

St. Joseph's, Wayland, Celebrates

Wayland — Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined parishioners and priests of St. Joseph's Church here for celebrations of this parish's centenary last Sunday.

The bishop presided at a Mass concelebrated by Father Paul Schnacky and Msgr. Arthur Ratigan. In addition, the bishop blessed an American and a papal flag as part of a rededication ceremony for the parish school building, 50 this year.

A tree was planted during the ceremonies and a reception in the school hall completed the day's festivities.

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Had the centenary celebrations been slated with a fussy eye to the calendar, Bishop Clark may have followed in the path of his predecessor and never arrived at the rites at all.

As it happened, on Jan. 26, 1881, Bishop Stephen Ryan of Buffalo (the parish was in the Diocese of Buffalo then) was enroute to the dedication ceremonies for the new St. Joseph's Church when his train became snowbound at Avon. He had to telegraph ahead to let those assembled proceed with the dedication.

The establishment of the parish was largely a lay effort. For a period of about 30 years, Wayland Catholics worshiped in Sacred Heart Church in Perkinsville. As the territory grew more populous, the Wayland contingent began making plans for buildings of its own, and in either 1879 or 1880, sent a delegation to Bishop Ryan to plead the case for establishing a new parish. The delegation won its suit.

The bishop appointed Father George Zureher to head the parish in May of 1881. He was followed the next year by Father Theodore Voss who built a school house and hired a lay teacher from Perkinsville. He left in 1885 and was replaced by Father Joseph Fischer, who established a mission at Cohocton, reduced the parish debt and made several minor repairs to the parish plant.

Father Fischer was replaced in the pastorate in 1888 by Father Joseph Thies, a native Rochesterian. Father Thies added to the church, wiped

out the debt on the school, gave himself a raise (to \$800 a year), cleared the parish debt, hired Sisters of St. Francis from Buffalo to teach in the school, and made several repairs and improvements in the parish property.

He was transferred in 1884 and was replaced by Father C. Vaelin who improved the cemetery, bought statues for the church, ordered a mission for the Church at which 300 people received the sacraments, and did extensive work on the rectory.

He was replaced in the pastorate by Father John Stemmler in 1896, a few months before the parish passed into the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Rochester and Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid.

In September of that year, diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph assumed the administration of the school. During the next few years, Father Stemmler supervised a number of repairs and improvements in the parish buildings.

He was replaced in 1903 by Father Francis J. Trautlein, during whose reign the parish's 25th anniversary was celebrated. Father Trautlein relinquished the pastorate Sept. 6, 1908, and died in Buffalo five days later.

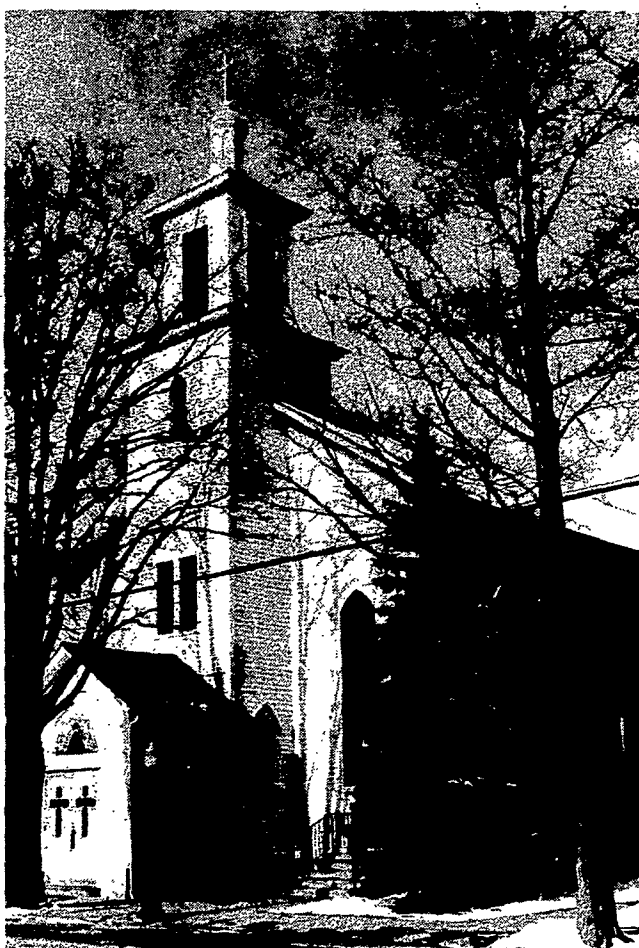
Father Joseph H. Gefell succeeded Father Trautlein and his pastorate extended over 16 years.

During Father Gefell's time extensive alterations were effected in the church properties and a new organ was purchased from the Evangelical Church on Rochester's Fitzhugh Street.

Father Herman Schafer was appointed pastor in 1924 and during his brief tenure supervised the construction of a new convent. Father Schafer died in the parish in 1928.

Father Arthur Florack was named pastor in that year. He installed new carpeting in the church and placed a statue of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus in the building. He was followed, in 1930, by Father William Heisel.

During Father Heisel's 11-year pastorate, a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes was erected in the church, a new school was constructed, and



St. Joseph's, Wayland

the church was completely redecorated and modernized.

In March of 1941, Father Adelbert Schneider was named pastor, and in June that year, Father Lawrence Samson, a newly ordained priest, was named the parish's first assistant pastor.

At about this time, the parish began to see quite a bit of growth. Potato farmers from Maine and Long Island moved into the area and made the area known for potato growing.

In the first two years of Father Schneider's pastorate, the school enrollment doubled. Also at this time the end was in sight for the Depression and by 1942 the parish was entirely free of debt.

During Father Schneider's time, the parish obtained additional land for its cemetery, the school was enlarged, and a number of improvements and renovations were made to the parish properties.

Father Schneider served his parish for more than a quarter century, the longest tenure of any pastor there.

He died in his sleep, at the age of 67, Oct. 23, 1967. Five years earlier, Pope John XXIII had named him a domestic prelate.

Father James Marvin was named pastor and during his time, the church properties were rehabilitated and the church itself was remodelled in the light of Vatican II renewal of the liturgy. In 1969, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen rededicated the building.

In addition, Father Marvin started the school board, the parish council and the annual festival.

In 1971, Father Marvin was replaced by Father William Reifer whose brief pastorate was brought to a close by a cerebral hemorrhage in January 1973.

He was followed by

Father James Baker who began the Stewardship Program in the parish and celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination in Wayland.

Father Baker died in 1979. For several months St. Joseph's fell under the administration first of Msgr. Arthur Ratigan, and then Father Donald Schwab.

In August 1979, Father Paul Schnacky, the present pastor, was named to the post.

The centenary celebration, Father Schnacky said, "is a tribute to the sacrifices of the people of St. Joseph's who have gone before us, and a challenge to the present generation, myself included, to hand on the best of our traditions to our children."

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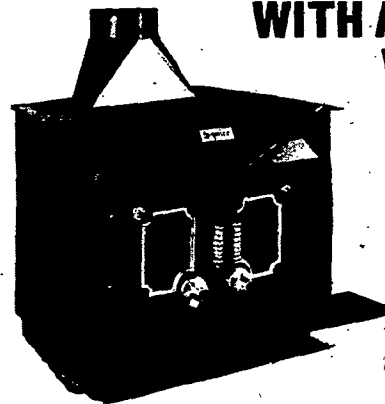
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Mercy Alumnae Gathering, Oct. 16

Our Lady of Mercy High School Alumnae Association will hold its annual Alumnae Banquet on Friday, Oct. 16, at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Pittsford. The cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Alumnae wishing to attend just the cocktail hour are welcomed to do so.

Class chairpersons for the banquet are: Mary Lou Ralph Doyle of Wood Hill Road, Pittsford; Madge Vaughn Doyle of Browncroft Boulevard; Sandra Francati, Winton Road; Audrey Lill Gaudino, Shaftsbury Road, Brighton; Patricia Ross Hurley, Carling Road;

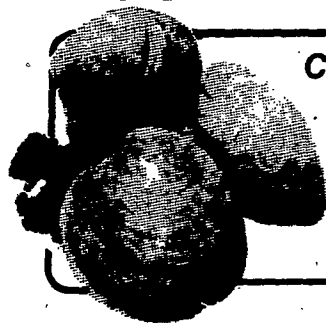
Brighton; Maureen Baker Lowry, Crossroads Lane; Molly McCarthy, Blossom Road; Kathy McNamara, Highland Avenue; Rosemary Stoffel Webster, Shirewood Drive, Penfield; Isabel Tierney Williams, Oakdale Drive, Brighton; and Theresa Strauss Wynne, Winton Road N.

Tickets for the banquet are \$10 a person. They may be reserved by contacting Sheryl Hankon, Traymore Road, who is general chairperson. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Oct. 9. No reservations will be accepted at the door.

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