



The sign outside St. Mary's proclaims the 150th anniversary for the city and the parish.

City and St. Mary's Observe 150 Years

For both Old St. Mary's Church and the City of Rochester, this is the 150th anniversary of their foundation.

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated 11:30 a.m., Sunday, July 8 at Old St. Mary's, an event commemorating the parish foundation. Parishioners, friends, city officials and representatives of the Baptist Temple, also noting its sesquicentennial, will participate.

Father James Lawlor, pastor, will preside and preach. St. Mary's choir, under the direction of Thomas Donohue, will sing. And internationally known harpist Eileen Malone will play.

A gala picnic will follow at 1 p.m. in Washington Square

Park across from the church. A special feature will be entertainment by the Monroe County Parks Band from 2-4 p.m. Joan McNeil's Puppeteers, with a turn-of-the-century show, and Vendini the magician will also perform.

An exhibit of St. Mary's memorabilia is also on display in the church.

The public is invited to the celebration.

St. Mary's opened July 13, 1834 in an unused Methodist Church on South Saint Paul Street (now South Avenue), with Father Bernard O'Reilly as the first pastor. In 1852, land was purchased for a new church on what is now St. Mary's Place, and building began in 1853. In 1858, Bishop John Timon of Buffalo

dedicated the church, which had cost \$40,000 to build.

The Irish Sisters of St. Bridget began to give religious instructions and work with the poor in 1856. The year following, the Sisters of Mercy arrived and opened a school, a soup kitchen, a House of Mercy for women, and an employment office. The Mercy Sisters worked in the parish for more than 100 years, teaching, nursing the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and helping the unemployed.

Other religious who have worked in the parish include the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Throughout the years, the priests, Sisters and people of St. Mary's tried to meet the needs of the poor, the immigrants, the needy of the city, regardless of religious beliefs.

Stories are still told today of the generosity of the St. Vincent de Paul Men's Society during the difficult era of the 1850s, of St. Mary's caring for the widows and orphans of the Civil War, and of the Sisters of Mercy working among the victims of 1918 influenza epidemic.

Today, despite many changes in the downtown area, St. Mary's continues to minister to the elderly, the young singles, married couples, transients and members of the business community. Lay people are heavily involved in today's ministries and an active parish council of 12 assists and advises the pastoral staff.

St. Anne's Church Sets Patronal Novena

One of the highlights of the Church year for St. Anne's parishioners is the novena in preparation for the patronal feast July 26. Many Rochesterians join them every year in the evenings of prayer and petition with the mother of Mary.

This year, the parish will present a retreat-type novena with the theme, "A Time of Grace." Homilists will be Father John Braganza, speaking on "Grace," Sister Marie Brown, NSJ, "Church and Community," Father Raymond Henschel, "Mary and St. Anne."

In addition, Father Michael Sullivan, an Augustinian priest from Camden, N.J., will also preach.

Included in the course of the nine evenings will also be a variety of liturgical services including Mass, evening prayer, benediction and a Rosary service. Each day's events begin at 7:30 p.m. at the church at 1000 St. Paul Ave. The novena is free.

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