

# PARISH FEATURE



Joe Walsh enjoys a cupcake, one of the many goodies on hand for the parish gathering.

Photos by

S. John Wilkin

Staff photographer



Jean Dech, a parishioner at St. Mary's since 1957, celebrated her 97th birthday June 26. She was personally entertained by the barbershop quartet known as 'The Gang From Around The Corner,' which performed during the picnic.

St. Mary's Church, celebrating its 160th anniversary this year, held their annual picnic on June 26. Featuring the theme 'Those Were the Days,' the picnic included crafts, outdoor games, antique cars and parishioners dressed up in nostalgic clothing. Deacon Bill [unclear] for dunking-booth duty, grimaces as the ball just misses the bull's-eye.

According to a 1984 study by Gertrude Bennett, red servants created as in-er jobs when

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ous other charitable efforts, from soup kitchens operated at the parish to fundraising drives by men's groups on behalf of the poor.

Interestingly, long before there was such a concept as "day care," the parish in the 1880s ran a nursery for working widows and for families in which both parents had to work, the history said.

Today, the parish continues to minister to its own members and to the larger community by tithing its income to help parishioners; their friends and fam-

ilies; and various outreach programs.

Enthusiasm for charitable work extends throughout the parish, according to Mary Lu Coffey, the parish's director of liturgy. Coffey also oversees the parish's senior citizen volunteer program.

She noted that such senior volunteers as Anne Fisher, who addresses parish birthday cards to anyone over age 60, inspire her own faith.

"I have certainly been ministered to by people who are able to keep an en-

thusiasm for life in the midst of the many losses that take place in old age," she said. "It certainly is a sign of hope to me at any age."

It was that type of hope and Christian example found at the parish that spurred Jo-Anne Gulian, a volunteer weekend secretary, to join St. Mary's four years ago.

"It's a new understanding of Catholicism I've discovered here," Gulian said. "I'm learning how to incorporate Christianity in my daily life."

**Congratulations  
St. Mary's on your  
160th Anniversary**



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