

Masses To Open New Brighton Church

Six Masses are scheduled for the opening of the new St. Thomas More Church, 2615 East Ave., Brighton on July 27 according to the Rev. Francis Pegnam, pastor.

Formal dedication of the new edifice on the former Drescher estate will take place in the Fall, Father Pegnam said. He listed the Sunday Masses beginning at 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

The new edifice of modern design but showing strong Tudor influence is about 85 per cent completed. Minor details will be handled as the church is in use on Sundays. Opening will climax several years of planning and construction.

THE PARISH formed in 1933 has held services up to now in the chapel and auditorium of St. John Fisher College on Fairport Road. Approximately 500 families are in the parish and Father Pegnam is assisted by the Rev. Daniel R. Brant.

One of the largest structures to be built in the Diocese of Rochester in recent years, the new church was designed by Coeway L. Todd. It sits well back from East Ave. on the 13-acre Drescher property. Seating capacity is about 700.

Distinctive features are the sharply sloping roof, which rises more than 50 feet above the ground, huge Tudor-style windows along the sides of the church and a large carved crucifix above the main altar.

HIGH OVER the main door is a carved representation of the coat of arms of St. Thomas More. This was executed by William Ehrlich, sculptor at the Memorial Art Gallery and the University of Rochester.

Attached to the church structure is the St. Thomas More Church School in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Ample parking space is available.



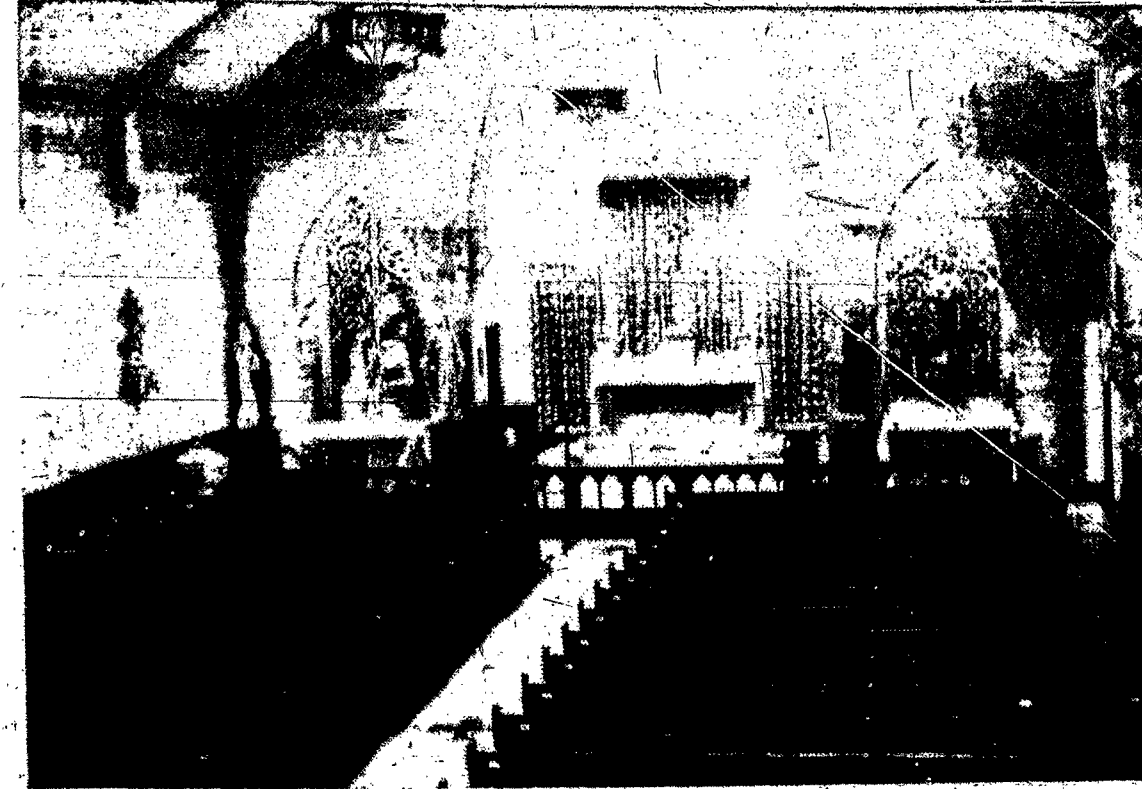
EXTERIOR of St. Thomas More Church, East Ave., Brighton nearing completion and due to open Sunday, July 27.



REV. FRANCIS PEGNAM



PEWS in St. Thomas More Church are being installed by Vincent Rowe (left) and Floyd Layou, superintendent of firm handling project.



ST. DOMINIC CHURCH, Shortsville, of which the Rev. John E. Napier is pastor has this interior. Of note is statuary on Gospel side altar showing the Blessed Mother handing the Rosary to the church's patron.

Shortsville Pastor

Dedicated Country Priest

By FRANK KELLY

An hour's drive into the country can be a very pleasant experience, as two staff members of the Courier-Journal found out this past Monday.

The purpose of the drive was to get information from Father John E. Napier on his parish, St. Dominic's in Shortsville and Manchester for the Courier-Journal. It proved to be a most pleasant morning's experience.

What we obtained was more than a history of a parish. We received a history of the life of a dedicated priest, the full story of what a country priest has to do.

FATHER NAPIER was ordained 46 years ago this past June and after serving as an assistant at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral for 15 years, was assigned as pastor of St. Dominic's.

After arriving in this thriving railroad community just 30 miles southwest of Rochester in 1927 Father Napier has seen Shortsville and Manchester survive the depression and two wars.

Founded as a mission to the parish of St. Felix in Clifton Springs in 1885, St. Dominic's became a parish of its own in 1922. Father John J. Ganey was the first pastor and was succeeded by Father Napier.

The first church in Shortsville built in 1885, was a wooden structure, but was replaced in 1900 by the present edifice.

When the present church was built, it had a brick front, but the rest of the church was constructed of wood and tin.

The church remained that way until two years after Father Napier arrived when a fire destroyed part of the edifice. Father Napier then had the church completely done over in brick.

The life of a country priest is one that very seldom leaves a dull moment—especially if that priest is Father Napier whose zeal continually kept him on the move after his arrival.

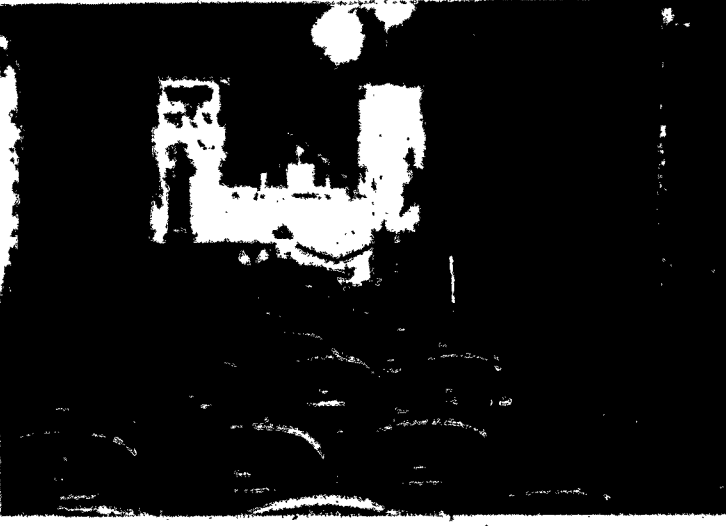
At that time, Shortsville and Manchester were the hub of a great railroad nation. It boasted the largest railroad transfer station in the world—with over a million dollars a month spent on employes wages.

THE COMPLEXION of the two communities has changed since then.

Ever since the railroads have been slipping, Shortsville and Manchester have become commu-



FACADE of St. Dominic's in Shortsville



CHAPEL and parish hall in Manchester

ter towns, with the residents working in Canandaigua, Clifton Springs and other neighboring cities and towns with industry settled in them.

"The depression hit Shortsville to a great degree," Father Napier related, "Half of the 100 railroad workers were immediately laid off."

The parish went into debt during the depression, but is now debt clear, according to Father Napier.

Father Watkins Mass Offered By Bishop Foery

Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse celebrated the Solemn Requiem Mass for the Rev. Leon B. Watkins, formerly of Rochester, July 16, in St. Anthony of Padua Church, Chadwicks, N.Y., of which Father Watkins was pastor.

Father Watkins, 63, died July 13, 1958 in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Chadwicks.

Born April 29, 1895 in Ithaca, Father Watkins moved to Rochester as a boy. He attended old Cathedral grammar and High School in Rochester, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and St. Bonaventure Seminary, Allegany.

He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood, April 5, 1925 and his first assignment in the Diocese of Syracuse was assistant at Holy Trinity Church, Syracuse. He served as assistant at St. Anthony of Padua, Syracuse and St. John's, O. W. In 1933 he was named administrator of St. Anthony in Chadwicks and the following year became pastor.

In community affairs, Father Watkins served as treasurer of the local Red Cross, chairman of the Friendly Town Committee and was an organizer of the village water committee. A member of the City Council, Knights of Columbus, he was provided an honor guard at the funeral.

Father Watkins is survived by his sister, Miss Eulalia M. Watkins who resided with him; a brother, Amos DeWitt Watkins of Toronto and a nephew, Maurice DeWitt of Toronto.

Burial was in St. Patrick Cemetery, Clayville.

Six More Win State Grants

Our Lady of Mercy High announces six additional state scholarships awarded to graduates of the June class of 1958. This makes 13 winners of state scholarships in this year's graduating class. The winners are Janet Bronson, St. Louis parish; Mary Lou Porter, St. Thomas parish; Mary Jane Salvone, Mt. Carmel parish; Betty Maxwell, St. Philip Neel parish; Patricia Katalaz, Holy Redeemer parish, and Marguerite Parsons, St. John the Evangelist parish.

Receives Grant For Graduate Work

Sister Michael Anne Hanley, R.N., who received her B.S. in Nursing from Nazareth College has received a \$2,400 grant from the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare for graduate study in psychiatry and mental hygiene.

Sister will begin her graduate work in September at Catholic University of America. For the past two years she has been on the staff of St. Joseph's Villa. After completing her graduate work she will be assigned to the nursing department of Nazareth College.

IN ADDITION to the major rehabilitation of the church after (Continued on Page 8)

First Saturday Group Lists Father Ventura

Rev. Gennaro J. Ventura, pastor of St. Lucy's parish, will be the guest speaker for the First Saturday Luncheon, held at the Powers Hotel Ballroom Saturday, Aug. 2, at 12:15 p.m. Rev. Albert J. Shannon, professor at St. Andrews Seminary is moderator.

St. Lucy's Rosary Society is hostess this month. Marie Rinalletta will preside as toastmistress assisted by Mary Lipka, Madeline D'Argenio, Meadames L. Trota, Anthony D'Alessandro, Al. Francesca, Mrs. Peter DiLaura, Dorothy Luadadio, Mrs. Mary Barbato, Mrs. Theresa Emma and Mrs. Anthony Dambr.

ALL CATHOLIC women in the diocese who have received Holy Communion on the First Saturday are invited to attend this public devotion to the Blessed Mother. The luncheon is sponsored by the Monroe County Council of Catholic Women. Rev. Gerald Krige, assistant pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish is the recently appointed moderator of the Monroe County Council. Mrs. Lawrence Weis is president. All reservations in the city, outside of St. Lucy's parish should be received by Mrs. James Hilbert, 146 Normandy Ave., ID. 6-5848 not later than July 30.

Seton Groups In Action

18TH BRANCH of Seton Workers of St. Mary's Hospital will be entertained by Mrs. W. Frank Martin, Clover St. at her home, Thursday, August 7 at 12:30 p.m. Assisting the hostesses will be Mrs. Joseph Kuntz, Miss Margaret Gunn and Mrs. Charles Powers.

45TH BRANCH was entertained Wednesday morning at the summer home of Mrs. Donald Bender on Edgemere Drive.

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