



# *Saints Philip & James Parish*

*Blessed since 1959*



## *The Blessings of These Fifty Years*



Our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ began His life in a stable in Bethlehem. Saints Philip and James Parish also had its humble beginnings in a lowly stone stable, once used to house the horses of patrons of the Ship Inn, across Route 30. What we know today as Saint Mary's Chapel was built in 1793. Almost one hundred years later the owner of the Ship Inn, Miss Elizabeth Brasier, petitioned the Ordinary of the Philadelphia Diocese, Bishop James Wood, for a regular Mass in our area. Prior to this, priests would circuit ride throughout Chester and Delaware Counties saying Mass for the faithful no more frequently than every three months. Miss Brasier was

encouraged by the Bishop, to find a suitable setting for the Mass. On October 24, 1873 she donated the livery stable of the Ship Inn to Bishop Wood for \$1.00. It took the local faithful less than two months to enlarge the building and prepare the interior of the stable to become the house of the Lord. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1873, Bishop Wood formally dedicated Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, giving the faith community in this area their own church. In 1876 the hand painted statues of Joseph and Mary were donated, and to this day beautifully adorn our chapel.

In the early nineteen hundreds while the world turned its attention to the First World War, the Church was concerned with caring for its flock in the ever growing western suburbs. In 1915 St. Patrick in Malvern was established with Father John H. Martin as pastor. Simultaneously, Father Martin took on the care of the mission church of Saint Mary's. In 1942 a new pastor, Father Devers came to St. Patrick's, and a new curate, Father John J. Martin assumed the role of assistant with the special assignment of caring for the faithful at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Through the nineteen fifties, as the area grew it became quite clear to Father Martin and his pastor that something had to be done for the Catholics in the Exton area. Over the next seventeen years Father Martin celebrated most of the Masses in Saint Mary's Chapel. Behind the Chapel there were sheds where Mass attendees met for socials...long before we were officially a parish.



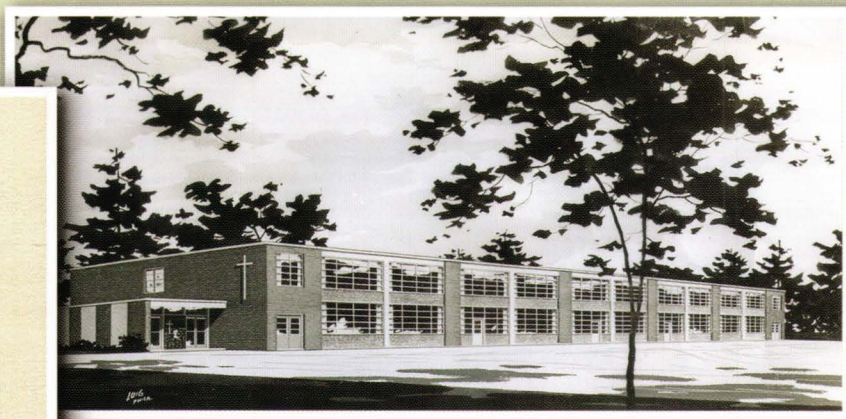
Saint Patrick Parish continued to grow so that when Father Devers died in 1956, his successor, Father Barron felt the parish was too large to be manageable, and petitioned Cardinal O'Hara to establish a new parish. In April 1957, a gentleman named William H. Murray suggested Father Martin look at a five-acre tract of land owned by his family, the Gallaghers. This land, which was diagonally across from St. Mary's Chapel, was purchased from Mr. Murray for \$50,000. Father Martin tirelessly canvassed within the borders of the proposed new parish to obtain two hundred fifty families, the number needed for the Archdiocese to approve the foundation of a new parish.

In May 1959, permission was given to establish the new parish in Exton with Saint Mary Chapel and the Murray-Gallagher property as its base. The official beginning of Saints Philip and James was May 22, 1959, which was also the twenty-second anniversary of ordination of its new pastor, Father John J. Martin.

It is believed that the parish was named Saints Philip and James, because the Archdiocesan commission meeting to decide on new parishes convened on May 12th, the day after the feast of Saints Philip and James (this feast was celebrated on May 11th in those days.) So the patronage of the new parish was given over to two of Jesus' first priests, Philip and James. Father Martin and his helpers spent the remainder of 1959 clearing the grounds and making the rectory habitable, while planning for the needs of the people.

Father Martin decided to build a two-story school building, the first floor of which would be a temporary church. His goal was to open the school in the fall of 1960. The Sisters of IHM, whose Motherhouse is within the boundaries of the parish, were invited to staff the school. With his determination and the support of his parishioners, Father saw the school open on September 7, 1960. On November 6th, Father Martin celebrated the first Mass in the church, which would later become the first floor classrooms of the school.

The Pastor and the Parishioners  
of Saints Philip and James Parish  
cordially invite you to attend the  
Dedication of our Church-School Building  
at Lancaster Pike and Ship Road, Exton, Pa.  
on Sunday, November 20, 1960  
at Four o'clock in the afternoon  
The Most Reverend Bishop-Elect  
Cletus J. Benjamin, A.D.  
presiding



Once Father had a school and Sisters to staff it, he knew he needed a convent. On the property was a building that, in 1864, had become the original Ship Road School. It was built as a one-story school, but a second story had been added in 1906. In 1941, when this school closed the building was turned into a small apartment house. When Father Martin decided to use it as the convent it was in desperate need of repair. After much renovation the completely furnished convent was officially dedicated on November 6, 1961.

In two and a half years from its foundation, Father Martin and his dedicated parishioners had put together a working parish: church, rectory, school, and convent.

In October 1962, Father Martin took his first, well-deserved pastoral vacation. Newly-ordained Father Anthony Dieckhaus, brother of our current pastor, who had arrived earlier in June to become the first curate, guided the new parish for Father Martin while he was away. Building a Grotto of the Blessed Virgin and refurbishing Saint Mary Chapel became two very important undertakings for Father Dieckhaus.





By the fourth anniversary of the school, Father Martin announced school enrollment for the year was expected to be four hundred fifty pupils, a fifty percent increase in four years. This meant that the school had outgrown its current facilities above the church. By the end of that year Father Martin received a gift of 1.7 acres, from the Rev. Charles Schreiner, director of the adjoining Episcopal Church Farm School. With more room to expand, Father began to plan a church which would seat eight hundred fifty people, with a full cafeteria below. It took a year and a half for the plans to be finely approved by the Archdiocese.

On August 15, 1965 ground was broken for the new church. On December 10, 1966 Archbishop John J. Krol celebrated the first Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving and blessed the cornerstone of the new building. With the addition of a new cafeteria the parish was able to generate revenue from weekly Bingo, Ham Suppers, and other social activities.

The first Christmas Midnight Mass in the new church became one of the most memorable Masses for Father Martin. It had begun snowing about mid-afternoon. It turned into a real blizzard by late afternoon, with the final snowfall amounting to two feet. One family, the Giantonio family, braved the storm and set out for Mass. Following a big oil truck with chains they arrived at about 11:45. Unable to get into the parking lot, Mr. Giantonio left the car on Route 30 and carried his children into the church. The Giantonio family and three Sisters from the convent were the only ones in the church. Father Martin always referred to this First Christmas Mass as the 'Giantonio' Mass. Father Martin continued as shepherd at Saints Philip and James until failing health brought about his retirement on August 1, 1969.



In the early days of September 1969, our new pastor, Father Vincent P. Schneider, took over the duties of caring for the faithful. Although he came to our parish with a background in teaching and library science, rather than parish work and administration, his contributions were extraordinary. The new pastor received a cordial welcome from his parishioners, with a reception planned by the Men's Association and the Ladies Guild. At that time these were the principal organizations for lay involvement in parish affairs.

To get to know his many parishioners, Father Schneider began parish visitation. He also went to work organizing the lectors and the first Home and School Association. A year later he began to work on the formation of a parish council. Father also continued to support the very active CYO sports program and the equally active Religious Education Program. He encouraged his parishioners to be personally involved in their parish. It was his dedication to organization that led many people to join such groups as Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, and the Charismatic Prayer Renewal.

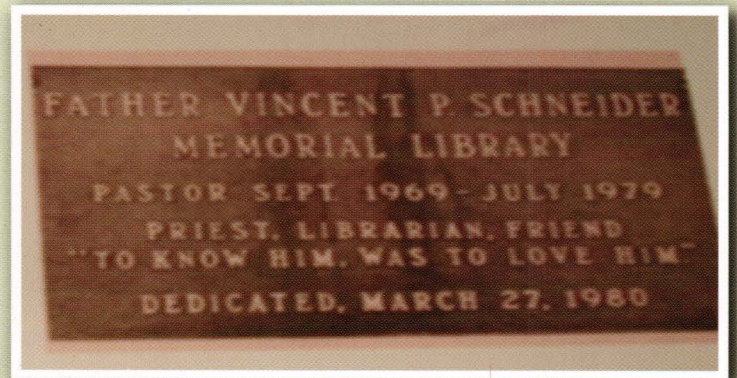
In 1973, newly-ordained Father James Whelan joined the parish as Father Schneider's long overdue assistant. In December of that year, the 100th anniversary of St. Mary Chapel was celebrated with a special Mass for the living and deceased members of the parish.

The year 1974 marked a real milestone in Father's parish initiatives: the formation of the Parish Council, composed of fifteen elected members, whose role was advisory. These members were selected to head up such sub committees as: Education, Finance, Liturgy planning and development, Social Action, Activities, Maintenance, Community Affairs and Communications.

In 1975, a small group of deeply committed parishioners came together to ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and became the Charismatic Prayer Group. This group, which began meeting in parishioners' homes, moved briefly to the cafeteria, then St. Mary's Chapel. Presently the prayer group meets in the Rectory Meeting Room.

In the clergy changes of 1978, Father William Dean came to the parish to replace Father Whelan. Father Dean's love for music led him to form our first choir. He also initiated the Pre-Cana team concept in the parish.

In July 1979, Father Schneider, while sleeping in his easy chair, died peacefully with a smile on his face. His death was an utter shock and cause of grief to his devoted flock. One of Father Schneider's most important legacies, from his background in library science, was the well-equipped school library, which was dedicated to his memory in 1980.



Within a month Cardinal Krol assigned Father John J. Caulfield as the new pastor of Saints Philip and James, and so began another era of spiritual and physical growth for the parish. Father Caulfield, a self-proclaimed city boy, made his way to the suburbs and quickly into the hearts of Saints Philip and James parishioners. Almost immediately Father Caulfield welcomed the Transitional Diaconate program to this parish and so in 1980, Deacon Dennis Carbanaro from St. Charles Seminary arrived. He was succeeded the next year by Deacon Bob Roncase, and the following year by Deacon Dennis Gill, each of whom won the hearts and prayers of our parish family. Father Caulfield took responsibility for the training of our altar boys and made sure that they were chosen from both the school and the Religious Education Program.

Our school continued to flourish and, by 1983, had an enrollment which exceeded five hundred fifty students. The time had come for the school to take its place among acknowledged academic institutions and so Father Caulfield and the school principal, Sister Annunciata, began the groundwork for Middle States Accreditation. After an intensive eighteen-month preparation our school overwhelmingly passed and received its accreditation.

Saints Philip and James continued to grow through the early 1980's, and in January 1983 Father Caulfield presided over a ceremonial burning of the mortgage. He had successfully freed our parish from debt, which at one time had reached one million dollars.

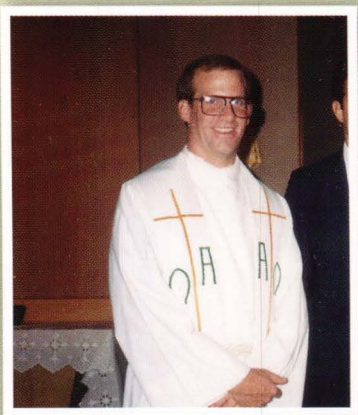


In June 1982, Father Joseph Sabadish joined the parish as an additional curate. Our parish rejoiced on May 15, 1983, when parishioner Father Patrick Lamb, newly-ordained, returned to celebrate his First Mass. Also that month Father Dean was transferred to another parish, and in June the parish welcomed newly-ordained Father Joseph Brandt. That Fall, Father Dean returned to lead the parishioners in the Forty Hours Devotion.

In 1984, Father Caulfield, along with his flock, celebrated twenty-five years of worship and growth. It was a time of much joy, reflection and thanksgiving at Saints Philip and James.



As the parish continued to grow Father Caulfield saw the need for expansion as well as the need to replace existing structures. The rectory needed extensive repair, and at the urging of the Cardinal himself, became the first building to be replaced. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on June 10, 1984. On April 14, 1985 the new rectory was dedicated. To the joy of all, this building included a meeting room to be used by the many groups forming in the parish. Due to the historical significance of the old rectory, it was to remain on the property, and in September 1985, became the home of the school's newest program, Kindergarten.



In June 1985, Father Caulfield welcomed the newly ordained Father Tom Higgins to the parish. They were joined by Father Dan Dougherty, as a priest in residence, while teaching at Bishop Shanahan High School. The following year Deacon Joe Gentile was assigned to the parish as a transitional deacon.

Father Caulfield continued with his plans for improvement and growth. In August 1987, with the convent in much need of repair, ground was broken for a new convent. In November of the same year construction also began on a new addition to the school. This addition would include a much-anticipated gym.

In September 1987, Father Walter W. Fenwick was assigned to Saints Philip and James along with our new transitional deacon, James Olsen. Spiritual growth within the parish was strengthened in 1987 with the beginning of the Renew Program, designed to help people follow Christ more closely, as well as the implementation of the revised Rite for preparing non-baptized and Christians of other faiths to embrace the Catholic Church...the RCIA process.

In February 1988, Saints Philip and James rejoiced in being chosen the Chester County site for welcoming the new archbishop, Anthony Bevilacqua, who presided over Mass and met the faithful during a reception which followed.

In May 1988, Father Caulfield, along with his parishioners celebrated his forty years of priesthood. It was also during that month a new transitional deacon arrived, Deacon Mike Bolesta. In September 1988, Father Higgins was named assistant director to the Office of the Program for Catholic Youth (CYO) and so the parish sadly bid farewell to Father Higgins while enthusiastically welcoming Father Paul Convery.



The Sisters moved into their new home on November 12, 1988. On November 27th the most Reverend Louis DeSimone dedicated our new gym, classrooms and convent. Father Higgins returned for the dedication. This new gym, on the occasion of Monsignor Caulfield's seventieth birthday, October 28, 1992, would be proudly named Caulfield Hall. Nine months after the completion of the new convent, the old convent was demolished so that parking spaces could be added for the growing number of Mass attendees.



In May 1989, Deacon Michael Bolesta was ordained and replaced Father Fenwick as our new assistant pastor. Deacon Gregory J. Fairbanks was assigned as the new transitional deacon.

Joy and pride exuded throughout the parish when, in May 1990, Saints Philip and James School received the School of Excellence Award given by the United States Department of Education's Exemplary School Recognition Program. September 1995 saw the completion of the educational cycle with the birth of a Pre-Kindergarten Program. The school enrollment would continue to increase until Fall 1999, when it reached its peak at seven hundred seventy-eight students.

In June 1990, parishioners Ed Leszczynski and Frank Bizal were ordained by Cardinal Bevilacqua and became our first permanent deacons. In September of that year Father Edmond Wesolowski was assigned to the parish as Father Convery's replacement.

One year later in June 1991, Father Michael Blaine came to Saints Philip and James as an assistant pastor and in September 1991, Father Thomas Brennan joined him, replacing Fathers Bolesta and Wesolowski.



On July 15, 1991 our parish was blessed when our beloved pastor was given the title, Monsignor John J. Caulfield. "Himself", as he was affectionately called, was joined by parishioners, family, and friends to celebrate a special Mass and reception on September 22, 1991.

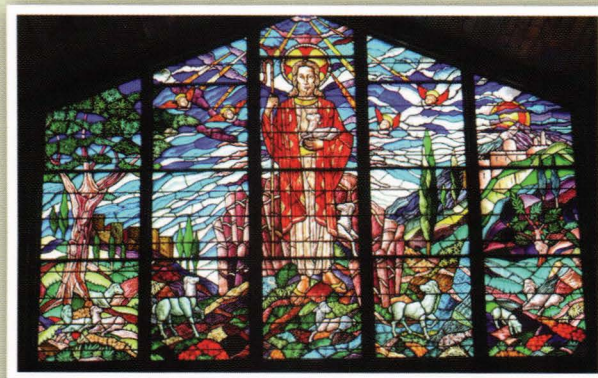
Monsignor Caulfield knew the importance of family and of our parish being our home within the Church. Each year he hosted a Parish Appreciation Party and everyone was invited. Whatever your level of participation, he wanted to see you there.

The 1990's brought continued growth in our parish size and spirituality. Such programs as Small Church Communities, Disciples in Mission, Renew, the Lionville-Exton Ministerium and the Parish Evangelization Team flourished. Among the liturgical changes of this time was the inclusion of female altar servers. The ambiance for our liturgy was enhanced by the installation of the marble altar and stained-glass windows from St. Michael's, Chester, as well as the marble crucifix. These were dedicated by Bishop Martin Lohmuller at a special Mass, May 3, 1994, the feast of Saints Philip and James, which also celebrated the thirty-fifth anniversary year of our parish.

In September 1994, Father Sam Verruni joined the parish as a priest in residence, while serving as campus minister for the Newman Center at West Chester University. June 1995, brought newly ordained Father John Silcox to replace Father Blaine, and one year later Father Quan H. Tran replaced Father Brennan.

Permanent deacon, Ed Leszczynski, had moved to Lancaster in July 1992. He was not replaced until June 1997, when our parishioner, Charles Polley was ordained to the permanent diaconate. In 1999, Deacon Frank and Deacon Chuck were joined by another parish member, the newly ordained, Deacon Bill Fahy.

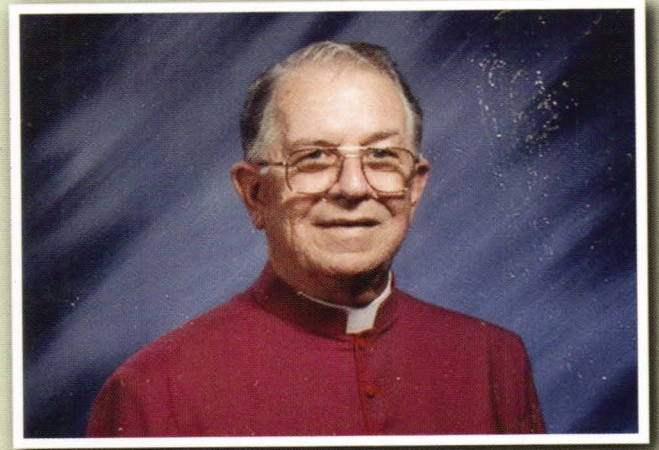
In Spring 1997, Monsignor Caulfield's letter of retirement was accepted by the Cardinal. One of the very last enhancements Monsignor did for our church was the installation of the beautiful Good Shepherd Window, which he blessed on Good Shepherd Sunday of that year. On Corpus Christi Sunday, June 1997, the parish recognized his eighteen years of faithful service with a gala celebration and farewell.





As Pastor Emeritus, Monsignor Caulfield returned frequently to Saints Philip and James. He would assist with Penance services and be present for other liturgical celebrations, particularly Sacraments of Initiation, May Processions and Graduations, and in May 1998, returned to celebrate his golden jubilee of priesthood with his faithful flock of Saints Philip and James.

On June 21, 1997, Father Michael J. Burke arrived at Saints Philip and James from Holy Innocents Parish and became our new good shepherd. One year later on June 14, 1998, the parish rejoiced as he was invested as Monsignor Michael J. Burke.



On May 22, 1999, Saints Philip and James Parish turned forty years old, and on September 18th parishioners celebrated this milestone at Sunnybrook Ballroom.



By this time Saints Philip and James Parish had grown to eighty-three hundred members and Monsignor Burke was challenged with the demand to expand the school to provide eight additional classrooms, as well as auxiliary educational space. In keeping with the family tradition our parish had established, an outdoor picnic kicked off the Capital Campaign called, "Living Stones", with a goal of two million dollars to fund this project.

Simultaneous with the planning for the additional school space was the announcement of the establishment of a new parish, to be called Saint Elizabeth. Its boundaries included parishioners from the northern section of our parish. As it had been in the late sixties, once again the parish family was called to support those who were taking up the challenge of the new parish, and to refashion themselves as a strong vibrant family.

In June 1999, newly ordained Father Jeffrey M. Stecz was assigned to the parish as a parochial vicar, replacing Father Quan. Monsignor Burke, our kind and gentle pastor, along with Father Silcox and Father Jeff, guided the parish into the new millennium.

In June 2000, Father Christopher Rogers was assigned to Saints Philip and James, replacing Father Silcox, who became an assistant pastor at St. Laurence's in Highland Park, where he was later made pastor. Along with Father Jeff, Father Chris worked diligently with the young people of our parish. His love for the priesthood was quite evident when telling the story of his calling. Father became instrumental in our parish initiating daily adoration. He was also the spirit behind the practice of Family Lenten Holy Hours. It was not surprising when, in June 2005, he was assigned Director of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood.

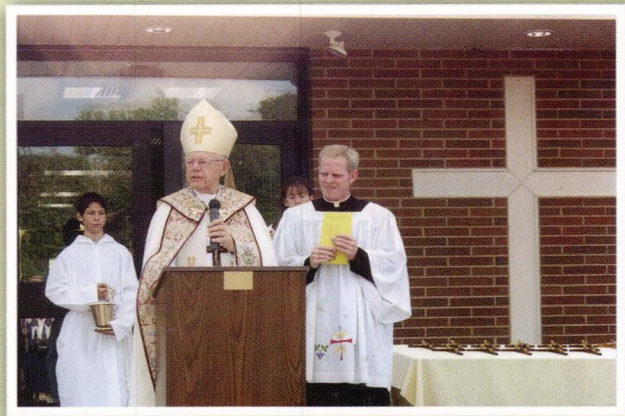


In Fall 2000, "Living Stones" took on life as ground was broken for the new classroom addition, which included a new library, as well as renovation in the original building, now forty years old.

On September 11, 2001, the nation watched in horror as the New York City Twin Towers were attacked and fell. Our parish came together that evening to pray for the victims, their families, and our country. Shortly after we learned that one of our graduates from Saints Philip and James School, Kevin Marlo, was a victim of the attack. In the spring of the following year, Brett Schneck received permission from Monsignor Burke to establish a memorial for Kevin on the school grounds, as his Eagle Scout project.



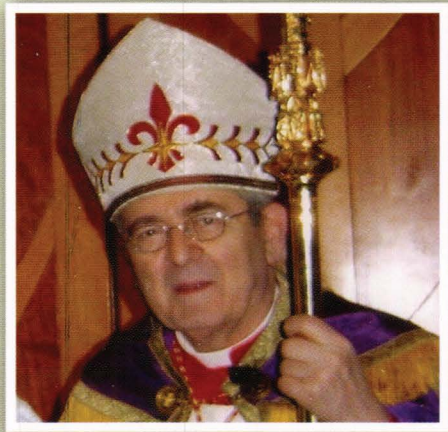
In June 2002, Father Jeff was missioned to St. Anne, Phoenixville to begin a teaching assignment at Saint Pius X High School. For the first time our parish felt the reality of the priest shortage, as no one came to replace Father Jeff as parochial vicar. Those same archdiocesan assignments did, however, bring Father James C. Otto to Saints Philip and James, in residence, to become the school minister at Bishop Shanahan High School.



Excited parishioners and students had watched the new school building rise to completion and on a sunny Sunday in September 2002, Bishop Martin Lohmuller presided over the outdoor ceremony of dedication of the new addition, which was given the name Lourdes Hall. A beautiful mural and statue of Our Lady of Lourdes adorns the hall of this new wing.

A singular blessing was called down upon our parish on October 15, 2003, when daily Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament began in St. Mary's Chapel. Adoration was scheduled Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 7 PM, and continues to this day.

In June 2004, Father Christopher D. Lucas replaced Father Otto as a priest in residence, while serving as school chaplain at Bishop Shanahan High School. Unfortunately for us, Father was relocated to Hallahan High School at the end of that year.



On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, 2004, our beloved Pastor Emeritus, Monsignor Caulfield, passed away. A large number of faithful, clergy, friends and family came to Saints Philip and James for his Vespers Service and funeral Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Rigali, several bishops, and many priests. Father Silcox's homily reverently portrayed the Monsignor we knew and loved so well. Monsignor had been truly a presence in our parish and took to the Lord an abundance of good works!

In his quiet yet conscientious way Monsignor Burke saw the need to continue with the upkeep of the interior beauty of our church and so, in February 2005, formed the Sanctuary Guild for this purpose. It provides the opportunity for parishioners to make donations in the name of their deceased or living loved ones. Donations are used to purchase new sanctuary items such as vestments, furniture, and sacred vessels. Members are remembered periodically in the Masses and good works of the parish. The Sanctuary Guild continues to be a cherished means of remembering loved ones.

It was also during this time period that the parish initiated the custom of remembering in a special way, on November 2nd, parish members who had died during the past year. This remembrance Mass has proved to be a great consolation to family and friends.

May 2005, newly-ordained Father Richard McFadden, was assigned as parochial vicar to replace Father Christopher Rogers. In June 2006, we welcomed Father Thomas M. Sodano who came to our parish as a priest in residence to teach at Bishop Shanahan High School.

On July 10, 2006, Saints Philip and James suffered a great loss with the death of Deacon Bill Fahy. He had served the parish in so many ways: as coordinator of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, a teacher in our Religious Education and RCIA Programs, a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, Pre-Jordan and Pre-Cana teams. Of all these responsibilities Deacon Bill found his greatest joy in conferring the Sacrament of Baptism on many of our children. Once again so many parishioners, friends, and family gathered here at Saints Philip and James, led by Cardinal Rigali, to send Deacon Bill to his eternal home.



On the birthday of our Blessed Mother, 2006, our dear Monsignor Burke went to the hospital for a stay that would be repeated several times over the next months. While the parish prayed fervently for his recovery Father McFadden, supported by Father Sodano, did a zealous job of substitution.

On Sunday, November 19, 2006, Saints Philip and James Parish was honored to have Cardinal Rigali celebrate Mass for the installation of Monsignor Joseph Marino as the new Vicar for Chester County.

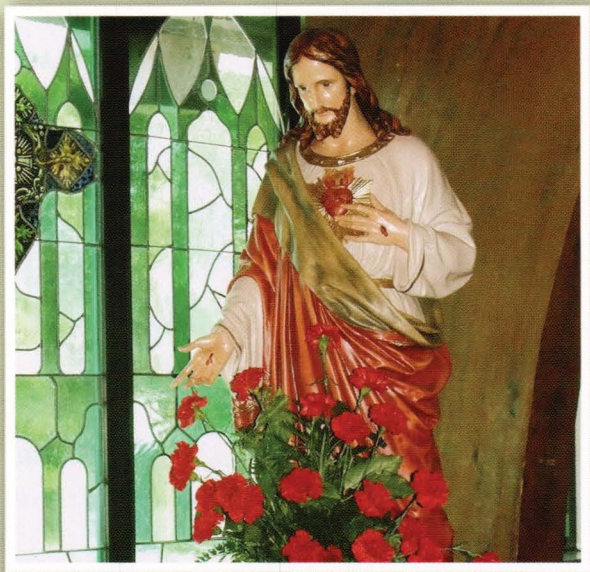
In January 2007, with continued poor health plaguing Monsignor Burke, Cardinal Rigali granted him a medical leave of absence, and appointed Father Joseph Logrip, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, as Parochial Administrator. On April 15, in a letter to his parishioners, Monsignor Burke announced, that after prayerful reflection he came to realize he could no longer remain pastor. Cardinal Rigali gave permission for his retirement and named him 'Pastor Emeritus'. The Cardinal appointed Father Joseph Logrip, pastor. On Saturday, June 9, 2007, within the 5:00 PM Mass, Bishop Maginnis officially installed Father Joseph L. Logrip as the new and fifth pastor of Saints Philip and James Parish.

The spiritual life of Saints Philip and James had flourished under the gentle leadership of Monsignor Burke. It was with deep sadness that his parishioners bid him farewell at the noon Mass on June 3, 2007, and still find such joy on the occasions for which he returns to Saints Philip and James to celebrate Mass.

Father Logrip continued to add to the growth of spirituality and beautification of the parish. In meeting the needs of his many parishioners, Father added a 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday evenings and Confessions on Monday evenings, both of which were well received by his flock and continue to this day. Father also included the novena to the Miraculous Medal and the blessing with the Padre Pio relic at every Saturday morning liturgy. Two spiritual goals Father Logrip had were to establish the Legion of Mary and to form a Padre Pio Prayer Group for Chester County here at Saints Philip and James Parish. The Legion of Mary came to fruition with an initial five-member meeting held May 27, 2008. Not until September 2009, after permission from Cardinal Rigali and the National Director, did his hope for a Padre Pio Prayer Group become a reality.



Among Father's many contributions were the placement of beautiful statues of devotion: the Sacred Heart, in church; the Holy Family, at the front entrance to church; and Jesus Blessing the children, at the school entrance from Ship Road. He also had new altars built for the statues of Mary and Joseph in the main church. With the help of generous parishioners Father added permanent air conditioning in Saint Mary Chapel, a feature that delights the many parishioners who come for adoration.

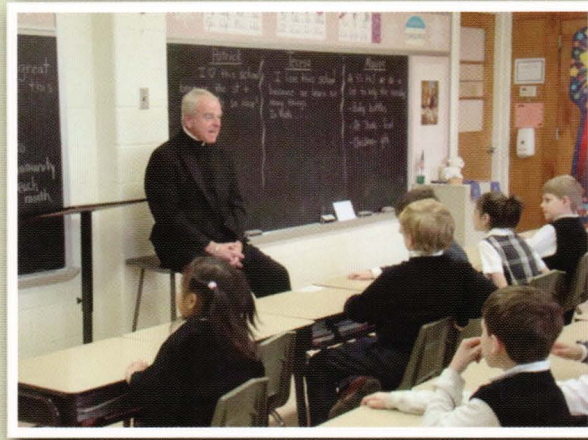


In May 2008, Cardinal Rigali gave Father McFadden and Father Sodano new assignments. Father McFadden to teach religion at Archbishop Ryan High School and Father Sodano to become School Minister at Saint Hubert's High School. Father Michael Reilly was assigned to the parish as the new parochial vicar.

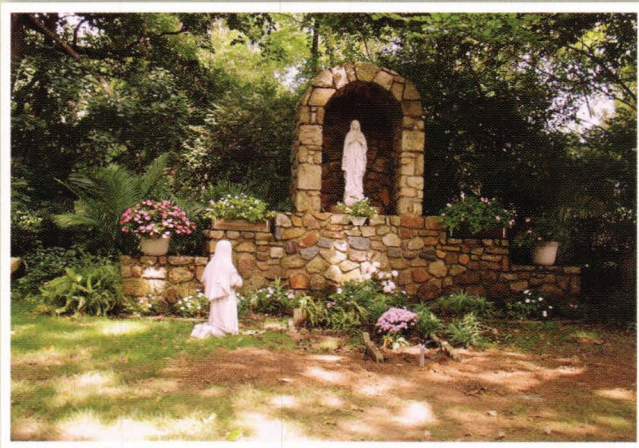


In August of this same year the parish was saddened by the news that our so-recently appointed pastor, Father Logrip would leave us to become Pastor of Mother of Divine Grace Parish, Philadelphia, and the new Vicar of Philadelphia-North. While we knew that this was a great honor for Father, we felt once again the pain of bidding farewell to someone who had so quickly become the father of our parish family. On Saturday, September 13, 2008 the parish honored its beloved pastor with a farewell celebration, following the 5:00 PM Mass.

Saints Philip and James welcomed our new and current pastor, Father Joseph C. Dieckhaus, on September 15, 2008. Father came to us from years of ministry in the Archdiocesan Tribunal, while serving as resident chaplain for the Sisters of Divine Love, affectionately known as the Pink Sisters. This was not Father's first connection to our parish, as his brother Reverend Anthony Dieckhaus, as a newly ordained priest, had been the very first curate to the then newly formed Saints Philip and James Parish.



Beginning from where Father Logrip had been abruptly stopped by his remissioning, Father Dieckhaus, who was already particularly drawn to the grotto, which his brother had built, oversaw and dedicated the Eagle Scout project of outdoor Stations of the Cross in that area. He also replaced the statue of St. Bernadette that had been stolen soon after its placement in the sixties. With the help of the Boy Scouts, lighting now adorns the grotto area and a fence provides the very practical purpose of keeping the student's safe from retrieving balls in the adjacent stream.



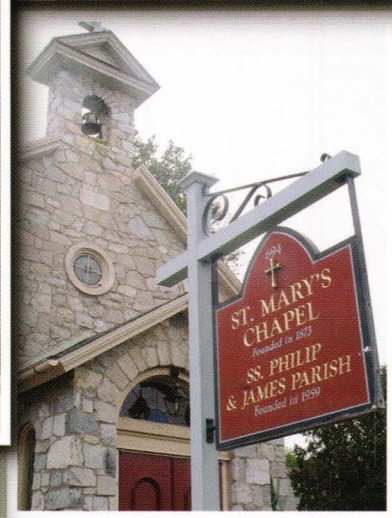
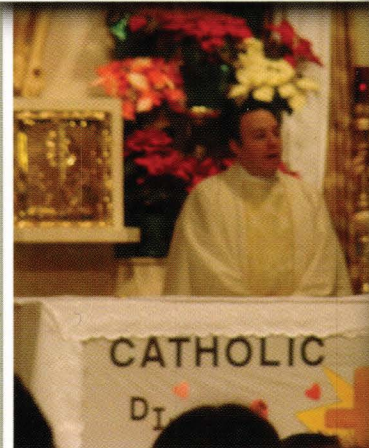
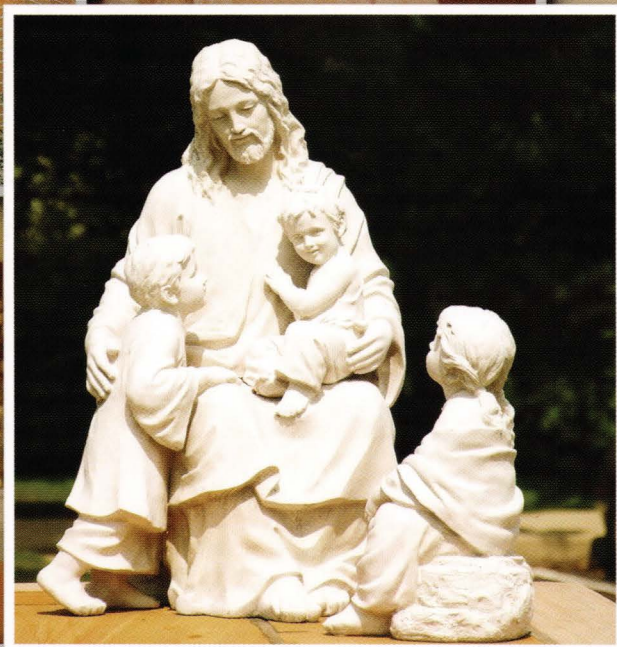
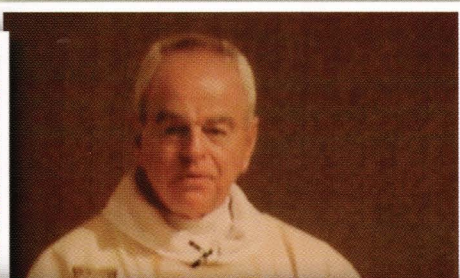
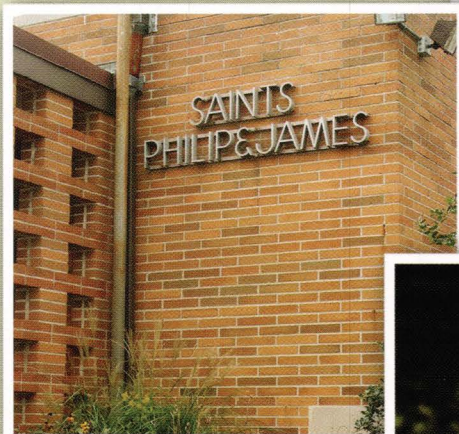
By Lent 2009, the increased attendance at daily Mass necessitated the moving of all daily Masses to the main church. The attendance was a blessing, but the move carried with it the inevitable pain that comes with growth.

In this short span of time, Father Dieckhaus has begun several spiritual traditions, among which are the outdoor procession and Benediction for the closing of Forty Hours, the Lesson of Carols and Blessing of the Crèche in Advent, and the Holy Thursday Procession to our beloved St. Mary Chapel.

In Winter 2009, we welcomed Deacon Jim Bogdan, who was appointed by Cardinal Rigali to assist our parish. Deacon Jim had previously been in assignment in Florida. On May 10, 2009, the parish was singularly blessed to have transitional deacon, John Weber, a member of the parish, ordained to the priesthood.

And so, as we mark the completion of the first fifty years, we count our blessings in being shepherded by the competent and zealous Fathers Dieckhaus and Reilly, together with our dedicated Deacons Frank Bizal, Chuck Polley, and Jim Bogdan, supported by the Sisters of IHM and innumerable lay leaders of the many parish organizations. Together we will continue to make the parish of Saints Philip and James one of the most flourishing, vibrant, Catholic parish families in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

As we complete this history, we learn that Father Reilly, our beloved Parochial Vicar, who had been assigned "Pro -Tem" Parochial Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Collingdale, will become its Pastor in June 2010.



*A final item for the history is the listing of Charter Members from 1959 who are still members of Saints Philip and James. Here is the list as we have it.*

*Mr. & Mrs. Joe Burns, Dolores Colona, The DeAngelis Family, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Finneran, Stephen MacNeill, Wanda McGlinchey, Rhoda McQuiston, Felix Presto & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Redmond, Michael Rodgers, Dan Grubb, Marilyn Iseminger and Ann Sickora.*