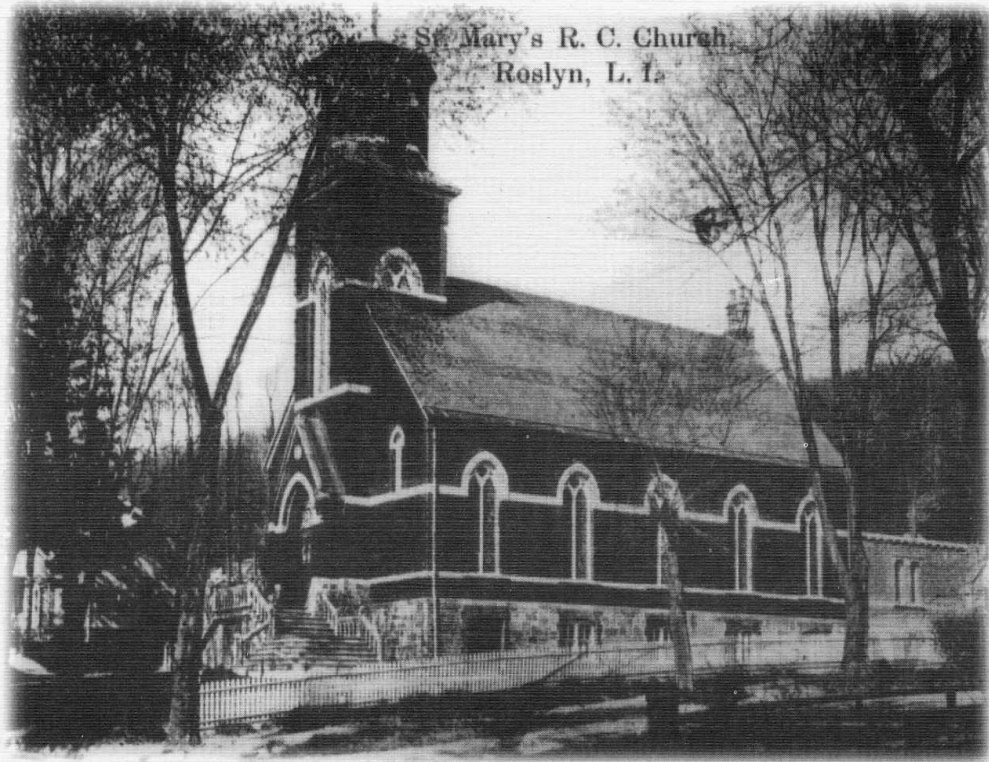


History of the Church of St. Mary's



Circa 1890

1871-2012



Fr. William O'Donnel 1871-1872



Fr. Mortimer Brennan 1876-1886



Fr. Nicholas Doran 1886-1898



Fr. Richard Nilsson 2007-2011



Fr. Stephen Morris
2012 - Present



Fr. Martin Hogan 1898-1900



Msgr. Richard Bauhoff 1995- 2007



Fr. Louis Martel 1900-1928



Msgr. Daniel Fagan 1978-1995



Msgr. Thomas Minogue 1969-1978



Msgr. Francis Ryan 1937-1969

Photos not available: Fr. Patrick Sheridan 1872-1876
Fr. John O'Kane 1928
Fr. Edward McManus 1929-1934
Fr. Patrick Feely 1934-1937

BEFORE THERE WAS A ST. MARY'S

- 1847-49 First Catholics settle in Roslyn.
- 1847-53 Roslyn Catholics travel to Westbury to attend Mass and receive sacraments.
- 1854 A mission church opens in Glen Cove.
- 1855 A mission church opens in Manhasset.
- 1855-1865 Roslyn Catholics travel to Westbury, Glen Cove or Manhasset to Mass and sacraments.
- 1866 Father James McEnroe, pastor of St. Patrick's, celebrates the first Mass in Roslyn at the McGann home. Mass is then said once every two weeks in Roslyn at the Campbell home on Old Northern Boulevard.
- 1867 A wood-frame chapel is built on the current site of St. Mary's church.
- 1868 Father Kelly replaces Father McEnroe as mission priest to Roslyn Catholics.
- 1869 Stock Market Crash and ensuing financial panic delay organization of the parish and construction of a church.
- 1870 Roslyn Catholics petition Bishop Loughlin for a resident pastor.
- June, 1871 Father William O'Donnell, a 28-year-old native of Limerick, Ireland, is named the first pastor of St. Mary's of Roslyn.

St. Mary's Parish... The First One Hundred and Twenty Five Years 1871-1996

Catholics were few in Roslyn in the late 1860s.

In a nation still binding the wounds of its calamitous Civil War, Roslyn Catholics were mainly recent immigrants, hard-working men and women who toiled with their hands and their backs.

Most were carpenters and gardeners, laborers and liverymen, maids and cooks. If the Harbor community was beautiful, it was also a place of a hard-scrabble life for these Catholics, a place where dreams of "something better" had to be reserved for their children and their children's children.

But they had brought with them -- from across the sea or from the teeming cities nearby, including Brooklyn and New York, a deeply-held faith that had to be practiced, expressed and even proclaimed. That could only mean a Catholic Church, a Catholic Parish. And if that meant sacrifice -- for some, great sacrifice -- well, they were ready for that too.

They had practiced the faith, some for decades -- attending Mass, receiving the Sacraments -- by travelling on foot or by horse and carriage to Westbury, Manhasset or Glen Cove. But by the end of the decade, the Catholic community of Roslyn was reaching "critical mass". It was several hundred strong and intent on having its own parish.

Actually, it had begun to happen in 1866, when Father James McEnroe had celebrated the first Mass in Roslyn at the McGann home. Later that year, Mass was being said every two weeks at the Campbell home on Old Northern Boulevard. A year later, a wood-framed "chapel" was built on the site of today's church. And in 1870, the dedicated, hard-working Roslyn Catholics were emboldened enough to petition Bishop Loughlin for a resident pastor.

Jubilation reigned when, in June 1871, the bishop named Father William O'Donnell, a 28-year-old native of Limerick, Ireland, the first pastor of St. Mary's Church, Roslyn Harbor.

The history of the parish over the next 125 years is the story of the progress of Catholic families and their friends in and around Roslyn, the growth of the community itself -- with St. Mary's often the catalyst for that growth -- and the increasingly fast-paced change in America and the world which the parish would soon engage.

The 1880's and 1890's: Putting Down Roots

"Father O'Donnell began construction of the new church in the hot summer of 1871 with a call for volunteers to assist in the excavation of the basement and the grading of the church hillside."

*"The response to this call was an oversupply of workers willing to donate their labor and tools to be helpful. Bernard Fagan responded by furnishing a team of horses with scoop and shovel. Silas W. Albertson sent a horse and cart with driver. John Roach furnished a team of horses with a wagon. The help was abundant with all of them working ten hours a day." **

It's been there since the very beginning -- people, remarkable people, under inspired leadership -- bending their backs to build St. Mary's.

The new church was being built on a small bluff overlooking Roslyn Harbor where the steamer "Sewanaka" would arrive daily on its run from New York. The "toot" of the new train, the Long Island Railroad's once-a-day visitor from the city, would sometimes punctuate the sound of the workers' shovels as it travelled the newly-laid tracks between Roslyn and Glen Head.

Teamsters hauled stone for the church foundation from the William Cullen Bryant property just up the road on Bryant Avenue. But the dressed stone for the exterior was quarried in Greenwich, Connecticut and shipped across the Sound by schooner.



St. Mary's Church, circa 1890

* From "St. Mary's Church, Roslyn New York," a history of the parish by John Radigan (1943). Courtesy of Elizabeth Radigan.

Shortly after the church cornerstone was laid in October 1871, the first St. Mary's parishioners had to draw on their deep reserves of strength and perseverance in the face of setbacks that would have disheartened all but the most strong-willed.

First, economic conditions made it necessary to cut back on some of the more striking aspects of the church design, including a very impressive steeple; and by the end of 1871 only the stonework and some brickwork had been completed. Then, the plans for a parochial school in the church basement were thwarted by new state safety restrictions on such school sites.

But the most devastating blow occurred in the fall of 1872 when, after a brief but debilitating illness, Father O'Donnell died of smallpox. Pastor for only a little more than a year, he had nevertheless been the catalyst for the rapid development of the fledgling Roslyn parish even while being responsible for the mission churches in nearby Manhasset and Great Neck.

The burden of leadership of the hardy band of Roslyn Catholics fell to Father Patrick F. Sheridan who took up residence in December 1872, and immediately set upon completion of the church.

A second subscription among the parishioners and a mortgage on the property provided the needed resources for completion of the brickwork and roof. And so, on a hot morning in July 1873, the first Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church. Because the interior of the main floor was still unfinished, the Mass was said in the basement. But it was a beginning -- as the song goes, "the start of something big."

Under Father Sheridan and his successor, Father Mortimer Brennan, who arrived in 1876, the parish made steady progress despite formidable obstacles. Wages were about a dollar a day. Sunday collections were counted mostly in pennies. "Funny Money" -- twenty-five cent and fifty-cent notes or stamps -- was in circulation until the 1880s.

But a succession of inventive fund-raisers did the trick. Picnics at Harbor Hill and Eastman Woods (at Warner and Jefferson Avenues), a "grand ball" at Mansion House, and other social events helped raise the money to complete the interior of the upper church. And so the first Mass "upstairs" and the official church dedication took place in June 1878.

The Roslyn News, reported on June 29th, 1878: "The new Catholic Church in this village was dedicated on Sunday last ... The Catholic population of Roslyn is not large and their means are limited, but they are generous to a fault and have been untiring in their labors for the achievement of the church."

"The new edifice is built of brick and stone ... There is yet much work to be done, both inside and out, and when completed the church will be as handsome a one as there is on the Island."

St. Mary's third pastor, Father Nicholas Doran, arrived in 1886 and promptly embarked on a remarkable twelve-year period of strengthening and growing parish resources. Besides paying off the church's debt (donating his personal "purse" of \$1,400 given to him by his former parishioners), and completing the heating system for the upper church, Father Doran accumulated a parish fund for the purchase of a rectory and for other development projects as well.

Father Doran also initiated Sunday evening Devotions and daily Mass in the church where he installed the beautiful high altar that remained the focus of much of St. Mary's worship for more than seventy five years, until the church renovation in 1983.

As the millennium approached, St. Mary's, well-rooted and prospering, looked forward to a new century of service to, and loving support from, its loyal parishioners.

A New Century, An Expanded Mission

The nuns came in 1902. And for more than nine decades, St. Mary's has been all the better for their presence.

In September of that year, two Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph (unfortunately, their names are lost to posterity) began the long tradition of "Sister says" that has helped instill the values that endure to this day among St. Mary's families. Leaving from Brooklyn every Sunday morning, sometimes before dawn, they arrived at St. Mary's to give catechetical instruction after the two masses.

The Sisters first arrived at St. Mary's shortly after the appointment of the parish's sixth Pastor, Father Louis N. Martel, who succeeded Father Martin Hogan just after the turn of the century. Father Martel's twenty-eight year pastorate would be marked by unprecedented growth and development, highlighted by many additions which have made St. Mary's unique.

One of the most distinctive additions was the installation of the Church's impressive pipe organ, a gift to the parish from Clarence H. Mackay, one of the era's most successful industrialists whose East Hills estate rivalled any along Long Island's "Gold Coast". Mr. Mackay, who donated the beautiful organ in memory of his brother, John Willam, also paid for the furnishing of the gallery as well as the salary of an organist.

The "Mackay organ" represents another unique aspect of St. Mary's which flourished on Father Martel's "watch" and continues even today: the parish's enthusiasm for music, liturgical and popular, and amateur theater.

In the early 1900s, St. Mary's fairs, by then a local institution, were augmented by dramatic presentations, sometimes short plays followed by "social" dancing, other times full, three-act dramatic productions.

And, as if to prove that "what goes around, comes around," St. Mary's published its first Parish Journal in 1906 with prominent advertising from the likes of " J.F. Stapelton Feed, Hay, Grain and Straw", "C.C. Woodin, Dealer In Ice Of Any Quantity" and "Peter Lynch, First Class Coal Delivered By Rail Or Water".

Improvements in the church and rectory were continuous throughout Father Martel's administration. In addition to installing electric lights in the church and rectory, he also oversaw the addition of the vestry to the church. Much of the religious art now in the church was added about this time and the church and its surroundings were adapted to the central transportation event of the era -- the replacement of the horse and carriage with the horseless carriage.

World War I, of course, intruded. As the war moved to its conclusion, St. Mary's was the site of "one of the most moving events in Roslyn history" when, on July 14th, 1918, Roslyn Catholics solemnized the raising of their service flag in honor of their boys called to the colors. This event was the culmination of a parade from the Roslyn railroad station in which many local civic and religious organizations took part.

A few days later, The Roslyn News reported: "Seldom if ever have the citizens of Roslyn witnessed in their own village a patriotic demonstration which could equal the one that took place last Sunday afternoon when most villagers joined in the parade and ceremony of the blessing of St. Mary's Service Flag."

Shortly after the war, parishioners took it upon themselves to sponsor benefit events to raise money for the completion of the interrupted construction of the Roslyn War Memorial Building.



Willis Residence: Aborted School Site

St. Mary's growth during the 'Twenties led inevitably to a Re-Firing of the desire for a parish elementary school. In 1925, Father Martel bought the Willis home on Church Street which he hoped to modernize and use as a school and convent. But this dream was not to be -- at least not for another 27 years -- when Bishop Molloy, in the interest of pupil safety, issued a directive prohibiting the use of frame buildings for schools.

Father Martel, keenly disappointed but totally obedient, never fully recovered from the emotional blow. He slipped steadily into ill health and delegated most of his duties to Parish Administrator Father John O'Kane and then to O'Kane's successor as Administrator, Father Edward McManus.

On September 7, 1930, Father Martel passed on, leaving an impressive legacy of achievement and promise.

Father McManus served as pastor until 1934 when he was succeeded by Father Patrick Feeley who remained at St. Mary's until 1937. During these troubled Depression years, when "Buddy Can You Spare A Dime?" was a top song on the Hit Parade, St. Mary's -- as did the rest of America -- "took a deep breath" and awaited a more propitious time for growth and progress.

From The 'Fifties Toward The Year 2000

Father Francis R. Ryan became St. Mary's eighth pastor in mid-1937, a troubled year at home and around the world. Hitler was on the march in Europe. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, beginning the second of his four terms, confronted a U.S. unemployment rate still hovering close to 20%. And Roslyn, like communities across the country, tried to cope with economic and social pressures that wouldn't abate until the end of World War II in 1945.

But when the war did end, vast energies were unleashed upon the land. Shortages of meat, butter, eggs, clothing and gasoline -- just about everything -- abated. Many "Rosie the Riveters" were re-united with fathers, sons, brothers and fiances.

The GIs were home again, getting college educations through the GI Bill, setting up households and starting families. The "Baby Boom" was upon us. And in Roslyn that meant young families moving into many of the community's older homes and new homes being built at a record clip.



Groundbreaking for St. Mary's School 1951

And that meant that the time was finally right for the realization of St. Mary's long-held dream, a parochial school. (By 1950, the parish had grown to about 1100 Catholic families with about 500 children of elementary school age).

As so often in the past, St. Mary's parishioners rolled up their sleeves, taxed themselves and got the job done. Under the direction of Father Ryan and the chairmanship of Stanley Novaack, 300 volunteers waged a successful fund drive. In September 1952, St. Mary's School officially opened on the five-acre property on Round Hill Road formerly owned by Dr. Joseph Wallace Hennessy. The school had eight classrooms, a cafeteria and administrative offices and was staffed most effectively by the Sisters of Mercy.

Almost immediately, the eight classrooms were filled and double sessions became necessary in the lower grades. So, only two years later, a school expansion campaign was launched under the chairmanship of parish trustee Herman Herbert, and eight new classrooms and an auditorium (now the Monsignor Ryan Auditorium) were opened in September 1955.



Msgr. Ryan with First Faculty



Msgr. Ryan with Parish children 1943

Under Father Ryan (elevated to Monsignor in April, 1952) and his successor, the widely-popular Father S. Thomas Minoque, (also later named Monsignor) who served as St. Mary's pastor from 1969 until 1978, the school soon exceeded even its ambitious educational mission. It became the center of the parish's social life.

It was alive with the vitality of its children -- the basketball players (and on the adjoining field, the soccer, baseball or softball players) and the cheerleaders; the catechists and their pupils; and the singing and dancing of the schoolchildren in productions such as "The Light of the World".

And early on, the school became the site of many St. Mary's adult activities as well. "Broadway musicals" included "Fiddler on the Roof", "Fiorello", "Bye, Bye Birdie" and "Brigadoon." They never failed to excite the cast and delight the audience.



Rehearsal for "Fiddler on the Roof "

The children, their parents and families and friends also celebrated First Communions, Confirmations, and Graduations at the school, further bonding families and the parish as a whole.

In the 'Seventies and 'Eighties a loyal brigade of hardy parish volunteers managed "socials" that had a major positive impact on parish finances. Two of the best examples: weekly "bingo" games in the school auditorium and the Annual St. Mary's Festival on the school grounds. It

was hard work, but it was fun too -- and, as so often in its past, the parish was greatly indebted to these dozens of "worker bees" who made a difference. Much of this "fund-raising fun" has been carried on since 1980 by the very active St. Mary's Guild Committee including "The 300 Club."

During Father Minogue's pastorate, St. Mary's also matured in other critical directions -- in terms of more broadly-based management, in its spiritual development, and in ecumenical outreach through inter-faith meetings and lunches. Much of this evolution related to the Second Vatican Council, "Vatican II".

St. Mary's first Parish Council -- to assist the pastor in the management of myriad parish activities -- was elected in June 1969, with Dr. Thomas Sheehy, the first Council chairman. And the first parish elections for a St. Mary's School Board were held a year later with Malcolm McNair being chosen the Board's first president.

On a parallel track, spiritual activities flourished with the growth of St. Mary's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (now the Religious Education Program, managed by Sister Frances Birmingham, O.P.) and the emergence of the widely-respected St. Mary's Choir, under the direction of Yvonne Carroll Parente. Over the years, the choir has enriched the renowned St. Mary's Midnight Mass, the celebration of Easter and so many other parish liturgical highlights.



First Parish Council



Choir-Midnight Mass

One of the many memorable events recorded in The Grapevine was the trip to Roselare, Belgium, in August 1982 by St. Mary's Choir and Choristers in a program developed by Music Director, Yvonne Carroll Parente. The Choir participated in an exchange program with St. Michael's Choir and the Boys Choir of the Klein Seminary under the direction of Father Arnold Loose. The Choir sang at Masses at two locations and gave an evening concert. The following year the adults and children of St. Michael's choir visited Roslyn and performed on several occasions in St. Mary's Church.



St. Michael's Choir and St. Mary's Choir in Belgium

All this time, parish support organizations likewise flourished. Groups such as the Ladies Auxiliary, the St. Vincent DePaul Society and the John W. Mackay Council Knights of Columbus provided an array of assistance to the needy and to many others within and beyond the parish.

One of the highlights of Father Minogue's tenure was the St. Mary's Centennial celebrated in a seven-month observation from October 1971 to April 1972. The community-wide celebration included a special historical exhibit at the Roslyn Library, a centennial-year Christmas fair, a Memorial Mass for all deceased parish priests, nuns and parishioners, a spring concert in the church which featured artists from the Metropolitan Opera company, a family renewal retreat, a rededication ceremony officiated by Bishop Kellenberg, a gala Centennial Dinner-Dance and a Centennial Journal distributed throughout the community and beyond.

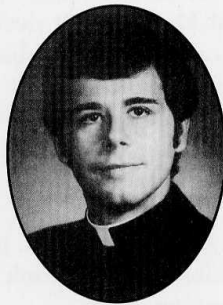
When Father Minogue was named pastor of St. Catherine of Sienna in 1978, Father Daniel E. Fagan took the parish reins for a pastorate that would last seventeen years.

Early in his tenure, Father Fagan extended St. Mary's humanitarian reach by establishing the Parish Ministry Office and the Human Concerns Center. Volunteers -- first under the direction of Sister Jo Ann Walsh, R.S.M., and, since 1994, directed by Sister Barbara Gerardi, O.P. -- provide food, clothing, counselling and other assistance to many local residents.

One of the more popular additions to parish life at this time was the monthly newsletter, The Grapevine, which, for more than a decade, chronicled the many and varied aspects of St. Mary's life. Under the editorship first of Elinor May and then Janice Hansen, The Grapevine features included "From the Pastor's Desk", "Sister Said", and "Didjknowthat".

Perhaps the most enduring and endearing change at St. Mary's during Father Fagan's tenure was the \$1-million parish-funded restoration and renovation of the church. Prompted by the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, it had genuine aesthetic impact as well; the reconstructed altar was a worthy replacement for the revered original altar and the restoration of the church's religious art has inspired many.

On May 9, 1987, the parish was the site of a rare historical event when President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan attended funeral services for parishioner William Casey, whose long career in government service was capped by his work as Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Father Fagan hosted the President and Mrs. Reagan in a short reception in the rectory -- arguably the first time an American President had visited Roslyn since George Washington (with the possible exception of Theodore Roosevelt). It was certainly the only presidential visit to St. Mary's.



Rev. Peter A. Libasci

The parish has also seen many other impressive events in recent decades--events such as the 1979 "home parish" ordination of Peter Libasci to the diaconate, prior to his ordination to the priesthood; and the 1990 ordination of Edward Case as the parish's first Permanent Deacon.

Among the people from the parish who have entered Priesthood or Religious Life: Sister Michlyn Grella, professed in 1951 as a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Her parents were parishioners since 1919. Sister Ansilla Maloney also a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Msgr. John McCann, who is currently pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove. Fr. Mario Pariante, a graduate of St. Mary's School, who was ordained a Marianist Priest in 1990.

With all the many happy and uplifting events at St. Mary's over its hundred-twenty-five years, the parish has also suffered trauma. St. Mary's has had to absorb no greater blow than the 1989 decision to close its beloved parochial school.

It was as if "the movie" of the 1950's had run in reverse in the late-1980's: Far fewer children of school age. A mature demographic base. Fewer religious-order teachers. And fast-increasing costs.

These and other local and national factors combined to make the agonizing decision to close the school all but inevitable.

So, in September of 1990, not without pain--- especially with the memory of many devoted teachers under the direction of recent principals Sister Maureen Morgan R.S.M., Sister Eileen Curley R.S.M. and Sister Alice Traynor O.S.U. ** -- St. Mary's parents sent their children to All Saints Regional School in Glen Cove (which incorporated educational services for St. Mary's and four other parishes in the area) or to other local schools

When our school closed it was necessary that we find another use for our former school building. In November of 1991, through the dedicated efforts and skill of Stephen Barone and our Finance Committee, an agreement was made with the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (A.H.R.C.) to lease our building as a day treatment center for their adult clients, while still reserving the building for St. Mary's for our weekend and holy day Masses and for our Religious Education Programs and other uses. The leasing agreement has greatly benefitted both St. Mary's and the AHRC.



** Earlier principals: Sister Agnita R.S.M., Sister Lurano R.S.M., Sister Mary Eileen R.S.M. and Sister Robertine R.S.M.

Rebirth and Regeneration

In June, 1995, Father Richard C. Bauhoff succeeded Father Fagan as pastor of St. Mary's (both were raised to Monsignor in mid-1996), ushering in a new era with new challenges and new opportunities. Monsignor Bauhoff joins the long line of those who have made St. Mary's what it is today -- not only the pastors and principals but also the curates, visiting priests and deacons; the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Mercy Sisters, the Ursuline Sisters, the Amityville Dominicans; and the many dedicated lay men and women far too numerous to name here.

Monsignor Bauhoff is already running with the "pastoral relay baton" by completing important projects begun by Monsignor Fagan and by undertaking new ones as well -- including the refurbishing and refurbishing of the school auditorium and repair or addition of major "plant" items including boilers and a ramp at the church for easier access for the handicapped.

But perhaps equally significant of all, there is the imminent return of the Mackay organ to the church choir loft.

The organ, long a symbol of the soul of St. Mary's, is being refurbished to its original grandeur of sight and sound. In a sign of the rebirth of St. Mary's now upon us, it will be heard time and again, often accompanying this generation of the St. Mary's choir under the able direction of Susan Hugelmeyer.

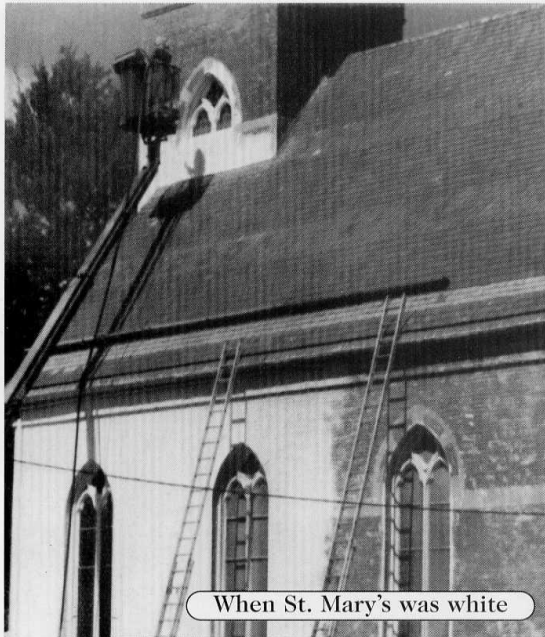
The Mackay organ will invite St. Mary's parishioners to lift up their hearts -- *Sursum Corda* -- as did so many who have worshipped at St. Mary's over one hundred and twenty five years.

And if the past truly is prologue, the people of St. Mary's have good reason to look upward -- and forward.

John Paluszek

[1996 to 2012 To be added at a later date]

St. Mary's Through the Years...



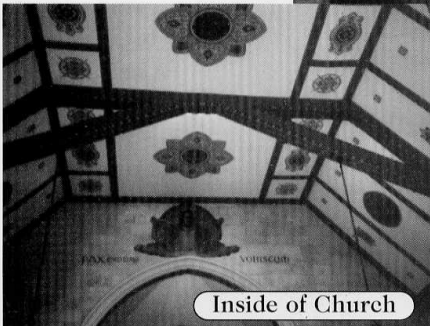
When St. Mary's was white



Rectory



Convent



Inside of Church



School

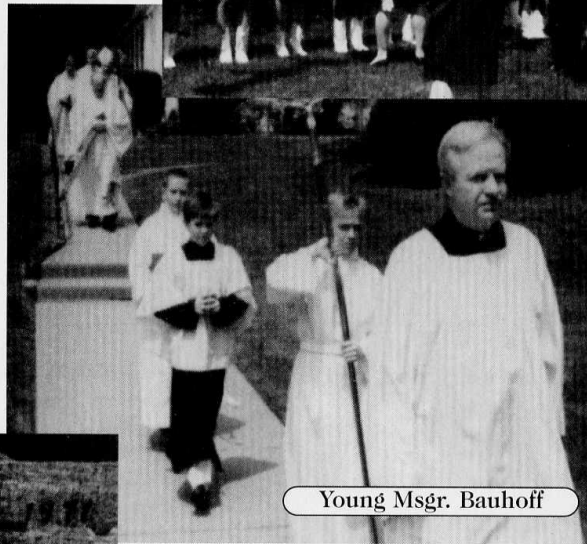
1871 ~ St. Mary's Church, Roslyn, NY ~ 1996

St. Mary's Through the Years...

Sister Maureen leading Parade at
100th Anniversary Ceremony



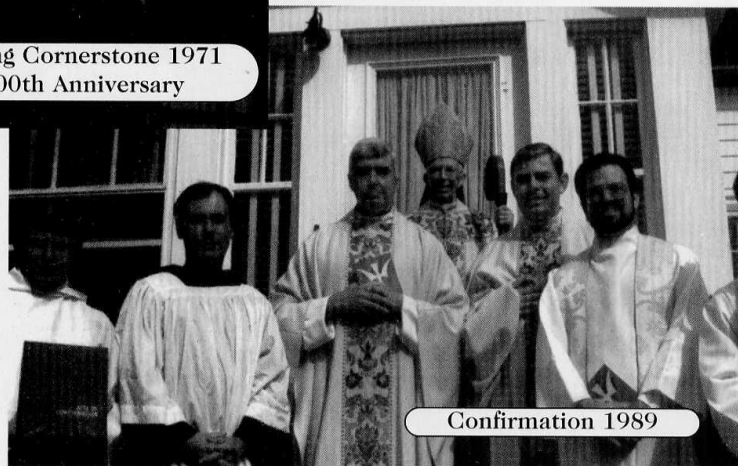
Young Msgr. Bauhoff



Laying Cornerstone 1971
100th Anniversary



Confirmation 1989



1871 ~ St. Mary's Church, Roslyn, NY ~ 1996

Parish Events



Choir



Bingo Nights



Las Vegas Night Committee



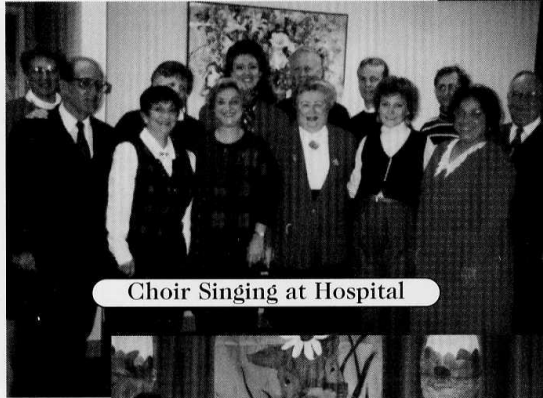
Festival 1985 Committee



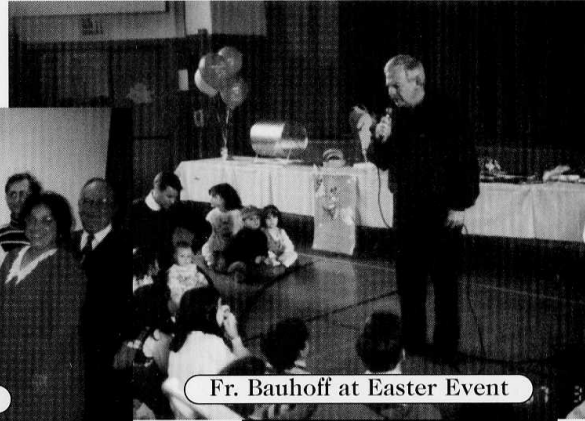
100th Anniversary Dinner Dance 1971

1871 ∞ St. Mary's Church, Roslyn, NY ∞ 1996

Parish Events



Choir Singing at Hospital



Fr. Bauhoff at Easter Event



Easter Event



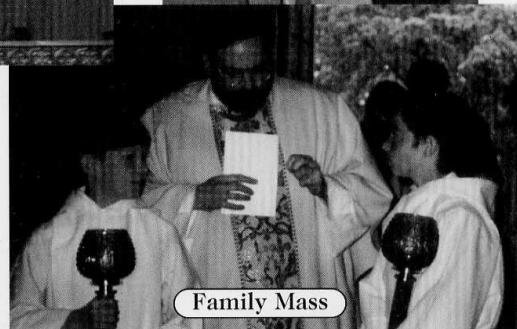
First Communion Day



Choir Television Mass



White Elephant Sale



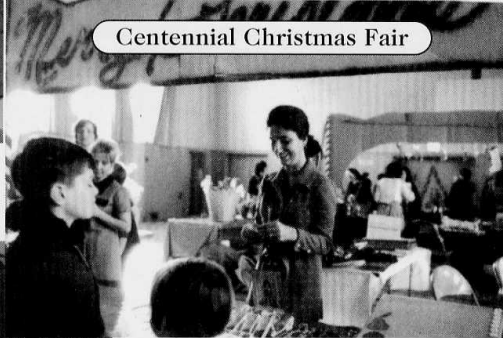
Family Mass

1871 ~ St. Mary's Church, Roslyn, NY ~ 1996

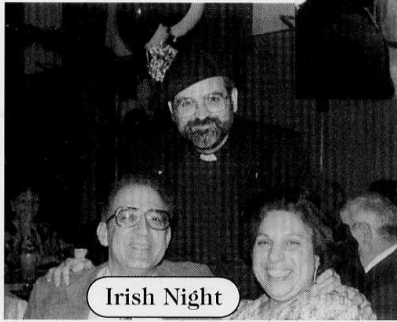
Parish Events



Italian Night 1985



Centennial Christmas Fair



Irish Night



Annual Dinner Dance



50's Dance June 1982

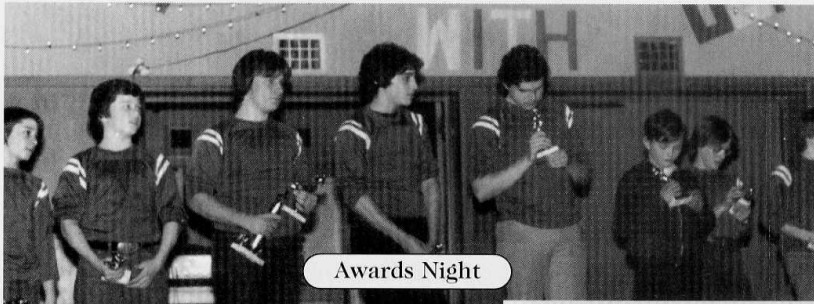


300 Club Oktoberfest

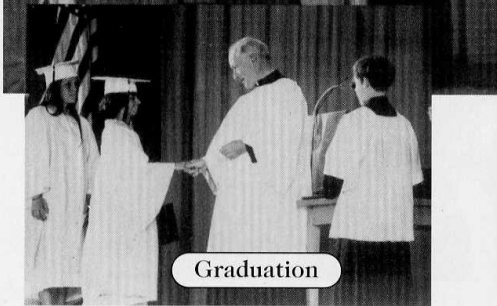


Music Man

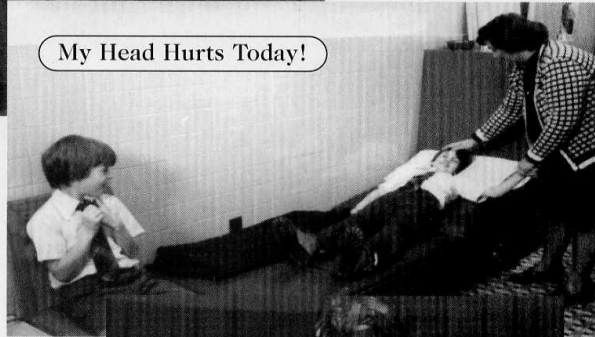
1871 ~ St. Mary's Church, Roslyn, NY ~ 1996



Awards Night

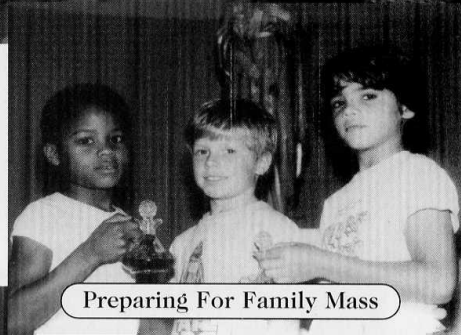


Graduation

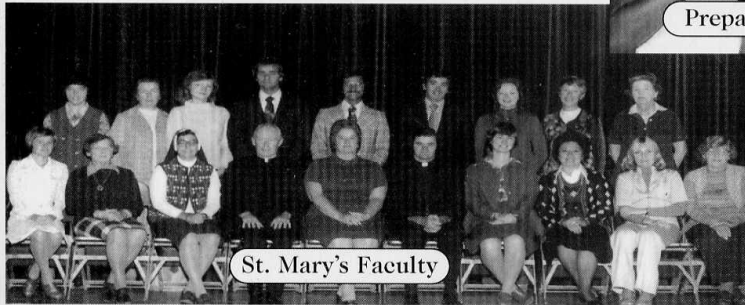


My Head Hurts Today!

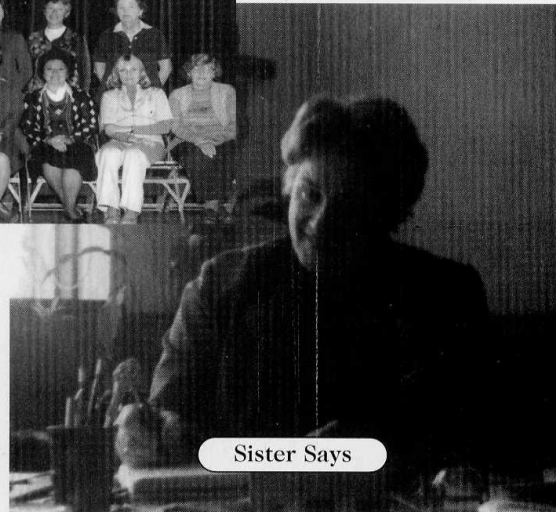
School Days



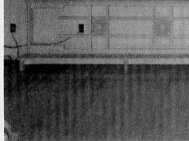
Preparing For Family Mass



St. Mary's Faculty



Sister Says



School Days



1871 ∞ St. Mary's Church, Roslyn, NY ∞ 1996