

ST. MONICA CHURCH - PARISH HISTORY

On April 1, 1952

Archbishop Edward F. Hoban appointed Rev. Hugh Gallagher as Pastor of Saint Monica Church.
April 13, 1952 the first Masses of the parish were offered at Maple Leaf School.
August 31, 1952 marked ground breaking for Church/School Building.
August 15, 1953 the first Mass was celebrated in what is now the gymnasium.
November 11, 1953 the priests moved into the new rectory.

During the first year the 300 family parish formed two major organizations:
the Ladies' Guild which provided altar cloths, flowers, and cassocks.
the Holy Name Society which provided furnishings including the organ.

IN THE YEAR 1954 ...

January 25, 1954 the school opened with 384 students taught by 8 Sisters of St. Joseph TOSF
the PTU was formed and provided furnishings for school cafeteria.
A 678 seat church was located in what is now the school gymnasium.
There were 14 classrooms in school with the cafeteria doubled as a Parish Hall.
By November, 1958 the Convent was completed.

BY THE YEAR 1960 ...

June, 1960 the Bishop Hoban decreed that because of the increase of Catholics in our area
that a new Parish be established (St. Martin of Tours).
March 17, 1963 ground breaking was held for the new church building for St. Monica.
August, 23, 1964 the first Mass was celebrated in the present church.

FROM 1970 TO 1997

On the retirement of Father Gallagher in 1974 a Pastoral Team assumed the responsibility
for the pastoral ministry of 3,400 families and administration of the Parish.
In 1988 the new Credit Union was built.
June 2, 1990 the church which seats 950 people was officially dedicated by Bishop A. Edward Pevco.
April, 1991 the Parish Offices were moved from the rectory into part of the Convent building.
April 1, 1992 St. Monica Parish celebrated its 40th Anniversary with Bishop Anthony M. Pilla.
August, 1993 the Parish Mission Statement was implemented.

1998 TO December 2002

February, 1998 the parish began a 5 year 1.5 million Capital Improvement Appeal Program
to repair and restore all brick work on the church, school, rectory and convent/office buildings, repave
the parking lot and install an elevator in the school.
June, 2001 the outside church doors were replaced through the generous gift of a former parishioner.
September, 2001 a new statue of our Blessed Mother was purchased and the shine was relocated
to the grass area by the convent/parish office area.
August 27, 2002 the 50th anniversary celebration of our parish began and culminated
with the final liturgy on April 7, 2002 with Bishop A. James Quinn.
April, 2002 the old Chapel located in the school building was converted
into two air-conditioned meeting rooms, with gathering and storage areas,
generously donated by a former parishioner.
May 25, 2002 The final phase of the capital improvement project was completed.
Soon after, came the completion of the elevator project in the school.

January 2003 TO June 2005

January 1, 2003 Bishop Pilla dissolved the Pastoral Team after consultation with
the Consultative bodies of the Parish. A traditional Pastorate was established and
Rev. Donald P. Oleksiak was named Pastor.

July 1, 2005

Rev. Thomas A. Haren was appointed 3rd Pastor of Saint Monica Church.

June 6, 2012

The last graduation of St. Monica School

July 1, 2012

The beginning of St. Benedict Catholic School
– a joint venture of St. Monica Parish and St. Martin of Tours Parish.