

St John the Baptist Mission Statement

As a faith community joined through baptism and worship, we, the members of St John the Baptist Parish, declare our mission to be the ministry of service in the spirit of Christ.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we provide opportunities for nurturing spiritual growth, strive to meet the needs of our surrounding community and preserve the values of our Catholic tradition.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
1914-2009

Just when Mass was first offered in our Point Place community is a mystery. Ottawa Indians were its first inhabitants, probably eight thousand of them living along the lake between Toledo and Monroe. Remains of an Indian Cemetery have been unearthed in the neighborhood of 310 East and 304 West Streets. French missionaries labored among the Indians in the Toledo area in the late 18th and 19th

centuries, and legend has it that they canoed their way up to and beyond Point Place, but there is no evidence that they conducted worship here.

The first Mass known to have been offered in this area was in neighboring Erie, Michigan which was visited by French missionaries from Quebec as early as 1819. Among its earliest pastors was the highly gifted Father Gabriel Richard who became a co-founder of the University of Michigan and served as its first vice president.

Until 1841 when St. Francis de Sales became the first church in Toledo, Catholics of this area would have had to struggle their way through thick forests to assist at Mass in Erie. Even after it became our parish church, St. Francis de Sales was not easily accessible. There were no hard roads and the swampy terrain challenged travel by horse drawn vehicles. It was easier and cheaper to deliver building materials from Toledo by boat.

A double-deck passenger and freight boat made daily trips from Toledo. The first horse drawn street car came from Toledo over Suder Avenue. Later an electric line ran from Toledo to the Casino, a dance hall and recreational center at the site of the present Yacht Club. During the course of time the 'Dinky' line ran from the Casino to the center of our village. Our Helen Miller recalls how accommodating Charlie the conductor was, observing no fixed time schedule, but making stops at the call of passengers, and giving the car a rest at times to accept the invitation of departing passengers, "Come in and have a slice of cherry pie." It was not until 1918 that the Interurban line connecting Toledo and Monroe gave Point Place rapid travel service.

Members of St. Michael's

When St. Michael's Parish was established in 1900, Point Place became part of its territory and our people enjoyed easier access to a church. But the growth of population here and in all of North Toledo prompted Father Harks, Pastor of St. Michael's in 1914 to ask the Bishop to establish Point Place as a separate parish. Responding favorably, Bishop Schrembs came with Father Harks to the home of William and Mary Pedee on 131st Street on a Sunday afternoon in March 1914 to review the situation. Their daughter, Sadie, Mrs. Orla Sanders, now residing on

302nd Street, attended the meeting. Several months later, on June 21, 1914, he directed Father Nicholas Traunero, newly appointed assistant at St. Michael's to take charge of Point Place as a mission, and to construct a place of worship. A local chronicler thus described his coming: "A missionary came and started to preach and to build a church." Father Traunero was a fast worker. The Catholics he visited were for the most part farmers and cottage dwellers. To provide the wherewithal for the construction of a place of worship on two lots donated by Peter Mettler, he solicited contributions amounting to two thousand dollars.

Following are the family names of the contributors according to Father Traunero's record: Alvert, Aubry, Ankenbrandt, Bogarski, Cousino, Casey, Doner, Duffy, Downey, Degnan, Doescher, Ford, Fournier, Flater, Fry, Florian, Garvin, F. Hillebrand, J. Hillebrand, Johnson, Leary, Lees, Maher, Moran, Mallo, Mormood, Mettler, Mcanus, Mayo, McNamara, Myers, Neuhauser, Mominee, McCarthy, Murphy, Nopper, O'Neil, Preas, Perry, Reno, Robinson, Sheehan, Swinghammer, Schuchert, St.Arnold, Webber, Weiss, Woods and Yearick.

Architect J.A. Dowling was engaged to draw plans for the mission chapel and bids were solicited from Toledo contractors, including Bently, Comte and Suhrbier. The successful bidder was John Ankenbrandt who submitted a bid of approximately \$1600. The architect's fee was an imposing \$50. Both figures seem impossible in this day of inflation. Frank Hillebrand, whose \$100 check topped the list of contributors, agreed to inspect the building as the work progressed.

The site of the chapel was on Peach Street, presently 136th Street, so named because a large peach orchard stood nearby. It is interesting to note that it was located adjacent to the nondenominational Point Place Union Sunday School building which had been constructed in 1905. A record in the Point Place Library describes it as attended by both Protestants and Catholics. However, it was not made available to Father Traunero for Mass.

Prior to Father Traunero's coming, Point Place had no organized Protestant congregation. But the spring of 1915 saw the organization of the Church of Christ with fifty members. The first congregational church appeared in 1917. Messiah Lutheran came into existence in 1925.

September 14, 1914, became a memorable day for Point Place Catholics. Bishop Schrembs came for the solemn blessing of the new chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In his presence, Father Harks offered the first solemn Mass, assisted by a number of Toledo priests. St. Michael's choir rendered the music. The altar had been donated by St. Stephen's Parish, Toledo.

On the day of the blessing two children were baptized, Frank Herbert and Myrtle Mayo. The first marriage was contracted by Fred Renz and Louise Mallo. The earliest first communicants were Dorothy Fallon and a Warren boy. Sadie Petee instructed them.

The first social gathering was an ice cream social conducted by the newly formed Mite Society in August, 1914. In those days, waitresses would approach you asking, "Now, do you want a five or a ten-cent dish?"

Residing in St. Michael's Rectory and still serving as assistant there, Father Traunero came to Point Place for Sunday and for occasional masses, besides instructing the children and meeting other needs of the people. When he was promoted to a pastorate in October, 1916 newly ordained Father Francis B. Bruksieker replaced him as assistant at St. Michael's and administrator of the Point Place mission.

We Have Arrived



Father Francis B. Bruksieker
1918- 1951

On February 8, 1918 Bishop Schrembs elevated St. John's to the status of a full fledged Parish, relieving Father Bruksieker of his duties at St. Michael's and constituting him fulltime pastor of St. John's. In his first financial report we find among the list of contributors these names which did not appear in Father Traunero's list: Bratz, Buner, Buerk, Demars, Engel, Fallon, Glazer, Hart, Hester, Hynes, Knaggs, Kelly, Lux, Miller, Murray, Navarre, Pedee, Sampson, Schramp, Simmons, Suhrbier, Socie, Zahnle, Wideman and Mahllel.

In December 1917, the parish purchased our present Summit Street property for \$14,500. At the corner of Summit and 124th Street there stood the once famous "Mrs. Herbert's Roadhouse" while at the corner of Summit and 122nd stood a frame residence, built in 1905. The roadhouse was remodeled inside and out to serve as a temporary church. The last Mass was offered on Peach Street on September 8, 1918 and the roadhouse was solemnly blessed by Bishop Schrembs before Mass on the following Sunday.

We Need a School

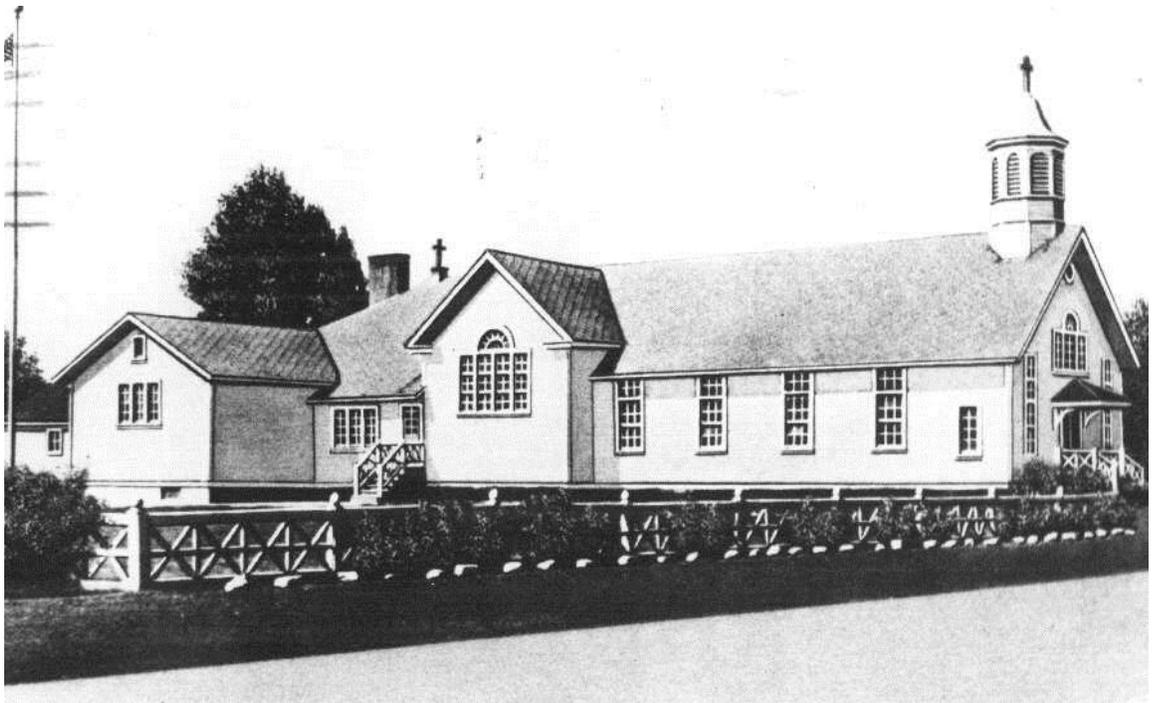
The converted roadhouse was to be short-lived as a place of worship. In March 1919 Bishop Schrembs approved plans for the erection of a "permanent" church and school. Building operations progressed rapidly and the structure was completed by contractor Carl Wohleb at a cost of twelve thousand dollars.

The Peach Street church was dismantled and the property sold. The new church entrance faced 124th Street while the two classrooms at the rear faced 122nd Street. Bishop Schrembs came to bless the church and school on St. John's feast day, November 9, 1919. To this great bishop of Toledo and Cleveland goes the unique distinction of blessing three churches for the same congregation within the course of five years. The parish at this time numbered 125 families.

Prior to the provision of a school, at Father Bruksieker's pleading, Ursuline Sister Victoria and Patricia had volunteered to come from Toledo in 1918 for Saturday and Sunday catechism classes in the newly converted roadhouse. Sister Victor, now residing at the Ursuline Academy, recalls the occasion when a gentleman, arrayed in formal evening dress, wandered into the classroom quite confused. He had come for anything but religious instruction in what he thought was a roadhouse.

Our first parish school opened in September 1919 with Sister Victoria its teaching principal. Sister M. Cammillus came as teacher of the lower grades. Fifty-three children were registered, ranging from grade 1 to 8. A portable classroom was added in 1923 and a double portable in 1928, at which time the enrollment had grown to 153.

At the time our school was opened there were two public schools in the area. The first Junior High in Point Place was opened and the first Senior High in 1929. Until then high school students generally attended Waite High in Toledo. Some Catholic high school girls attended St. John's High, Superior Street, or Central High, then on Page Street.



St. John's is Alive

The enthusiastic response of St. John's people to Father Bruksieker's efforts displayed itself on Toledo's Annual Catholic Day at Toledo Beach when in 1918 and

in succeeding years they registered the highest number of participants percentage wise.

The pastor's zeal for the spiritual activity of his flock is reflected in the numerous organizations he launched. Their titles echo the Litany of Saints. In addition to an active Apostolate of Prayer, there was St. Michael's Society for Men, St. Rita's Society for Women, St. Agnes Society for Young Women, St. Aloysius Society for Young Men, and Holy Angels Society for the children. A Boy Scout troop was organized in 1920.

A copper plate on the Mission Crucifix, which hangs in the sacristy, reveals that the first parish mission was conducted in 1920. Thereafter, in Father Bruksieker's administration a mission was conducted every three years.

Trying Years

The growth of St. John's came to a sudden halt in 1929 when the nation's most devastating depression set in and extended itself over the next ten years. Industrial and financial houses came tumbling down with disastrous effect for many. While priests were in procession from St. John's College to St. Francis de Sales Church for the consecration of newly appointed Bishop Alter in 1931, newsboys were heard announcing the crash of Toledo's Security Bank. Three other Toledo banks folded in quick succession. Unemployment was the order of the day. To keep their families in existence the unemployed were required to enlist in the government formed W.P.A. In fact, the architect for the Peach Avenue Chapel was seen on his way home from W.P.A. pick-and-shovel employment, with a dinner pail in hand. Coming out of the lush years in the earlier twenties no one was prepared for the crash. Very few people were pensioned and such benefits as unemployment compensation, Medicare and Social Security were as yet unheard of. Through township trustees, the government gave weekly allowances for groceries, but to qualify for this allowance, many were required to temporarily surrender their auto licenses.

Parishioners of St. John's who were farmers, gardeners, or fishermen were better able to provide for themselves than those employed in business or industries. Pastors endeavored to organize whatever relief they could. Our Catholic hospitals registered many charity patients at pastors' requests. The Toledo Particular Council of St. Vincent de Paul generously responded to calls for clothing and essential housewares.

On the heels of the Depression came World War II. The anxieties and deprivations occasioned by the Depression were aggravated by our entry into hostilities in 1941. Many of our youth were called from their homes to serve in the armed forces. The record shows that recruited from St. John's were sixty-seven men and two women, the present Joan O'Connor Louy and Evelyn Aubry Pearson. Though not commissioned, Father Bruksieker took upon himself the chaplaincy of the nearby Bay View Naval Training Station, ministering to the spiritual needs of the sailors. The parish register discloses the effectiveness of his ministry – seventeen servicemen were instructed and baptized.

Meeting the financial needs of the parish became more and more difficult. Proceeds from an annual summer festival helped. The Mite Society and the Altar

Society conducted profitable social events. Father Bruksieker undertook the formation of a dramatic group and personally directed an annual theatrical play.

Parish membership grew rapidly after the boys came marching home from World War II. Many of them belonging to North Toledo parishes married and established homes in the open spaces northward. At least 250 homes were built within the parish area in 1950. By 1952 the parish list had grown to number 875 families. The increased membership enabled the pastor to announce that the parish is free from debt for the first time.

Naturally the growth overtaxed the capacity of the parish school. With the construction of an interstate highway assured, the prospect of St. John's becoming a large parish loomed brightly. It was quite generally agreed that a campaign should be launched for a school building subscription campaign. A director was engaged and committees were appointed for the soliciting.

A Sad Day

In the midst of these preparations came the announcement that Father Bruksieker was transferred to the Pastorate of St. Theresa's in Toledo. Bishop Rehring, foreseeing that not only a new school, but also a new church and rectory were in the offing, decided that a younger man should bear the responsibility.

It was with a heavy heart that the veteran and venerable pastor bade farewell to St. John's on March 7, 1951. He had seen the birth of the parish, had nursed and guided it through thirty-five years. His pastorate had extended over the most critical period in our nation's history – two world wars and an unprecedented depression.

When Fr. Bruksieker was transferred to St. Theresa's, Nellie Bliss, his faithful housekeeper for many years, followed him to his new assignment. She remained his housekeeper until his death during Christmas week, 1953.

Father Morrin Arrives



Father Milo Morrin
1951-1966

Appointed to succeed Father Bruksieker was Father Milo Morrin. Ordained in 1950, the new pastor had served as assistant in St. Patrick's Toledo and as chaplain to the Lucas County Home and Hospital, Marybrook Academy and the State Hospital. Taking up from where Father Bruksieker had left off, he saw the subscription campaign for a new school through to a successful conclusion; the total pledged amounting to \$115,000. The present three acre school site was purchased for \$15,000. Building operations were put under way and the new school was completed in 1953 at a cost of \$260,000. The converted roadhouse was dismantled.

At that time the congregation numbered nine hundred families, but the growth continued, one hundred or more families registering annually. It was found necessary to add twelve additional classrooms to the new structure. Another campaign provided the funds for a twenty room school.



The frame residence built in 1905 which stood on the property when it was purchased in 1917 had served as the parish residence and office over forty years with a few alterations. It had long become inadequate. Father Morrin obtained the

people's support in the construction of the present attractive rectory, with living quarters for four priests and four offices. The structure was completed in 1961 at a cost of \$80,000.



But Father Morrin's building responsibilities did not end. Though additions had been built to the church in 1955, doubling its capacity, it was becoming more and more impossible to accommodate Sunday worshipers even after repeated additions of Masses to the Sunday schedule. It was necessary that the pastor conduct a third campaign for the provision of a new church. The people responded with generous pledges. The contract was awarded to the Naumann Company and the church was completed at a cost of \$425,000. Bishop Rehring came for the solemn blessing of the church in November of 1966, the patronal feast. Significantly, it was on the same feast of St. John the Baptist that Bishop Schrembs had blessed the first "permanent" church in 1919.

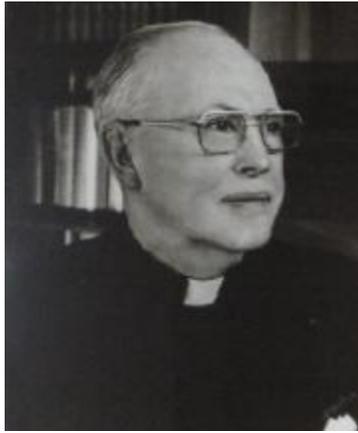


Father Morrin's eyesight which had been failing for some time, reached a stage which made very difficult the exercise of his pastoral and liturgical functions. Reluctantly, the Bishop accepted his resignation in June, 1968. He had devoted himself energetically and fruitfully to God's service at St. John through sixteen years. To quote the preacher on the occasion of his Father Morrin's Golden Jubilee this was solemnized in St. John's, on June 15, 1980: He was the Lord's instrument in renewing the face of the earth at St. John's. Until the appearance of a new brick wall west of the school, every structure seen here had risen in his day. But Father Milo was more than a builder of brick and mortar. He was for you and your children a molder of souls.

He was a good shepherd to you; always a priest. No one ever experienced any difficulty in calling him 'Father'." Except for impaired vision Father Morrin continued exercising his ministry and residing in the Little Sisters Home of the Sacred Heart, Toledo, Priests and people paid him high honor when he returned to St. John's on Sunday, June 15, 1980 to offer Mass of thanksgiving on the fiftieth anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Father Morrin died on January 15, 1994, his funeral was held on January 19, 1994 at St Joseph Church in Erie Mich.

Our New Pastor



Monsignor John Harrington
1966-1975

To succeed Father Morrin as Pastor of St. John the Baptist in June 1966 Bishop Donovan appointed Monsignor John Harrington, Principal of Central Catholic High School. Following ordination in 1932, the new pastor had served as assistant pastor of the Cathedral until 1935 when he became assistant principal at Central Catholic. When Father Raymond Kirsch was promoted to the presidency of De Sales College, Monsignor became Central's new principal. He retained that office until his appointment to St. John the Baptist.

He came to us as no stranger, since his unique position at Central Catholic through thirty-three years he had dealt with more teenagers than any other priest in the history of the Diocese, many of them now fathers and mothers in St. John's.

Unlike his predecessors in the pastoral office, Monsignor faced no immediate need of brick-and-mortar operations. Our parish lacked only one essential facility, a residence for the teaching sisters.

To meet this need he purchased a conveniently located residence at 2726 127th Street, which with a small addition provided a comfortable home for the Sisters.



The church was made more serviceable by the installation of air conditioning and the church dome was repaired and resurfaced.

It fell to the new pastor to implement many of the liturgical changes decreed by Vatican Council II. Shortly before his coming, Latin had given way to English in the readings and prayers of the Mass. It was only after the construction of the new church in 1966, that our priests faced the people in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

In keeping with the requirements of Vatican II, Monsignor entered into ecumenical relations with all churches in the area. Annually our choir participated in an Advent concert with other Point Place churches. On the first Monday of each month ministers of all local churches began breakfasting together in one or another rectory.

Also, in keeping with post Vatican II decrees, lay people were admitted into the sanctuary for the Scripture readings which precede the Gospel. Lay people were also constituted distributors of Holy Communion. On occasion, Masses were offered in homes.

Saturday evening Masses were added to the Lord's Day schedule of Masses. At times baptism was administered in the sanctuary after the scriptural readings.

Many in the rank and file were confused; for them the sublimity of the Latin Mass was gone. They seemed unable to understand that the substance of the Mass had not changed, but only externals. Many of our highly cultured Catholics, including prominent converts were equally disappointed.

A recently enacted diocesan regulation required Monsignor to retire at the age of seventy in 1975. Taking up residence with Monsignor Yates, in St. Rose rectory in Perrysburg, he rendered that parish valuable assistance on Saturdays and Sundays until he died on June 18, 1978 after a brief illness.

Comes Father Etzel



Father Raymond Etzel
1975-1986

Father Raymond Etzel, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese since 1969, came to succeed Monsignor Harrington as Pastor of St. John the Baptist on June 24, 1976.

Ordained in 1950, he had engaged in pastoral work in St. Rose Lima and St. Mary's Sandusky. He had made graduate studies in Education in Catholic University, Washington, and served as Principal of St. Mary's High School in Sandusky. Prior to his appointment as Superintendent, he had been assistant superintendent under Monsignor Shumaker

One of his first pastoral acts was the addition of kindergarten to the parish school. The school enrollment had advanced to more than six hundred pupils in seventeen classrooms. In addition to the Principal, Mrs. Marilyn Burley, the faculty was comprised of three Ursuline Sisters and sixteen lay teachers. The annual budget of expense in 1979 approximated \$275,000 exclusive of the \$60,000 paid as tuition by parents.

To replace the faltering church bell, Father Etzel saw to the installation of electric chimes which brought Christmas carols over Point Place heavens for the first time in 1976.

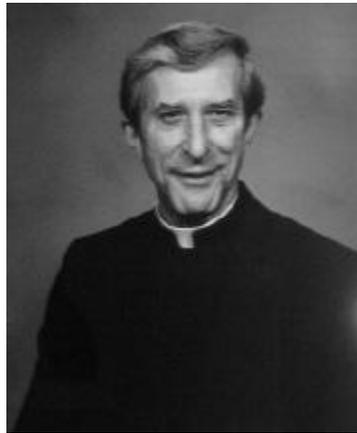
In compliance with liturgical prescription, the tabernacle was transferred from the altar to an artistic setting at the rear of the sanctuary.

In 1978, in accord with the decision of the Bishops of the United States, the option was given the faithful to receive Holy Communion either by hand or mouth. Another authorized option, granted in 1979, permitted communicants to receive the Eucharist under the species of both bread and wine at Sunday Masses. The option was made available to St. John's communicants at Saturday evening Mass.

In 1979 the Pastor and the Parish Council decided upon the construction of a multi-purpose building adjacent to the school to provide for the activities of these organizations and for additional school facilities. A conducted campaign for the necessary funds concluded in March with pledges totaling \$352,000. Ground was broken for the new structure on March 23, 1980 and was completed in 1981.



Father Wilhelm Arrives



Father Robert Wilhelm
1986 – 1996

Thanks to the insight of Bishop Hoffman, Fr. Robert Wilhelm was selected to lead St. John's in 1986 and more importantly into the fast computerized world of the 90's.

To list all the accomplishments during the ten years Fr. Wilhelm was Pastor would be another book. However, certain physical improvements should be mentioned.

Although these improvements happened during Fr. Wilhelm's tenure as Pastor, there were many people responsible for the grass roots work and continuing efforts to make these accomplishments a reality.

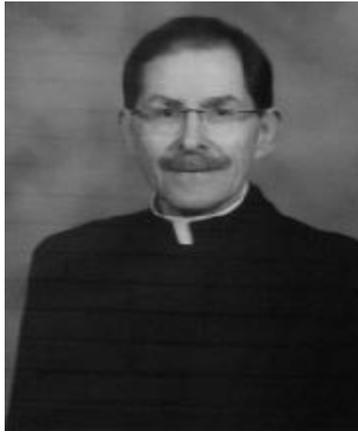
- Renovation and expansion of Parish Office, Pastors and Assistant Pastors Office and Liturgy Office.

- Development of major fund drive for capital improvement and school endowment.
- Computerized Parish and school records.
- Conducted census.
- New roofs were put on church and school and new lighting for school.
- Re-landscaped school property and purchased 299th Street to expand parking lot,
- Published Parish Directory.
- Refurbished the inside of the church including ceiling and walls, renewed the church kneelers and pews and laid new carpeting and tile.

The above are a few of the physical accomplishments Fr. Wilhelm has instituted, however; it is the Liturgy and Parish Ministry that St. John's gained stature under Fr. Wilhelm's Pastoral care.

- Added needed personnel to Parish staff, such as Liturgy Director, and Business Manager.
- Reorganized the Parish Council into the Pastoral Council.
- Development of Parish Vision and Mission statement.
- Established new areas of Ministry, Funeral Luncheon Program, Evangelization, Funeral Choir, and Children's Choir.
- Implemented Perpetual Adoration and established Adoration Chapel.
- Initiated Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- Enhanced publication of Parish Newsletter.

Father Speier Arrives



Father Francis Speier
1996- 2003

Appointed to succeed Father Wilhelm was Father Francis Speier. Ordained in 1975, Father Speier's first assignment was Associate pastor at St. Clement Parish in Toledo from 1975 to 1978. He then went to St Joseph Parish in Tiffin, Ohio from 1978 to 1983. He was transferred to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Toledo, Ohio in 1983. He was Associate Pastor from 1983 until March of 1985. In March of 1985 he was made Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, he was Pastor there until assigned to St. John's in 1987.

There was a lot of change when Father came to St. John's. A new associate was assigned at that time - Father Richard Eberly, a Franciscan Oblate. Within the year Ms. Linda Adamski became the Director of Music and Liturgy, replacing Sister Joyce LaVoy who was going on sabbatical and Ms. Shirley Fischbach became the new Business Manager when Ms. Suzie Stapelton left to take a position with the Diocesan Auditor.

One of the first things Father Speier did on arriving at St John's was to initiate a monthly maintenance fund. A Maintenance Committee was formed to evaluate the needs of the parish and seek volunteers for some of the projects.

One of the first purchases made from this fund was a one man lift which made it much easier to maintain the lighting in the FECC and outside the parish buildings. The lighting in the church was changed from 150 watt incandescent to 18 watt florescent bulbs and new lights were installed over the altar. New exit lights and emergency lighting were installed in the church and the school. A new fire alarm and security system was installed in the school and a security system was installed in the parish office.

During Father Speier's stay at St. John's he repaved all the parking lots at the church and school. He moved the Parish Festival from behind the school to the church parking lot, to do this he had two 200 amp electrical panels installed behind the church parking lot. The Father Etzel Community Center and school lunchroom were air conditioned. With the Parish in dyer need of more storage space, Father closed off one of the three garage areas and moved the St. Vincent DePaul storage

spot from the rectory basement to the that area and a 24'x 30' storage area was added to the garage.



Father also was responsible for redecorating the Adoration Chapel.



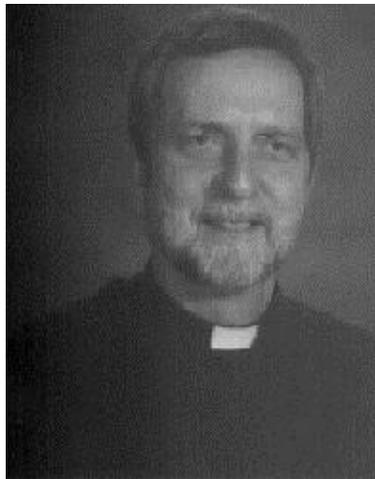
Many repairs and improvements were made to the convent and its garage giving the Ursuline sisters improved living conditions.

New flooring was installed throughout the rectory and a fresh coat of paint was on almost every wall. Changes were made to the office giving the pastor an office on the first floor and giving the business manager an office. Computers were upgraded, internet service was brought in, a new telephone system was purchased and a fax machine was introduced bringing the parish into the computer age.. In the basement an office was given to the deacons and a much needed supply room for the parish office was opened. Many of the diseased trees on the grounds were removed, others were trimmed and a sprinkler system was installed.

At the school the faculty lounge was renovated and glass block windows were installed. New lighting was installed in the Father Etzel Community Center and it was also given a much needed coat of paint.

During Father Speier's years at St. John the Baptist the shortage of priests in the Diocese touched our parish. Associate Father Doug Taylor who replaced Father Eberle was reassigned and no other associate was given to the parish.

Our Seventh Pastor



Father Gerald J. Chmiel
2004- 2011

Appointed to succeed Father Speier in July of 2004 was Father Gerald J. Chmiel. Father had his Deacon internship at St. Mary's parish in Van Wert, Ohio from June of 1969 to March of 1970. Ordained in March of 1970, he remained at St. Mary's as weekend associate until June of 1970. His next assignment was associate pastor at St. Thomas More University Parish Bowling Green, Ohio from June 1970 to September 1970. In September of 1970 he moved to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Sandusky, Ohio as associate pastor where he remained until June of 1972. Father was then assigned associate pastor at Good Shepard Parish in Toledo, Ohio. In September of 1972 along with his other duties he was a teacher of religion at Cardinal Stritch High School in Oregon, Ohio. Father taught religion at Cardinal Stritch for ten years. In those ten years he was also associate pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Toledo, Ohio from June of 1975 to August of 1978. He became

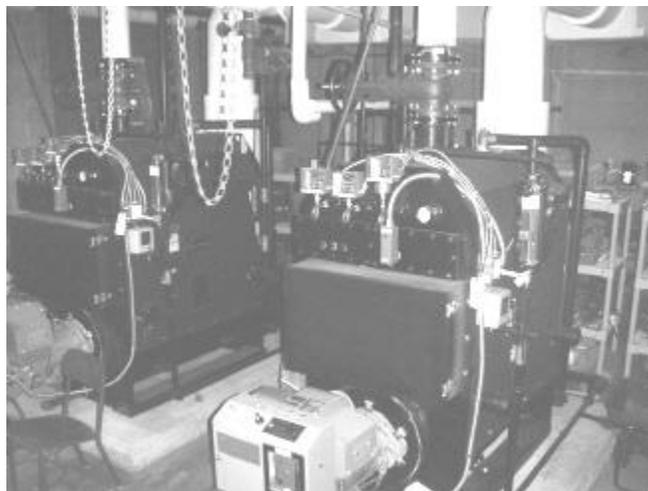
Pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Bono, Ohio until July 1988. Father was then assigned to St. Rose Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio as associate pastor where he remained until 1990. In July of 1990 he became pastor of St. Ann Parish in Fremont, Ohio. He was at St. Ann's for fourteen years before coming to St John's in 2004.

After arriving at St. John's, Father Chmiel saw that the Parish required some major capital improvements. The Church roof was leaking, the boilers in the school had to be replaced and the church organ was beyond repair.

Father, along with the Finance and Maintenance Committees looked at the problems and decided to ask the Bishop Blair if the parish could hold a Capital Improvement Campaign. With his permission the Parish raised the money to replace the church roof, install new heating and air conditioning in the church, replace the boilers in the school, and purchase a new organ for the church.



When the new boilers were installed in the School, a gas line was installed to the furnaces on the FECC roof and the heating to the FECC was converted from steam to Gas heat.



In 2006 Bishop Blair decided to close some parishes and twin others. At that time St. John the Baptist and St. Michael the Archangel were twinned and Father Chmiel was appointed pastor of both St. John's and St. Michael's and both parishes were put in the east side deanery.

LIVE IT A New Beginning for ST. JOHN'S

Father Chmiel attended a meeting at Cardinal Stritch High School with Father David Reinhart, Mr. Mike Gocsik and the pastors of the east side deanery. Mike Gocsik talked about the stewardship program that he had been involved with in Charlotte, North Carolina. He said that Cardinal Stritch High School along with the parishes of the east side deanery would like to start a stewardship program called LIVE IT. LIVE IT is a program that gets all parishioners involved in the parish through their prayers, time, talent and treasure and welcomes back those who have left the church.

Father then presented the idea to the pastoral council and other interested parishioners. A stewardship committee was formed and the LIVE IT program was started at St. John the Baptist Parish. In doing this we will revitalize our parish and our lives.

On December 24, 2007 Fr. Chmiel was taken to St. Charles Hospital for emergency surgery. Because of the long recovery time Father took a leave of absence. Bishop Blair ask Father Thomas Wehinger who had just retired to take Father Chmiel's Place until he was able to return.

Father Wehinger returned to St. John's after forty six years, he was an Associate Pastor at St. Johns from 12/61 to 9/62.

Father Chmiel returned in the summer of 2008

In January of 2011 Father Chmiel ask for and was granted Senior Status. He retired July of, 2011.

When our new pastor Father Tony Borgia went on a four month sabbatical he ask Father Chmiel to stay on until December, he said that he would. When Fr. Tony returned Fr. Chmiel moved to Millbury, Ohio.

Welcome Fr. Anthony Borgia

Fr. Tony Borgia came to us from St. Peter's in Mansfield, Ohio where he served in a parish that included a Preschool, Elementary School, and High School.

Father was born and raised in Norwalk. He entered the seminary at St. Gregory's in Cincinnati and studied theology at Mount St. Mary's in Cincinnati. Fr. Tony was ordained a deacon in 1983 and ordained a priest in 1984. He served an associate at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, and was assigned to the Diocesan Youth Office where he was Spiritual Director of Youth, Chaplain of Scouting, Associate Director of CYO and Director of Youth Ministry. He has also been pastor of Galion St Joseph, Fort Jennings St. Joseph, Ottoville Immaculate Conception.

PASTORS, ASSOCIATE PASTORS AND SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

PASTORS

FATHER FRANCIS B. BRUKSIEKER	1918-1951	(DECEASED)
FATHER MILO MORRIN	1951-1966	(DECEASED)
MONSIGNOR JOHN HARRINGTON	1966-1975	(DECEASED)
FATHER RAYMOND ETZEL	1975-1986	(SENIOR STATUS)
FATHER ROBERT WILHELM	1986-1996	(SENIOR STATUS)
FATHER FRANCIS SPEIER	1996-2003	PASTOR ST. ANTHONY, MILAN AND ST. MARY, NORWALK
FATHER GERALD CHMIEL	2003-2011	(SENIOR STATUS)
FATHER ANTHONY A. BORGIA	2011-	

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

FATHER DONALD HUNTER	6/49-9/51	(DECEASED)
FATHER LAWRENCE ERNST		(DECEASED)
FATHER HERMAN FORTMAN	6/54-6/56	(DECEASED)
FATHER HENRY SZTEITER	6/54-6/56	(DECEASED)
FATHER JOSEPH JAROS	6/56-8/67	(SENIOR STATUS)
FATHER THOMAS WEHINGER	12/61-9/62	(SENIOR STATUS)
FATHER ROBERT HOLDEN	9/62-3/64	PASTOR: ST. CASPAR WAUSEON
FATHER JOHN LEVELLE	3/64-4/71	(DECEASED)
FATHER NEIL LUCAS	9/67-6/73	(DECEASED)
FATHER DONALD MUELLER	6/71-6/74	(SENIOR STATUS)
FATHER KEVIN RICKER	6/73-6/74	NOT IN ACTIVE SERVICE
FATHER GEORGE LOSIEWICZ	6/74-6/75	
FATHER JEFFREY NORDHOUS	6/75-6/78	PASTOR: ST MICHAEL, KELLEYS ISLAND AND MOTHER MOTHER OF SORROWES, PUT IN BAY
FATHER HERBERT WEBER	6/78-7/78	PASTOR: BLESSED JOHN XXIII
FATHER CARL RECKER OBS	7/78-7/81	MOUNT ANGEL ABBY ST. BENEDICT OR.
FATHER MARTIN NASSR	6/74-7/85	PASTOR: SS PETER & PAUL SANDUSKY
FATHER NELSON BEAVER LEXINGTON	7/81-7/84	PASTOR: RESURRECTION,
FATHER CHARLES SINGLER	7/84-7/87	DIRECTOR: OFFICE OF WORSHIP
FATHER JOSEPH CARDONE	7/87-7/91	REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE MERCY HEALTH PARTNERS
FATHER JOSEPH WEIGMAN	7/91-7/93	HEALTH LEAVE
FATHER KENT KAUFMAN	8/93-8/95	PASTOR: TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, UPPER SANDUSKY
FATHER RICHARD EBERLE	8/95-8/00	OBLATE OF ST. FRANCIS, HUDSON MI.
FATHER DOUGLAS TAYLOR	8/00-8/01	PASTOR: OUR LADY OF LOURDES, NEW LONDON, OH.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

SR. VICTORIA
SR. CHARIOTTE
SR. DeCHANTAL
SR. MARGARET MARY
SR. ELEANORE
SR. LOUISE
SR. ISABEL
SR. LEO
SR. DeSALES
SR. CORNELIA
SR. EUGENIA
SR. BERNARDINE
SR. MARGUERITA MARIE
SR. GEORGIANNA
SR. NOREEN
SR. PATRICE
SR. EDWARD
SR. JOAN OF ARC
SR. ELIZABETH MARIE
SR. CATHERINE ANGELA
SR. JEANNE ZOELLER
MRS. MARILYNN BURLEY
SR. SHARON POLLNOW
SR. JOY GRAY
MR. MICHAEL SALWIECZ
MRS. MELISSA ROMERO
Mr. Tom Gladieux
Mrs. Maryjo Wilhelms