



Lauren McFalls/Photo Intern

Kyle Beikirch sits in a pew as he is surrounded by parishioners of St. Helen's Church in Gates during the Jan. 16 rededication liturgy celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Bishop anoints new altar in Gates

Service marked church's facelift

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GATES — As Sister Nancy DeRycke, SSJ, looked up through the glass roof that now forms the middle of the new ceiling at St. Helen's Church, she mused on the meaning of the sunlight shining through it.

"I think the light shining in the atrium is kind of symbolic of the new light shining in St. Helen's," the parish's pastoral associate said. "I'm just really hopeful that this can be kind of a new reawakening, making the parish a place of welcome."

Scores of parishioners welcomed Bishop Matthew H. Clark to St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinchey Road, on Sunday, Jan. 16, when he rededicated its recently renovated church during the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

"Here may your children gathered around your altar, celebrate the memorial of the Paschal Lamb, and be fed at the table of Christ's word and Christ's body," the bishop prayed prior to anointing the new altar with sacred oil of chrism.

The bishop celebrated Mass amidst the following renovations and repairs begun last spring and completed last fall:

Construction of a new gathering space in the entrance of the church that features a wheelchair ramp.

Location of the new altar about 20 feet closer to the congregation than the old altar.

Resituation of the pews from straight rows to a pattern of pews arching around the altar.

Installation of a new sound system with an audio loop for the hearing-impaired.

Building of a new baptismal font made from marble taken from the old altar and its steps. The font is capable of immersion baptisms.

Renovation of worship space ceiling. Movement of the choir performing space to the side of the altar. Prior to the renovation, the choir performed in a loft in the back of the church. The music area also boasts a new organ.

Conversion of the sanctuary into a daily Mass chapel.



Bishop Clark blesses the congregation with holy water during the liturgy.

The renovations were designed by architect Michael J. Doran. Construction was done by Joseph Vogl Construction Company, Inc.

Parishioner Michael Krembel created a stained-glass window that forms the centerpiece of the altar's backdrop.

The rededication officially ended a renovation process begun during the spring of 1990, according to Mike Schulerich, chairman of the Worship Space Committee.

Roughly \$400,000 — raised through a parishioner pledge campaign — was spent on giving St. Helen's an updated look in keeping with post-Vatican II liturgical space guidelines, he added. Parishioners were informed of the reasons behind the changes in a series of "town meetings" where they were encouraged to give their input.

"I'm impressed with the way things turned out," Schulerich commented. "I feel good about the acceptance by the parish."

Father Michael J. Bausch, pastor, acknowledged that the changes from a traditional worship area to one reflecting a more communal atmosphere called for by today's guidelines took time to root among some parishioners. Nonetheless, the renovations seems to have been accepted by most of the faithful, he said.

"It opened a door of opportunity to continue educating people in the new liturgical guidelines that came out of the

documents of Vatican II," he said.

George Wiedemer, who co-chaired the renovation committee with his wife, Sue, asserted that the renovation and repair process had united the parish. Strangers became friends, and old friends strengthened their ties, he noted.

"It's great for people who, over the years, weren't able to take the time to meet their neighbors," he remarked.

He added that he liked the communal atmosphere evoked by such new features

as the gathering space.

"These are all the things that make the Catholic church a bigger togetherness," he concluded.

Obituaries

Sister Mary Antonio Cassano, SSND, 78

Sister Mary Antonio Cassano, SSND, a Rochester native who served at two Catholic schools in the diocese, died on Sunday, Jan. 2, 1994, at the Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 78.

Sister Antonio entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from her home parish of St. Augustine's in Rochester. She professed her vows in 1943.

During her 47 years of ministerial service, Sister Antonio served for 11 years (1971-82) as a teacher at Holy Family

McQuaid to host service for James Aha Jan. 22

BRIGHTON — A memorial liturgy for James Aha, a former faculty member at McQuaid Jesuit High School, is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 22, at the high school, located at 1800 Clinton Ave. S. The service is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.



Mr. Aha taught math, engineering drawing and computer science during his 30 years at the all-boys school. He was also involved in extracurricular programs, serving as a sports trainer and assisting with student and parent dramas and musicals. Mr. Aha was killed in a traffic accident on July 16, 1993, shortly after retiring from McQuaid.

Former students, colleagues and friends are invited to participate in the Jan. 22 service. For details, call the school at 716/473-1130.

SBS graduate made Ogdensburg bishop

Bishop Paul S. Loverde, a 1966 graduate of St. Bernard's Seminary, was installed as bishop of Ogdensburg on Jan. 17.

Bishop Loverde was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Norwich, Conn., in 1965. He later obtained a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He was an instructor at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn., until his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the Hartford archdiocese on Feb. 9, 1988.

Instruction series set

WAYLAND — A 10-week adult instruction series on the Catholic faith is being offered at St. Joseph's School, 209 Fremont St.

Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. These sessions are for anyone interested in joining St. Joseph's parish, learning about Catholicism, and/or receiving a systematic review of their previous Catholic teachings.

For details, call 716/728-2228.

School in Rochester, and eight years (1982-90) as a library assistant at St. Margaret Mary School in Irondequoit.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held for Sister Antonio on Jan. 6 at the SSND motherhouse chapel in Wilton, Conn. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.

Donations in memory of Sister Antonio may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 34 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn., 06897.

Sister Mary Floricita Gaudette, SSND, 85

Sister Mary Floricita Gaudette, SSND, who served 10 years as a teacher at the former St. Joseph Orphanage in Rochester, died on Dec. 1, 1993, in Wilton, Conn. She was 85.

Sister Mary Floricita entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from her home parish of Immaculate Conception in Malden, Mass. She served at St. Joseph Orphanage from 1928-38, and later

taught at St. Michael School in Rochester as well. In all, Sister Floricita taught for more than 40 years at various Catholic elementary schools in the northeastern United States.

A Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Floricita was held on Dec. 6 at the SSND motherhouse in Wilton. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.