

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



June 5 , 1941 *Sussex Register*

The public sale of school houses in Sandyston township was held at the Consolidated School on Saturday afternoon. Anson V. Johnson was the auctioneer. The Layton school house was sold to Lawrence Ellett for \$1,000, Hainesville school for \$500 to a Mr. Gilston. Bids on Fisher's school were rejected as being too low. The contents of all the school houses, too, were sold at the Layton school house. All goods were disposed of at fair prices.

- Diocese had set \$500 aside to acquire property in Hainesville.
- The Gilston's were of Newton, NJ and parishioners at St. Joseph's. Msgr. Michael Donnelly, their pastor, was assisting Bishop McLaughlin in opening new Mission churches.

First Mass - July 6, 1941



Bishop McLaughlin

St. Joseph's Has Two New Missions

**Bishop McLaughlin of Paterson Will
-Officiate at Opening Mass at Wal-
pack Sunday at 9 A. M.**

Monsignor Michael J. Donnelly, rec-
tor of St. Joseph's Church has an-
nounced two new missions of the
church will open Sunday. They are
St. Matthew's Mission at Walpack and
St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, Hain-
esville.

Bishop Thomas H. McLaughlin of
Paterson, who authorized creation of
the missions after a series of confer-
ence with Monsignor Donnelly, will of-
ficiate at the opening mass at the Wal-
pack mission, which will be in a tent
in River road near ridge road. The St.
Thomas's Mission is in a former pub-
lic school at Hainesville Center. The
chapel is just off Route S-31.

The mass at Walpack will be at 9
A. M. and 10 A. M. at Hainesville. A
survey of the congregations will be
made to determine the need for addi-
tional services and most convenient
time for holding services the remaind-
er of the Summer.

Sunday masses at Our Lady of the
Lake Church, Culver Lake, another
mission of St. Joseph's will be at 9 and
10:30 A. M. the remainder of the sea-
son. Masses at St. Joseph's Church in
Newton are at 8 and 10 A. M. Sundays.





The REV. JOHN E. HEWETSON

**Administrator of
Western Sussex
Missions
1942-44**

Assigned To Rural Parish At Lafayette

Rev. John E. Hewetson, of Paterson, brother of Rev. Joseph Hewetson, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, has been assigned to the parish at Lafayette, by Bishop McLaughlin, of the Paterson Diocese, and conducted his first mass Sunday at 9 a. m. at Hainesville and at Lafayette at 11 a. m. Rev. Hewetson will live in Lafayette. His parish includes also Walpack, Montague and Sandyston.



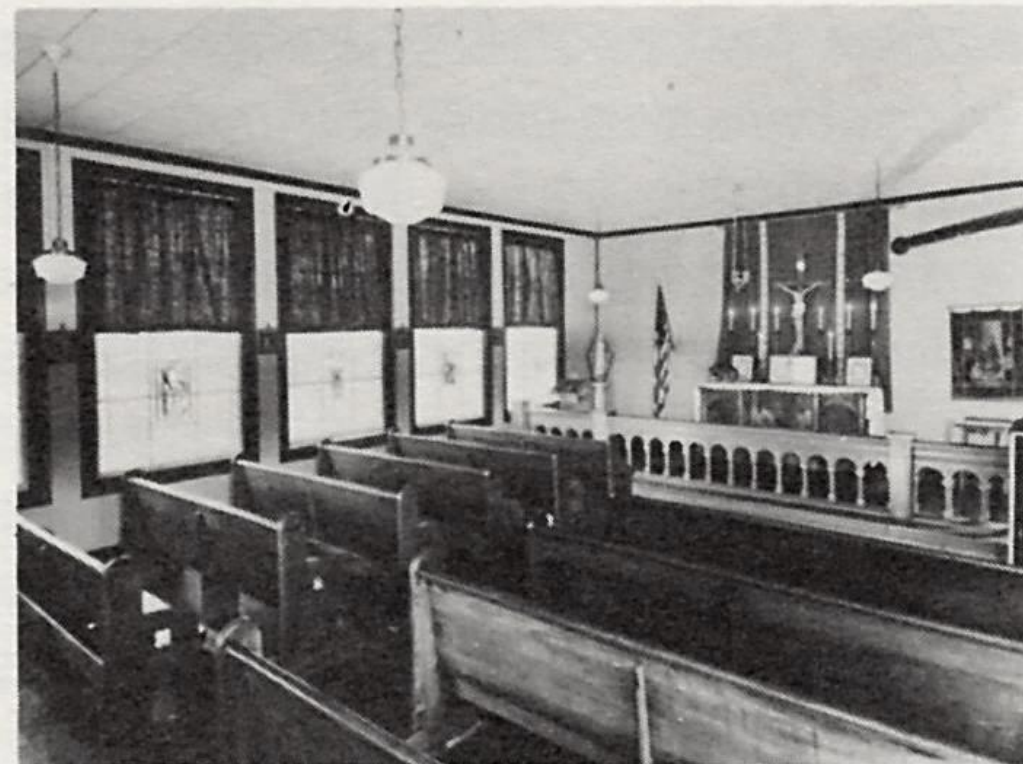
**St. Bartholomew
Church/Chapel
of Lafayette 1942 – 1951**
Priest's residence until Our
Lady Queen of Peace was
established in Branchville.
It closed after the rectory for
St. James Parish In
Montague was built.



Rev. Anthony Spano, SDB
Don Bosco Seminary in Newton
1949-50

Rev. Hadelin Mueller, OSB
St. Paul's Abbey
1950

Both priests assisted at the mission churches and are recalled by long-time parishioners.



**St. Thomas the Apostle, Hainesville, one of the Western Sussex Missions developed in 1943.
(ADP Photo)**

This photo is from the Archives of the Diocese of Paterson and is in Msgr. Raymond Kupke's book, *"Living Stones"* – date taken unknown. The 1943 date though is in error. That was when St. James the Apostle Parish was officially named. Close-up photo shows the small entry porch added to original schoolhouse. Interior view shows the colored glass windows, Altar and Communion rail, Sanctuary lamp, and possible Stations of Cross between the windows. 6

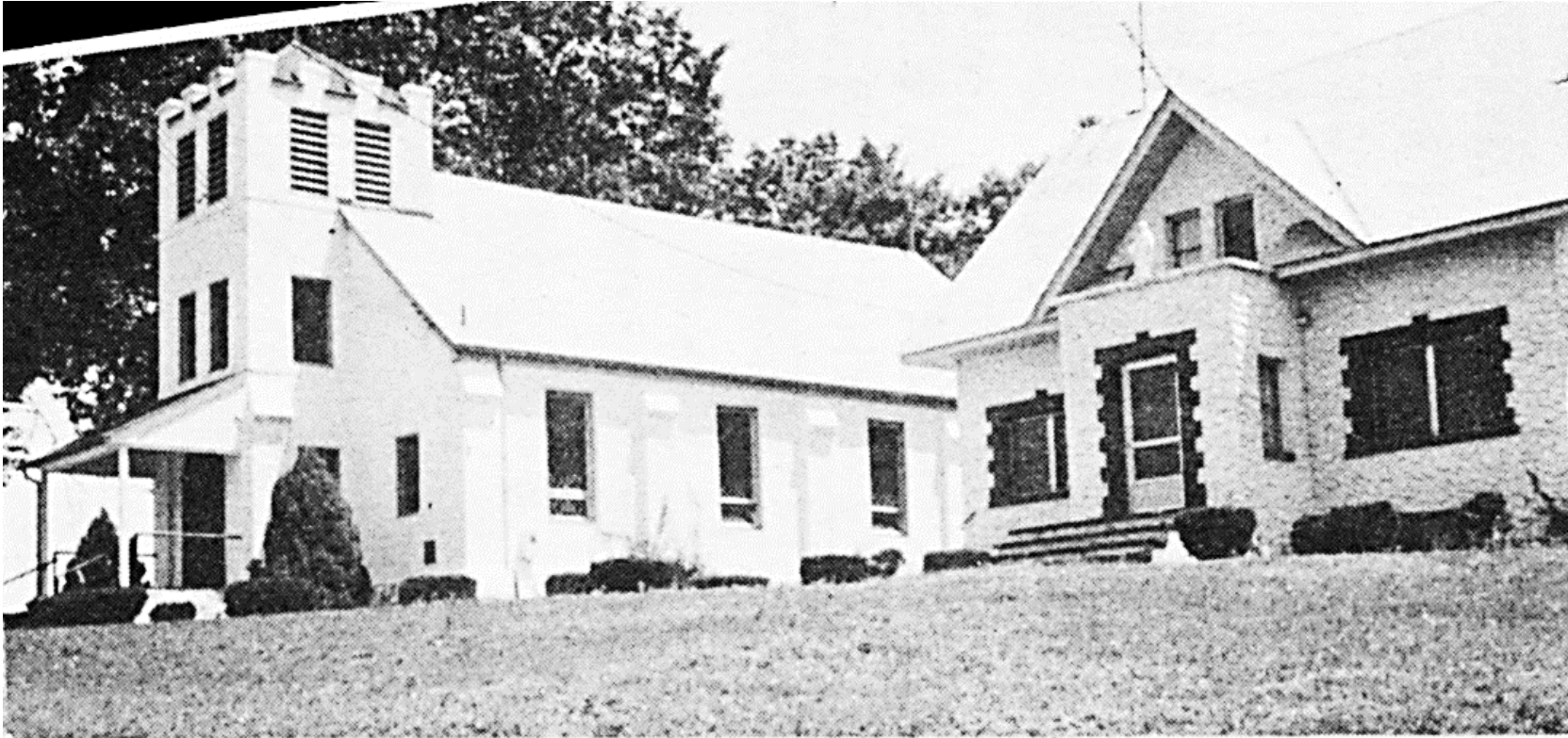


Rev. Francis Warlikowski

Administrator 1944

He was appointed Pastor in 1945, oversaw the Missions, and the construction of the church for St. James in Montague.





**Rev. Sylvius
Mancini
1950-1954**

Built rectory at St.
James and was
the first priest to
reside in
Montague.

LIFESTYLE



WALPACK MISSION — This photo of a wedding at St. Matthew's on Old Mine Road was taken on Aug. 14, 1949.

St. Matthew Mission's first Masses were held under a tent.

“Little Church in Walpack”

It sat across the road from St. Ann's Rest — the Bishop's summer residence on the hill. Initial Masses off season were likely held in private homes.



The steps from Old Mine Rd. ^ still remain — south of Pompey Road.

*South 20 winter
Summer 450*

Ellen Ringle - Russell Moffett wedding
[found recorded in St. James Parish
Register]



Rev. Peter Byron 1954-1961

Panaghiotes Flamiatos - actual Greek name
Held a popular Sunday evening Mass at St. James.



Rev. Joseph Ferrito
temporary Administrator
1961-62 ; now Msgr.



Rev. John Tully was assigned to the Mission at St. Matthew in 1957, and later to St. James & St. Thomas in 1962. Due to the increased number of summer residents and visitors crowding St. Matthew, he added a church at Blue Mountain Lakes - Our Lady of Blue Mountain in 1966. He remained with us until 1967.



*You are cordially invited to attend
Mass and Dedication
of our new Church
Our Lady of Blue Mountain Church
Walpack, New Jersey
on Sunday, the fourth of September
Nineteen hundred and sixty-six
at eleven o'clock
Reverend John G. Tully*

OLBM





Padre Pio with Leo Fanning (beside him),
Joe Asterita, and Mario Avignone



Rev. Leo Fanning
1967- 1969

Corporal Leo Fanning served in Italy during WW2, where he met Padre Pio. When introduced to him, Padre Pio responded “It is Father Leo Fanning.” He indeed later became a priest. Minutes before his ordination he received a congratulatory telegram from Padre Pio, though he had never informed him of the exact day or time.

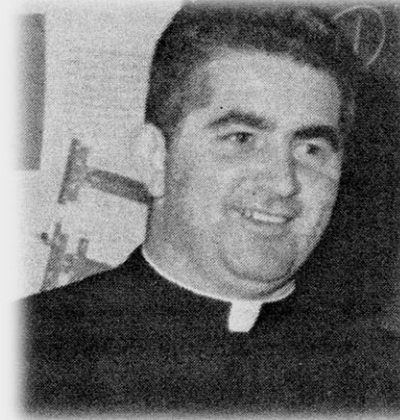


Rev. Karl Kraus
Assisted at, and appointed
as Administrator of St.
Matthew's by 1967
&
taught at Pope John XXIII HS

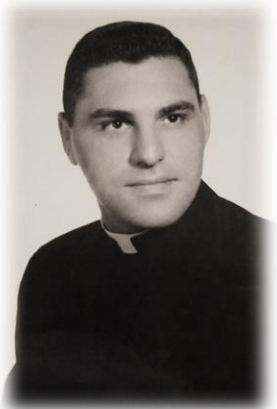


Rev. James Gacquin
Summer 1969
Temporary Admin.
of St. James, and
of St. Thomas and
St. Matthew Missions;
Director at
Pope John XXIII HS

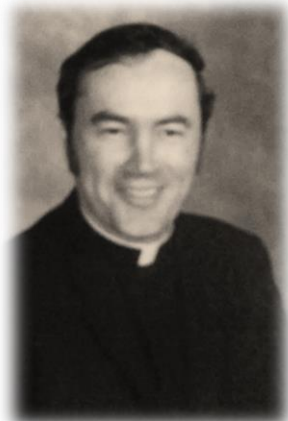
Assisted at St. Thomas and the
Walpack Missions til they closed:



Rev. John Boland,
now Msgr.
1969 – early 1970's



Rev. Remigio Rocco
now Msgr.



Rev. John O'Connor

Rev. Joseph Ryan
covered occasionally

He later would serve as
Parochial Vicar in 1993

Both were
assigned to Pope John XXIII HS



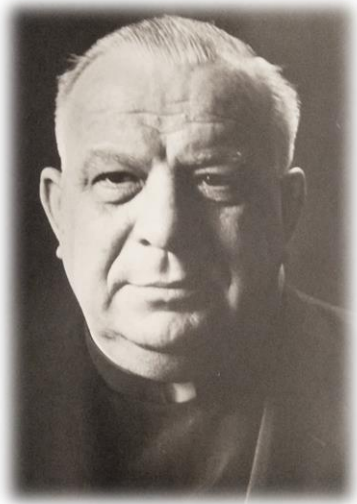
Rev. Michota named new pastor at Montague church

Archbishop of Paterson Lawrence Casey announced this week the appointment of the Rev. Thaddeus Michota as pastor of St. James R. C. Church in Montague and to the missions of St. Thomas, Hainesville and St. Matthew in Walpack Center. Rev. Michota has been pastor of St. Agnes in Paterson.

Other diocesan changes include the Rev. James Gacquin as administrator at St. James in Montague to residence at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Sparta. Rev. Gacquin is director of Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta.

The Rev. Hugh McDowney has been assigned from Our Lady of the Lake to St. Joseph parish in Lincoln Park.

Rev. Thaddeus Michota 1969-1977



Some of the changes between 1960 - 1970:

[These notations were hand written in an 1962/63 Announcement book the priest would carry to all the churches where he was serving Mass.]

Please use the Mass leaflets and pray out loud the Prayers at the foot of the Altar up and including the Kyrie Eleison

The Gloria, the Credo

The Orate Frates / "Pray, Brethren..."

The Sanctus, Sanctus

The Paternoster

The Domine Non Sum dignos / "Lord, I am not worthy.."

By Dec. 1st most of these prayers will be said by the people in English.

Ruling On Mass

Bishop to Permit Saturday Privilege

Catholics of the Paterson Diocese will be able to fulfill the Sunday mass obligation on Saturdays beginning April 18, Bishop Casey announced this week. The announcement made Paterson the 36th diocese out of 160 in the U. S. which have granted the so-called Saturday mass privilege.

THE BISHOP made the announcement at a meeting of diocesan pastors on Monday, noting that the Pope had given all bishops of the United States permission to institute the privilege in their own dioceses.

Bishop Casey requested that those pastors who want the permission for their parishes should apply individually, stating the particular needs of the parish. The permission would also apply to days preceding holy days of obligation.

Attendance at Saturday mass between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m., the bishop said, will free members of the diocese from attending mass on the following Sunday.

"The new ruling," he said, "should make it possible for Catholics to celebrate more easily the day of the resurrection of our Lord."

Workmen Begin Job Of Moving Church

WALPACK TOWNSHIP — Workmen have begun to dismantle Our Lady of Blue Mountain Church, which will be moved to the campus of Pope John XXIII

High School in Sparta for use as a large group instruction area and a library.

"It will relieve the present crowded conditions and it will afford faculty and students resources for independent study and research and team teaching," said Bishop Casey.

Pope John school officials hope actual moving of the church from the Tocks Island area to the school will take place in a week. The target date for completion of the change is early November.

The large instruction area will permit team teaching, large or small groups and will serve as an auditorium for assemblies, plays and concerts.

Included in the facilities will be a professional area for the faculty, a listening area for student use of tapes and records, a viewing area for individual use of filmstrips and films and space for 100 students to conduct study and research.

The existing school library seats 21 students adequately. The gymnasium-auditorium is used 100 per cent of the school day and the classroom-laboratories nearly 94 per cent of the day. This high use of facilities leaves no possibility of flexibility, school officials said.

Sept. 1970 OLBM Closes



Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, right, and Rev. James Gacquin, director of Pope John XXIII High School, review plans to move Our Lady of Blue Mountain Church to the school's campus. The building will be used as a library and large group teaching area. Bishop Casey will participate in dedication ceremonies for the new building when it is ready, possibly in November.

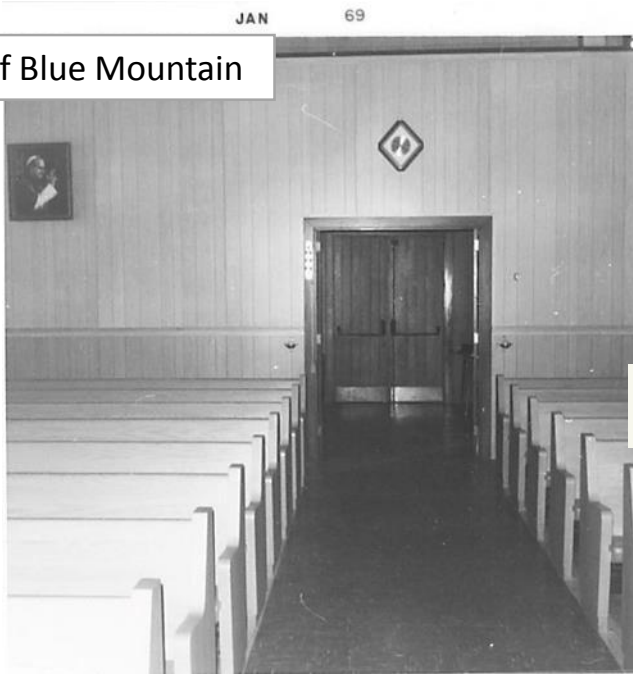
Father Gacquin returned as Pastor to St. James / St. Thomas following Rev. Ted Michota's death in 1977.

St. Thomas the Apostle Mission Church was enlarged 1970 -1971
1/15/71 Loan from St. Matthew to St. Thomas cancelled – St. Matthew's no longer exists.



In 1974, with added space, St. Thomas hosted its 1st Confirmation -
Bishop Casey also confirming those from St. James & the Walpack Missions.

Interior of Our Lady of Blue Mountain



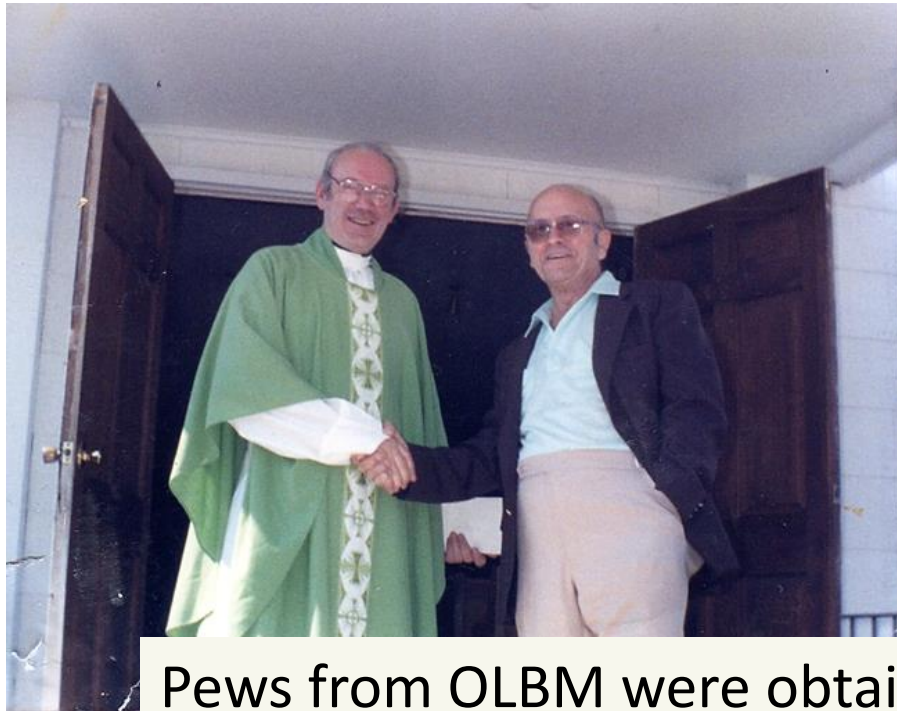
- 1) Stripped church on the mountain
- 2) To St. Thomas:
 - a) Altar;
 - b) Eruet Table
 - c) Kneelers

Pews from OLBM were acquired later.

1973-74 New Floor installed in Sacristy and body of church, new rug in Sanctuary, railing installed, new drapes, new rug in aisles.



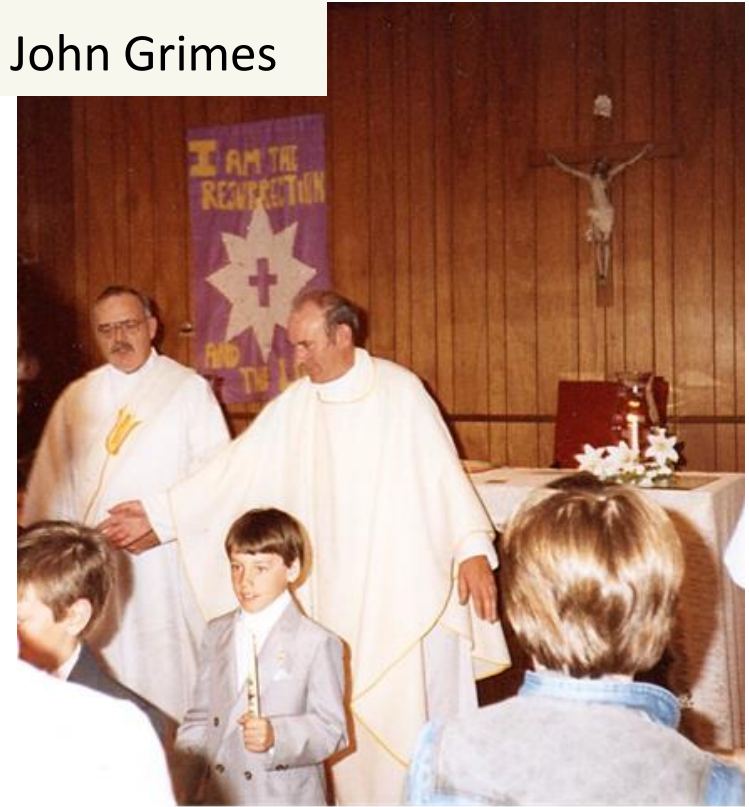
St. Thomas received Stations of the Cross from St. Matthew Mission on its closure.

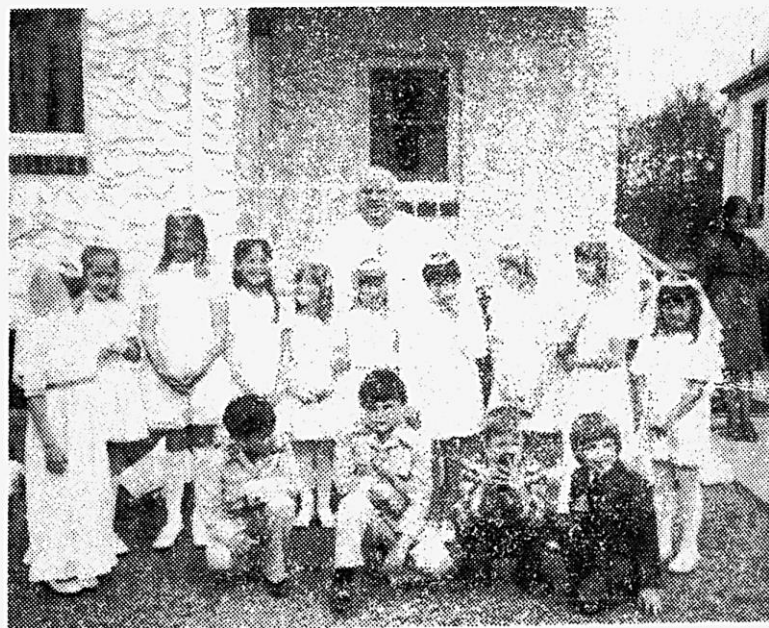


Pews from OLBM were obtained for St. Thomas by Mr. Fred Battali, Sr. in exchange for his offer to dig a well at Pope John XXIII HS.

1984

Deacon John Grimes





Procession At St. James Church

Sunday, May 9th, was not only a special day for mother but also for the children attending the St.

James Church in Montague. 13 boys and girls made their Holy Communion and 40 were Confirmed. Those making Holy Communion were boys and girls from Montague and Sandyston-Walpack. Father Thaddeus H. Michota was honored to have his picture taken with the children.

Often both St. James & St. Thomas held their First Communion and/ or Confirmations together, followed by a breakfast given by the Rosary Society in the parish hall in Montague.

Fr. Ted had welcomed the Salesian Seminararians from Don Bosco in Newton to assist with retreats and religious education.

Mark Iwanicky & Jose Monterrosa, SDB



1976



St. James Church
RD #5, Box 57
Montague, N.J.

February 15, 1981
Rev. James Gacquin, Pastor

St. Thomas Church
Box 157
Layton, N.J.

293-3379
(In Father Gacquins absence
call Fr. Joseph Ryan at St.
Monica in Sussex. Telephone
number 201-875-4521.)



In 1989, Fr. Gacquin was elevated to **Rev. Msgr.**

Here shown with his colleagues and friend, Rev. Msgr. K. McHugh & Rev. Msgr. John V. Boland.

Rev. James Gacquin 1977-1996

Initiated catechist training in 1978, a Parish Council in 1979, and Ecumenical services

At present 135 of New Jersey's 710 parishes have only one priest. In Sussex County, Msgr. James Gacquin is the pastor of two parishes, driving the 12 miles between St. James the Greater in Montague and St. Thomas the Apostle in Sandyston Township, and then regularly taking another 14-mile trip to conduct services for juvenile inmates of the Mountainview Correctional Facility in Stokes State Forest. The constant travel, which adds up to **43,000** miles a year, evokes memories of the circuit rider ministries of an earlier age and brings east a taste of what is happening today in Catholic parishes in some Western states.

Lonely Life: One Parish, One Priest

By JOSEPH F. SULLIVAN,
Published: March 6, 1993 NY Times



PATERSON DIOCESAN CENTER, 777 VALLEY ROAD, CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY 07013

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DECREE ERECTING THE PARISH OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE,
HAINESVILLE, NEW JERSEY

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT, AMEN.

In order to provide better for the spiritual welfare of the faithful within the confines hereinafter described, and having consulted the pastor of the parish hitherto covering this district, as well as the Presbyteral Council and Consultors of this diocese, I hereby decree and promulgate the establishment of a canonical parish with the title, the Parish of St. Thomas the Apostle, Hainesville, New Jersey.

This parish will include the faithful living or having a canonical domicile or quasi domicile within the territory embraced by the following lines:

Beginning at the point where the Deckertown Turnpike crosses the New Jersey - Pennsylvania state boundary at the Delaware River, then proceeding east on the Deckertown Turnpike to the point where the turnpike crosses the Montague Township - Wantage Township boundary; then proceeding south along the municipal boundaries of the townships of Montague, Sandyston and Walpack to the Sussex County - Warren County boundary; then proceeding west along the Sussex County - Warren County boundary to the Delaware River; then proceeding north along the Delaware River to the point of beginning.

This Decree shall be effective on Wednesday, December 9, 1987, the 50th Anniversary date for the establishment of the Diocese of Paterson.

It is hereby directed that the Decree shall be promulgated on the weekend of December 5-6, 1987, in the following parishes:

St. James the Greater, Montague
St. Monica, Sussex
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Swartswood

Given at the Paterson Diocesan Center, Clifton, New Jersey, on the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30, 1987, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-seven.

Francis J. Rodimer

Most Rev. Frank J. Rodimer
Bishop of Paterson

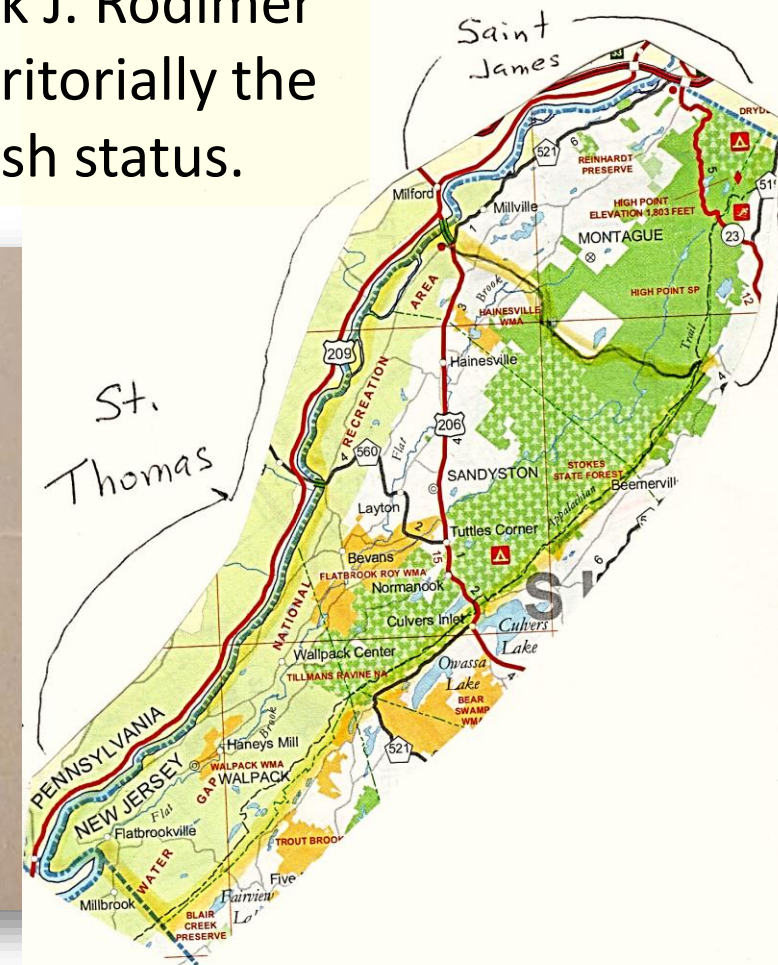
Herbert K. Tilwer
Rev. Msgr. Herbert K. Tilwer

On December 9, 1987, the Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Paterson, Bishop Frank J. Rodimer elevated St. Thomas Mission (territorially the largest in the diocese) to full Parish status.

This parish will include the faithful living or having a canonical domicile or quasi domicile within the territory embraced by the following lines:

Beginning at the point where the Deckertown Turnpike crosses the New Jersey - Pennsylvania state boundary at the Delaware River, then proceeding east on the Deckertown Turnpike to the point where the turnpike crosses the Montague Township - Wantage Township boundary; then proceeding south along the municipal boundaries of the townships of Montague, Sandyston and Walpack to the Sussex County - Warren County boundary; then proceeding west along the Sussex County - Warren County boundary to the Delaware River; then proceeding north along the Delaware River to the point of beginning.

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By 1988, with land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Clark and their daughter, Lydia, Father Gacquin initiated plans and fundraising for constructing a new church along Route 206.



Lacking a hall, St. Thomas had often utilized the old Firehouse, which was a Community Center for its coffee hours, food or craft sales, and other functions. Church picnics or the Steak Bust were also held in the parking lot.

Tricky Trays were held at the Sandyston School, before there was a Parish Hall.



1996 Installation
Parish secretary, Maureen McHugh, presenting
parish roll to Bishop Rodimer.



Rev. Thomas Rainforth
1996 - 1997

Administrator Named

Father Lewis to lead Montague, Layton parishes

Bishop Rodimer has announced the appointment of Father Gerald F. Lewis as administrator of St. James, parish, Montague, and St. Thomas, Layton, effective March 3.

Father Lewis succeeds Father Thomas G. Rainforth, who became pastor after the death of Msgr. James Gacquin on March 31, 1996. Father Rainforth resigned as of Feb. 28.

Father Lewis was ordained a priest by Bishop Rodimer in 1988 following a career as a salesman, sales manager and vice president of marketing with a company that originated the reflective marking material used in highway safety across the country.

He was involved in the manufacture and sale of material and equipment.

A native of Bayonne, Father Lewis

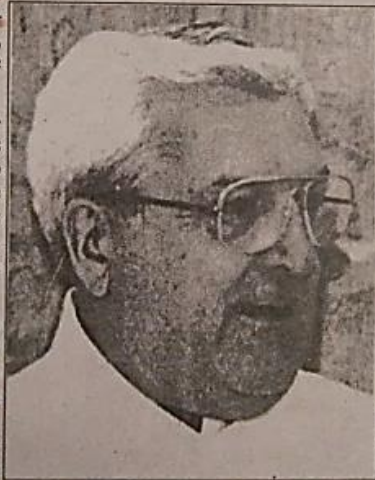
was graduated from Camden Catholic High School and St. Joseph University, Philadelphia.

He studied for the priesthood at Pope John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, Mass.

Following ordination, he served as parochial vicar at St. Anthony, Hawthorne; St. Lawrence, Chester, and Our Lady of the Lake.

St. James, founded as a mission in 1943, was elevated to parish status in 1945. It has 180 registered families.

St. Thomas — territorially, the largest parish in the diocese, serving Sandyston and Walpack Townships — was founded in 1941 as a mission and became a parish in 1987. There are 154 families registered.



Father Gerald F. Lewis

Bishop Rodimer at groundbreaking in 1999



Rev. Msgr. McQuaid – Temp. Admin.

Rev. Gerald Lewis

1997 Admin; Pastor 1998- 2003



Wayne von Doehren ordained to the Permanent Diaconate May 5th, 2001 with Fr. Lewis attending.



This was found on file at The Beacon,
as what was initially envisioned for the new building:



Parish was to gain a parish hall and offices - versus the combination furnace, storage, office and Confessional space located behind the altar.



The old St. Thomas Church ceased being used in 2000. One final Mass was held in June 2006.





One chapter closes,
Another begins

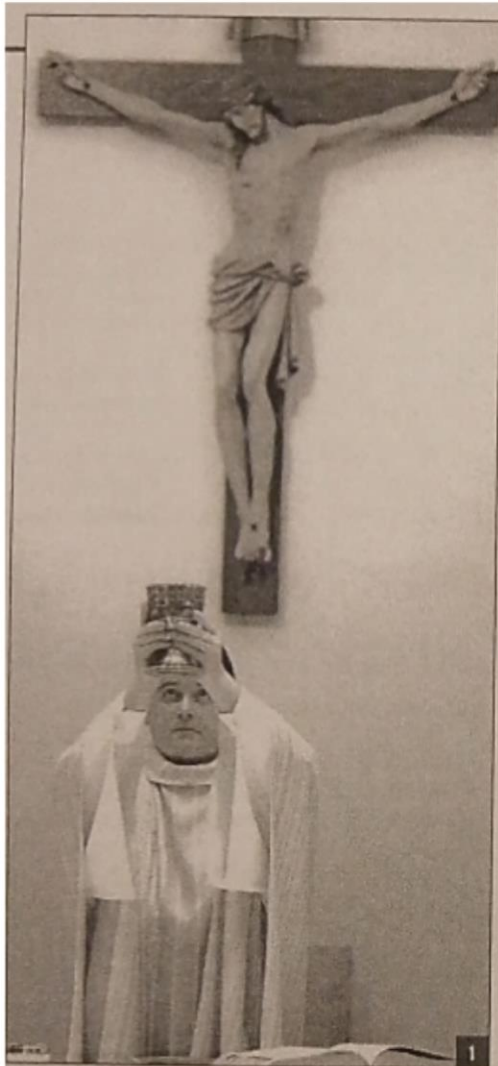


Construction Underway



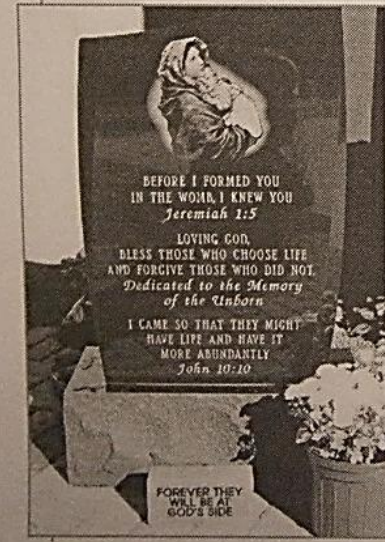
The Prepare the Way diocesan campaign helped to fund the new structure.





**New pastor for two
Sussex County parishes**

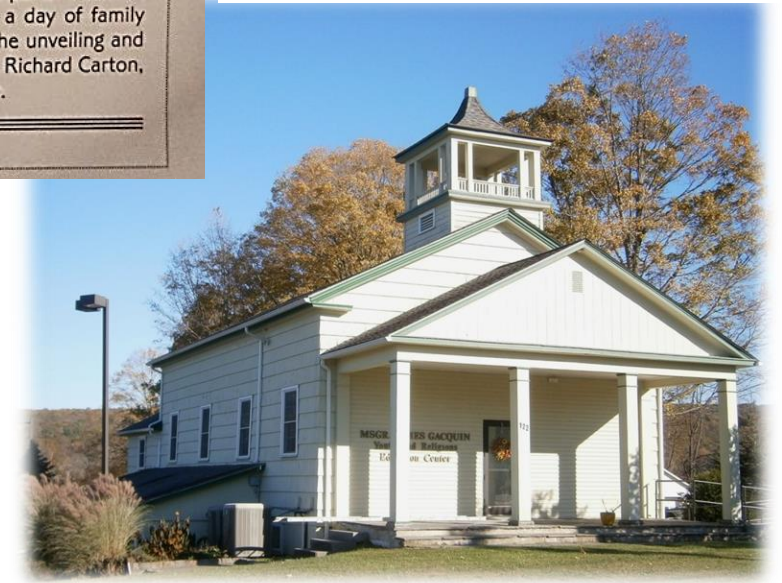
Respect Life

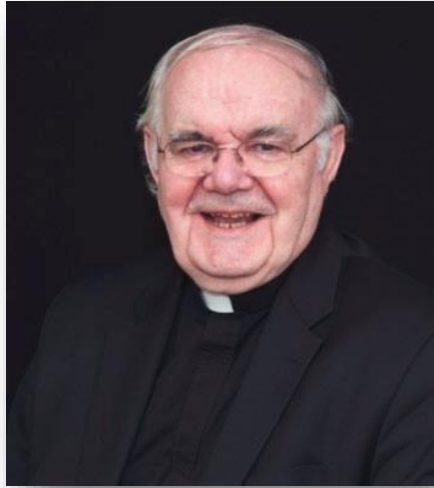


Parishioners from St. Thomas in Layton took part in the parish's second annual Fall Family Festival last month that included a day of family games, food, displays and music. The day concluded with the unveiling and blessing of the parish's memorial to the unborn by Father A. Richard Carton, pastor, in which the Knights of Columbus played a major role.

Upon Father Lewis' retirement,
Rev. A. Richard Carton was
appointed pastor 2003-2007

On January 1, 2007,
the Monsignor
James Gacquin
Youth and Religious
Education Center
was dedicated.





Rev. Msgr. Peter McHugh
Temporary Admin. 2007



Rev. Wayne Varga
Temporary Admin. in 2002
returning as
Pastor 2007 - present

In Father Varga's words:

"Let us pray that the Lord will continue to bless us and help us to prosper. May our parish community remain strong in the Lord and continue to spread the Good News of His love."

Our thanks to

Father Wayne Varga for offering us the privilege to compile the history of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and giving access to information; to Rev. Msgr. Raymond Kupke for providing initial data and his permission to use the Diocesan Archive photo; the information shared by Bishop Emeritus Frank J. Rodimer, Msgr. Joseph Ferrito, Rev. Msgr. John V. Boland, Rev. Edward Liptak SDB and Salesians: Rev. Dave Moreno, SDB & Rev. Mark Hyde, SDB; *The Beacon* for permitting us to copy articles and file photos; Mike Milligan for copying the Luthman family's photo of St. Bartholomew Church; the National Park Service for sharing photos of Our Lady of Blue Mountain - and the many photos taken and given to the parish by Peter Riili, along with the added photos shared by many parishioners - particularly those included here from Agnes Ciesielski, Pat Staudt Walsh, Fred Battali Jr., Greg DeVita, Mary LaRusso parents', Richard Hollyer, Rosemarie Briegel, Mary (Pollara) Stoddard, Deacon Wayne von Doehren, Paul Brislin, Sheila Gagliano of OLBM, Mary Tully, and to Tom Costello for the Pope John XXIII HS Yearbook photos – and most especially to Sharon Spangenberg for her valued aid in collecting, scanning and/or printing photos and organizing the Anniversary albums, and her help with this slideshow and in researching, editing, etc., etc. Without her assistance, our parish would not have had retrieved as much information for its 75th celebration.

Powerpoint created by Alicia Batko for the August 28th, 2106 75th Anniversary celebration of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish – Hainesville/Sandyston

Edited as information was updated.