

# Perkinsville Parish To Mark 125 Years

## Bishop To Offer Jubilee Mass

At the same time that the newly Blessed John Neumann was beginning his missionary activities in the Niagara Frontier, a group of German farmers bought a parcel of land on Sandy Hill.

On this spot, two thousand feet above sea level and overlooking neat farms and crystal-clear lakes, they built a log cabin church and the Perkinsville parish was born.

The year was 1838 and the property a little over an acre, cost \$150.

This Sunday, Oct. 27, Bishop Kearney will celebrate Mass and preach the sermon at 4 p.m. in the newly rededicated Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Perkinsville. It will mark the 125th anniversary of the parish, the oldest in the Diocese outside of the city of Rochester.

The Rev. John C. O'Donnell, pastor, succeeds a long list of priests who have served the Perkinsville parishioners. The yellowed pages of the parish records, written in German script, tell of a Rev. P. Cakert saying Mass in the home of one of the pioneer settlers as early as 1836.

The little log cabin church was dedicated by Father George Beranek, C.S.S.R., in 1844 under the title of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Most Holy Rosary. He was one of many Redemptorist Fathers, confreres of Blessed Neumann, who served the Perkinsville parish, from Buffalo and Rochester until the arrival of the first resident pastor in 1850.

He was Father Andrew Schwaiger, named by Bishop John Timon of Buffalo (the Diocese of Rochester was not created until 1888). Father Schwaiger built a new church in the present village of Perkinsville and offered Mass there for the first time on November 30, 1850. The log cabin church on Sandy Hill was abandoned and a field-stone cross, the gift of a parishioner, Ferdinand Morsch, now marks the first place of worship for early settlers of the region.

This first church in the village was named Church of the Assumption. The parish grew and in 1884 a new church was built on the same site and dedicated by Buffalo's Bishop Stephen Ryan to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the present title.

LAND PRICES in the early days of the Perkinsville parish would make today's St. Ignace First church property in the village was bought by "John Timon of Buffalo City" in 1860 from Nicholas and Elizabeth Morsch for \$1,000. A second piece of land was bought ten years later by Bishop Timon from the same couple and for the same price. (A descendant, Miss Josephine Morsch, is an officer today in the parish's Apostleship of Prayer Society.)

Two more land purchases were made by the parish in 1884 and in 1903 from the Morsch family and the final piece of property was bought in 1947 from Jacob Wyand—cost, \$150.

In January, 1887, the parish bought the site of Sacred Heart Church.



OLDEST MEMBERS of the Perkinsville parish stand in front of Sacred Heart Church. They are John J. J. Huber, 88, Mrs. George (Monica) Soeder, 93, and Casper Yehom, 91. Mr. Yehom is the last survivor of the first Communion class in the present church, May 1844.

learned that they were now rectory was built in 1898 by Father A. J. Huber. The school was closed by the Sisters in 1893 and reopened by a staff of lay teachers. In 1904 four Sisters of St. Francis from Williamsville came to teach in the Perkinsville school. They remained until 1907 when the Sisters of St. Joseph took charge of the school, where they are still stationed.

Under the pastorate of Father Ferdinand Scheid the present school and convent were built in 1925 and the church was decorated and painted to the changes of our times. The Perkinsville parish was originally made up of farmers—later generations left the land for jobs in the city. The old die off, the homesteads burn down—or merely fall down.

Ninety per cent of Sacred Heart's parishioners are descendants of those hardy pioneers who felled the trees to build the original log-cabin church on Sandy Hill one hundred twenty-five years ago.

Below Father Steger built the first rectory. In 1852, he opened a school in the church building and then built a school. He taught for a time and then men from the area took over the teacher's desk. A larger school combined with a convent was erected and in 1886 three Sisters of Notre Dame came from Milwaukee to staff the new St. Aloysius School in Perkinsville.

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### Dispensations On Three Days

Bishop Kearney has dispensed indulgences in the Rochester Diocese from the laws of fast and abstinence on two days—Friday, Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving, and Saturday, Dec. 2, vigil of the feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception.

Indulgences are also excused from the usual Friday abstinence law on Nov. 1, feast of All Saints, a holiday, Halloween, Oct. 31, formerly a fast day, is no longer observed as such.

### Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Friday, Oct. 25 — St. Michael Mission Rectory, Conesus.  
Saturday, Oct. 26 — St. Basilian, St. Francis, Immaculate Conception, Rosary, Rochester; St. Vincent St. Paul, Churchville; St. Andrew, Dundee; St. Bridget, East Bloomfield; St. Mary, Hamlet; St. Bernard, Selkirk Center.

### 'Renewal' on Campus

## College Students' Liturgy Weekend

College students of the Rochester diocesan area will attend a "liturgical weekend" at Nazareth College Nov. 1 to 3 to study current projects of renewal in the Church.

Rev. Gerard S. Sloan of the Catholic University of America and president of the National Liturgical Conference will give three talks on Sunday, concluding day of the weekend.

Bishop Kearney will speak at a luncheon Sunday noon and Basilian Father John F. Madden of St. Michael's College, Toronto, will give the keynote talk Friday afternoon, All Saints Day.

Speakers and panel discussions will probe ways to make Catholic rituals more meaningful for students at both Catholic and secular colleges.

Registration and information is available by contacting the Committee for the Liturgical Weekend, Nazareth College, 424 East Ave., Rochester, Arrangements can be made for boarding at the college for the three days.

### THE COMPLETE program follows:

Friday, Nov. 1, 3 p.m.—Renewal in the Church, Rev. John F. Madden; Renewal in the Liturgy, Rev. Benedict Ehmman, 5 p.m., Mass, then supper, 7:30 p.m., Renewal in Biblical Studies, Rev. William H. Shannon; Proclaiming the Word of God in the Liturgy, Rev. Albert J. Shannon; Bible Devotion, conducted by Rev. Joseph Trivato, C.S.B., Rev. Raymond Kenny and students of St. John Fisher College.

Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.—Renewal in Theological Studies, Rev. Charles E. Curren; Renewal in the Jewish Passover, as prelude to Christian worship, conducted by Rev. Henry Atwell, 12 noon, lunch, 2 p.m., eight special panel sessions: Liturgical celebrations on the Catholic college campus, Rev. Joseph Trivato, discussion leader; Liturgical celebrations on the secular college campus, Rev. Richard Tormey; Language of Liturgy, Rev. Raymond K. Kenny; Personal Holiness through liturgical prayer, Sister Mary Lourdes; The Liturgy of the eastern churches, Rev. James Sarkis; Liturgical apostolate in the parish, Rev. Benedict Ehmman; Liturgy and catechetics, Rev. P. David Finks.

Sunday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.—T-Mystery of Faith, Father Sloan, 11:30, Mass, then lunch, and closing talk by Father Sloan, The Second Vatican Council and the Liturgy, at 2:30 p.m.

The theme of the liturgical weekend is based on a statement of Pope Paul VI to the 1963 National Liturgical Week held this summer at Philadelphia.

In his announcement to the campaign workers, Father Fenness said "I am proud of all of you men for sacrifices you made in conducting this campaign, and I am proud, too, of all of our parishioners for responding as they did. I know that God will reward you all."

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### Parishioners To Honor Fr. Tydings

## Christmas Seals To Aid Mission Work

The Rev. Michael J. Tydings will be honored at a reception Sunday, Oct. 27 on the occasion of his retirement as pastor of St. Anthony's Church. Representatives of the parish aim for a four million goal in the sale of Christmas seals, Father John Duffy, director of the Propagation of the Faith Society announced this week.

Children in parochial schools of the Rochester Diocese are raising funds for mission aid. Father Duffy said a four million goal will net "at least \$40,000" for the missions.

"We have some very attractive awards for the children," Father Duffy pointed out. "The following prizes are being offered: a special award for the sale of three wall plaques for the sale of 500 seals; a first prize of a crucifixion plaque for the sale of 100 seals; a second prize of a Holy Child calendar for the sale of 75 seals.

The 1963 seals, arranged in booklets of 100, were delivered to the schools of the diocese during the past week.

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