

# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH



*Celebrating*

**150 YEARS**

ESTABLISHED 1872



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH

*Faith • Family • Service*  
PARMA, OHIO

Dear Parishioners,

This 150th Anniversary book is dedicated to the families and members of Holy Family Parish, past, present and future as we celebrate 150 years of faith, family and service on these holy grounds located on the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and York Road in Parma, Ohio.

Our patron saints, Jesus, Mary and Joseph (The Holy Family) are our inspiration to always be a family of faith with all the challenges we face past, present and in the future.

My hope is that as you reflect on our history in this special edition, that you will learn to appreciate how much the Spirit of God has worked with his people through the mission and ministry at Holy Family Parish from it's early beginnings in 1872 (only 7 years after the Civil War) to the present year of 2022.

May the work of love be an inspiration to all of us to continue the good work God has begun in us so that our children and future generations will be blessed with God's grace to grow in the faith and respond generously and willingly to the call of discipleship.

God Bless,

*Fr Richard A. Evans*

Fr. Richard A. Evans, Pastor





His Holiness Pope Francis



Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic,  
Bishop of Diocese of Cleveland

Installed as the 12th Bishop of  
Cleveland on September 14, 2020.





Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

698/2022

Office of the Bishop

14 September 2022

Reverend Richard A. Evans  
Holy Family Parish  
7367 York Road  
Parma, Ohio 44130

Dear Father Evans:

Today I join with you and your people in joyful thanksgiving to Almighty God on the celebration of Holy Family Parish's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the completion of the enhancement of the Church. Accept my heartfelt congratulations in revitalizing your holy space of Divine worship that is so rich in history and beauty that has been and is home to many.

One hundred and fifty years ago in 1872, a small group of people yearned for something important in their lives, a deeper and more substantial contact with their God. This was during a time the country, only seven years prior, was still recovering from the Civil War. From generation-to-generation parishioners responded to the challenges of their time with generosity, humility and passion to continue to build God's kingdom in Parma, Ohio.

*Holy Family* – The chosen name of the parish gives honor to Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the simple, joyful life they shared in Nazareth.

May our gracious God continue to shower His abundant blessings and graces upon Holy Family Parish and may the Holy Family keep watch over all of you and for generations to come.

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL  
Bishop of Cleveland

# PARMA CITY COUNCIL

## A Resolution

by

KAMMY SHUMAN, ALLAN DIVIS  
MARK CASSELBERRY, VITO DIPIERRO, ROB EUERLE,  
LINDA A. KOHAR, KEVIN C. KUSSMAUL, DEBORAH LIME, KRISTIN L. SABAN

### A RESOLUTION HONORING *Holy Family Parish* ON THEIR 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**WHEREAS HOLY FAMILY PARISH** is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation. They are planning a year-long celebration beginning in 2022; and

**WHEREAS, HOLY FAMILY PARISH** is also selected to receive the Mayor's Citizens of the Month for January, 2022. They were nominated by Councilwoman Kammy Shuman; and

**WHEREAS HOLY FAMILY PARISH** is located at 7367 York Road in the City of Parma. Their story began in 1872, just 25 years after the creation of the Diocese of Cleveland, in Parma Township, where less than 250 families lived within its 36 square miles. Eleven Farm families, most of them of German background, yearned for something important in their lives. They wanted a parish of their own with a church, school and pastor; and

**WHEREAS** the people of **HOLY FAMILY PARISH** knew it wouldn't be easy. The country was still recovering from the Civil War, just seven years prior. Money was scarce, so were priests of the Diocese who had to cover 36 counties of Ohio and the entire upper half of the State from border to border. Even so, they accomplished their wish under the leadership of Conrad Rohrbach, in whose home the first Mass of the Parish was said; and

**WHEREAS HOLY FAMILY PARISH** grew in 1911 when a larger church was constructed. Ground-breaking was held on St. Joseph's Day, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and the church was dedicated on November 19<sup>th</sup> of the same year. It wasn't until 43 years after the parish had been established that Holy Family got its resident pastor in 1929; and

**WHEREAS HOLY FAMILY PARISH** expanded once again in 1951 when ground was broken for a new church to be built. Midnight Mass was said in the fully completed church on Christmas Eve, 1952. In the same year, an addition was made to the rectory and parish convent consisting of nine cells, a chapel and other rooms were constructed; and

**WHEREAS HOLY FAMILY PARISH** added a new school building in 1954, consisting of five classrooms and an auditorium. Because of the burgeoning enrollment, six more classrooms were added in 1957; and

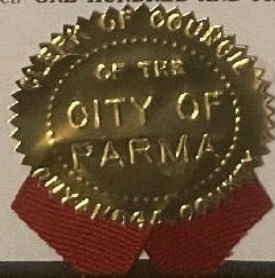
**WHEREAS** in the early 1960's **HOLY FAMILY PARISH** recognized that a new and larger church building was required. Thus, on June 2, 1964 ground was broken for the fourth and present church building in Holy Family's history. The church was unique in design. A poured concrete structure with its walls consisting of a series of half and quarter circles. The four half circle walls represent the four Gospels. The circular lines are to remind the worshipper of God's perfection, eternal life and fullness of family. On May 29, 1965 the first Mass was celebrated in this new building; and


**WHEREAS** in 1995 a group of representatives from **HOLY FAMILY PARISH** helped devise a plan called VISION 2000. In 1996 the convent was completely renovated to provide facilities for a Day Care, Preschool and Credit Union. The second part of the plan began on June 28, 1997 when ground was broken for the construction of a Community Center which would house a kitchen, social hall, stage, gymnasium, storage and school administrative offices. The third phase began a few years later with the construction of the Chapel; and

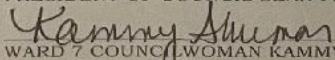
**WHEREAS HOLY FAMILY PARISH** today, serves as a place where all God's children may gather, where Parish Festivals and Casino events for fundraising efforts are housed, as well as spiritual programs such as Adult and Youth renewals. The chosen name of the parish does more than give honor to Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the simple, joyful life they shared in Nazareth, it speaks of the early parishioners themselves - toiling farm people with generous hearts and willing hands.

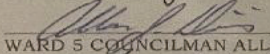
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, AND STATE OF OHIO:**

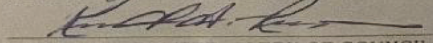
That this entire Council, its President, Sean P. Brennan, and the Administration hereby honor **HOLY FAMILY PARISH** on their **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**. We wish them continued success as a house of God.



  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SEAN P. BRENNAN

  
WARD 7 COUNCILWOMAN KAMMY SHUMAN

  
WARD 5 COUNCILMAN ALLAN DIVIS

  
KENNETH A. RAMSER, CLERK OF COUNCIL

# *Our Church History*

Written by Fr Thomas W. Sheehan, M.Div., In 1997

Associate Pastor

Inspired by an article written by Fr. John J. Miceli, M.Div. in 1992

Son of Holy Family Parish

Part 1

## **How Catholic Parishes are Created**

All parishes in the Catholic Church follow the same general pattern of development. The first step is the slow gathering of a small group of Christian Catholics who feel the need to come together as a community and encounter Jesus in the Sacraments.

At the invitation of the local bishop, or on their own initiative, they gather together and invite a priest to come into their midst to attend to their various spiritual needs. This is usually done in the home of one of the group's members or in a private or public building rented or donated for the occasion. At this point a Community exists but there is no church building, nor is there a priest in residence. At this point the local Catholic community is called a **Station**.

The next big step is the building of a house of worship. When this is accomplished, the Station is elevated to the status of a **Mission**. Thus a Mission consists of a group of active Catholics who have built a church, but still do not have a priest in residence. The priest or priests who served a Mission usually live in and are officially assigned to nearby parishes.

The final step is taken and the Mission is elevated to the status of a **Parish** when a priest is assigned to live with and minister to the congregation and its church. This means that the local congregation must provide a rectory for their new pastor.

Part 2

## **Holy Family Begins to Exist as a Station**

The story of Holy Family Parish follows a similar pattern of development. In 1816 Benajah Fay, his wife, Ruth and their 10 children traveled from New York and settled among the rolling hills and green forests of Parma Township, Ohio. They were the first settlers in this township. They found the land was good for farming but also discovered it took hard work to remove the thorny greenbriar shrub that seemed to grow everywhere. Soon other settlers arrived., made the same discovery and renamed the township , Greenbriar. Among them were a handful of Christian Catholic families.

Then in 1847 the Holy Father created the Diocese of Cleveland out of the 36 counties in the northern half of the State of Ohio. Greenbriar Township (Parma Township's original name) remained a very rural area. Bounded by Brookpark Rd. on the east, its population grew very slowly. Only 963 people could be found living there in 1840. In 1870 it was home to 1,432 people. Among them in 1872, there were only eleven active Christian Catholic families and they were mostly German ancestry.

Like other religious people these Christian Catholics yearned for a deeper and more substantial contact with their God. Soon they gathered together and decided that they wanted a Catholic parish of their own, this meant a church, a school and a resident priest. They also knew this would not be an easy task to accomplish for several reasons.

First: they were living in a rural area with few Catholics. Second: it was 1872 and money was tight. After all, the nation was in the process of recovering from the Civil War which had ended only seven years before. Finally: Catholic priests were very scarce. Only a very small number of them were available to minister to the faithful in the thirty-six counties of northern Ohio, known as the Diocese of Cleveland. Much of this territory was ministered to in circuit rider fashion under missionary-like conditions.

Nevertheless, these eleven determined families, under the leadership of Mr. Conrad Rohrbach, took great strides toward accomplishing their goals, or at least part of them. Mr. Rohrbach was the son-in-law of Mr. Dennerie who owned most of the property in the area that is now found near York and Pleasant Valley Roads.

In 1872 Mr. Rohrbach invited Fr. Patrick Quigley to celebrate Mass in his home. Fr. Quigley was the resident pastor of St. Mary Parish on Rockport. Today that parish was formerly known as Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (now closed) on W. 150th St. and ministered to Catholics in the southwest corner of Cleveland and in Brook Park.

In any case, Fr. Quigley quickly accepted Mr. Rohrbach's invitation, celebrated the Mass and established a schedule for future Masses. Holy Family became an officially recognized Station in the Diocese of Cleveland.

The first order of business facing this small group of dedicated Catholics was the building of a church to house the congregation. Mr. Rohrbach, donated two parcels of his land to serve as the site of a new wooden frame church and a church cemetery. Then, with four of his neighbors, he journeyed to Cleveland for a meeting with Bishop Richard Gilmour.

Bishop Gilmour attentively listened to the delegation's request and then gave his permission for the men to construct a Catholic church building.

He asked, "What do you think you would like to call this church?" The group had earlier asked themselves this question and had made a choice. Mr. Rohrbach, the spokesman of the group, immediately replied, "Bishop, in as much as we feel like one big family, we suggest it be called "Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph"". The bishop was very happy with the suggestion because at that time there were no churches by that name in the Diocese of Cleveland. The meeting ended with the bishop agreeing to dedicate the church to the 'Holy Family' after it was built.

Now the small group of Catholic neighbors gave themselves to the construction of a church building. Trees from Mr. Rohrbach's farm were felled and the wood was milled. Soon, in the spring of 1873, a small, framed church, measuring 20 X 40 ft, began to take form. The labor was provided by the local Catholic farmers, the parish's first parishioners. The total cost of the construction came to \$1,600.00, a pricey sum in those days.



### Part 3

## The Long Years Spent as a Mission

The wooden church structure was dedicated on June 21, 1873 and Holy Family officially became a **Mission** church and would remain in this status for the next fifty-six years.

At the time the church was built, the church cemetery was also created. It can still be found, just beyond the south end of the present church parking lot. It can also be approached from the north side of Pleasant Valley Road, just east of York Road. A stroll through this small cemetery will introduce the modern parishioner to many of his/her local ancestors in the Faith., because the graves and tombstones of many parish founders can still be found here.

Money was always tight, but this did not stop the parish founders from attempting to realize the second step of their plan. They wanted a school that would ensure the instruction of their children in the Catholic Faith. Thus, in 1876, with only \$109.96 cash-on-hand, they erected a small building to serve as a parish school. The wife of Mr. Rohrbach served as the first school instructor.

However, time soon proved that a local Catholic school was just too great a financial burden. Thus, two years later the school was closed and was not revived until 1950 seventy-two years later.

Contributions for the tiny parish was small, but definitely from the heart. An 1892 record of collections reveals a penny collection that amounted to \$40.34. The pew rent raised an additional \$110.50 and a special collection totaled \$48.35. The financial records of 1905 reveal an income of \$616.51. Expenses that year totaled \$438.85 which left a balance of \$177.66.

Over the years, Holy Family was served by a succession of 27 priests from many different places. Diocesan priests came from St. Mary in Rockport. They were followed by Precious Blood fathers from Our Lady of Good Counsel in Cleveland and Diocesan priests from St. Michael Church in Independence. When it was impossible for these neighboring parishes to provide priests, Jesuit priests came from St. Ignatius College, Cleveland, and Diocesan priests came from St. May Seminary, Cleveland. Franciscan priests also came from St. Joseph Parish on Woodland Ave., in Cleveland. When the Franciscan priests came, Holy Family Mission was often referred to as "St. Joseph Mission".

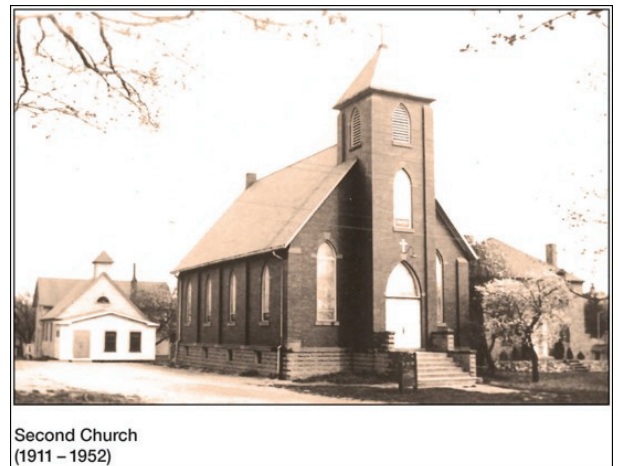
All manner of transportation was employed. The priests came on foot, by horseback, by hay wagon and by sled. Often, especially in the inclement weather, a local farmer would ride out with two saddled horses to meet the priest. One horse for the farmer, the other for the priest. In later times one priest even arrived by motorcycle.

During the early days, the small number of available priests limited the opportunities for celebrating Mass to once a month and this was usually done on Mondays rather than Sundays. However, the people were happy for the opportunity for Eucharist. After all, limited celebrations were better than none at all.

Furthermore, musical accompaniment during the early days was often supplied by an accordion. The little mission was not wealthy enough to buy an organ and besides, many of the parishioners liked accordion music. Fr. Aust did not! He served the mission as pastor from 1900 to 1917, (for 17 years) longer than any other priest. For a long time he tolerated the accordion, but eventually he acquired an old pump organ. Many years later, when it was no longer needed in the main church, the relic was installed in the sister's convent..

Between 1872 and 1911 the congregation of Holy Family slowly grew. By 1911 it was evident that a larger church building was needed. Plans were made and a ground-breaking ceremony was held on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, 1911/ What a fitting way to honor the guardian of the Holy Family!

Built facing York Road, the new Mission church was dedicated on November 19, 1911 by Bishop John P. Farrelly. Because it was built of red brick, the church came to be affectionately referred to by all as the 'Little Red Brick Church'. The original frame church was then torn down.





The congregation continued to grow. In 1914 the yearly income was \$1,197.30. It was used to meet such expenses as : coal, coal hauling, brooms, papal fund, pastor's salary and a fence for the cemetery. After all expenses were paid, the mission still had a balance of \$339.35.

On December 24, 1924, Parma become a village, but most of its growth was to the northeast. For this reason St Charles Parish was carved out of Holy Family territory in 1923. Holy Family in the rural southwest remained a Mission.

## Part 4

### The Early Years of Holy Family Parish

It was not until July 13, 1929 that Holy Family got its first resident pastor, the Rev. Wenceslaus A. Uhlir, and was elevated to the status of **Parish**. The fifty-six families, a total 288 individuals in the parish at that time, were very excited about this pastoral appointment.

Fr. Uhlir was not as excited and voiced his reservations to Bishop Schrembs. The bishop replied, expressing his great regard for Fr. Uhlir and then, over-riding Fr. Uhlir's objections, appointed him pastor.

Although rather elderly, Mr. Rohrbach was still alive at this time and he was still keenly aware of the parish's needs. Thus, through his son-in-law, Mr. John Doss, his family donated additional land to the parish.

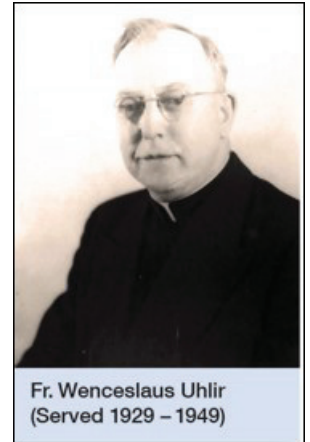
Among the first things that Fr. Uhlir then did was to purchase additional land from Mr. John Doss in August of 1929. The following year Fr. Uhlir built a priest's rectory on the parish grounds.

On January 1, 1931 Parma was incorporated as a city. However, Holy Family served a much larger territory. It should be remembered that Holy Family served as home for all the Catholics who lived in the western and southern parts of Parma and also in North Royalton, Parma Heights, Middleburg Hts., Strongsville, Hinckley and Brunswick.

During his years as pastor, Fr. Uhlir occasionally met with strife. Unfortunately this is not unusual for priests because some parishioners are often unreasonable and more of a cross than many enemies of the Church. For example, in August of 1941, someone complained to Father that, "Dances in the parish hall lasted until three or four o'clock Sunday morning and there was heavy drinking and offensive actions from over-indulgence in intoxicating drink". Father investigated the matter and promptly resolved the issue. Then he received another complaint. It seems one family was unhappy with him because, "Their daughter was not allowed into the Service Mens' Dance." - despite the fact that she did not have a ticket! No matter how hard one tries, it is almost impossible to please everyone.

Even the Bishop occasionally put pressure on Fr. Uhlir. One year he notified the pastor that the parish was \$103.60 short in meeting its obligations in paying its taxes to support the Seminary and the Sisters' Education Fund.

On the positive side:, many parishioners are very supportive of efforts made by their priests. For Example: Mr. Rohrbach's daughter , Lizzie, who had founded and organized the Young Ladies Sodality and the Altar Society, also volunteered her time to serve as sacristan, organist and teacher of religion classes. She personally traveled to New York to select and purchase statues for the parish. But age forced her to resign her duties in 1930 after fifty years of service. However, God soon sent Mrs. Clyde Peyton who embraced many of these same ministries. In addition , she also acted a housekeeper and founded a mixed (men & women) choir.



Another satisfying moment was the entrance of Miss A. Smith into the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity.

Through it all Fr. Uhlir persevered, being a strong pastor who had a clear vision for the future of the parish. In 1934 he refurbished the 'Red Brick Church' and in 1941 he installed new doors. Along the way, he also re-organized the Young Ladies' Sodality.

The money to pay for all these things was raised through a variety of social events. For Example: A lavish July Lawn Party in 1930 netted more than \$500.00 for the parish. A Chicken Dinner in October of the same year cleared more than \$600.00. The chickens were donated by the parishioners from their own farms. In 1934 the annual Chicken Dinner produced almost a \$1,000.00 profit. Moreover, the annual Pork and Sauerkraut Suppers were a continuing success.

The community plays, socials and other parish events were enjoyed by all and served to build the feeling of family. The attention to special liturgical celebrations, such as Christmas Midnight Masses, with violin and choir accompaniment, also helped build a sense of community.

Throughout the 1930's Holy Family Parish continued to grow. By 1941 there were 126 families, totaling 456 persons, in the parish. That same year witnessed the birth of the weekly parish bulletin. The first parish boy to be killed in World War II was Alfred Kmitt who died on December 16, 1944. After the war Fr. Uhlir found it necessary to organize Men's' and a Ladies' Guilds.

The building boom which began in Parma in 1941 began to affect rural southwest Parma after World War II. Soon the rural Holy Family of old began to disappear.

## Part 5

### The Fast Growing Years

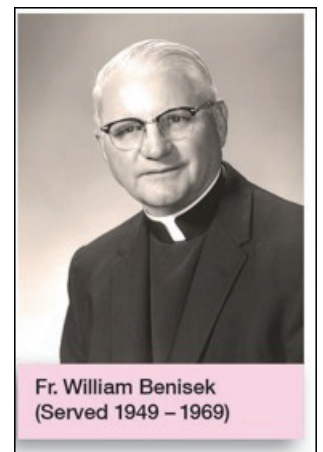
With the end of World War II Parma quickly grew into a city with a population of 26,000 residents. Among this general population, the Christian Catholic congregation of Holy Family almost doubled its 1941 membership. It had grown to 780 persons, totaling 240 families.

It was obvious to all that a new larger church building was needed. Accordingly, in 1945, various plans began to be considered. Also, five more acres of land was purchased at a cost of \$3,200.00. This purchase provided the parish with a 200 ft frontage on York Road. For the next twenty years the primary focus of the parish would be in mortar and concrete.

On April 24, 1949, ground was broken for the construction a new parochial school. On May 2nd construction began. The building, which would include six classrooms and an auditorium, would cost \$100,000.00.

On August 11, 1949 the bishop surprised the people of the parish by announcing that Fr. Uhlir, had been transferred as pastor of St. Procop Church in Cleveland. He would be succeeded by Fr. William Benisek who had been serving as rector of St. Paul Shrine in downtown Cleveland. There were 390 families with a total of 1,050 parishioners in Holy Family parish at that time.

Within a week Fr. Benisek was installed as pastor of Holy Family and without hesitation, the building projects continued. On September 11, 1950 one hundred-fifty-nine children were registered as pupils for Holy Family's new six grades grade school.

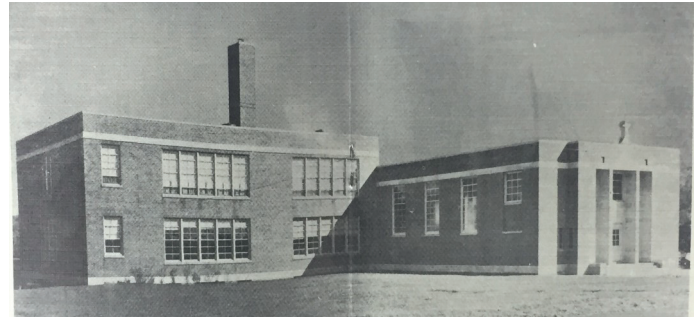


Four Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent (Vincentians), from Bedford, Ohio, took charge of the school. They included: Sr. Mary Aloysius as Principal; Sr. Mary Perpetua, Sr. Mary Matthias and Sr. Mary Paul. Before another month passed two more sisters joined the faculty. On November 12th the new school was dedicated by Bishop Edward F. Hoban.

Since Holy Family School opened, it has become known for excellent spiritual formation and quality education. It also served the mentally handicapped for a short time. In fact Holy Family school was the first educational facility on Cleveland's west side to initiate such classes.

The school dedication in 1950 only signaled the beginning of a new, dramatic continuous and almost unbelievable expansion over the next two years. This growth involved both the physical and the spiritual.

On September 15, 1950, ground was broken for a larger church building (the parish's third) which would be attached to the recently built school building. It would eventually cost the parish \$145,000.00. In December of 1950 an additional Sunday Mass began to be held in the school cafeteria in order to handle the overflow from the church. This was but another indication that a new and larger church was sorely needed.



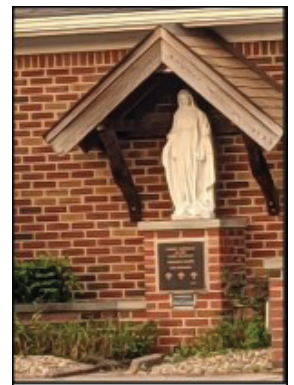
**Third Church, Later Known as Benisek Hall**

In May of 1951 Holy Family received its first Assistant Pastor in the person of Fr. Albert J. Myers, a newly ordained priest. In August the Men's Club was dissolved and recognized as the Holy Name Society and on September 10th, the Ladies Guild officially become known as the Altar & Rosary Society.

On June 17th Fr. Benisek laid the cornerstone of the new church. On Thanksgiving Day Mass was celebrated for the first time in this new structure, even though it was not completed. On Christmas Eve of 1951 the congregation took possession of its new church with the celebration of a Mass.

During that same year even more building was done on the rectory. Rectory office space and suites of rooms for the assistant priest and the housekeeper were added.

In November of 1952 the Vincentian Sisters moved into their newly built Convent. It had: nine living units, a chapel, a dining room, kitchen, a sun room, a recreation room and a community room, at a cost of \$46,000.00. This allowed the two second floor rooms in the school, which the sisters had been using as a dormitory, to be converted into classrooms. Holy Family now had a Grade School with eight grades.



On April 18, 1954 Fr. Benisek again broke ground, this time for another new Grade School building with five classrooms, a hall and kitchen. In 1957 six more classrooms, including a library, were added to this new School Building. Despite generous contributions from the congregation, the parish debt also grew.

The years of continuous expansion also included a sigh of nostalgia in June of 1952. The 'Little Red Brick Church', loved by so many, was demolished.

Even though St Columbkille, St Bartholomew, St Ambrose and St Albert the Great parishes were created as independent churches out of Holy Family between 1956 and 1959, Holy Family's Catholic population in 1959 was estimated to number 7,000 souls. This figure includes 1,900 families and over 400 single people. And the growth continued!

All this activity eventually took a toll on Fr. Benisek's health. Thus, between July 26, 1961 and August 10, 1962, Father was granted a leave-of-absence for health. During his absence Msgr. William A. Bachmann administered the parish.

In 1964, Holy Family Parish was blessed to have Fr. Roger Gries (now retired Aux. Bishop, Cleveland Diocese) while being assigned to Benedictine High School and 18 years to follow, help celebrate Masses on the weekends due to the very large size of the parish and the number of Masses being conducted. During that period of time, he became a friend to many parishioner families. [Roger William Gries was ordained a priest on May 18, 1963 to the Order of St. Benedict. Following his ordination, Fr. Gries attended Loyola University Chicago, where he earned Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees. In 1964, he was assigned to Benedictine High School in Cleveland, serving there until 2001 as a teacher, coach, bus driver, principal and president. On June 9, 1981, Fr. Gries was elected and confirmed as abbot of St. Andrew Abbey. He was blessed on August, 1981. He served as abbot for the next 20 years. On March 25, 2001, Pope John Paul II named Abbot Roger Gries as titular bishop of Praesidium and as an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland. He was consecrated by Bishop Anthony Pilla on June 7, 2001.]

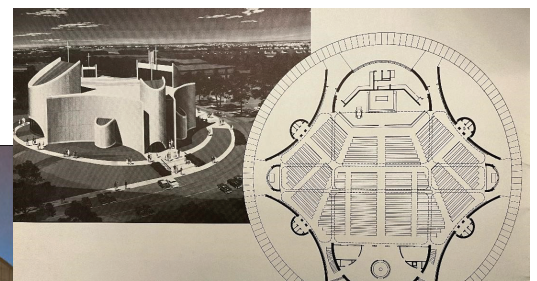
In the early 1960's it again became obvious that a new and larger church building was needed. Thus, on June 2, 1964, ground was broken for the fourth and present church building in Holy Family history. The cost of the modern structure was \$573,000.00 and it was designed to facilitate the liturgical guidelines issued by Vatican Council II.

The church was unique in design. A poured concrete structure, its walls consisted of a series of half and quarter circles. On the inside the worshippers saw sweeping curved walls, arched windows and an arena-like nave. An external walk completed a full circle around the church building. The circular lines were supposed to remind the worshipper of God's perfection, eternal life and fullness of family.

A fluted wood panel formed the background for the sanctuary with its large white marble altar. The church was designed to accommodate 1,500 worshippers. The priest was expected to face the people for the celebration of Mass. Places were provided for a Commentator and Lector to help him.

On May 29, 1965 the first Mass was celebrated in this new, but unfinished structure. At this Mass the second graders received First Communion. On August 1st, Sunday Masses began being offered in the new church building. On September 4, 1965, Bishop Clarence G. Isenmann officially blessed and dedicated the church.

By 1965 the City of Parma had grown in population of over 90,000 people. In that same year Holy Family, with its new church building, counted 2,800 families which totaled about 8,000 individuals. Even though part of St. John Bosco was created out of Holy Family territory in 1963, the parish continued to grow.

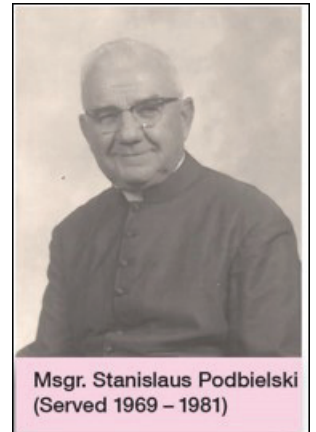


October 1, 1969 saw the pastorate of Holy Family's 'Building Priest' come to a close. He celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination and then passed on the reigns of authority to a new pastor, the Msgr. Stanislaus Podbielski.

## Part 6

### Spiritual and Physical Growth at the 100 Year Mark

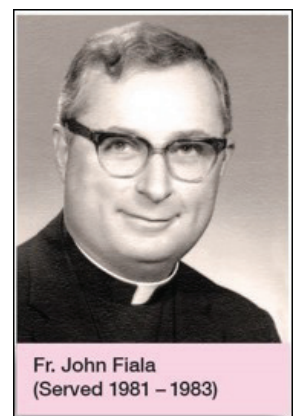
During Msgr. Podbielski's pastorate a spiritual renewal program of major importance, for both the parish and the Diocese of Cleveland, was developed at Holy Family by one of its very gifted Associate Pastors, Rev. John O. Jacoby in 1969. The program came to be known as "*Christ Renews His Parish*". It provides parishioners who attend with an intense weekend encounter with God and the development of a relationship with Jesus. It also helps the participants meet other parishioners, share their faith experiences and build little cells of friends/family at Holy Family. Over the last 28 years about 2,500 parishioners have experienced this renewal process.



On May 30, 1970 the parishioners of Holy Family gave another gift to the Diocese when they allowed their church to become the birthplace for new priests. On that day at Holy Family, the most Rev. William Cosgrove, an Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese, ordained as priests; Frs. Walter Jenne, Joseph Boznar, David Fallon, John Burkley, Norm Smith and Thomas Sheehan. Fr. Sheehan was later privileged to serve two terms as an Associate Pastor at the parish of his priestly birth.

In 1972 Msgr. Podbielski had the privilege of presiding over the 100th Anniversary of the parish. With great charity he treated the parishioners to a grand celebration which included the happy reunion of the parish's first three pastors. He and Fr. Uhlir and Fr. Benisek concelebrated the 100th Anniversary Mass. At the celebration the parish historian, Mrs. Joseph Pojman said, "Today we, the people of Holy Family, stand with our priests on the threshold of a second hundred years. It is with great sense of pride that we pledge our love, devotion and support to our God, His Church and those that serve us in His name."

In January of 1981, just before he retired, Msgr. Podbielski oversaw the installation of a new pipe organ which cost the parish \$123,000.00. The organ which consists of 1,300 pipes, was first played on Christmas Day, 1980. With the help of talented organists, it has added greatly to local devotion and worship over the years.



On January 13, 1981, Fr. John Fiala became Holy Family's fourth resident pastor. He was faced with a serious belt tightening in order to pay bills which had been made in recent years.

He also had to work to change Holy Family's image amongst priests. The parish, like a number of others with huge populations, had gained the reputation among priests for overworking its priests. It had become a place of almost perpetual motion to which few wished to be assigned. Although it was difficult, Father Fiala worked hard to change this. It involved modifying a number of parish programs, involving the laity in more ministries and changing some parishioner expectations.

One of the things he did that helped greatly was the elimination of Masses celebrated in the homes of parishioners. This had become very popular in the Catholic Church in America after Vatican Council II. They were helpful in building community, but they also increased the work load on a declining number of priests.

Fr. Fiala's effort cost him some popularity, but they eventually helped make Holy Family more attractive as a priestly assignment.

Fr. Fiala's pastorate was also the shortest (only two years) among Holy Family's pastors. He resigned due to ill-health on February 1, 1983. Holy Family was now ready to welcome its fifth pastor, the man who led it into the 21st Century.

## Part 7

### Toward the 21st Century

On February 1, 1983 Fr. James P. Costello became Holy Family's fifth resident pastor. A kind and gentle man, he has steadily continued to promote vision of the eleven original families who started this parish in 1872. Under his able leadership, Holy Family Parish became the most populated parish the Diocese of Cleveland and probably, in the whole State of Ohio.

He brought to his assignment his gift of theater and has enriched the parish by founding both an Adult and Youth Theater Group. Each group produced a musical every year for the pleasure of anyone who likes theater. Such an activity also helped build community, and for some youths, it provides a welcome choice for personal expression through something other than sports.

Because he is dedicated to the building community, Fr. Costello has also supported and expanded the parish festival and casino events. Needless to say the funds raised by these activities are essential for the operation of the parish.

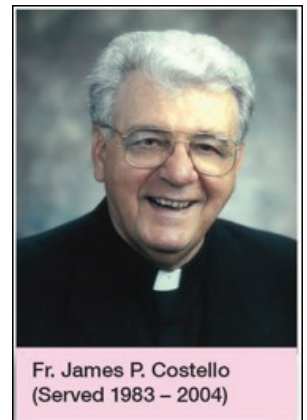
Among the Spiritual programs supported by his efforts are: the various Youth Programs, the Yearly Adult and Youth Renewals and the enhancement of the Liturgy. We also celebrated the ordination to the Diaconate of Joseph Litke on May 31, 1986.

For example: Among the first things he did upon arriving, was to convert the confessionals into reconciliation rooms which could provide the penitents with the option of confessing behind a screen or speaking to the priest, face-to-face. Following this, he had the interior of the church building painted in 1987. Then he sought give the interior of the church a more colorful look and also provide opportunities for the faithful to learn about the mysteries and treasures of their Catholic Faith.

To do this, Fr. Costello enlisted the artistic talents of his associate, Fr. Thomas Sheehan. From their collaboration eight large (8 X 14 ft) Tapestries were created and hung on the side walls of the church. Each Wall Hanging presented an artistic design that symbolizes either the Church or one of the Seven Sacraments. They taught the mysteries of our Catholic Faith. A few years later, beginning with Advent of 1996 and extending through 1997, the parish's '125 Anniversary Year', Fr. Costello again prevailed on Fr. Sheehan to create 50 smaller Sanctuary Banners and 30 Altar Frontals which would proclaim the teachings of the Church Seasons and Major Feasts.

Between the 'banner years' Fr. Costello had the Baptismal Font moved from the back vestibule to left side of the sanctuary, in the front of the church. He also had the Tabernacle moved to the right side of the sanctuary and placed the priest/presider's chair in the back center of the sanctuary. This was to conform to the official liturgical guidelines.

Then he had stained glass windows installed in the main entry doors. Furthermore, he tried to create places for wheelchair bound worshippers in the church and he provided the handicap with outside access to the Church. On the parish grounds he had a shrine to the Holy Family erected and dedicated.



Fr. James P. Costello  
(Served 1983 – 2004)

In 1990 Fr. James McManamon, O.F.M. volunteered to be Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Parish in Parma, a ministry he was dedicated to for the next thirteen years. During his time at Holy Family Parish, he conducted numerous bible study programs. He would never say “thank you.” His response was “God love you.” Filled with the love of God, blessed with the blessings of God, he never kept it to himself, what was received was used and shared for the good of others.

As the years rolled by, it became obvious to him and his associates that some major needs still had to be met. For Example: Occasionally a wedding party or a small funeral group would express dismay that their celebration was swallowed up in the vast expanse of a 1,500 seat church. Furthermore, it became increasingly expensive to heat and air condition the church during weekdays when it was used less.

Moreover, many parishioners, like the scouts and various society members, found it increasingly difficult to sell cookies and raffle tickets outside in the cold and heat after Mass. Then he noticed the increasing need to repair Holy Family’s oldest building (first school/third church building) now used as a Junior High and Gym. He also knew the Vincentian Sisters would soon move out of the convent because they did not have enough vocations to provide for the future education of the youth.

Therefore in 1995, he called the parishioners together and made them aware of the problems and needs. Soon a group of parishioners helped him devise a plan which they called ‘Vision 2000’. This ‘vision’ called for the raising of funds, the renovation of one building and the construction of two more building.

In 1996 the first step of the plan was executed. The convent was completely renovated to provide facilities for a Day Care, a Pre-School, the Credit Union and the Teen Youth Program.

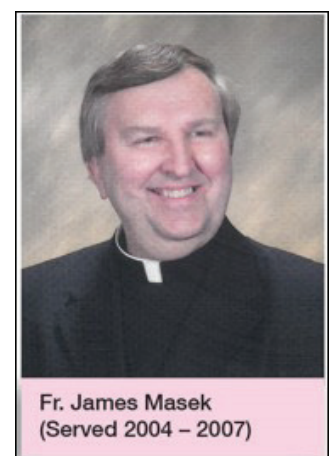
The second part of the plan was embarked upon on June 28, 1997, the day the parish celebrated its 125th Anniversary. On that day ground was broken for the construction of Community Center which houses a Kitchen, Social Hall, Stage, Gym and Storage..

The year 2000 seemed to be a reasonable goal for the Construction of the small Daily Chapel and Gathering Place which connects the Rectory, School and Church. It has an added advantage of eliminating the winter hazards of icy inclined walkways from parking lot to the church. It also saves parishioners much on gas and electric bills when the use of the main church is reserved for weekends only.

Finally, it was hoped that sometime around or after the year 2000 a New Junior High building would be added on to the existing Elementary School building. Then the old Junior High building could be demolished and parking lot space will be created.

Fr. Costello and the Parishioner Planners admitted that ‘Vision 2000’ is an ambitious dream. But they reminded us that this same dream had become a reality for many of the surrounding parishes that have been born from Holy Family. If they could do it, so could the parishioners of Holy Family. The people of Holy Family have always been generous with their time, talents and treasure, from the very beginning. Fr. Costello’s dream was achieved with the building of the Chapel connected to the Church and Rectory in 1999. Fr. Costello retired in 2004 and sadly, passed away shortly thereafter in 2005.

Fr. James Masek became Holy Family’s sixth Pastor in July, 2004 at a time when the Parish needed financial and managerial direction in light of changing times. He was instrumental in putting Holy Family back on course financially and more fiscally responsible. While Fr. Masek would not have known the severity of the *Great Recession* of 2007, just ahead of us at the time, he sensed it, and prepared the parish for it. Many very difficult decisions needed to be made regarding cost control and maintaining a balanced budget without exception. While some of the decisions he made might not have been popular, they were essential to keeping the parish solvent during these most difficult economic times. Fr. Masek also fostered a tremendous



respect for the members of his Finance Council. He empowered them, trusted them, and most of all listened to them. He created a mutual “respect” between pastor and council that exists to this day.

During his pastorate, he established a 5-year plan. He established Parish Goals & Objectives that included: Spiritual Life and Development, Biblical Stewardship, Catholic Education and Building Maintenance, Repair and Renovation (financial plan). The Parish office relocated to the old credit union location. The rectory was renovated to modernize and make rectory offices and meeting rooms more functional.

A Parish initiative was launched “It’s a Family Matter” to re-register, evangelize and empower parishioners. About 1000 parishioners attended small group meetings and home visits for those who didn’t attend the meetings. With a number of neighboring Catholic Churches conducting similar ministries and programs, “Clustered” with St. Bartholomew. After a hiatus of several years, the Parish Festival resumed in 2005.

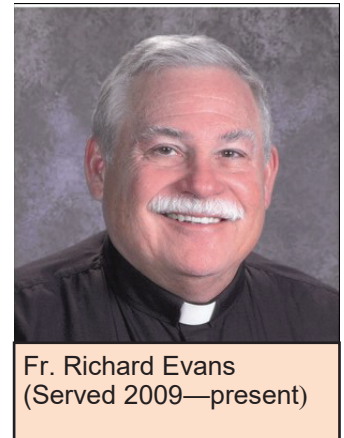
A son of the Parish, Michael Denk was ordained and celebrated his first Mass in May 2007. Also, celebrated the ordination to the Diaconate of Chuck Tweddell in May 2007. In July 2007, the Parish Mission Statement was revised and a new Parish electronic sign was installed. In September 2007 the Holy Family Parish Website was created which included visual tours of the church and school. Fr. Masek passed away suddenly on September 17, 2007.

Fr. Richard A. Evans immediately became Administrator of Holy Family and was officially installed as our seventh Pastor on November 14, 2009. Under Father Rich, the parish has placed an emphasis on Catholic education, both within our day school and PSR program, continued to be fiscally responsible by leading Holy Family to become debt free, grown our ministries and our ministry work and helped Holy Family become a more welcoming and loving community.

A number of new ministries were established that included: Men’s Ministry, Bereavement Group, Young adults group, Awakening Faith, and a new Council of Knights of Columbus . Also established several new sub committees under the Pastoral Council that included: Holy Family School Enrollment Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Facilities Committee. The Stewardship Committee was established in 2009. Stewardship is a spiritual attitude about who we are and the gifts we have. It is intended as a way of life. Together we will work to increase the sharing of time, talent and resources through our ministries. An annual Community Service Day was established. The goal for this day is to have everyone at Holy Family, regardless of skill level, age, mobility, etc. an opportunity to provide a much needed service to someone in our parish community. Our annual Parish Festival continued to grow strong within the Parma Community with the introduction of Saturday evening fireworks.

With the decrease in school enrollment, our Third Church Benisek Hall (converted to Junior High Building ) that was vacant and in need of major repair was demolished in 2011. The Elizabeth Wright Tuition Assistance Fund was established to award funds based on need and number of requests received. To help increase and promote Catholic Education at Holy Family, the School Enrollment /Marketing Director focused on enrollment growth that also resulted in the creation of the Holy Family School Board. Holy Family School has been a leader in project-based learning activities. The School Board is in the process of pursuing STEM Certification. These activities provide opportunities for critical thinking exercises, foster 21st century skills and problem-solving techniques for multi-grade collaborative learning.

In 2018, while the Church was structurally sound, many parishioners raised concerns over the fact that it was aging, dated, and in need of upgrades. A feasibility study was conducted addressing the many things that could be done to enhance our Church. The goal was to do this in conjunction with our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being celebrated in 2022. A Church Enhancement project was initiated. (Please see separate article.)



Fr. Richard Evans  
(Served 2009—present)



In preparation for celebrating Holy Family 150th Anniversary, a Steering Committee was formed with a total of 8 sub committees to plan for a yearlong celebration of events and activities during 2022. Approximately 85 parishioners are participating on the various Committees.

## *Conclusion*

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1872 a small group of farmers wanted a church to call their own. They chose the name of ‘**Holy Family**’ because nothing else so strongly expressed their Faith, Ideals, and Dreams. During the last 150 years; four churches, three school buildings, a rectory, a convent, a community center/gym, a chapel and a small cemetery have been built. In 2022, in conjunction with celebrating the 150th Anniversary, the Church environment has been enhanced.

During the last 150 years, Mission Pastors (27), Parish Administrator (1) and Parish Pastors (7) led the congregation in building-up God’s kingdom on earth, preparing gifts for future generations and making the pilgrimage to heaven. The task remains the same for the present and future pastors and associates.

Today, in 2022, the Parish of Holy Family is home to about 2,000 parishioners, even though its original territory had been subdivided to form 14 other parishes. What growth from only 11 families in 1872! What an incredible witness to labor, patience, faith, sacrificial love and prayer!

Conrad Rohrbach, your dream, and that of your few Christian Catholic neighbors, has come true. With God’s help, it will continue to grow for generations to come!



# Holy Family Church Enhancement

While the Church was structurally sound, many parishioners raised concerns over the fact that it was aging, dated, and in need of upgrades. A feasibility study was conducted addressing the many things that could be done to enhance our Church. The goal was to do this in conjunction with our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being celebrated in 2022.



In December 2018, a Steering Committee was formed to kick-off a feasibility study for a church enhancement project. The Steering Committee initial focus was to develop a plan to identify sub committees to form. The Committee reached out to various Parish Ministry leaders to invite and recruit them to participate on a subcommittee.

In January 2019 Sub Committees were formed. Approximately 30 individuals participated on the various subcommittees. These committees met over the course of 8 months to discuss items, performed research and analysis, took pictures and captured information from parishioners through a parish wide survey to serve as input into the overall plan. Areas included: Lighting (interior/exterior, stained-glass windows) and sound system / Pews and floor / Sanctuary and side altars / Paint, artwork, and stations of the cross / Other: Choir balcony, restroom, church exterior, and evaluate mechanical systems and Communications to keep Parish advised of what is going on.

In the month of March, a communication was made to the Parish Community announcing a that Holy Family was in the preliminary stages of a study to properly investigate all the possibilities which could make Holy Family an even more beautiful place to worship. Each individual opinion was welcomed and very important to the team. A communication process was put into place to keep parishioners informed of the progress via bulletin communications and the Holy Family website.

A project name was decided: “ENGAGE: Building On The Past – Believing in Our Future”



The Steering Committee interviewed several architects that were prominent in church construction and enhancement projects. A decision was made in April 2019 to hire studioTECHNE as our architect to develop a plan.

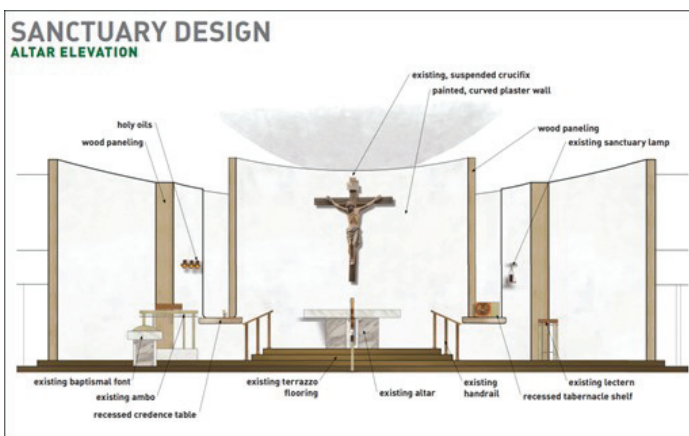
A Parish wide survey (Space Assessment Needs) was conducted to get input from our parishioners on what they felt was important to them. A total of approximately 150 responses were received. The results were presented to the respective subcommittee teams for consideration and inclusion in their final recommendations.

A Parish Townhall Meeting was conducted in January 2020. The objective was to present the church enhancement preliminary findings from the five Focus Groups (Sub Committees), results of the parish survey and Architect thoughts and findings. Focus groups discussions were conducted at various tables. The meeting provided a forum for all to participate in sharing their voice on the findings and help ensure priorities were defined moving forward into the design phase of the project. Following the session, each group had a few minutes to report the findings of their discussion. Over 150 parishioners attended the Townhall meeting.



Though we were faced in unprecedented time with the coronavirus pandemic, the Steering Committee continued to work with the architect on design activities. During 2020, the Team also looked at structural/maintenance items that could be done. This included the repair of the stained-glass windows.

In May 2021, all parishioners were invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Church Enhancement Townhall Meeting to hear about exciting updates and view Architect's renderings. Cost estimates were viewed and project priorities discussed.

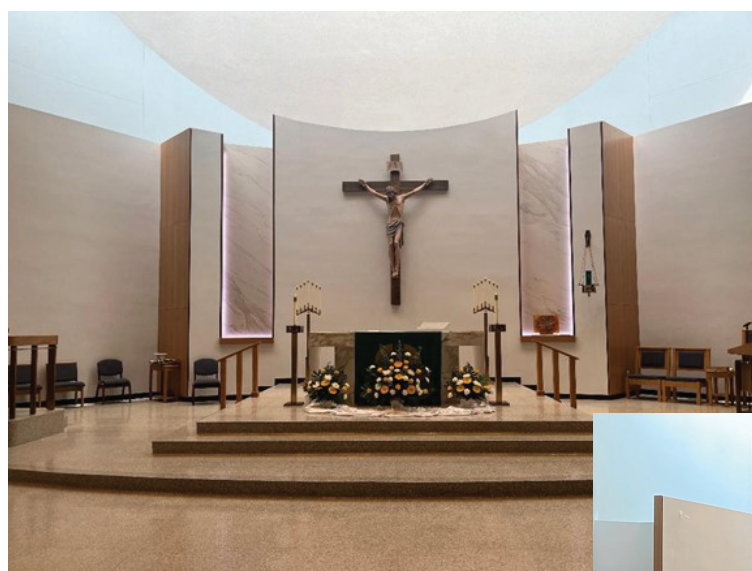


The Holy Family Church Enhancement Capital Campaign was kicked off in September 2021 with an overall objective to raise \$2.0 million dollars. Through the generosity and sacrifice by our Parishioners, the campaign successfully raised \$1.7 million in pledges. Projects were prioritized to only perform work for money raised. Some items were deferred due to not achieving our overall goal. The Steering Committee has always been transparent with our parishioners that work would not be performed or completed on any project items for which capital campaign dollars were not raised.

In November 2021, the Steering Committee interviewed several General Contractors to oversee the overall construction efforts. Construction commenced in January 2022. Masses were moved over to the Chapel with overflow in the Holy Family Community Center.



Construction was completed early June with Fr. Edward Schwet, Senior Parochial Vicar (retired) and Fr. Rich Evans, Pastor celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass in the newly enhanced church environment on June 12, 2022 at the 11:30AM Mass.



From generation-to-generation parishioners have responded to the challenges of their time with generosity, humility and passion dating back through the years of 1872. Today, we are the beneficiaries of a magnificent inheritance from previous parishioners. Through their sacrifice and generosity we worship and socialize in a parish setting rich in beauty and history. This Church Enhancement enabled us to build on the foundation laid by those good and faithful parishioners, many who have gone before us. Today, it is our sacrifice and generosity that enables us to pass on to the next generation the beliefs and traditions that have given our lives meaning and purpose.

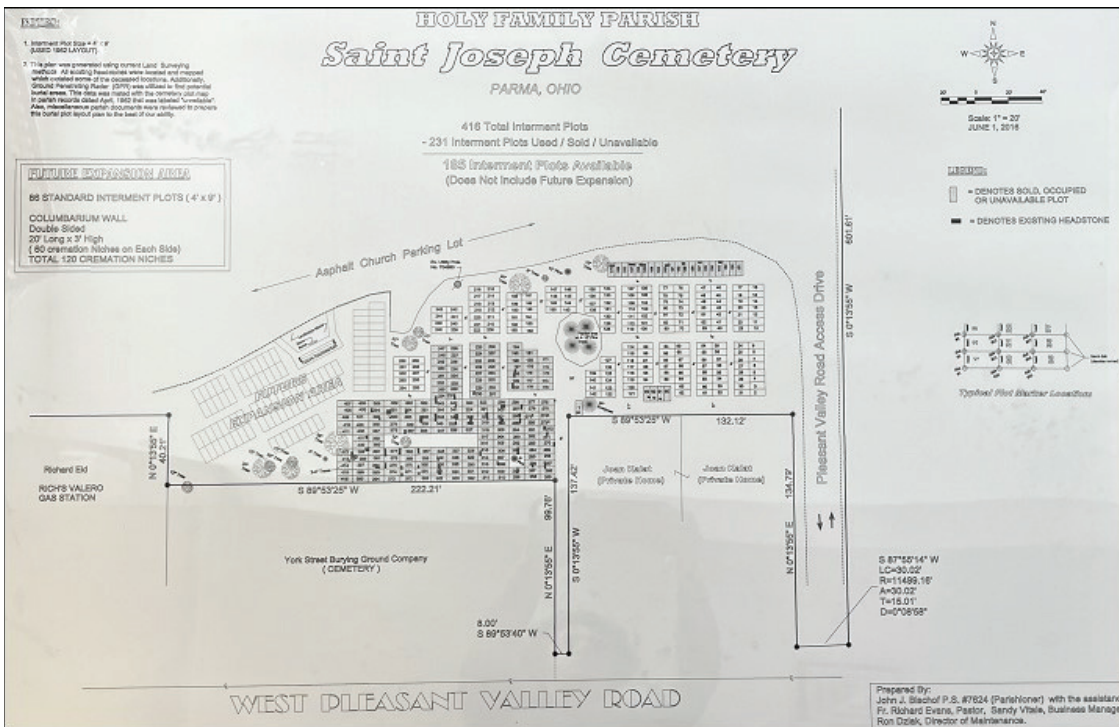
On behalf of Fr. Rich Evans, Pastor and the Church Enhancement Steering Committee, we thank our Parishioners for their significant generosity and commitment to the Capital Campaign and helping make this beautiful Church Enhancement a reality in 2022, 150 Years since origination a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a difference here at Holy Family, a special place to us all, a place we call “Home” for generations to come.



# Holy Family Cemetery

St. Joseph Cemetery is located on the Parish grounds facing the south near the Church parking lot and has been owned by Holy Family Parish since 1881. Mr. Conrad Rohrbach donated part of the land adjoining his home to build a church and the present-day cemetery. The first burial was in 1881 and the last known burial was in 2000.

Recently, Mr. John Bischof, a parishioner of Holy Family, assisted us with organizing the Cemetery records and installing plot markers with numbers for easier identification. He also prepared a map of the area which is shown here and available in the Parish office.



# The Holy Family Parish - Family Tree

Collected, Compiled and Arranged

By Fr. Thomas W. Sheen, M.Div., in 1997

Associate Pastor

## Mother Parish

(A Mother Parish is a Parish that gave birth to Holy Family and sent priests to minister to Holy Family Mission from 1872 until 1929.  
It was the Parish that began it all)

### 1. St. Mary Church, Rockport, Ohio

Founded in 1860

In 1872 St Mary's Rockport, gave Birth to Holy Family Church in Parma, Ohio, when its pastor, Fr. Quigly, celebrated Mass in the home of Conrad Rohrbach,  
Near present-day York and Pleasant Valley Roads.  
St Mary's administered to her Daughter from 1872 to 1976

During the next 53 years, three more Parishes and two institutions took turns supplying priests who ministered to Holy Family Mission.

They are chronologically in order in which they served Holy Family Mission.

With St. Mary, Rockport, they are known as the:

## Mother Parishes

### 2. St. Mary Seminary

Cleveland, Ohio

Founded in 1848

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

From 1876 to 1899

### 3. St. Joseph Church

[Woodland Avenue]

Founded in 1855

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

From 1877 to 1898

### \*4. St. Michael Archangel Church

Independence, Ohio

Founded in 1851

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

From 1889 to 1890

### 5. St. Ignatius College

[Now called: St Ignatius High School']

Cleveland, Ohio

Founded in 1886

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

From 1890 to 1894

### \*6. Sacred Heart of Mary Church

[Later named 'Our Lady of Good Counsel'

Now Mary Queen of Peace]

[Old Brooklyn] Cleveland, Ohio

Founded in 1873

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

From 1894 to 1900

### \*7. St. Michael Archangel Church

Independence, Ohio

Founded in 1851

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

From 1900 to 1917

### \*8. Our Lady of Good Counsel (Now Mary Queen of Peace)

[Old Brooklyn] Cleveland, Ohio

Founded 1873

Ministered to Holy Family Mission

1917 to 1929

\*Note: Two parishes each took a second turn at ministering to Holy Family Mission

# Other Priests Who Helped Build the Parish

## Assistants, Associate Pastors & Parochial Vicars

	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Transferred</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	May 18, 1951	February 29, 1956	Fr. Albert J. Myers
2	February 29, 1956	June 8, 1961	Fr. John C. Clines
3	June 7, 1956	June 13, 1957	Fr. Albert A. Karper
4	June 13, 1957	June 14, 1962	Fr. David G. Baugh
5	June 21, 1960	November 16, 1965	Fr. Victor N. Tomc
6	June 8, 1961	October 24, 1967	Fr. Robert C. Knuff
7	June 14, 1962	June 10, 1965	Fr. Edward J. Griffin
8	June 10, 1965	October 16, 1968	Fr. Kenneth Retter
9	December 1, 1965	September 29, 1966	Fr. Thomas Martin
10	September 29, 1966	July 26, 1971	Fr. John O. Jacoby
11	June 13, 1968	June 27, 1974	Fr. George Walter
12	October 16, 1968	September 30, 1969	Fr. George F. Bailey
13	September 30, 1969	1972	Fr. George Drops
14	June 17, 1971	June 24, 1976	Fr. Thomas Hagedorn
15	June 28, 1972	1972	Fr. Michael Ernst
16	1964	1980s (weekend Masses)	Fr. Roger Gries (Aux. Bishop Clev.2001-2013)
17	19—		Fr. Jerome Baum
18	July 5, 1973	May 1975	Fr. Thomas Rowe
17	June 21, 1974	September 27, 1976	Fr. Lawrence Martello
18	June 30, 1975	May 12, 1978	Fr. Robert E. Friedel
19	June 24, 1976	August 13, 1979	Fr. John A. Adelaar
20	October 4, 1976	June 30, 1982	Fr. Edward M. Czech
21	July 21, 1978	June 30, 1983	Fr. Robert Washco
22	September 29, 1979	November 20, 1986	Fr. Patrick J. Shields
23	June 30, 1982	July 1, 1987	Fr. Thomas A. Haren
24	June 30, 1983	June 16, 1988	Fr. Dennis J. Kristancic
25	June 30, 1983	June 14, 1989	Fr. Thomas W. Sheehan
26	July 1, 1987	October 10, 1989	Fr. Stephen J. Walick
27	June 16, 1988	August 23, 1993	Fr. Thomas Winkel
28	June 16, 1988	June 22, 1993	Fr. Dave R. Ireland
29	October 1, 1989	January 1, 1992	Fr. Thomas Gilles
30	February 1, 1990	March, 2, 2003	Fr. James McManamon (OFM) [Res]
31	June 22, 1993	September 1993	Fr. Mark Suriano
32	September 21, 1993	June 20, 1995	Fr. Dwayne Bednar
33	October 1, 1993	November 8, 1998	Fr. Thomas Sheehan
34	January 26, 1994	May 1994	Fr. Augustin Jin-Heum Na [Res]
35	August 1, 1994	June 28, 1995	Fr. Albert Reymann, MM [Res]
36	June 20, 1995	June 12, 2001	Fr. Edwin M. Leonard
37	June 20, 1995	June 12, 2000	Fr. Thomas L. Weber
38	December 1, 1998	June 8, 2004	Fr. Edward T. Holland
39	June 13, 2000	June 14, 2005	Fr. Kenneth F. Wallace
40	June 12, 2001	June 6, 2006	Fr. Edward N. Schwet
41	October 6, 2003	June 5, 2007	Fr. James F. Mazanec
42	June 6, 2006	September 17, 2007	Fr. Richard A. Evans
43	June 6, 2006	June 18, 2007	Fr. Edward J. Smith
44	2007	2008	Fr. Daniel Liderbach
45	September 28, 2007	June 7, 2011	Fr. Daniel P. Redmond
46	June 3, 2009	May 5, 2012	Fr. Joseph R. Brankatelli
47	June 7, 2011	June 9, 2015	Fr. John J. Schneider
48	June 12, 2012	August 31, 2015	Fr. William E. Browne
49	June 9, 2015	June 20, 2018	Fr. Dennis J. Kristancic
50	February 15, 2016	December 18, 2017	Fr. Greg J. Olszewski
51	June 12, 2018	December 1, 2018	Fr. Kevin E. Estabrook
52	August 1, 2018	June 14, 2022	Fr. Edward N. Schwet
53	June 11, 2019	current	Fr. Kenneth F. Wallace
54	February 15, 2019	June 15, 2019	Fr. Donald Ewulu
55	June 14, 2022	current	Fr. Joseph R. Spolny



# The Gifts of Priestly and Religious Vocations Granted by God to the Parish

## Priests (Diocesan and Religious)

1. May 25, 1968 - Fr. Edward J. Kordas - Cleveland, Ohio - [1st Priest Vocation]
2. June 11, 1977 - Fr. Mark J. Peyton - Cleveland, Ohio
3. June 3, 1978 - Fr. James W. Kelly, OFM - Chicago, Illinois
4. October 31, 1979 - Fr. Stanley A. Drongowski, OP - St. Louis, Missouri
5. June 11, 1982 - Fr. Robert W. Wesolek, OSC—[Died February 5, 1992]
6. June 12, 1982 - Fr. Jerry Wolensi, OFM
7. June 12, 1982 - Fr. Joseph Cummins
8. June 9, 1984 - Fr. Kenneth Bogucki
9. May 28, 1994 - Fr. John P. Miceli - Cleveland, Ohio
10. May 12, 2007 - Fr. Michael Denk - Cleveland, Ohio

## Deacons (Permanent)

1. June 17, 1977      Rev. Mr. Philip J. Mraz [Died September 1, 1982]
2. June 2, 1984      Rev. Mr.. Russell Glorioso (deceased)
3. May 31, 1986      Rev. Mr. Joseph Litke
4. May 5, 2007      Rev. Mr. Charles Tweddell (retired May 2020)

## Religious Sisters

1. Before 1911 - - - - - One Woman in Religious Life [Name Unknown]
2. 1929 - - - - - Miss A. Smith—Sister of Most Holy Trinity
3. As of 1960\* - - - - - 10 Women in Religious Life [Names Unknown]
4. - - - - - Sr. Mary Hillary Holz - Sister of Holy Humility of Mary
5. - - - - - Sr. Marguerite Holz—Sister of Holy Humility of Mary
6. October 16, 1994 - - Miss Kathryn Mary Lad—Sister of St. Joseph

## Religious Brothers

1. As of 1960 - - - - - 5 Men in Religious Life [Names Unknown]

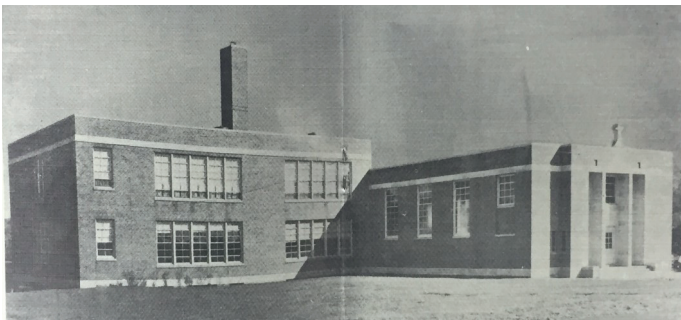
## The Order of Acolyte

1. August 4, 1978—Mr. Ralph S. O'Rourke
2. March 27, 1980 - Mr. Orlando Balotta

# The Grade School Principals

## The Principals of Holy Family School 1950-2022

1. 1950-1951 Sr. Mary Aloysius, VSC
2. 1951-1953 Sr. Mary Celine, VSC
3. 1953-1959 Sr. Mary Edward, VSC
4. 1959-1963 Sr. Mary Patricia Ann, VSC
5. 1963-1966 Sr. Mary Magdalen, VSC
6. 1966-1974 Sr. Mary Anthony, VSC
7. 1974-1980 Sr. Mary Michael, VSC
8. 1980-1989 Sr. M, Ann Raycher, VSC
9. 1989-1993 Sr. Mary Beatrice, VSC
10. 1993-2004 Miss Kathleen Hrutkay
11. 2004-2007 Mrs. Jane Bouman
12. 2007 Mrs. Rita Kingsbury
13. 2007-2013 Mrs. Mary Ann Murnyack
14. 2013-present Mr. Tom Brownfield



Third Church / Benisek Hall / Jr High School



**Holy Family Parish**  
**7367 York Road \* Parma, Ohio 44130**  
**(440) 842-5533**  
**www.holyfamparma.org**

**Clergy**

Fr. Richard A. Evans .....Pastor  
 Fr. Kenneth Wallace.....Senior Parochial Vicar  
 Fr. Joseph Spolny .....Parochial Vicar  
 Fr. Dennis Kristancic.....Retired Parochial Vicar  
 Fr. Edward Schwet.....Retired Parochial Vicar  
 Rev. Mr. Joseph Litke .....Deacon

**Parish Staff**

Mrs. Marie Toth ... Director of Music / Organist  
 Mr. Dennis Yarmesch..... Maintenance Director  
 Brian & Michele Bizzi ... Stewardship Directors

**Office Staff**

Mrs. Sandy Vitale.....Business Manager  
 Mrs. Ann Mihalow.....Parish Secretary  
 Ms. Sharon Cudney....Receptionist / Bulletin Editor

**Education**

Mr. Thomas Brownfield.....School Principal  
 Ms. Dara Hoffman.....PSR Principal  
 Sr. Yvonne Spenoso, IHM..... Dir.of Religious Ed.  
 Mrs. Réne Buchtel....Childcare / Preschool Director  
 Mrs. Rita Gonet.....School Secretary

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday—Friday .....9:00 am—3:00 pm

**Liturgical Schedule**

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday Vigil .....4:30 pm ( also Live Streamed)  
 Sunday .....7:30 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

**Weekday Masses**

Monday—Friday .....8:30 am

**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Saturday .....3:00—3:45 pm

Other Times Upon Request

**Parish Mission Statement**

We, the people of Holy Family Parish in Parma, Ohio, were established in 1872 as a community of Catholic faithful. We worship God in the celebration of the Eucharist. We evangelize through Jesus Christ, sharing the great message of salvation. We foster community as a spiritual home for all in our parish. We promote Catholic education and faith formation for all ages. We extend loving service to the poor, sick, and needy. We develop Catholic leaders and encourage participation in ministries by using our time, talent, and treasure.

We strive to follow the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the original Holy Family.

# Those Who, With God's Help, Make it All Happen

Christian disciples, by responding to Jesus' call to follow him, are living the way of life of a Christian steward. Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of the mind and heart that is expressed in action. All that we have is a blessing from God. All are invited to share what God has given us in service to one another through ministry.

Buildings do not make a Church — people do. We are a parish community of believing Christian people. In the days and years ahead may we continue to grow spiritually and in a relationship with Jesus and one another.

## Parish Council and Commissions

1. Pastoral Council
2. Finance Council
3. Liturgy Commission
4. Holy Family School Board

## Lay Organizations & Ministries

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Adult Bible                                   | 20. Ministers of Hospitality - Ushers                |
| 2. Adult Confirmation                            | 21. Ministry of Consolation                          |
| 3. Adult Servers                                 | 22. Music Ministry                                   |
| 4. Altar & Rosary                                | 23. Parent Teachers Unit (PTU)                       |
| 5. Art & Environment                             | 24. Parish Counters                                  |
| 6. Athletic Association                          | 25. Parish Festival                                  |
| 7. Baptism Class                                 | 26. Prayer Line Ministry                             |
| 8. Bereavement                                   | 27. Pro-Life   |
| 9. Boy, Cub, Girl Scouts, Brownies               | 28. Public School of Religion (PSR)                  |
| 10. Children's Liturgy of the Word               | 29. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults<br>(RCIA) |
| 11. Confirmation Team                            | 30. Sacristan Aid                                    |
| 12. Day Care                                     | 31. Senior Citizens                                  |
| 13. Divine Mercy Cenacle                         | 32. Social Action                                    |
| 14. Eucharistic Adoration                        | 33. Stewardship                                      |
| 15. Extraordinary Ministers of<br>Holy Communion | 34. Student Servers                                  |
| 16. Health and Wellness                          | 35. The Credit Union                                 |
| 17. Holy Name Society                            | 36. Walking with Purpose                             |
| 18. Knights of Columbus                          | 37. Women's Ministry                                 |
| 19. Lectors                                      |  |



For nearly 70 years, our Credit Union has been part of Holy Family Parish. Thanks to our very loyal members, we have made over 18,000 loans valued over \$90 MILLION. It is an honor to serve our Parish Family.

Congratulations on 150 Years of success and best wishes for a bright and blessed future.

May God Bless Holy Family Parish, the Priests, Staff Members, Educators and Ministries that have worked diligently to make our Parish a very special place.

Sincerely,

Directors and Staff at Holy Family Parma Federal C.U.

**Holy Family Parma Federal Credit Union**

7367 York Road \* Parma, Ohio 44130

440-842-1620 \* FAX 440-842-8586

ONLINE BANKING AVAILABLE

[Holyfamilycreditunion.com](http://Holyfamilycreditunion.com)

**YOU ARE A MEMBER, NOT A CUSTOMER**



## *Prayer for Holy Family*

*Jesus, Mary & Joseph, you were examples of love, purity and faithfulness. Lead us to know and follow God's will as you did. Shepherd us to share our time, talents and treasure.*

*Heavenly Father, guide us to have faith, courage and obedience like your son.*

*Holy Spirit, giver of gifts, please open our hearts to see Jesus in others and show joy and kindness every day.*

*We ask you Lord to bless us and place your hand upon our Holy Family Parish. Amen.*