



Holy Family, Auburn

Our Pilgrimage Churches

Holy Year 1983-84

By Father Robert F. McNamara

Holy Family is one of the oldest parishes in the diocese. The first Mass was celebrated in Auburn at the home of John O'Connor around 1815. The Catholic population increased considerably after that, so a parish was formally organized in 1834. The original trustees, John O'Connor, Hugh Ward, Thomas Hicks and Daniel Lawler, purchased a little frame chapel from the Methodists and outfitted it for Catholic use. It was dedicated in 1834, and Father Francis O'Donoghue was named the first resident pastor.

By 1860, the chapel though enlarged, could no longer accommodate the local Catholic population. Father Michael Creedon therefore began the drive for a new church. Built in 1861 at a cost of \$35,000, it was not yet finished by the outbreak of the Civil War. On April 11, 1861, patriotic Father Creedon urged from the pulpit of the old church that the young men of the parish wait in response to Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers to defend the Union. They responded. They marched over to the unfinished new church, signed the parish roll of volunteers, and then trooped off to the army to war.

Family Church was dedicated in 1861. Not much has been changed since then. The old 1861 church, the present one, is still standing. The original stained glass windows, installed in 1915, are by artists from Munich, Germany. (Each Mass the largest Sunday Mass are valued at \$175,000. Since Vatican II, little has been changed in the old structure beyond the removal of the massive nave rail and the installation of a temporary tabernacle.

A magnificent pipe organ, built in 1880, is still in use. The school is a fine example of the original design. The school is now a fine example of the original design. The school is now a fine example of the original design.

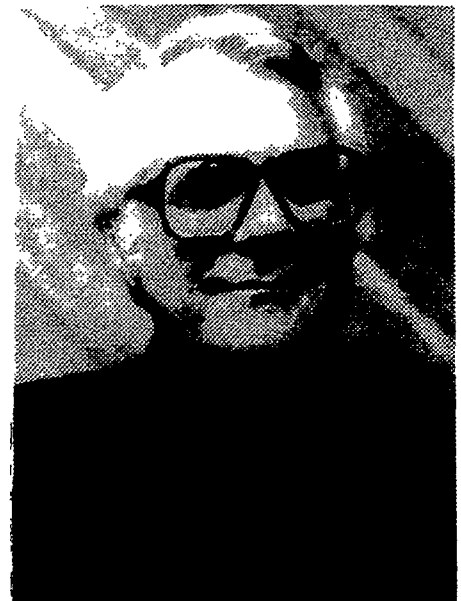
Holy Family is a beautiful church and has been a source of pride for the community. The church is a beautiful example of the original design. The church is a beautiful example of the original design.

COURIER-JOURNAL

TOUR OF EUROPE AND OBERAMMERGAU

June 25-July 10

Attend the Oberammergau Passion Play performance. This year marks the 350th anniversary of its first staging by the villagers in gratitude for their village being spared from the Black Plague. The traditional costumes, breathtaking setting and deeply moving drama make the Passion Play performance a rare visual experience and the most exalting religious theatrical event.



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(Assisi)

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(1 night)

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(2 nights)

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(2 nights)

Optional
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Red Cross Needs Blood

The American Red Cross Holiday Blood Campaign will take place from Dec. 19 to Jan. 6.

According to Bob Magere, co-director of the Red Cross Donor Resources Development, many blood donors may forget about the opportunity at this hectic time of the year.

"Gifts from the heart are the most precious and the

most appreciated," he said.

Anyone in good health, between 17 and 66 and weighing at least 110 pounds is eligible to donate blood, he said. The Red Cross Blood Center at 50 Prince St. is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday and Friday; and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Further information is available at 461-9800.

ALCOHOLISM SEMINAR

Elmira -- The monthly alcoholism seminar will take place at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15, in the doctors meeting room at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Mary Joyce Pruden, program coordinator of the Counseling Services of the Southern Tier in Corning, will review substance abuse programs for young adults and alternatives to chemical use.

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