



The renovated interior of Holy Ghost Church in Coldwater showing the new altar and the two new wings on either side of the altar.

# A Story of Progress

In 1865 the few scattered German Catholic families living in the southwestern part of the town of Gates known as Coldwater, decided to erect a small frame school building on a plot of land situated on Coldwater Road and donated by Leonard and Euphemia Vogel. This marked the beginnings of Holy Ghost Parish.

The little frame school building was moved from its original position in 1875 and ground was broken for the first church. This church was built of brick and its cornerstone was laid and blessed by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid in the same year. Father Kraus was appointed pastor in 1875 and died within the year. The parish was cared for by the priests of St. John's, Greece, until 1908 when Father Peter A. Erras became pastor.

In 1905 ground was broken for the new church and the next year Bishop McQuaid returned to Coldwater for the laying of the cornerstone and the blessing of the church. Father Boppel directed the building of the church — a beautiful structure of Medina stone. Some 60 families built a church for 350 persons, a church which has served the parish until now.

In 1931 Father Erras decorated the interior of the church and soon after his arrival, Father Albert A. Geiger had the church painted in 1944 by Prof. Gonippo Raggi.

Even with the division of the parish in 1968 — St. Christopher to the West and St. Jude to the North — nearly 2,000 attend Mass each weekend at Holy Ghost. It was evident to Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, the pastor, and to the Parish Council that any modernization and updating of

the church must provide more space.

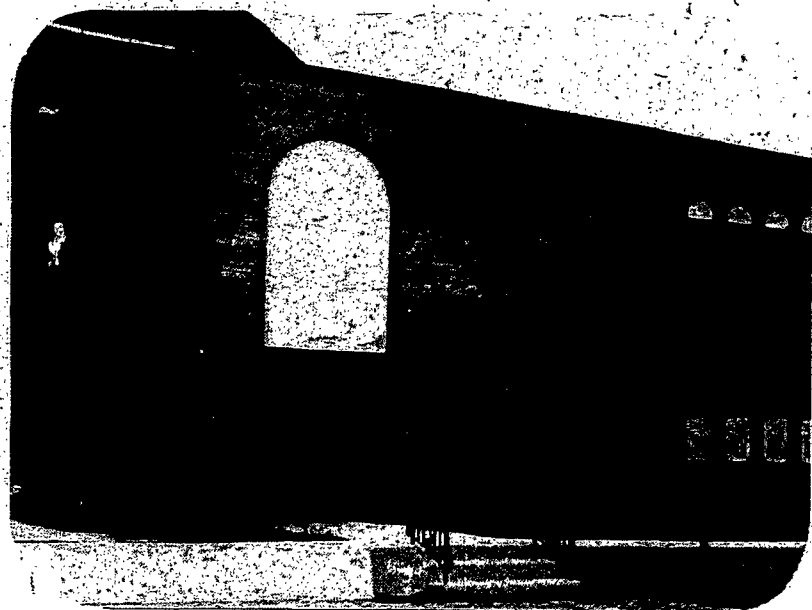
In November 1969, the Parish Council asked James Griffin to head a committee to study the problem and make recommendations. Working with Griffin, were Donald Dudley, Joseph Entress, Leo Entress, Walter Pelkey, Charles Isaac, John Riedman and James Harrington. Philipps and Winkler were engaged as architects. A fund drive brought in over \$200,000 in pledges in the Fall of 1971. Plans were accepted in the Spring of 1972 and the project was put out to bid. Contracts were awarded to the lowest bidders and construction began in June of 1972 and the project was completed in April 1973.

Rambusch of New York designed and executed the furnishings and interior decor of the church as well as the new

windows and lighting. Carl Zollo (a parishioner of Holy Ghost) redesigned and mounted the old Stations of the Cross in one of the new chapels.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Station Chapel add 200 additional seats, bringing the capacity of the church to 550. The Blessed Sacrament chapel may be divided off from the main church and serves as a weekday chapel for daily Mass. One of the confessionals is a reconciliation room offering the penitent the option of going to confession in the traditional manner or seated facing the priest.

The lower area of the new building has two large meeting rooms; a small kitchen is being built. There are lavatory facilities serving the church and the meeting rooms. The entire church and the meeting rooms are air-conditioned.



The new addition to Holy Ghost Church.

## Rededication Scheduled Oct. 14 At Holy Ghost

The rededication and blessing of Holy Ghost Church will take place on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 12:15 p.m. Mass with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, pastor, will consecrate the new marble altar at 10:45 Mass Friday, Oct. 12. The program of rededication is being worked on by the parish worship committee, Paul Donoghue, chairman. Father Thomas F. Nellis and Deacon Jim Hewes are working with the adult choir and the folk choir to prepare music. A liturgical dance featuring some of the school children and prepared by Sister Lucetta will be a part of the celebration. A luncheon will be served for the clergy in the parish hall after the Mass.

Chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dudley, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCloskey, tickets; Mr. and Mrs. Forest Sickles, decorations; Mrs. William Trometer, publicity; and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schmitz, and members of the parish council.

### STUDENTS COMMENDED

Sister Mary Jean Smith, principal of Nazareth Academy, reported last week that three seniors had been awarded letters of commendation by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their performance in tests administered last Fall.

The students are Lisa J. DiCennaro, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vito DiCennaro, 144 Albemarle; Christine M. Coding, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Justin Coding, 560 Seneca Pkwy., and Marylee Hannan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hannan, 345 Magee.

Wilfred Townsend and the ates-Chili Senior High Brass Ensemble will play entrance and Thanksgiving hymns at the Sunday Mass.

A parish dedication dinner will be held at Three Acre Party House Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$6 a person. Music will be provided. Father Bernard F. Dollen will serve as toastmaster and Bishop Hickey will speak.

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## Town tax rate drops an unprecedented \$3.06

The above headline is reprinted from the October 4, 1973 Irondequoit Press.

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