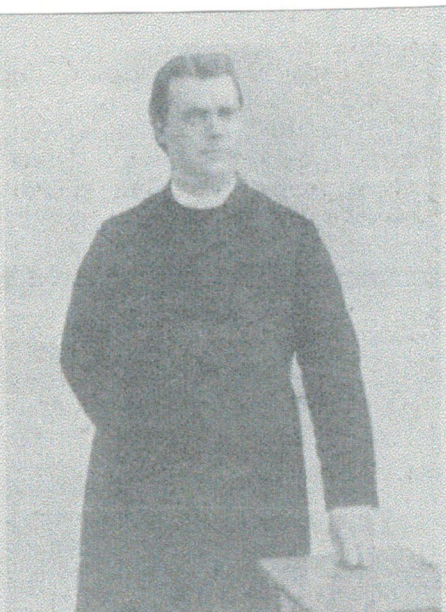
| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Tadeusz Ridnick | 1870-78 | 2003 - 2004 | Reverend Michael R. Ranshan |
| Jerome Katz | 1873-79 | 2004-2010 | James J. Ranshan |
| Douglas Cunningham | 1879-82 (buried St. Patrick's) | 20010 - | William M. Doherty |
| | 1883-85 | | James J. McLaughlin |
| | 1885-87 | | Bernard E. Smith |
| | 1887-92 (buried next to Father Doherty) | | Patrick E. Hanick |
| | 1892-1922 | | Charles V. McGuire |
| | 1922-23 | | Joseph E. Egan |
| | 1923-26 | | Luke V. Gallagher |
| | 1926-28 | | Thomas G. Fitzgerald |
| | 1928-32 | | James E. McKeegan |
| | 1932-41 | | J. Robert Lutz |
| | 1941-44 | | John A. Mahoney |
| | 1944-45 | | Francis R. Thompson |
| | 1945-48 | | Jennish W. McCarthy |
| | 1948-51 | | Roger A. Bowen |
| | 1951-54 | | Dominic J. Donnelly |
| | 1954-59 | | Arthur J. Blodgett |
| | 1959-64 | | William J. McGuire |
| | 1964-66 | | Leo J. Kabanowski |
| | 1966-71 | | Bernard J. Garska |
| | 1971-74 | | John F. Connersky |
| | 1974-80 | | Richard J. Dietrich |
| | 1980-91 | | Charles L. Foster |
| | 1991-2003 | | Lester E. Smith |
| | 2003 - 2010 | | Deacon Joseph Caminiti |



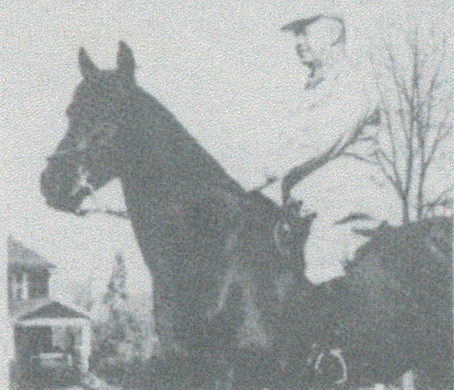
Father McGuire at the church academy in 1897.



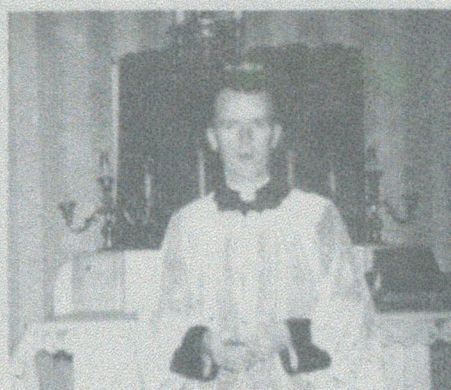
Charles V. McGuire



Rev. W. F. Dougherty



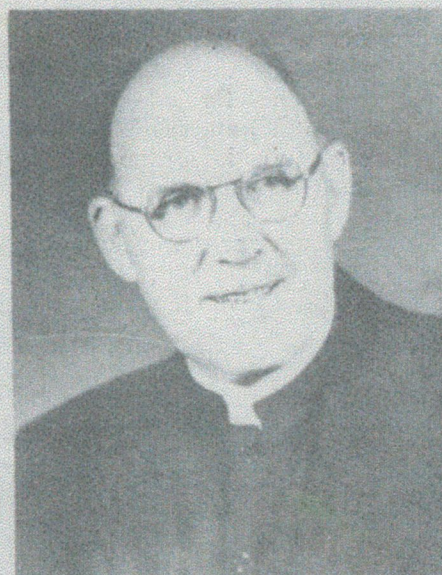
Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald



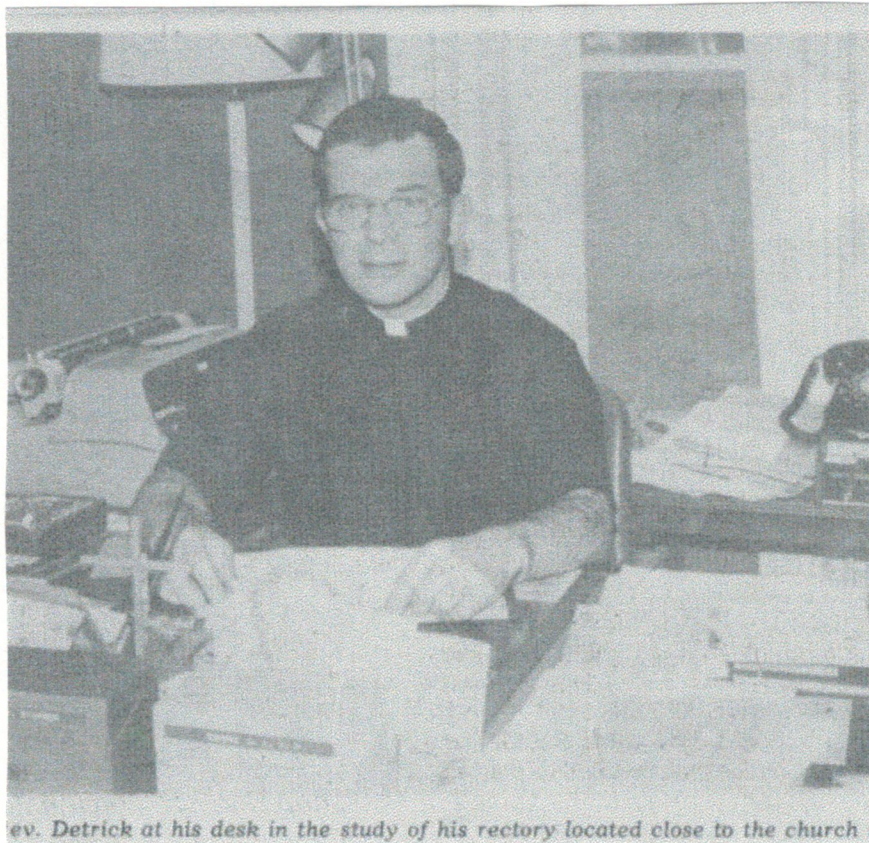
Rev. Jeremiah W. McCarthy



Rev. James E. Meegan



Rev. Dominic J. Donnelly



ev. Detrick at his desk in the study of his rectory located close to the church in

Father Richard Detrick — a dedicated country priest

"It is a challenge", that is how the Rev. Richard Detrick describes his cross-country parish work for the two churches he serves, St. Stephen's in Marathon and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnatus.

Father Detrick, a native of Binghamton, had worked in urban parishes before arriving to the Marathon and Cincinnatus churches more than three years ago.

After attending St. Michael's college in Toronto and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, the Rev. Detrick was ordained in 1958 and began his career at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Syracuse where he worked for one year. In 1959, he was transferred to Johnson City's St. James church and remained there until 1966. Our Lady of Lourdes in Utica was the next parish served by

him. He served the Utica church until 1972. He served at Cortland's St. Mary's church before being transferred to his current post in 1974.

"There is a big difference in working at an urban parish and then moving to a rural one," Father Detrick said, adding, "for instance, in the Our Lady of Lourdes church in Utica, the parish served 1,200 families while in Marathon I serve 120 families and 50 in Cincinnatus."

"In Marathon, the families are in agriculture mostly with very little turnover in the population but, in Cincinnatus, there is larger mobility," he related. "The church in Cincinnatus has had five new members move into the parish during the fall of 1977 while in Marathon only two or three families have joined since I began working here in 1974."

"Territorially speaking, this parish is the largest in the diocese," the Rev. Detrick explained. "From the southwestern tip near Harford Mills to the northeastern corner at South Otselic, the parish covers 43 miles between those two points."

"An interesting item with which to gauge how much I travel is a two-year period, which totaled about 60,000 miles."

Father Detrick has expanded the programs offered by the church to include a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in the Marathon church and a course in religious instruction at the Cincinnatus location for grades seven through twelve.

He has continued other programs including religious instruction for grades one through six at both locations, adult education classes

taught by a nun from Cortland, women's organizations at both churches and annual church bazaars at both facilities.

PARISH

When a PRIEST dies

According to Father Smith, Father Foster's health had been failing for the past several years. The people on the parish council decided to plan a retirement party for him. When Father Foster was hospitalized, however, the council members voted instead to purchase a gift for him. They decided on a new television set he could use in his retirement home. Their plans had to change when Father Foster's health quickly deteriorated.

"Father Foster was here for 11 years," Father Smith said. "These two parishes were like his family. When a priest friend advised me of the seriousness of Father Foster's condition, I told the people how much Father would appreciate cards and visits. I thank God I was advised of his condition, because for the last three weeks of Father Foster's life, he was flooded with cards, visits and flowers. I think it brought him a lot of comfort."

"Father Foster changed my life forever and I'll never forget him," said Al Grega, a Eucharistic minister at St. Stephen's. "When my cousin died, Father Foster said the Mass and was there at the cemetery. He asked me if I would become a Eucharistic minister - he really took me by surprise. But I agreed, studied with him for several months and became better for it in every way."

The money that was collected for Father Foster has been used to purchase not a television set, but a plaque which now hangs in the church. It lists all the pastors of St. Stephen's and is dedicated to Father Foster's memory.

"When I see other people who were close to him, we always say something about him, laugh at some of the things he said, or commiserate over not having him here any more," Scrivani explained. "It's one way of keeping him alive in our minds."

As hard as it is for people to lose their pastor, it is often equally difficult for a priest to relinquish his duties because of ill health.

Father Charles Foster was pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Marathon and of the mission church Our Lady Of Perpetual Help in Cincinnati. Forced by failing health to leave his parish, Father Foster hoped to be able to return to his post, according to Father Lester Smith, who took over as temporary administrator last January.

"When Father Foster left, he was planning to come back as pastor,"

Father Smith said. "At Easter, he met with the people and told them that he was praying for a sign from God whether he should retire. But about the beginning of May, he went to meet with the bishop and decided to retire. Shortly after that, he went into the



The late Father Charles Foster, pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Marathon, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnati.



A Joyous Event for St. Stephen's

Photo/Report by Nancy Seitz

Over 240 past and present members of St. Stephen's Church gathered Oct. 22 to commemorate the church's 100th anniversary.

The festivities began with a Mass of Thanksgiving with former pastor of the church, the Rev. William McCabe (1959-64), delivering the sermon on the importance of the church and the achievements of 100 years.

A procession, from the rectory to the church, led by the Knights of Columbus color guard, included the visiting Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello, along with the present pastor, the Rev. Richard Detrick and former priests, the Rev. William McCabe, the Rev. Barnard Garstka (1966-71) and Rev. John Comeskey (1971-74).

The Rev. Jeremiah McCarthy (1945-48), who had planned to participate, did not attend due to illness.

A social hour and dinner followed the service at the Marathon American Legion Hall. The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion prepared the meal with members of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) serving the roast beef dinner family style.

"We had an excellent attendance," Father Detrick commented.

The featured speaker for the event, Bishop Costello humorously reminisced on his past experiences in the ministry as well as stating the future needs of the church which includes increasingly closer family relationships.

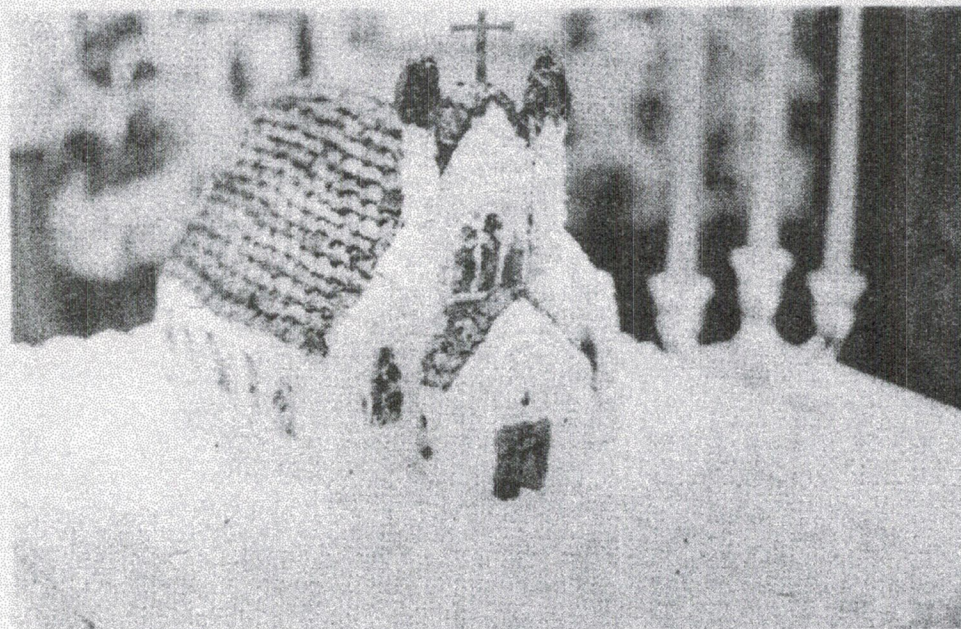
The Parish Council, in cooperation with Father Detrick, formulated the plans for the event. Members of the Council include: Neil Askew, John Knapp, Helen McGraw, Michael Marano, Margaret Cashel, Kenneth O'Neil, James Cusick, Richard O'Hara and Joyce VanDeWeert.

In honor of the event, a cake, representing St. Stephen's church, was prepared by Roanna Askew. The CYO, with their advisor, Mrs.

Askew, decorated the church and Legion Hall with banners and flowers.

A complete parish history, prepared by Miss McGraw and the Rev. Detrick, was available to those interested.

"We as a parish must now work in anticipation of a 200th anniversary," Rev. Detrick said. "I hope it is as much a success as this celebration."



This frosted replica of St. Stephen's church was prepared by Roanna Askew of Marathon for the 100th anniversary celebration of the church Oct. 22.

1970 - Articles donated to the Church, Rectory and Basement of Church:

- American & Papa; flags in Church donated in Memory of Margaret Driscoll
- Crucifix, one candle set on small altar, missal stand donated in memory of Augustus Johnson
- One candle set and Baptismal stocks donated in memory of Steen family
- Clocks in the basement donated by O'Hara and Askew families
- Clock in the Sacristy donated in memory of Ransom & Helen Atwood
- Outside rail to the basement donated by the Richard O'Hara family
- Two white urns outside the Church donated by the William Appleby family
- The signs outside the Church and Rectory donated by Garth Avery of Messena, N.Y.
- Silverware and coffee urn donated by the Fells & Smith families in memory of Richard Smith
- Processional Cross donated by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Odinek Sr. in memory of Francis Odinek
- Sanctuary Stand and Lamp donated in memory of Earl & Elizabeth Steen
- Brown cross in the Rectory office donated by Mrs. Theresa Wass together with a Ciberium in memory of her husband
- Beautiful painting of St. Stephen's Church hanging in the rectory office donated by Mrs. Justin Sherin, who painted it
- Altar table, two lecterns, benches in the Sanctuary, Altar rail, made and donated by Neil Askew
- Communion rail guard red rope donated by the Neil Askew family
- Coatrack in the Church vestibule donated in memory of Mrs. Anna Askew

Following made donations towards the chairs and tables in the Church basement:

Rev. Leo Kalinowski, Charles & Genevieve Kelly, Augustus & Enza Johnson
Joseph & Elsie Zelsnack, Helen Slate, Gerald & Helen McDonald, Mary Ryan,
Mr. & Mrs. Chris McMahon

Pews Donation (\$100) by and in Memory of :

- In memory of Cornelius Fells & Richard Smith
- Donated by the Franz Mayer Family
- Donated by the John Knapp Family
- In memory of John & Mary Van Ras donated by Mr. & Mrs. Harry Silvernail
- In memory of Spec.5 Earnest M. Plattner donated by wife, Janice O'Neil Plattner
- In memory of Augustus Johnson donated by wife, Enza
- In memory of Ruth A. Smith donated by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Odinek and Marie
- In memory of Robert E. Lee Family donated by daughter, Grace Lee Keane
- In memory of Thomas & Mary McMahon Family donated by Ralph, John & Vincent
- In memory of Norris V. Smith donated by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Odinek and Marie
- In memory of William Verfus donated by wife Caroline and children and friends
- In memory of Anna L. Slate and family donated by Helen Slate
- The Kelly Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Zelsnack
- Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Barry
- Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Morgart
- In memory of Andrew & Mary Teapack donated by Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Morgart
- The Harold Hunt Family
- The Andrew & Edwin DuBrava Family
- In memory of Francis Philip Odinek and Louis Odinek Sr.
- In memory of Joanne Ackerman donated by the class of 1969 M.C.S.
- Mr. & Mrs. Gerald McDonald
- Mrs. Mary Ryan
- Mr. & Mrs. William Appleby
- In memory of Mrs. Helena (Betty) Ryan
- In memory of James Zelsnack
- Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Zelsnack
- Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Hara and family
- In memory of Carmella McDonald donated by husband and children
- In memory of the family of Michael & Helen McGraw donated by Helen McGraw

Articles Donated to St. Stephen's Church

1996 – handmade ambo – donated by Catherine, Kathleen, Therese & Jimmy Cusick, in memory of James Cusick

1996 – candlestick for Paschal candle – donated by St. Stephen's Holy Name Society, in memory of deceased members

1998 – ambry with flagons for holy oils – donated by Richard Niggli & Family, in memory of Joyce Niggli

2001 – new American flag & new Papal flag – donated by Nona O'Hara in memory of Richard O'Hara

St. Stephen's Church Contribution to Religious Life in Marathon

It's History - Part II -

The years 1959 and 1960 saw several changes in St. Stephen's Church. The Rev. Arthur Blodgett, who had assumed the pastorate in 1954 was transferred to St. Louis in Oswego and the Rev. William McCabe became pastor here.

Those same years also saw some major repair work on the structure, including the installation of a steel beam in the basement of the rectory to prevent further sagging and replacement of the heating plant. In 1960, the steps and walk in front of the rectory were replaced as were the steps to the church and the side rails. The interior of St. Stephens was redone with hardwall construction and in 1962, a lightning rod system, water and septic tank systems were installed in the church. At the same time, new electrical and water inlets were installed in the rectory.

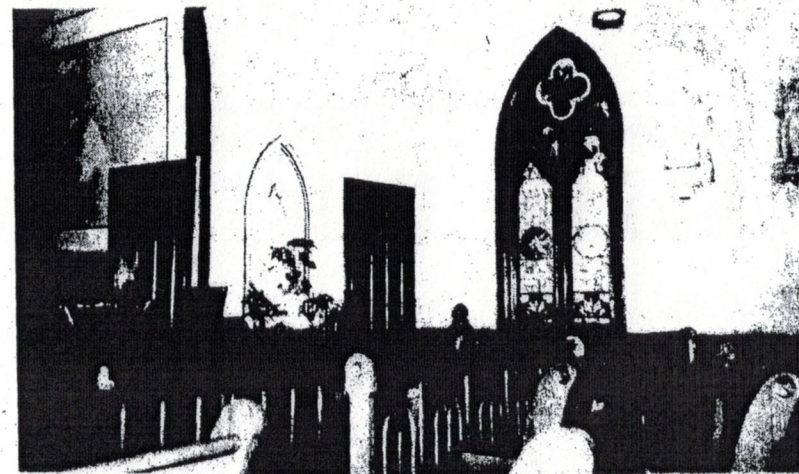
Shortly afterwards the men of the parish turned their attention to the renovation of the church basement and together with the pastor bent to the task of digging out the accumulated dirt and debris. Adding to their difficulties were two streams of water which flowed continuously through the basement but, in spite of the obstacles, the men were able to place a concrete floor, open up an entrance to the outside, install a new furnace and wiring system. Sidewalls were built by John Simpson of Cincinnati and his brother-in-law, Erwin Mackerel of the parish. Ken O'Neil and Frank Zelsnack did the electrical work.

Remodeling continued and in January of 1963 the dining room, living room, entrance and office of the rectory were remodeled. All rooms were panelled and the floor and ceilings were refinished.

The Rev. Joseph L. Mulrooney served as pastor of St. Stephens and St. Patrick's from June through Sept. 15, 1964 when he was transferred to Greene, N.Y. Taking his place was the Rev. Leo J. Kalinowski who was assigned the post by His Excellency, Bishop Walter A. Pötery.

In 1965, the Holy Name of St. Stephen's undertook to finish the church hall. James Cusik, Bill Appleby, Ken O'Neil, Neil Askew and Frank Zelsnack contributed their labors and the Holy Name assumed all the expenses for the renovations and additions.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Cincinnati again became a Mission to St. Stephen's in 1966 and the Rev.



The Sanctuary in 1948



A Prewar View

P-13
A-3

3 August 27, 1970. Marathon Independent

during the years 1966 and 1967. Attractive landscaping was added around both the church and rectory, awnings appeared in front of the rectory while the porch was screened and new furniture added. The rectory also received a coat of paint and new carpeting was added in the porch, entrance, stairs and upstairs hallway. A new bedroom set was purchased for the pastor's room and other important purchases included a Gestetner mimeograph machine and an adding machine for the office, as well as a new cabinet and curtains for the entire rectory. An important addition was a telephone installed in the church office.

Inside the church itself, the old altar was lowered from three steps to one and new public address systems were installed in November, 1969, at a cost of \$200. A hand rail was installed leading up to the choir loft. For the Sanctuary, three new chairs (Sedilia), hymn board, water and wine table and a table for the baptistry were purchased.

During the past few years many parishioners have donated furnishings to the church. Neil Askew made and donated the small altar, Holy Communion rail, two lecterns and the bench in the Sanctuary. The Neil Askew family also donated the Communion rail guard, the red rope on the Altar rail.

The following also made donations towards the chairs and tables in the basement of the church: Rev. Leo Kalinowski, Charles & Genevieve Kelly, Augustus & Enza Johnson, Joseph & Elsie Zelsnack, Helen Slate, Gerald & Helen McDonald, Mary Ryan and Mr. and Mrs. Chris McMahon.

In July 1970, new pews and wall to wall carpeting was installed in the entire church, that is: the body of the church, the Sacristy and choir loft. The new pews were bought from and installed by the J.P. Redington & Co., at a cost of \$6505. The pews were paid by donations made individually by people in the sum of \$100 a pew, plus money saved during the years in the savings account.

The carpeting was donated by the Holy Name Society and the Altar and Rosary Society. Money was raised by these societies from raffles, such as the 50-50 club, bake sales, dinners, rummage sales and other doings. The carpet was installed for a sum of \$3000. Then, because of the severe winter, the ice and snow damaged the roof of the church thus making it a new expense for the parishioners. The D. B. Insurance Co. of Syracuse paid part of the damage. Bishop David Cunningham, bishop for the Diocese of Syracuse made a donation of \$200 towards repairs of the church. Other donations for repairs came from Miss Helena Betty Ryan, James Zelsnack, Mrs. Cecilia Smetana of New Jersey in Memory of her husband, John and Evelyn Zelsnack and Lewis Harrington.

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Whitney Point

When All Work Together -

A New Interior for St. Stephen's Church

"Everybody . . . just everybody . . . has been working here. It's just great," explained the Rev. Bernard Garstka speaking about the unprecedented parish effort that is helping transform the interior of St. Stephen's Church.

Nearly 75 men and boys pitched in recently in an all-out effort, removing old pews, scraping floors, dusting rafters and sweeping the entire place clean. They arrived minus their Sunday best and ready to take part in an old-fashioned work bee that saw the interior cleared between 1 and 6 p.m.

"No, there were no women in this," Rev. Garstka commented, "just men . . . all men, even the youngest ones worked like he-men." The priest worked along with his parishioners and spoke this week with obvious pride in their vigorous response to the needs of the church.

New carpeting was installed three weeks ago by the men of the parish. The carpeting has been donated jointly by the Altar Rosary and the Holy Name Societies. Rev. Garstka also revealed that he expects the church roof, damaged during last winter's heavy snows, to receive some repairs from parish men.

"In all, when it's all done, I think we might total up more

In 1869, the Bishop of Albany made Whitney Point a parish. The Bishop, the Most Rev. John J. Conroy, made the Rev. Michael P. Renehan the first pastor of Whitney Point. A year later, Marathon was added to his charge.

For a few years, Mass was offered in the homes as usual. Then Father Renehan was able to purchase a building on Grove Street. It was located behind the present church of St. Stephen on Academy street.

After much remodeling and repairing, the building was converted into a suitable church.

Originally, Marathon was included in the Albany Diocese. Due to the growth and development of the territory, a new Diocese was formed in 1886. The new Diocese was established in Syracuse.

In the year 1895, ground was broken and the work of building a new church was started. On October 11, 1896, the cornerstone was blessed and put in place. At this ceremony, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse was present; he was the Most Rev. Patrick A. Ludden.

After 31 years of faithful service, Father McGuire died. He was followed by the Rev. Joseph Egan who was stationed here temporarily. After him came the



The Rev. Bernard Garstka poses in front of St. Stephen's Catholic Church. With him on the steps of the seventy-five year old edifice are George, Norman and Rick Hunt.

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A2

parishioners came to church the following Sunday, it was like a new church. They walked on carpets and were delighted to find that the kneelers no longer slide out from underneath them during prayers!"

* * *

CHURCH HISTORY PART I

It is believed that in 1853, the first Mass was offered in Marathon. Later, Mass was offered in various homes throughout the settlement.

Academy St. for the new Rectory.

In June of 1926, Father Gallagher was transferred to Tully, N. Y., and the Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald became the pastor of St. Stephens Church. In 1934, the Rev. James Meegan was appointed.

For the next eleven years, after Father Meegan was transferred in 1937, the parish of St. Stephen was in the capable hands of the following priests: The Revs. Luta,

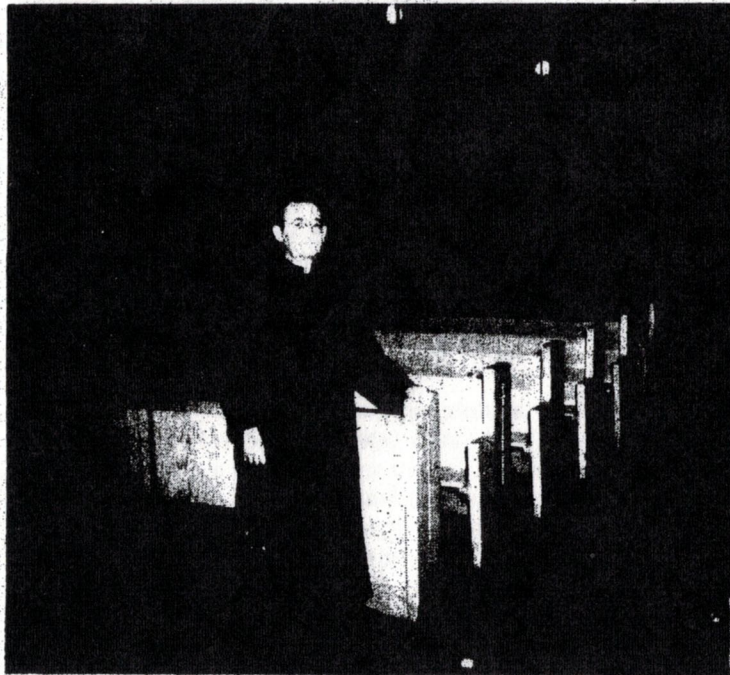
Mahoney, McCarthy and Dempsey.

In January of 1948, the Rev. Roger Bowen was appointed as the pastor. It was under his leadership that a new mission was started in Cincinnati, N. Y. The history of this new mission will be found under its own caption.

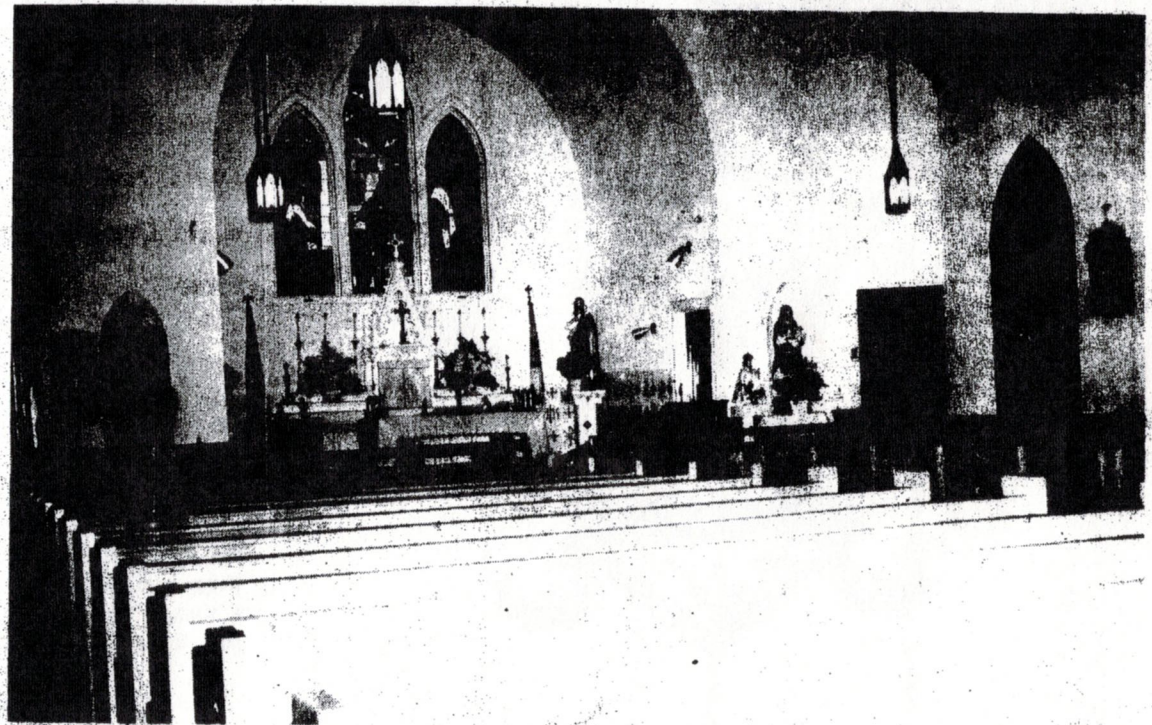
Following Father Bowen was the Rev. Donomic Donelly. In 1954, the Rev. Arthur J. Blodgett succeeded him, and served until 1959. During this period, the people of Cincinnati built a new church.

**TO BE CONCLUDED
NEXT WEEK**

Voila, the Finished Project



Father Garstka points with pride to the new pews recently installed in the church. This view from the altar also displays the new wall-to-wall carpeting.



A view of the side wall and the altar of St. Stephen's is presented in this photo taken at the rear of the church.

Turn to page 15



Welcome to

St. Stephen's Parish

Marathon, NY

Welcome to St. Stephen's Parish! This Parish was founded in 1870. The present Church building was erected in 1896.

The original parishioners were mainly of Irish descent, rugged and devout. Some would travel for over an hour by horse drawn sleigh to get to Mass.

Today, many people have moved in from New York City, Long Island and other parts of the country. We now have a beautiful mix of people from different ethnic backgrounds. Some of our most active members are converts from other Christian churches, or are newly baptized through the adult catechumenate.

The universal Church is called the mystical Body of Christ. A parish is like one cell of that Body. Here at St. Stephen's, we try to be a healthy and happy cell of the Body of Christ. We do that in many ways.

Our Pastor is the only paid member of our staff. All the other ministries are carried on by volunteers.

The Parish Council is the vision maker of the Parish, and meets at least five times a year. Election to the Council is held every year on the Feast of Pentecost, by the drawing of names out of a hat.

We try to make our Liturgy as deep, prayerful and beautiful as possible, with the full use of music and symbol. We also do part of the Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer, on Wednesday evenings.

Our Adult Catechumenate has been very fruitful in birthing new members of Christ. Our Religious Education Program for youth is also well attended, with classes for 1st - 7th Grades and Confirmation. We are hoping to add programs for pre-school and post-Confirmation age youth.

Our Parish Outreach Committee is just now forming and hopes to enable our parishioners to serve the wider community and the world in ever more effective ways.

The Altar Rosary Society for women and the Holy Name Society for men are active social and service organizations of the Parish. Another, unique aspect of the social life of the Parish is the four annual social events. Each year, all parishioners are placed randomly into four different groups, and each group is charged with planning and carrying through one of the four social events: a communion breakfast, an adult social event, a parish picnic, and a harvest dinner.

We also have a beloved daughter parish, the Mission of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cincinnati. We are continually being inspired and educated by their enthusiasm and example.

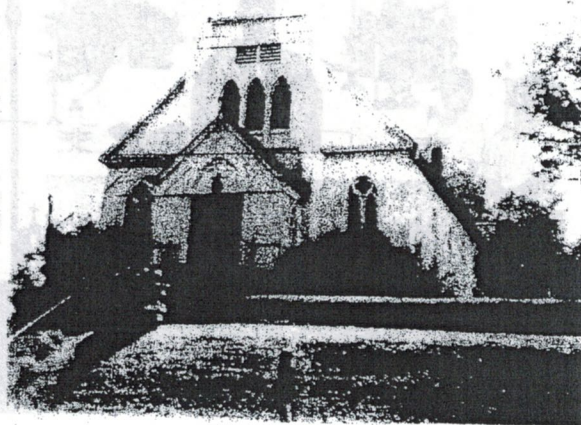
Our attitude is that we have not yet arrived. Rather, we are on a journey together, a journey towards the new heavens and the new earth of the Resurrection, and, meanwhile, trying to become Christ in the world today.



a Deacon at St. John's Church.

During the 48 years since the first group of people gathered to worship God under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Way, 17 different clergymen have been the spiritual leaders of the congregation. The Rev. Alfred Martin, now living at 48 Graham Ave. Cortland, has the distinction of having served longer than any other man... six years and four months.

The 50th anniversary of the organization of St. John's Church will occur in 1961.



St. Stephen Parish, Marathon

ST. STEPHEN PARISH IN MARATHON, N. Y.

It is believed that in 1853, the first Mass was offered in Marathon. Later, Mass was offered in various homes throughout the settlement.

In 1869, the Bishop of Albany made Whitney Point a parish. The Bishop, the Most Rev. John J. Conroy, made the Rev. Michael P. Renehan the first pastor of Whitney Point. A year later, Marathon was added to his charge.

For a few years, Mass was offered in the homes as usual. Then Father Renehan was able to purchase a building on Grove Street. It was located behind the present church of St. Stephen on Academy Street.

After much remodeling and repairing, the building was converted into a suitable church.

Originally, Marathon was included in the Albany Diocese. Due to the growth and development of the territory, a new Diocese was formed in 1886. The new Diocese was established in Syracuse.

In the year, 1895, ground was broken and the work of building a new church was started. On October 11, 1896, the cornerstone was blessed and put in place. At this ceremony, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse was present; he was the Most Rev. Patrick A. Ludden.

After 31 years of faithful service, Father McGuire

died. He was followed by the Rev. Joseph Egan who was stationed here temporarily. After him came the Rev. Luke V. Gallagher. He purchased the house at 12 Academy St. for the new Rectory.

In June of 1926, Father Gallagher was transferred to Tully, N. Y., and the Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald became the pastor of St. Stephens Church. In 1934, the Rev. James Meegan was appointed.

For the next eleven years, after Father Meegan was transferred in 1937, the parish of St. Stephen was in the capable hands of the following priests: the Revs. Luta, Mahoney, McCarthy and Dempsey.

In January of 1948, the Rev. Roger Bowen was appointed as the pastor. It was under his leadership that a new mission was started in Cincinnatus, N. Y. The history of this new mission will be found under its own caption.

Following Father Bowen was the Rev. Dominic Donnelly. In 1954, the Rev. Arthur J. Blodgett succeeded him. He is the present pastor. During this period, the people of Cincinnatus built a new church.

And so, from a small number of souls, who settled in Marathon, now the number has been doubled and is well on the way to being tripled.

THE MCGRAWVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The first interests of the hardy New Englanders who settled in the wilderness acres of McGrawville, were a home, a Church and schools. Worshippers often met in homes, schoolhouses, mills and shops. In 1825, a group of people met to promote religious concern in the community.

In 1827, 34 members of the Homer Baptist Church requested dismissal to form a new church. They were mostly residents of McGrawville and together with other worshippers, they incorporated a Religious Baptist Society in town. A membership of 73 persons was reported in 1831. Fifteen years later, there were 263 members. In 1832, this society resolved to erect a "meeting house." A large plain building with a high white steeple was erected on "Piety Hill." Thus the first religious society built the first church edifice in the village. The original building is the present house of worship but with many changes within and without.

A fire in 1922, partially destroyed the building and the repairs were for the better in many ways. The Rev. W. G. Dye was the first resident pastor in McGrawville. He was ordained by the Church in 1830.

A Sunday School was organized in 1832, a Christian Endeavor in 1890. A parsonage was built in 1888 and there was a primary department in 1894. The Church was reorganized and reincorporated in 1894 and the name to be "The McGrawville Baptist Church."

Helpful memorials have been given through the years - - memorial windows, pulpit, pipe organ, Communion table, floor lights and many others. Many Union Services have been held; for evening meetings, for revival services, for special programs. Anniversaries celebrating the founding and building of the church were celebrated in July of 1957. Out of town speakers, special music, a banquet and historical display with printed history of the church were parts of the enjoyable occasion. Thirty pastors have served the church. Four are still living. Early church records give names of several members who were licensed to preach and went out into Christian work. Four ministers were ordained while serving the church.

David and Daniel Fountain, sons of the present pastor were licensed to preach by the church, and David will soon be ordained by the church to take up the work of Chaplain in the Navy. Daniel, after thorough prepara-

UPDATED HISTORY

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

(FORMERLY ST. STEPHEN’S CHURCH)

WHITNEY POINT, NEW YORK

DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

2016



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 East Onondaga Street

Post Office Box 511

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



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



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 Mr. & Mrs. Neil and Roanna Askew,

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 Cincinnatus 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

On July 1, 2009 **St. Stephen's Church** in Marathon and **St. Patrick's Church** in Whitney Point merged and became **The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick**. This section reflects the history of the merged parishes from July 1, 2009-2016.

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

Enrollment -2015-2016

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----|
| Whitney Point: | Elementary students: | 40 |
| | Secondary students: | 18 |
| Marathon: | Elementary students: | 18 |
| | Secondary students | 9 |

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

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Adult faith formation is organized by the Spirituality Committee. Sacramental life in the parish is promoted by inviting speakers that address timely topics such as evangelization.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

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

HISTORICAL RECORDS

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.

PARISH CEMETERY

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.

The cemetery is a private association.

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.

The date of the first burial is not known.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

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.

Linda Crowley is the only commissioned lay minister.

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.

There are no nuns assigned to our parish.

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

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 |

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. In Marathon, Jennifer plays an organ manufactured by the Rodgers Company.

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.

There is currently no parish historian.

Our church basements are used as a community room.

Our parish buildings are handicapped accessible.

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 is currently being added to the grounds of St. Patrick's Church. The garden will have a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishioners of our church as well as those from other congregations are able to purchase an engraved brick that will be placed in the garden in memory or honor of a loved one.

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.

There are two sets of relics at St. Patrick's Church. One set is in the main 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.

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.

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.