

St. Columba-St. Patrick Celebrate Centennial



Father Ronald Gaesser introduces his godchild, Gerard Dudek, 4, to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

On Sunday, June 30, close to 800 people gathered at St. Columba in Caledonia to joyously reflect on the parishes' 100th year. With a parade complete with fire engines, horse-drawn buggies, and a miniature float of the church, the processional started out from St. Patrick's, the sister church in Mumford, and wound its way down Main Street, proceeding into Caledonia to end at St. Columba. After a shaky and skittery journey in a buggy, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, celebrant, arrived safely to begin the special centennial liturgy.

During the outdoor Mass, the centennial-year theme of recalling the past with pride, viewing the present with honor, and creating the future with hope in our families was echoed. It was a wonderful day of memories as Bishop Clark encouraged people to think back to the past and remember the times that they have been touched by the Lord — either in the joyousness of a baptism or the sorrow of a departed loved one, He has always been there.

In an analogy with Mark 5:21-43, in which a wealthy man asks Jesus to come to his house to make his daughter well, Bishop Clark reminded everyone that "His touch is symbolic of the compassion of the risen Christ. He is profoundly with us in the dark times, saying "Rise again, I love you, I will bring you life." In the centennial year, Christ is and always has been with the parish, Bishop Clark said.

With the numerous children running around, much to the bishop's delight, the Mass ended and a picnic for the large turnout was under way. Food of every description was available from the large number of dishes brought by the members of the parish. Hotdogs and burgers were expertly cooked and everyone had his fill.

With thanks to God for the cloudy but undampened weather by Father Ronald Gaesser, the celebration was underway with sunny skies for the afternoon activities.



Michael Cole and Daren Mathie help each other tighten a bolt on a candle holder prior to the beginning of the parade.



Parishioners gather to watch the ending of the first part of the parade at St. Columba.

Jeff Gouking / Courier-Journal



A member of the Knights of Columbus of Rochester adjusts his white glove during a run-down of the parade route.



Bishop Clark pauses a moment during the gospel reading.



The Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark greets observers on an overpass as Father Winfried Kellner looks ahead to the expectant crowd.