

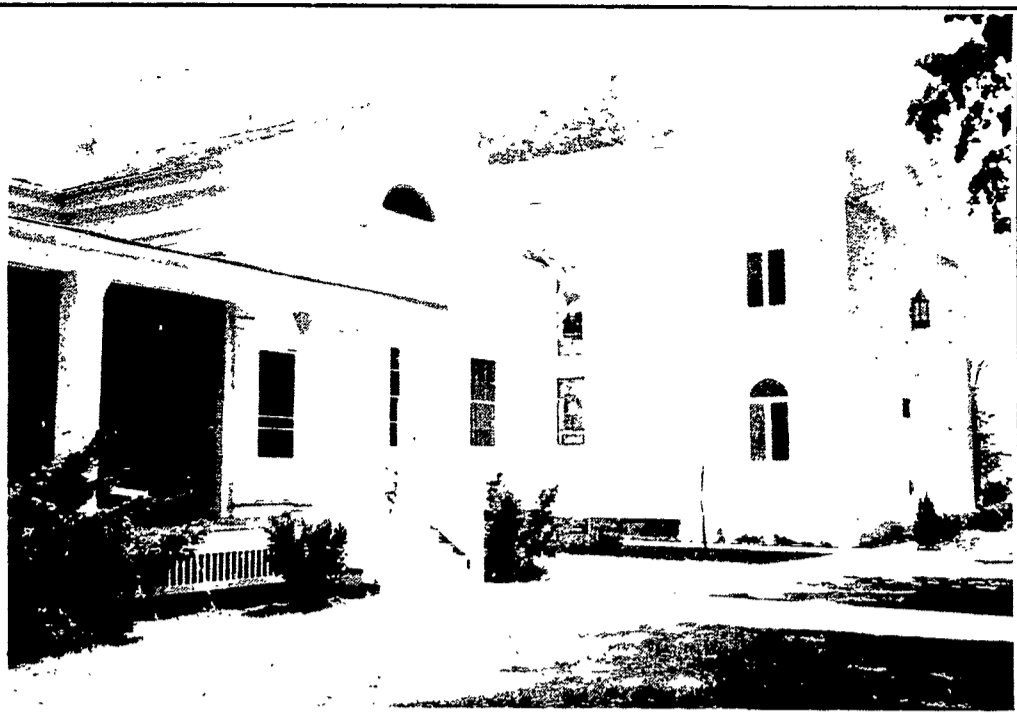
# Our Pilgrimage Church Holy Year 1983-84

**By Father Robert F. McNamara**  
 By 1850 there were three Irish Catholic families in the village of Trumansburg, and 22 others in the surrounding countryside and at Farmer Village (now Interlaken). In 1854 they decided to build a mission church and Father William Gleason of Waterloo acquired a site on Trumansburg's Main Street. Then, because of their poverty, they decided instead to buy a little Methodist church (36' x 46') that was for sale at \$1,100. Renovated for Catholic use (although the sanctuary remained right inside the entrance), this Church of St. James the Apostle was blessed by Bishop Timon of Buffalo on April 18, 1857. It remained a mission church until 1872, when Bishop Bernard McQuaid of Rochester assigned a former Franciscan, Father Gilbert Nuonno, to be pastor of St. James and missionary to Farmer Village. Father Gilbert built a rectory at Trumansburg, and also a church at Farmer Village, dedicated to the Franciscan, St. Francis Solanus.

In 1895, Father Michael Madden moved the whole Trumansburg church building from Main Street to its present site on Whig Street. He remodeled it considerably, added a tower, and installed electricity -- making it the first church in town to boast of that distinction. Bishop McQuaid rededicated it on Nov. 8, 1896.

St. James parish observed the golden jubilee of its second dedication in 1946. Three years later, on Jan. 28, 1949, fire destroyed the sanctuary and much of the new part of the building. The pastor, Father Leonard A. Kelly, thanks to a parish drive and to aid from all over the diocese, was able to rebuild the church. There was, by now, little of the original building left, but the architect at least preserved its classical lines. Bishop James E. Kearney rededicated it on June 11, 1950. Minimal changes have been made since Vatican II in a sanctuary that had already been simplified in 1946.

In 1956, St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken, was made a separate parish and entrusted to the Capuchin Fathers located at nearby Shelldrake.



**St. James the Apostle, Trumansburg**

St. James the Apostle Church is therefore a simple country church. It may well have been the first church in the diocese to have a Christmas crib (around 1877) and it was one of the first parishes to set up a parish council (1967). Otherwise, pilgrims will admire the marble statue of Our Lady of Grace on the parish grounds, and find the

interior of the church devotional. Larger pilgrimages are free to park at the Central School, off Main Street, and, led by a crossbearer, to walk in devotional procession to the church entrance. Please call beforehand to make arrangements: St. James the Apostle Church, 17 Whig Street, Trumansburg, Route 96; 607/387-6781.

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