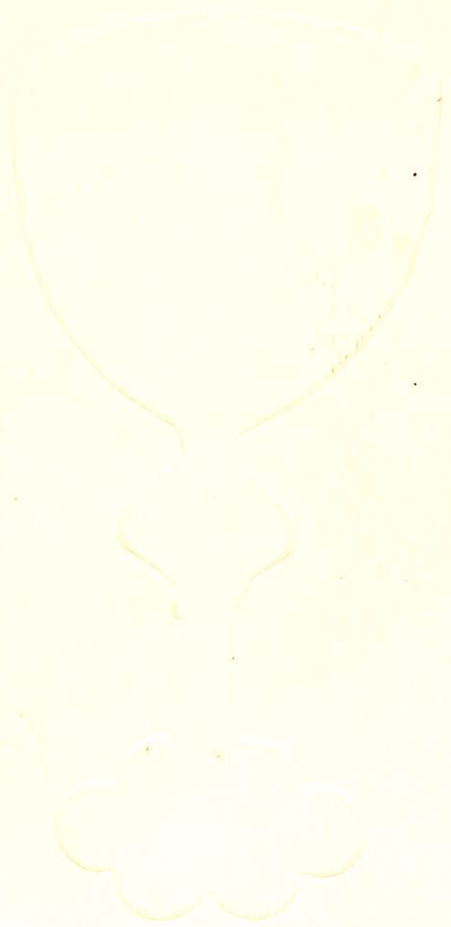


Saint Monica's Church



1881

1981

God
Bless
you

Fr. Bernold

With fond memories
Msgr. Haag

**ST. MONICA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF DECKERTOWN, N.J.**

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

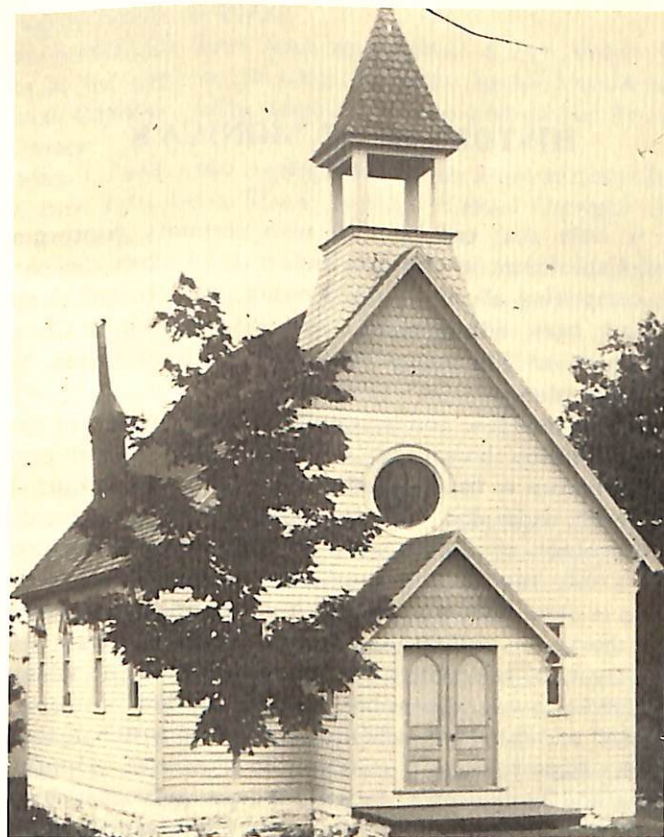
JUNE 20, 1981

MASS — FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

DINNER DANCE — PERONA FARMS

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies Mr. Edward J. Nowicki
Welcome Mrs. Tracy C. Cortright
Invocation Msgr. Joseph R. Brestel, V.G., P.A.
Introductions Rev. Brendan P. Madden
Presentations Rev. Brendan P. Madden
Remarks Bishop Frank J. Rodimer, D.D.
Guest Speaker Msgr. Christian D. Haag, P.A.
Benediction Msgr. Charles F. Powers, Vicar
Music for Dancing Sound Affects



1881



1981

HISTORY OF ST. MONICA'S

By Fred Best

There is little that can be said with certainty concerning the history of Catholicism in this area before 1854 when the parish of Newton, comprising all of Sussex County, was created. Until that date it had been administered from St. Vincent's Church in Madison which in 1844 was given charge of all of Sussex, Warren and Morris Counties.

The faithful were few and scattered; and the priests of the time must have lived on horseback, for Father Senz when pastor of Madison, is known to have visited as far away as Montague. Father McQuaid who succeeded him is said to have penetrated every nook and corner of Sussex County where Catholics could be found. It is told that he advocated the opening of Mass stations, saying that a few miles on horseback on a brisk winter morning would do the young priests good. It seems probable then, that one of them may have said Mass for the first time in the village then known as Deckertown and presently known as Sussex.

From 1840 to 1861, Father Edwin McCosker, pastor of the parish of Newton, started regular missions in Andover, Hunts Mills, Branchville and Deckertown. In 1881 he was succeeded by Father G.W. Corrigan whose friendship with General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick was responsible for the latter's interest in the Catholic faith.

General Kilpatrick was born in 1836 near Libertyville and served with distinction during the Civil War. President Johnson appointed him as ambassador to Chile. He was reappointed in March of 1881 by President Garfield. He died in December of the same year shortly after being received into the church. In 1887 his body was removed and buried at West Point.

In 1880 the number of Catholics in Franklin appeared to justify the erection of an independent parish with Father A.M. Kammer as pastor. Included in its' boundaries were the villages of Ogdensburg and Deckertown (Sussex).

It was largely due to the urging and generosity of General Kilpatrick that it was decided to build a church in the village of Deckertown. He was greatly aided by Mr. Amos Munson who, belonging to no church himself, was generous with advice and material aid to all.

A subscription among the local people netted \$621. The cost of the church, which was 25 x 50 feet, and erected on land donated by

the Vaughan family, as \$1200.

There could not have been more than a half dozen Catholic families in the area at the time. The only names known are those of Daniel Rahaley, John Morrison, John and James Stanton and John Doran.

On May 4, 1881, after saying Mass at the home of John Doran on what is now East Main Street, Bishop Michael Corrigan dedicated the new building.

The church stood until March of 1888, when it was destroyed in the great blizzard. It was rebuilt the next year at a cost of \$1330. The small congregation was greatly helped by Mr. John R. Lee, engaged at the time in building the Lehigh and New England Railroad. The project was completed without incurring any debt.

For some years Mass was said once a month, until the coming of the automobile and the availability of more priests made weekly Mass possible.

For a long time there appears to have been little growth. In 1940 the parish numbered only 21 families with 32 adults and 32 children. They were aided by the people of Unionville, N.Y., who until the building of their own church, attended St. Monica's. Mention must be made of the Polish community at Pine Island, who in addition to supporting their own parish, were generous to Sussex.

The greatest change, beginning between the two World Wars, was brought about by the development of the surrounding country into a vacation area, with the consequent influx of summer visitors. It was interrupted by the second war but increased in tempo immediately thereafter.

In 1940 St. Monica's became an independent parish with Father Henry J. Zolzer as its' first pastor. He was succeeded in 1946 by Father Thomas Molloy who remained until 1948 when Msgr. Christian D. Haag became pastor.

Mass for some years had been said at Lake Walkkill in the summer months and later a mission was begun at Highland Lakes. In spite of this it became evident that the old building was inadequate for the increasing numbers, and that a new church was necessary. After much soul searching it was decided to build on the old location. So, in May, 1952, ground was broken and the old building demolished.

The people responded with enthusiasm. Bricks at a dollar a price were a hot commercial item. Some of us will remember with a smile, the piggy banks scattered around the parish in which the lucky winners at the weekly games of various pinochle clubs, more or less willingly deposited their gains, the money later to be used to pay for the pulpit.

The cornerstone was laid and the church dedicated by Bishop Boland in October, the first Mass was to be a Solemn Mass at mid-

night of Christmas.

On the morning of the 24th the doors were opened on a bare and empty hall cluttered with the debris that attends a new building. The men of the parish, aided by many non-catholic friends, came to the rescue, and by evening the church had been cleaned and decorated, altar and crib set up, chairs borrowed from Wantage School trucked in and placed, and at midnight a slightly bedraggled pastor and people heard the choir, accompanied by their new organ burst forth with "Joy to the World".

In 1954 the church of Our Lady of Fatima was built at Highland Lakes and in 1964 the old school house of McAfee became the Church of St. Francis DeSales.

The Clarkson Potter home on Unionville Avenue was purchased in 1961 to serve as a new rectory for St. Monica's.

Msgr. Haag remained until 1965 when he was transferred to St. Margaret's Church in Morristown. At that time the parish was divided and Highland Lakes and McAfee became independent with Father Aloysius J. Busch, who had been curate at St. Monica's since 1952, as pastor.

The next pastor was Father Martin C. Connolly who was transferred to Dover in 1967 and was followed by Father Robert Morris who remained until 1971.

The parish consists at present of 650 families and is under the care of Father Brendan Madden assisted by Father Joseph Ryan.

There has been one priest ordained from St. Monica's, Father Vincent S. McCluskey, at present pastor of St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Boonton.

For most of its' history religious instruction at St. Monica's was imparted by volunteers. In 1949 the Sisters of Charity at Convent Station began to make weekly visits. In 1955 a convent was opened to provide for religious education and social service. It remained in existence until 1969.

At present there are 650 children being taught by the Brothers from Don Bosco Seminary in Newton, and St. Francis Seminary in Lafayette, aided by volunteers from the parish.

A sketch such as this becomes inevitably a matter of names, dates and events, but underneath there runs a current of almost a century of dedicated labor and generous sacrifice on the parts of many whose names are now forgotten and who worked under conditions that seem in our time incredible.

Today the pattern of life in the Sussex and Wantage area appears to again be changing as more and more families settle here with the idea of making this their permanent home.

What course the future will take we cannot know, but of this we can be sure, that the blessing of God and the prayers of Our Lady and St. Monica, will be with us always.

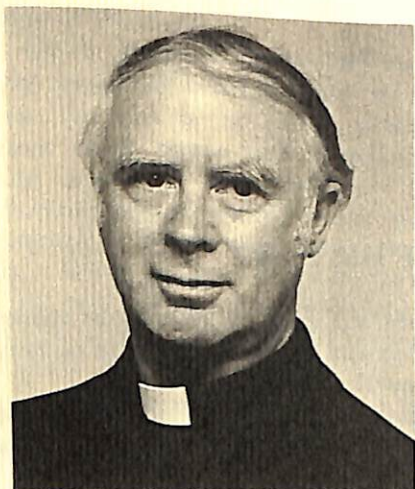
CHALICE HISTORY

The lovely chalice embossed on our cover is the original chalice given by Archbishop Michael Corrigan on May 4, 1881 in memory of his ordination as Bishop of Newark.

This solid gold cup will be used today in the celebration of the Mass of the 100th Anniversary, and is the only existing link with the first church in 1881.

PASTORS OF ST. MONICA'S

Rev. Henry J. Zolzer	1940
Rev. Thomas J. Molly	1945
Msgr. Christian D. Haag	1948
Rev. Martin C. Connolly	1965
Rev. Robert J. Morris	1967
Rev. Brendan P. Madden	1971



Father Brendan P. Madden
Pastor



Father Joseph Ryan
Associate

June 15, 1981

Dear Friends of St. Monica's Parish:

It is a privilege to write this letter on this august occasion, the hundredth anniversary of the first church in the Borough of Sussex. As the Lord reckons days, One Hundred Years, it is true is not a long time, but, by the standards of men, a century is a long, a very long span of time, a span that may in its course represent untold labor, worry, prayer,

sacrifice, joy, disappointments, failures, achievements. Anyone who is familiar with this Parish of St. Monica's, knows that all these elements, with the exception of failure, are included in the annals of the Parish and have served to make St. Monica's Parish the successful parish that it has been and is in this year of 1981.

Much has happened in the last hundred years. St. Monica's Parish has seen many thousands of worshippers pass through life, the many, many Baptisms, First Holy Communicants and Confirmandi, the many Marriages, the anointings of the Sick. Only the Lord knows of the influence this Parish has had on the souls it has served. The years of service given by the priests who travelled from Madison, New Jersey, Seton Hall University, the North Jersey parishes to care for the people of this community, until a parish was established in Sussex on January 9th, 1940, with a resident pastor appointed on April 22nd, 1940, Reverend Henry J. Zolzer.

Observing the growth of this Parish, there were six Baptisms the first year, five Communicants, fifteen Confirmed, two marriages, for the year 1940. This past year saw sixty-seven Baptisms, eighty-one First Communicants, Ninety Confirmed, thirteen marriages. With part of the Parish incorporated in the new Parish at McAfee recently, and this year the Scenic Lakes-Vernon area incorporated in the new Parish in Hamburg, growth continues in St. Monica's Parish, and the Spirit of God Blesses our community.

Our continued appreciation to the people of our Parish, for their devotion and loyalty, their support and encouragement, their ambition and industry in serving the Church here in the Sussex-Wantage-Vernon area. With this spirit, surely the faith, planted here one hundred years ago in the building of a church will continue to grow and spread throughout the whole area.

Our wish is that you will always find St. Monica's Parish a place where your hope is constantly renewed, your faith strengthened and your love enkindled, as you come here again and again on your earthly pilgrimage.

May the Peace and Blessing of Almighty God descend upon all of you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Very sincerely yours,

Rev. Brendan P. Madden

Rev. Brendan P. Madden, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Ryan

Rev. Joseph Ryan, Associate

PATRONS

Most Rev. Frank J. Rodimer, D.D.
Rt. Rev. Abbot Augustine Hinchey, O.S.B.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph R. Brestel, V.G., P.A.
Rt. Rev. Christian D. Haag, P.A.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Powers, Vicar
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eugene B. McQuaid, Vicar
Rev. Edward P. Liptak, S.D.B.
Rev. Martin C. Connolly
Rev. Frank J. Bischoff
Rev. Sylvester J. M. Livosli
Rev. Louis W. Biesiada

Rev. Vincent S. McCluskey
Rev. Charles C. Cassidy
Rev. Matthew J. Twiggs
Rev. M. Paul Daly
Rev. Conan Michael Hall, S.A.
Rev. Julian B. Varettoni
Rev. Bernard F. Feeney
Rev. Edward M. Davey
Rev. Brendan P. Madden
Rev. Joseph Ryan
Rev. James Gacquin

Mr. John C. Madden & Family
Mr. and Mrs. Tracy C. Cortright
Mrs. Joan M. Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Henry O. Shanley
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hallowich and Family
Mrs. Valda A. Adcock
The Zazzi Family
Dr. & Mrs. Maurus A. Rimmer
The Benson Family
Mr. William J. O'Brien
P. J., Mary and Kathy Sammon
Mrs. Theresa Duffy
Nora and Ed Woods
Dr. Hamish W. G. Meldrum
The Renald Ratti Family
Mr. & Mrs. Terry McKenna
The Schwarz Family
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Fanelli
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McSharry
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Martin
The Wesloske Families
Miss Pauline Hoctor
Mary and John J. O'Connell
Ed and Leslie Nowicki
Ruth and Bill Haynes
Dr. and Mrs. John C. Leamann
Arthur Fatica
Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Delaney
Albert Veit
Mrs. Evelyn Delaney
The Walter Veit Family
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dolac
J. A. D. Electric
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Novack
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dul and Family
Dr. and Mrs. Paul V. Curry
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Stipo and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Brian W. Phelan
The Sumpman Family

Mr. and Mrs. Peter O'Kelly-Lynch
Franklin Glass Co.
Mr. and Mrs. William Wien and Family
Mrs. Josephine Westdyke
Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Leahy
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph La Grego
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Pecoriello
Dom and Marie Cerchio
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zizack and Daughter
Mrs. Carolyn Porada
Mr. and Mrs. Emil Ogrinz and Family
Jane and Louis Del Grosso
Peter and Tina Duivenvoorde and Family
Trudy Haenny and Children
Mary and Ed Pardo
Mrs. Marion J. Gough and Family
Marian E. Sawicki and Family
Mary C. Tripi
Jo Therese Smith
George and Rebecca Schwarz and Children
The Niedz Family
Luongo Family
Old Sussex Woodshop
Hagn Family
Mr. and Mrs. V. Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. De Warde
Jim and Pat Smith
The Richard Nemeth Family
Geraldine Durning
Katterman Farms
Mr. and Mrs. John Kaweske
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Doonan
Catherine J. Patwell
Toye's Recreation, Inc.
Abe Snyder and Co., Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Chapman
Mrs. Anthony Woickowski
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Myslinski and Family
Eihel A. Weltner

The Appel Family
The Decker Family
Jane Vidas and Yogi
The Bartlett Family
Mary and Theresa Losiewicz
Wyka Family
Dailey Family
Hilton Family
Peter Campbell
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Chin
Mrs. Agnes B. Regan
Dr. and Mrs. Alan Schurman
Mr. and Mrs. John P. McCarthy
Ed and Ruth McGlew
Mrs. William Weir
Pinkel Funeral Home
Kenny and Terry Furlong
Zebrowski Family
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Orecchio
Mr. and Mrs. James Reiser

Lisa Luna
Jennifer Luna
Roy R. Rohel, Jr.
Mrs. Camille B. Lawlor
Winifred L. St. Clair
Pat Oliveto
Anna and Joe Lepore
Mrs. N. Fitzgerald
Mr. and Mrs. William Fitzgerald
The Ebbinkhuysen Family
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Dollbaum and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Woods
The Yates
John R. Hall
Virginia Hall
Fran and Al Gosselin
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stoll
Muriel and Edward Gordon
Mrs. Samuel Smith
Carl Sperlbaum
William Goceljak
Bessie Clark
Bob and Dolores Cronen
Ray Connelly and Family
Ellen Sheehan
Walter Sheehan
Evelyn Sheehan
Pat and Ed Liebig and Family

Mr. and Mrs. David G. Sampar
Mr. and Mrs. R. Lord and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Hoch
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Dinter
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Drag, II and Family
The Dasalla Family
Mr. and Mrs. John V. McDermott, Jr.
The Jim Callahan Family
Jim and Mary Garrahan and Children
Hank and Barbara Boutillette and Children
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Mankovich
Gael and Michael Lawlor and Children
Richard Regan and Family

Following in Memoriam

Salvatore Tripi
Joseph Todd, Jr.
Paul and Catherine Tallerico
Catherine V. Meldrum
Mary and Louis Brown

BOOSTERS

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Corbett
James Reinknecht
Patricia Reinknecht
Debbie Reinknecht
Laurie Reinknecht
Diane Reinknecht
Janet Reinknecht
Patty Reinknecht
George and Dorothy Missall
Helen Hanrahan
Jennie Ziemba
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hooks
Marie A. Todd
Josephine G. Davis
Jane Marione
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cullen
Catherine Devlin
Dykhous Family
Mrs. Everett N. Paulison
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Labar
Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Cole
Clare Drew and Family
The Ehrentraut Family
Dan and Connie Stevens
M. Westdyke Family
Evelyn and Ed Callahan
Joe and Joyce Marks and Family
Walter J. Gutkowski

