



St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

1960 ~ 2010

Strength for the Journey





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the clergy, staff and team of volunteers, I would like to welcome you to the 50th anniversary celebration of St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church and thank you for joining us on this historic occasion!

Over the past 50 years, St. Jude has grown from a small faith community in the "far" outreaches of Atlanta to a thriving 1,500-family parish central to Sandy Springs and neighboring communities, the city of Atlanta and the Archdiocese. Its members have joined the ranks of priest, deacon and religious, taught the faith to thousands, been active in preserving life in all its forms and have conducted countless works of charity, hope and love here at home and around the world.

During our first half-century, St. Jude has been blessed to have many wonderful priests and parishioners. Many of whom are still with us and others have been called home to heaven including our founding pastor Monsignor John Stapleton and my predecessor, Monsignor Daniel O'Connor. The legacy of strong leadership has had a part in making St. Jude what it is today – an active, engaged discipleship parish that spreads and reinforces the faith throughout our community; to young and old, student and teacher, newly baptized and those awaiting their final reward in heaven. Even with the vision and leadership of individuals such as these, the growth and success of our parish could not have been possible without the love and dedication of thousands of parishioners just like you. Through the years St. Jude parishioners have dedicated their time, talent and treasure to worthwhile causes and activities too numerous to list. We have highlighted just a few in this book.

It is good and appropriate to reflect on the things we have accomplished as a parish over the past 50 years and to recall the people who have shared this walk of faith as the St. Jude family. However, it is critically important that we never forget that our source of "strength for the journey" is our savior, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we have accomplished wonderful things and through Jesus we will continue to grow in faith and love. It is His never ceasing love that has sustained us as a faith community for 50 years, and it is through His divine mercy that we will continue to serve Him and one another for generations to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor James J. Loney

A Letter from Monsignor James J. Loney



St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church

Clergy

Most Reverend James J. Fennessy	Pastor
Reverend Roger do Carmo Araújo	Parochial Vicar
Reverend Daniel P. Ketter	Parochial Vicar
Reverend Fausto Marquez Dominguez	Parochial Vicar
Reverend Adam Z. Ozimek	Parochial Vicar
Reverend Mister Robert G. Riddett	Deacon
Reverend Mister James A. Tramonte	Deacon

Clergy







St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church
The First 50 Years

History





John D. Stapleton

October 1960-July 1968 (deceased 1972)

Father John D. Stapleton, who would later become a Monsignor, is credited with organizing the Church of St. Jude the Apostle in Sandy Springs. He was appointed founder and first pastor by Bishop Francis Hyland when the church was officially established on October 10, 1960. It was a time when Sandy Springs was a growing little town north of Atlanta. Roswell Road was lined with more trees and pastures than businesses, and the recent opening of Sandy Springs High School in 1958 meant that our teenagers no longer had to go all the way to North Fulton High School in Buckhead. Catholics who lived in the area needed a local parish in which to worship. Most Catholic families drove to Christ the King in Buckhead or Our Lady of the Assumption near Brookhaven to find their church homes.

In October of 1960, a small house at 164 Chaseland Road was purchased as a temporary rectory. Father Stapleton celebrated daily early morning Mass in the small basement of the rectory, and our first Open House Reception was held there on November 20, 1960. At that time, our Sunday Masses were held in the cafeteria of Hammond Elementary School, which was located on the current site of Mount Vernon Towers Senior Community, until the school building burned.



} *Did You Know?*

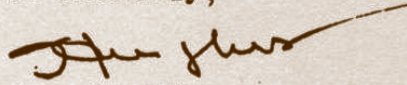
The first meeting of the women of the parish was held at the home of Mrs. Nan Franzman (Boldt) on January 21, 1961. There were 65 women in attendance, and the St. Jude Altar Society was formed. Anamae Kennedy was selected to serve as the first president. The mission of the Altar Society was to be a strong, active women's organization in the parish, and it was!



By the way, if I am not presuming too much, we would be much pleased if the new church, when erected, was named in memory of St. Jude. St. Jude is a favorite Saint with the Spalding family, and has pulled us out of a good many holes; so I think it would be appropriate, if you erect the new church on land given you by the Spaldings, to name the church in honor of St. Jude. Please don't think I am presumptuous.

With personal wishes,

Most sincerely,



Hughes Spalding.

The current site of St. Jude the Apostle Church and School, a beautiful 10.5 acre tract of land at the corner of Glenridge Drive and Spalding Drive, was a generous gift to the Archdiocese from Mr. Hughes Spalding, Mr. Jack Spalding, and Mrs. Suzanne Spalding Schroeder. In a letter dated January 20, 1960, Mr. Hughes Spalding requested of Bishop Hyland that the church be named in honor of St. Jude, a favorite saint of the Spalding family. Mr. Spalding did not want to appear presumptuous in making the request, but told the Bishop that St. Jude had "pulled us out of a good many holes." Father Stapleton, who was also especially devoted to St. Jude, instituted the practice of offering a prayer to St. Jude at the beginning of Mass, a tradition which continues today.



On the feast of St. Jude, October 28, 1961, Monsignor Francis E. Moylan blessed the land and broke ground. Construction began immediately on St. Jude School which would house a temporary church with seating for 400 people. While awaiting permanent facilities, Masses were celebrated at Guy Webb School and in the cafeteria of Sandy Springs High School. Parishioners worshipped in these temporary facilities using kneelers and kneeling pads made by Robert Rowell and Chuck Hubeny. Tommy Cobb, who now lives in Rome, Georgia, and is the son of current parishioner Garnett Cobb, served as an altar boy in the Sandy Springs High School cafeteria. In those days, Father Stapleton conducted altar boy training in the basement of the rectory on Chaseland. Tommy recalls that when an altar boy was able to recite the entire Mass in Latin, Father Stapleton would excuse him from further training!

The Altar Society held monthly meetings, and frequently had guest speakers or panel discussions on relevant and informative topics of the day, such as Racial Justice, Christian Unity, and "The Future of Liturgical Art and Present Day Church Symbolism."

The Altar Society also worked faithfully and tirelessly to serve the parish. It held dinners throughout the year, hosted the annual Starlight Ball, visited and welcomed newcomers to our parish, arranged flowers, and cared for the altar cloths, vestments, and sacred vessels used in the Mass. Mrs. Max Shatzen (Gloria) was chairman of the Sewing Committee, which made and hand-embroidered all of the vestments and altar linens.

Many of our current ministries have their roots in the Altar Society, including the Sacristans, Flower Guild, Welcoming Ministry, and the Women of St. Jude.

Ministry





The first Sunday Mass on our own property was celebrated on May 6, 1962, in the brand new St. Jude School building. The east wing of the building served as our temporary church and the west wing was the school. St. Jude the Apostle Catholic School officially opened on September 4, 1962, with the kindergarten and first through fourth grades staffed by five lay teachers and Father Stapleton serving as the school principal.

In the fall of 1963, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart came to staff the school. Four sisters moved into St. Jude's newly constructed convent, the D'Youville Center, named after Marguerite D'Youville who founded the Grey Nuns. On September 8, 1963, the convent was dedicated by Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan, and an open house for parishioners was held on the same day. With the arrival of the Grey Nuns, all eight grades were staffed and we had our first class of 18 graduates from St. Jude School that school year. Sister Francis Maureen (a.k.a. Sr. Sally White) served as the principal and also taught 8th grade. Did you know that the school's alma mater was written by Sr. Sally's brother?



*You are cordially invited to attend
The Blessing of Saint Jude the Apostle Church and School
Spalding Drive and Glenridge Drive
Atlanta, Georgia
by
The Most Reverend Paul J. Hallinan, D. D.
Archbishop of Atlanta*

The beautiful new rectory with accommodations for four priests and guests was also completed in 1963. St. Jude parish was growing fast, and our first three buildings were completed and in use. The next major task would be the construction of the church itself.

On March 13, 1966, our magnificent church structure was dedicated by Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan. It was one of the first churches in the country to be built in accordance with Vatican Council II, with the celebrant facing the congregation, and it received an award from the National Catholic Liturgical Society for being the most liturgical church built that year. Architect Albert Ordway built the contemporary church of stone and wood with walls of Stone Mountain granite. The bell tower holds three carillon bells weighing over 1500 lbs. In years past they could be heard every day at noon tolling the Angelus.



} St. Jude Memories

"I moved to Sandy Springs in 1965 with my husband John and our son Tommy. I remember attending Mass in the cafeteria of Sandy Springs High School, where Tommy served as an altar boy along with Eddie Putnam and Michael Aiken. In one memorable Mass, Father Stapleton had forgotten to bring the bells. When it was time for the bells to be rung, the boys said "Ding-a-ling, ding-a-ling". After the Mass, I told Father Stapleton that I was so embarrassed. Father Stapleton said, "Well, think how I felt. I forgot the bells!"

Garnett Cobb, Age 101
Oldest active St. Jude parishioner on record



The baptismal font was located just inside the church entrance, symbolizing entrance to the Church through baptism. The faithful were reminded of their baptism when they took Holy Water from the font as they entered the church. The font and other original appointments, such as the altar, ambo, and cantor stand, were made of polished Carolina diamond gray granite. The crucifixion scene which still hangs behind the altar stands sixteen feet high. The figures of Christ on the Cross flanked by St. John and the Blessed Virgin Mary were hand-carved out of lindenwood by Italian artisans. The cross is of birchwood and was originally finished in ebony. All of the original stained glass windows were made under the direction of Father Methodious Telnack of the Trappist Monastery at Conyers. The beautiful stained-glass cross in the front window was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chaput in memory of their grandson, Paul Andre Chaput, son of current St. Jude parishioner Jan Chaput and the late Bob Chaput. Paul Andre Chaput was one of the first infants baptized in the St. Jude parish.

Father Stapleton wanted to establish a tithing parish, and he did. St. Jude became the first tithing parish in the state of Georgia. Men of the parish went door to door calling on parishioners to encourage them to tithe. Ten percent of one's income should be offered to God; five percent to the church and five percent to support the school, Archdiocesan collections, and other charities.



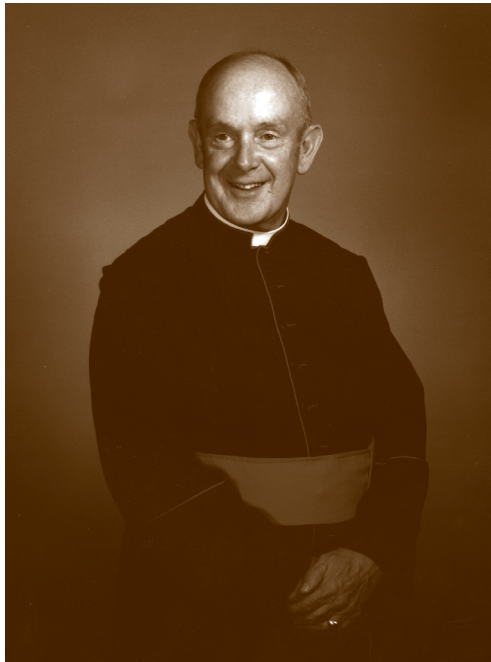
Father Stapleton left St. Jude in August of 1968 when he was appointed administrator of the Cathedral of Christ the King. In October of 1969, Pope Paul VI appointed him Monsignor. Monsignor Stapleton suffered a heart attack and died in his sleep in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 26, 1972 at the age of 47. He is laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery in Sandy Springs.

A Recollection of the Church Dedication on March 13, 1966 from the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book

We remember an impromptu ceremony witnessed by those of us in the front pews, and one which Father Stapleton would recall laughingly. Prior to the Consecration, he beckoned to Architect Albert Ordway to come toward the Altar. He left his pew, approached Father and knelt in front of him. Father bent forward and whispered in Ordway's ear. We thought it looked for all the world like a knighting ceremony (Sir Albert Ordway?). The words whispered, however, had been from the lips of a puzzled Father Stapleton, "Do you have the key to the tabernacle, Albert?" He did, and the Mass proceeded!

Ministry





R. Donald Kiernan

August 1968-April 1978

In August of 1968, after Father Stapleton was transferred to the Cathedral of Christ the King, St. Jude parish welcomed Father Donald Kiernan as our new pastor. He would go on to lead the St. Jude parish for the next ten years, a period of tremendous growth for Sandy Springs and the surrounding suburbs north of Atlanta. The expansion of business and housing brought many Catholic families into our area. Father Kiernan was made a Monsignor in September of 1969. This was the first such honor to be bestowed on a pastor of St. Jude.

Monsignor Kiernan remembers his tenure at St. Jude as “ten very enjoyable years”, which he credits to the good will and cooperation of the parish people. Numerous ministries were started or continued to flourish under his leadership. His encouragement and support of Boy Scouts and altar boy training brought about a significant increase in the participation of boys in these programs.

In 1969, St. Jude’s Legion of Mary was formed with Parochial Vicar Father John Kieran serving as its spiritual director. It was a time of tremendous growth in our parish, and this group of 18 women was vital in assisting our priests with home blessings and visits to those who were sick or living in nursing homes. The “Over 55” group was started in 1971 by Mrs. Loretta Huber. “Over 55”, which is now known as MCATs (Mature Catholic Adults Together), is still active at St. Jude with frequent outings, meetings, and parties for our active seniors.





In 1974, the women's circles were organized, with neighborhood meetings led by Monsignor Keirnan and Altar Society (Women's Club) board members. The circles brought women together in small neighborhood groups for fellowship, church and community projects, and spiritual support.

There was also great focus on faith formation and a tremendous expansion of trained Catechists in 1970-71 under the leadership of Benedictine Sister Marie Leonard. Sr. Marie served as the director of the Parish Religious Education program until 1974. Monsignor Kiernan installed Religious Education leaders in official staff positions. Some of our earliest religious education coordinators included Barbara Hession and later Elaine Whelan (Elementary School of Religion), Candee Elrod (High School of Religion), Anita Willoughby (Preschool), Bea Ollinger (Adult Education), and Toni Miralles (Special Education) with Sally Asip serving as secretary. These ladies laid the foundation for future generations of catechists and religious education coordinators.

While he was at St. Jude, Monsignor Kiernan fought long and hard for approval to build an Activities Building. It was not easy to get permission for such an undertaking, but the money raised during his tenure put the church in position to take on the new project. Approval was finally granted and the Activities Building was erected shortly after Monsignor Kiernan left St. Jude. Many parishioners who enjoy the gym and other facilities for so many events today, don't realize that it was Monsignor Kiernan's determination that made it possible.



} *St. Jude Memories*

"When I was a kid my fondest St. Jude memory was usually getting out of Mass so I could go play. On a holier note: I remember times of childlike awe as the light came through the old stained glass windows with the blue ovals, and the incense going up, and the Mass with all its symbols, liturgical roles, and cool stuff that I didn't know what any of it meant.

"Later, it was the Emmanuel Prayer Community. I was in college, and the Lord caught my attention by pouring out the Holy Spirit on me. This prayer community was my seminary before I ever went to seminary and taught me most of the important lessons about the spiritual life that would later be refined in seminary. It was a very important group and time in my life."

-
Father Tim Hepburn
Campus Minister at the Catholic Center at Georgia Tech
Childhood Parishioner of St. Jude



Ministry





During Monsignor Kiernan's tenure, the parish enjoyed his famous Hoe Downs, informal dinners that he hosted to thank the volunteers of the parish for their service and to provide an opportunity for parishioners to socialize. Sometimes parishioners were even treated to a rousing rendition of "Bowl of Butter Beans" sung by Monsignor Kiernan! He enlisted the help of Joe Brogan and Bob Papineau to fry all the chicken for the Hoe Downs. Joe and Bob would spend the whole day in the school cafeteria frying up enough chicken to serve a large crowd. Cora Papineau says that was a true testament to Monsignor Kiernan's persuasiveness, because Bob never cooked another thing in his life!

In addition to his busy schedule as pastor of St. Jude, Monsignor Kiernan made time to serve as Chaplain of various law enforcement organizations including the Georgia State Patrol, the Atlanta Police Department (which covered Sandy Springs at the time), the DeKalb County Police Department, and two years for the FBI. He established the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

In April of 1978, Monsignor Kiernan was transferred to Immaculate Heart of Mary parish. Today he is serving as the pastor of All Saints Catholic Church in Dunwoody.

SPRED - Toni's Camp

Toni Miralles began a special religious education program at St. Jude in 1973 to address the needs of her own daughter as well as other children with intellectual disabilities. In 1975 she officially took on the role of Special Education Coordinator. In addition to the Special Religious Education (SPRED) program for special needs children, Toni worked to expand the ministry to reach more people with disabilities. A study group for developmentally disabled adults was started along with special monthly Masses for people with disabilities. These Masses evolved to become the current "Faith and Sharing" program, a twice-a-year archdiocesan-wide special liturgy. Individuals with intellectual disabilities are among the servers, musicians, readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and greeters.



Meanwhile, a Grey Nun, Sister Robert Therese (Dorothy Miller), was directing summer Bible camps for Catholics with disabilities in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. These camps were held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church primarily to provide catch-up instruction for Catholics with disabilities who had never been prepared for the sacraments of initiation. In 1971, Miralles took charge of the effort and moved the location to Camp Will-A-Way in Winder. Over the years, the retreat evolved into "Re-Creation" at Camp Will-A-Way and then in 2004 "Re-Creation" was officially renamed "Toni's Camp Retreat" in memory of St. Jude's own Toni Miralles who had passed away in 2000.

Toni's legacy of love through service to those with developmental disabilities continues to thrive at St. Jude.

Ministry



Richard B. Morrow

April 1978-1985

Father Richard Morrow was called to be pastor of St. Jude in April, 1978. He was happily serving at St. Johns in Hapeville at the time and had enjoyed serving at St. Piux X in Conyers prior to that. He felt at home in Conyers and on the south side of Atlanta and had loved those parishes. Father Morrow had some reluctance about moving to St. Jude and Atlanta's north side, but he obeyed the Archbishop and became our new pastor. Despite his initial reluctance, Father Morrow says that he thoroughly enjoyed his time at St. Jude and had a wonderful staff supporting him. The feeling was mutual. Staff members recall how Father Morrow listened to them and showed his appreciation, frequently writing them notes of appreciation and encouragement. In one example, Father Morrow wrote a note to a staff member telling her that she had no idea how many lives she had touched with the Separated & Divorced ministry. In fact, our humble pastor had no idea how many lives he touched.



By June of 1979, under Father Morrow's leadership, the parish debt was completely paid off. In January of 1980, approval was granted for construction of the much needed and highly anticipated Activities Building. By August 1981 the Activities Building which housed a gym and meeting rooms was completed. The gym featured religious paintings by parishioners Jan Chaput, Angela Foster, and Rose James. On the backs of these religious works were sports action figures painted by our youth, which were displayed during sporting events in the gym.



St. Jude's Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick was begun during Father Morrow's tenure. He called on George and Sally Asip to help him implement the new ministry. In the beginning Communion was taken to shut-ins once a month, but in time the ministry grew, and Communion was delivered to the sick every Sunday. The weekly Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick continues today, delivering Communion to assisted-living communities in the area and to people who are homebound. Another important ministry that Father Morrow started at St. Jude was the Stephen Ministry. In this ministry, lay caregivers received extensive training to provide one-to-one Christian care to anyone facing a crisis or life challenge. Stephen Ministers would

provide confidential and compassionate support for the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed and any others who needed care.

Father Morrow worked to maintain open communication with the people of the parish and the school. Once a week he had lunch at the school with a different grade, followed by a visit with the school principal. He also reached out into the parish and increased the number of circles (small faith communities) to twelve.

Ministry





The Singles Group was another ministry that meant so much to Father Morrow. During his tenure, he encouraged the group, led by Candee Elrod, to visit every home in the parish to find fallen away Catholics and encourage them to come back to the Church. St. Jude and the Singles Group had great success with this outreach program.

After being somewhat reluctant to come here, Father Morrow loved his time at St. Jude and would have loved to stay longer than eight years. Likewise, St. Jude parishioners would have loved to have him longer, but illness shortened his time as our pastor. In 1985 Father Morrow underwent heart surgery and was in the hospital for a month. A parochial vicar, Father John Walsh, took care of the parish during Father Morrow's absence. When Father Morrow recovered and was able to return to work, he was reassigned to a smaller parish.

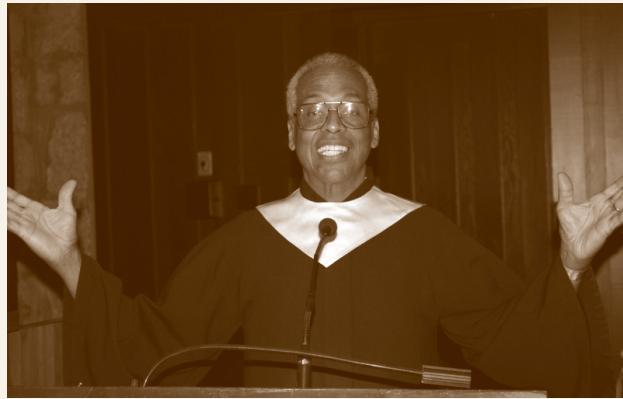
Father Morrow has been Vicar to all the priests in the Archdiocese for many years. He is currently retired and in residence at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta.

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry has been an integral part of St. Jude parish since the church was established in 1960, and we still have active choir members who were members of St. Jude's original parish choir. As with other ministries in the parish, the music program has evolved. In our early days, the music program was very traditional using choir and organ music exclusively. Over time additional groups and styles have been incorporated into the program. In the 1980s, folk groups emerged providing a more contemporary style of music in the Mass. Andy Hepburn directed one such group that led the music for Masses in the gym. Later Denise Dale directed a folk group that led the music for our 6:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, which is a tradition that continues today under the direction of Jeff Jetton.

St. Jude's Music Ministry has always drawn some of the most talented musicians in the Atlanta area. Mary Welch Rogers, a popular and prominent Contemporary Christian singer who was regularly featured on national television, was a mainstay of the St. Jude Music Ministry in the 1980s and 90s. Mary was the original soloist for the Seven Last Words service on Good Friday.

We have also had two spectacular organ dedication recitals at St. Jude. When the original church organ was replaced in 1987, Diane Bish, who is known as the First Lady of the Organ, played the dedicatory recital. The recital was offered in memory of Archbishop Donnellan who had died the previous week. That organ was replaced in September of 2006 with the organ that is still in use today. James Goettsche, the principle organist at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, gave the dedicatory recital.



We have hosted various other prominent music programs at St. Jude, including concert and contemporary choirs from Notre Dame University, the Monaco Boy Choir, and the popular 3 Inspirational Tenors featuring our own Sam Hagan.

St. Jude parish is blessed with a rich set of offerings from our Music Ministry. Whether traditional or contemporary, choir or ensemble, the role of the St. Jude Music Ministry is consistent: to support the total participation of the congregation in the worship experience.





“Music and song are not, in fact, a simple decoration or ornament on the top of the liturgical action. On the contrary, they are a single reality with the celebration, allowing an entering into an interiorization of the Divine Mysteries.”

Pope John Paul II

Choir Directors since St. Jude Church was established:

(in the order that they served)

- Carol Taylor
- Kay Talbot
- Tom Bell
- Jack Street
- Alan Brown
- Peggy Stapleton
- Janet Jones
- Mark Husey
- Alan Brown



St. Jude Shows

Over the course of our 50-year history, St. Jude has put on more than a dozen shows, written and performed by our own parishioners. The earliest shows, which began while Father Stapleton was pastor, were written by Peggy Brogan. After Peggy's death, Bob Callahan took over writing the scripts.

The first show was entitled *St. Jude Follies, A Night in the 20's* featuring St. Jude ladies as flappers! The shows continued for more than 30 years until the death of Doyle Faller. As musical director, Doyle was critical to the success of the shows, working tirelessly through the many rehearsals and often helping individual performers work on their songs.

Other show themes and titles included *Ward Wonderful*, *Happy Birthday America*, *The Devil and Jerry Wilcox*, *The Sheik of Araby*, *Crazy Harry Presents*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Zell's Court*. The roster of St. Jude talent included BLZ Bub (Joe Mirales as the Devil), Crazy Harry (Joe Brogan), Olive Pitts (Neil Brogan), Teddy Turnoff (Larry Mandyck) and numerous other clever names and performers.

By the time Monsignor O'Connor was pastor, the performances were so popular that tickets were usually sold out two months before the show. St. Jude shows brought the parish community together for good times. As the finale song from *W.A.R.D. T.V.*, *The Sweetest Sound This Side of Heaven*, said "It was good clean fun!"

Ministry





William G. Hoffman

January 1986-1989

After spending 10 years in Peru and returning to Atlanta as the Hispanic Minister for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Father Hoffman was first sent to a parish in Blue Ridge, Georgia. He then came to Sandy Springs to become the fourth pastor of St. Jude in January of 1986.



Knowing that he was fluent in Spanish and especially supportive of the Hispanic people, a group of Spanish-speaking parishioners approached Father Hoffman about celebrating the Mass in Spanish at St. Jude. In 1989 the first Spanish Mass was celebrated, and we began having a regular Mass in Spanish on Sunday afternoon.



During his tenure, Father Hoffman also noticed that there was no priest for the many Korean families in the area and considered studying Korean. However, a St. Jude parishioner who worked with the disabled suggested he take up American Sign Language instead as a way of ministering to the deaf and reaching out to others who did not speak English. He took lessons at the YWCA in Decatur and continued working with a tutor at St. Jude. For a short while he offered a monthly Mass in sign language, but found out there was little demand for it here. Father Hoffman says he was finally able to use his sign language skills to celebrate a wedding Mass for a deaf couple at the Cathedral of Christ the King.





A fitness enthusiast, Father Hoffman would join bicycle rides across Georgia. The pastor, along with several St. Jude parishioners, also ran in the Peachtree Road Race. Father Hoffman laughingly recalls how in the wee hours of July 4th race days before going to the event, he would celebrate an early morning Mass at St. Jude wearing his running gear under his vestments!

Father Hoffman especially enjoyed his monthly meetings with married couples in the parish to encourage them in marriage and family matters. He became active in various pro-life ministries and with the approval of the Bishop he agreed to let Operation Rescue hold its national rally at St. Jude. He says it caused quite a stir among the neighbors when helicopters with search lights patrolled over the pro-life rally at St. Jude!

Father Hoffman was at a Human Life International meeting in New Orleans with parishioners from St. Jude when he received the call from the Archbishop asking him to move to a parish in Gainesville, Georgia. Having spent several years in Gainesville during his childhood, Father Hoffman was pleased to take the assignment and return to Gainesville.

Father Hoffman is currently retired and living in Roswell, Georgia.

Elderly Care



In 1987, Sr. Eileen Murray felt that there was a need for a ministry to support our older parishioners. She had recently retired from teaching school and was looking for her next opportunity to serve. Grey Nuns are required to discern every year where there is a need and where they can help.

With Father Hoffman's approval, Sr. Eileen started the Elderly Care ministry and found that we had enormous need for such a service. The first priority was transportation. This was before many of the senior communities and shuttles existed, and there was no viable bus service available to get older parishioners to their doctor or other appointments. There was more need than one person could address, and several other ladies joined Sr. Eileen to help meet the needs.

Mindy Hickein was the nurse at St. Jude School at the time. Mindy became a huge help to the Elderly Care ministry, always making herself available to assist Sr. Eileen and our elderly parishioners in any way she could.

The next thing Sr. Eileen wanted to do was make it easier for our older parishioners to get to Mass. It was sometimes very difficult in the extreme heat of Atlanta summers and other harsh weather conditions. This was especially true before there was handicap parking. Sr. Eileen and Father William Hickey, a parochial vicar at St. Jude, approached the management at Campbell-Stone Retirement Community in Sandy Springs about holding Mass at their facility. They agreed and converted their library to a chapel. St. Jude Church began offering Mass there every Saturday evening, which continues today.

When Sr. Eileen retired in January of 2010, she left an active Elderly Care Ministry in very good hands, and it continues to thrive. John Rowland handles the music, Irma Olwell coordinates transportation, and Chris Gnanapragasam is the ministry leader.

Ministry



Hispanic Community

When Father William Hoffman was pastor of St. Jude, a group of Hispanic parishioners asked him if he could celebrate Mass in Spanish since he spoke Spanish fluently. As a result of this petition, the first Mass in Spanish was celebrated at St. Jude on a Sunday afternoon in 1989. The Hispanic Community was very small at that time and was made up of people from different Latin American countries.

After Monsignor Hoffman left St. Jude, different priests would come from the Cathedral of Christ the King to celebrate the Mass in Spanish. Around 1990, Father Victor Reyes was assigned to our parish to guide the Hispanic Community. Parishioners still remember Father Reyes as a very helpful and approachable priest. He always tried to unify the two communities and had the idea to celebrate the Mass for the first time in two languages. The idea was approved by Monsignor O'Connor, who was always very supportive of the Hispanic Community.

Father Pedro Poloche was the next priest to lead the Hispanic Community and then came Father Sebastian Andrade, who spoke Portuguese, Spanish, French and English. Father Sebastian worked with both the Brazilian and the Hispanic Communities. While Father Sebastian was still with us, Father Fausto Marquez was transferred to St. Jude in August of 2006 to work with the growing Hispanic Community. That enabled Father Sebastian to dedicate more of his time to the Brazilian Community which was also growing.

During Father Fausto's years at St. Jude, he has been devoted to the needs of the Hispanic Community and has worked tirelessly to promote love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. The idea of building a grotto came from Father Fausto in 2006 and, with the approval of Monsignor Fennessy, became a primary focus of the Hispanic Community. As a result of Father Fausto's persistence and a successful fund-raising effort, a beautiful grotto was built in 2008 to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. The dedication and crowning of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place on March 8, 2009, by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, along with Monsignor Fennessy, St. Jude Clergy, and parishioners who helped to celebrate the special occasion.

The Hispanic Community at St. Jude is now well-established with sixteen unique Hispanic ministries and active participation in many other parish ministries and activities.



Deacon Loris Sinanian Recalls His Personal Journey Becoming the First Permanent Deacon at St. Jude

The Sinanian family joined St. Jude in 1972 after moving here from Palos Verdes, California. New friendships were formed, and our family continued to grow in faith at St. Jude. The pastor, Monsignor Donald Kiernan, fostered a vision of developing vocations for the Church. Maybe this is where the first seeds of my vocation were planted, as the soil was fertile. Many of today's pastors in the Archdiocese gained their early training as priests at St. Jude.

My wife, Peggy, joined the choir, our children started religious instruction, and I got involved with youth sports. Monsignor Kiernan asked me to go beyond sports by becoming one of the first lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. It was really special to be asked, to be trained, and ultimately to serve. My first time on the altar was a truly awesome experience, heart beating and palms sweating. That is where the notion of a vocation really began.

While Father Richard Morrow was pastor, the Parish Council was formed, and I became the first chairman. Then Father Morrow asked me to serve as the general chairman for St. Jude's 25th anniversary event. What an honor... and I was getting more deeply involved in the church. The "call" seemed to be growing stronger, but what lay ahead was something else.

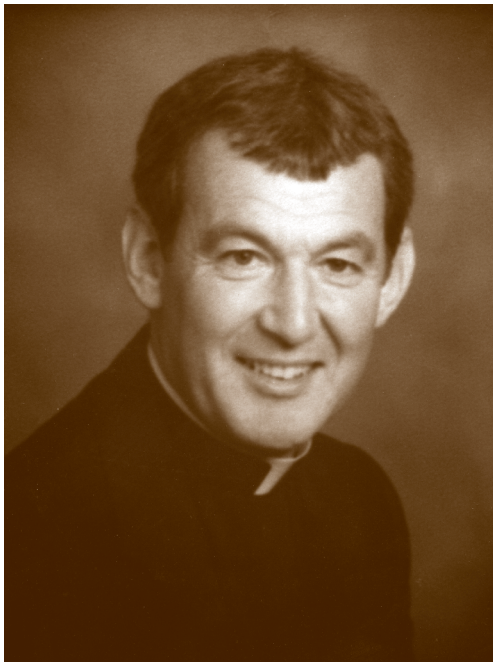
When Monsignor Bill Hoffman became pastor, I was becoming more involved in the parish, now taking on a teaching role in RCIA. To my great surprise Monsignor Hoffman asked me to consider study for the permanent diaconate, and I asked, "What is that?" The "call" was becoming more evident, and it did not materialize from me, but others. God has a strange way of working in our lives.



Then Father Michael Woods came on the scene as pastor. He was a deeply spiritual man who guided me through my initial year of study. Learning more about our beautiful Catholic faith was a special gift. On June 24, 1989, the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist, I became the first deacon ever ordained from St. Jude. A few days after my ordination, I had lunch with Father Woods, and I shared with him something that happened when Archbishop Marino "laid hands" on me and invoked the Holy Spirit. An electrical shock ran from the top of my head to my toes. Father Woods said, "He squeezed your head too tightly."

St. Jude was a wonderful place for our family to grow up. Many friendships were formed, and many fine memories linger in our hearts. It was an unforgettable home for this deacon and his family and was the birthplace for a vocation.





Michael A. Woods
January 1990 - August 1990

Father Michael Woods came to serve as pastor of St. Jude in January of 1990. When he arrived, he felt that there was some division and confusion in the parish. Father Woods began focusing on ways to bring the parish together. He held a parish mission shortly after becoming pastor which was very well received. In a short time the parish took off again. There was a tremendous sense of reconciliation and renewal and a focus on the gospel values, especially in terms of forgiveness.

Father Woods was a very popular pastor and a captivating speaker, known for his excellent homilies. He is remembered as a pastor who always made time for his parishioners. Sally Asip recalls a time when Tom Peters stopped after Mass to ask Father Woods to pray for his wife, Marina, who was battling cancer. Instead, Father Woods went right home with Tom to pray together with him and Marina. That is the kind of pastor he was.

Father Woods was also a special favorite of the elderly. Sr. Eileen Murray remembers him dancing up the aisle at the Campbell-Stone retirement home, singing an Irish song and telling stories of Ireland. He always celebrated the Mass at Campbell-Stone on Saturday afternoons, and the parishioners there looked forward to his visits.



St. Jude Memories

"It is 6:30 a.m.; it is cold and dark. Men, women, and kids come from all directions to take their places on the grassy slope beside the patio behind the rectory. We are here to attend the Easter Sunday Sunrise Mass. Around 7:00 a.m. the sun breaks through the clouds and the rays come down over the people.

"What a beautiful spiritual feeling! I remember it feeling like the Holy Spirit descending on St. Jude. To be at the outdoor Mass was a time to inhale the beauty of God's creation.

"There were two metal benches next to the sidewalk on the school playground. Some years it was so cold that no one sat down on the cold metal! We wore winter coats, gloves, and scarves. There were no chairs and no kneelers; we stood for the entire Mass. We usually had a portable keyboard, but no music books. The earlier Easter fell on the calendar, the colder the temperature would be.

"The Easter Sunrise Mass reminded me of Jesus feeding the multitudes on the mountain. It is one of my fondest memories at St. Jude."



Lynn Twiner
St. Jude Parishioner since 1968

Ministry



Deacon Loris Sinanian Recalls a Time of Trouble, Forgiveness, and Healing for Our Parish

Father Woods resigned from St. Jude in August of 1990. Father David Talley, who is now a Monsignor and pastor of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lilburn, was a Parochial Vicar at St. Jude at the time. Parishioners recall what a wonderful job he did of providing able leadership during a time of transition. Father Talley and Father Austin Fogarty, who is now serving as pastor of St. George Catholic Church in Newnan, handled administrative and pastoral duties until Monsignor Daniel O'Connor arrived at St. Jude in 1991.

Father Woods is currently serving as pastor of All Saints Catholic Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Shortly after my ordination as a Deacon, Archbishop Marino resigned. A week later our pastor, Father Woods, followed. Saint Jude parish was in a state of grieving and to some degree a state of turmoil. When it happened, Monsignor David Talley was the only priest at the church, as others were on vacation. He had been ordained only two weeks before me, but he did an outstanding job of calming fears and bringing stability back to the parish. Monsignor Talley and I became close friends during that time, and we remain close to this day.

A week after the resignations, I was scheduled to preach. My homily, which I thought was fair at best, dealt with forgiveness. That was all that was on my mind with the resignations. I delivered it with sadness in my heart and when I finished and was returning to my chair, the congregation all stood and applauded. What a moment, filled with compassion for our priests and an open expression of forgiveness. That was a moment that will never leave my memory.

Deacon Loris Sinanian
First Permanent Deacon at St. Jude

St. Jude Choir Performs at the Vatican

In February of 1990, the St. Jude Choir and Music Director, Alan Brown, along with several of our parishioners went on a singing tour in Italy. The group was accompanied by Father Austin Fogarty and Deacon Loris Sinanian. The choir performed at all of the major Basilicas in Rome and at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. At Assisi the choir attended Mass in the crypt, which was an unforgettably powerful and moving experience. A concert at the Basilica of St. Ignatius was advertised on posters all over Rome, and the Basilica was filled to capacity!



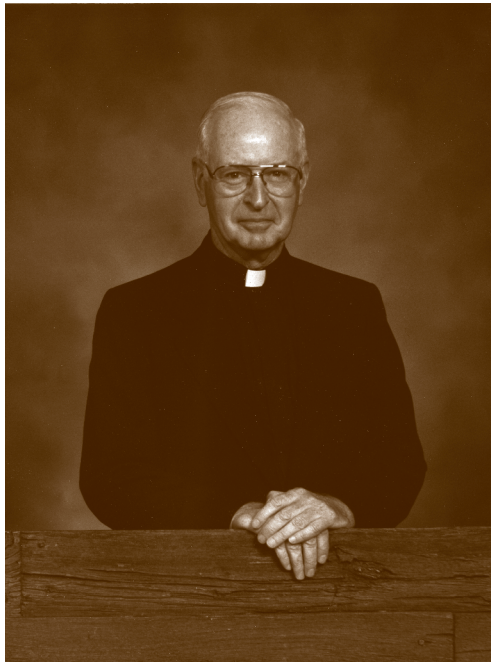
One of the highlights of the tour was singing at the High Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. St. Jude's organist, Patsy Barnes, got to play the huge organ, and parishioners Liz Oliver and Tom and Marina Peters presented the gifts for the Consecration. Father Fogarty read the second reading in English, which is traditional when a concelebrant of the Mass speaks English. Deacon Sinanian served as the Deacon of the Altar.

Another very special highlight for the group was an audience with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. The St. Jude choir sang for him as the honored choir, Sr. Eileen Murray sang "His Eye is on the Sparrow", and several choir members got to shake his hand.

On the flight back to New York, there were 250 Soviet Jews on their way to their new home in the United States. As the flight neared Kennedy Airport, with permission from the pilot, the choir lined up in the aisles of the plane and serenaded the apprehensive newcomers with "The Irish Blessing" and "America the Beautiful." At the suggestion of one of the flight attendants, they began singing "This is the Day the Lord Has Made" and were joined by Al Pacino and Diane Keaton who were sitting in first class on their way home from filming "The Godfather" in Rome. It was a perfect end to a perfect trip!

Later at the 1990 International Congress of Catholic Musicians, the Monsignor in charge of music at St. Peter's said that the St. Jude's Choir of Atlanta was a "model American choir".

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Daniel J. O'Connor
 April 1991 (installed July 1991)
 - July 2002 (deceased 2010)

In April of 1991, Father Daniel J. O'Connor became pastor of St. Jude Church where he remained until his retirement in 2002. He was named a Monsignor for the Archdiocese of Atlanta in 1994. The St. Jude parish continued to grow and thrive during Monsignor O'Connor's tenure.

In 1991 the parish kicked off a new capital funds campaign called "Facing Challenges and Pursuing Opportunities" which would address major improvements to our facilities. The capital campaign, along with generous donations from parishioners, funded multiple projects and enhancements for the school and the church. One phase of the renovations was the transformation of the church basement. A new parish hall and much needed kitchen facilities were provided, along with an entry pavilion that included an elevator and indoor stairwell. The new hall was named the Stapleton Center after our first pastor, Father John Stapleton.

The Stapleton Center has been used for numerous receptions, meetings, and parish functions and has been the site of Coffee & Donuts after Sunday morning Masses since the tradition began on September 25, 1994. A portrait of Father Stapleton given by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick White hangs in the entryway. The renovated basement area also includes meeting rooms, nursery facilities, and the Brides Room. Prior to the opening of the Brides Room, brides and their attendants had to dress before they came to the church or in the old nursery and hide in the small Ministry Room (now the Ushers' Room) until the wedding service began. This was to maintain the tradition that a groom must not see his bride on their wedding day until she walks down the aisle.

Tim Nadolski Talks About Life Lessons Learned Growing Up in St. Jude Parish

Tim Nadolski, son of Bob and Nancy Nadolski, is currently attending seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Tim says he literally grew up at St. Jude and feels that Monsignor O'Connor, who was his pastor from the time he was 2 years old until he was almost 14, truly laid the foundational seed for his vocation. The leadership skills Tim learned at St. Jude School, Youth Group, and Boy Scouts will be especially helpful later on in ministering unto the faithful. Tim also says that the St. Jude Mission Trip to Honduras was where his growth in faith and his desire to serve people really caught fire.

Tim is currently studying Philosophy and Spanish and plans to finish his undergraduate degree in the coming year. He will then have four years of Theological studies at a Seminary chosen by the Archdiocese of Atlanta. If it is God's will and with the prayers of the people of St. Jude parish, Tim will be ordained in June of 2015.



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“Facing Challenges and Pursuing Opportunities” improvements also included renovation of the church. Monsignor O’Connor’s inspiration for the new color scheme and décor was a church he had visited in France. All of the pews, carpeting, and side windows were removed when the renovation began on February 9, 1997. The granite altar, tabernacle table, baptismal font, lectern, and ambo were all replaced. The Crucifixion scene and Stations of the Cross were redesigned, and the Adoration Chapel was reconfigured to include more flexible seating for baptisms and small prayer services. In the church vestibule, the confessional, Ave Maria Shop, and Ministry Room (later the Ushers’ Room) were also redesigned. This phase of the renovation was concluded with a blessing of the new altar by Archbishop John F. Donoghue on September 21, 1997. The stained glass in the side windows of the church was replaced with clear glass and small pieces of the blue stained glass were made available to parishioners as keepsakes of the original decor. Most of the granite furnishings were donated to other churches, but the granite tabernacle table from the Adoration Chapel was moved outside to become an altar for outdoor Mass celebrations at St. Jude.



Brazilian Community

In the mid 1990s, Fr. Jack Vessels was eating at the “El Toro” restaurant in Sandy Springs. He began speaking with the waiter in Spanish, but the waiter said he did not speak Spanish because he was from Brazil. So Fr. Vessels started to speak in Portuguese! Within a few days he received a phone call asking if he could celebrate Mass in Portuguese for a group of Brazilian people. Fr. Vessels enthusiastically agreed.

The first Brazilian Mass was celebrated in October 1997 at St. Ignatius House, the Jesuit Retreat Center in Sandy Springs, and thereafter continued monthly at St. Jude. In December 1999, with the help of Fr. Pedro Poloche, a second Portuguese Mass was added each month. After some time and with the support of the Anglo Community at St. Jude, the Mass was celebrated weekly in Portuguese.

The Brazilian Community grew quickly and wished to have a Brazilian priest at St. Jude. Conversations were initiated between the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops and the Archdiocese of Atlanta to pursue this goal. In 2002, Fr. Sebastian Andrade, a Brazilian priest, came to St. Jude to work with both the Hispanic and Brazilian communities. When Fr. Fausto Marquez was assigned to St. Jude to work with the Hispanic Community in August 2006, Fr. Sebastian was able to dedicate more of his time to the ever-growing Brazilian Community. In June 2008, Fr. Roger Araujo was designated to be the shepherd of the Brazilian Community in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and continues to serve at St. Jude today.



Ever since the Brazilian Community formed at St. Jude, the Archdiocese of Atlanta has made every effort to support its needs. St. Jude’s English-speaking parishioners also embraced the Brazilian Community and even started offering other services, like the English as a Second Language (ESL) program to teach English.

The Brazilian Community is now one of the most active and vibrant at St. Jude with seventeen unique Brazilian Ministries and active participation in other parish ministries and activities.

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Another major renovation project was a much needed upgrade to the music rooms in the church basement. The rooms were dark and musty with carpets well worn and stained from years of religious education classes. When long time choir member, Bill Harris, died suddenly on New Years Eve 1999, members of the choir, led by Carol Wood, raised money to renovate the choir rooms in his memory. Bill was a very popular choir member and not only for his musical talent. He was an avid baker who loved to bring decadent desserts to choir practices and parties!

In addition to numerous renovations and facility upgrades, the 90's were a time of fun and fellowship in the parish. Monsignor O'Connor's parish-wide events to honor and thank our volunteers were called The Barnabas Bash after Barnabas, an early Christian convert who traveled with St. Paul and was the consummate volunteer.



Monsignor O'Connor retired as pastor of St. Jude in July of 2002. He remained active in the parish, frequently serving as a guest priest, until his death on June 16, 2010, after a courageous battle with adrenal cancer. He is laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery in Sandy Springs.



English as a Second Language

In the year 2000, Everett Howe and several volunteer teachers started the English as a Second Language program at St. Jude. This popular and successful ministry still meets weekly in the Stapleton Center. Over the years more than 650 newcomers to the U.S. have found friendships and an opportunity to improve their English language skills as part of this community. There have been many "graduation" ceremonies to recognize the accomplishments of the students. Students often bring traditional dishes from their native countries to help celebrate the occasions, which is quite a hit with our volunteer teachers!

Ministry





James J. Fennessy

August 2002 - present



When Monsignor O'Connor retired, St. Jude parish was blessed with another wonderful priest in an impressive line of beloved pastors.

Monsignor James J. Fennessy was transferred from St. John Neumann to St. Jude in August of 2002, and we continue to benefit from his spiritual guidance, compassion, and leadership as our pastor.

When Monsignor Fennessy arrived at St. Jude, Bob Riddett was working as the business manager for the parish. He was also studying for the diaconate in his own parish of St. Lawrence Church in Lawrenceville. After his ordination in 2003, Deacon Bob Riddett was installed as a permanent deacon here at St. Jude. In February of 2009, Deacon Jim Tramonte was ordained and became the third permanent deacon to serve at St. Jude. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a parish, thanks to Monsignor Fennessy's support of the diaconate program, St. Jude has two permanent deacons in Deacon Bob and Deacon Jim.

In the fall of 2002 after much discussion, debate, and prayer, the "Our Faith Our Future" capital campaign was launched at St. Jude. The most significant goal of this campaign was to build a 16,000 square foot Ministry Building which would provide permanent space for Youth, Scouts, administrative offices, meeting rooms, and another large flexible space for parish events. The new Ministry Building was blessed by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory on Sunday, August 21, 2005. With the opening of the Ministry Building and administrative offices, the rectory finally became a private residence for our priests. In addition to administrative offices and a second large parish hall and kitchen, the Ministry Building houses the parish library, a small prayer room, Youth and Scout Rooms, and additional meeting rooms.



} *Did You Know?*

There have been more than 6,100 baptisms since St. Jude was founded. Cynthia Diane Peterson was the first child to be baptized at St. Jude on November 27, 1960.

Ministry





The Ministry Building has been a hub of parish activity since its completion in 2005. Under Monsignor Fennessy's leadership we have over 100 active ministries at St. Jude and three thriving cultural groups with the Anglo, Hispanic, and Brazilian communities. Our ministry groups promote spiritual growth, Bible study, fellowship, and service to our parish and our community. We also sponsor various service projects and events throughout the year. Monsignor Fennessy continues the tradition of thanking parishioners for their volunteer service with an annual social event called Fennessy's Feast. St. Patrick's Day celebrations are also very popular at St. Jude. After all, everyone is Irish when you have a jolly leprechaun for a pastor!

Some of our more recent memorials and dedications in the church include the dedication of the Ushers' Room and the installation of the ambry, a beautiful wood cabinet that holds the Holy Oils. In February 2008 the Ushers' Room in the church vestibule was named The Papineau Room in memory of Bob Papineau and his 40 years of dedicated service to the St. Jude Ushers Ministry. When parishioner Joan Tobia's father, Louis Tobia, passed away in 2006, memorial donations made in his name were used to purchase the ambry which was installed in time for Easter 2008.

Always supportive of cultural diversity and parish-wide unity at St. Jude, Monsignor Fennessy supported and encouraged the construction of the shrine to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Jude. The shrine was dedicated on March 8, 2009. Archbishop Gregory, Monsignor Fennessy, St. Jude Clergy, parishioners and friends were on hand to join in the celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart have been an integral part of the foundation of St. Jude parish. In January of 2010, the two remaining sisters at St. Jude, Sister Eileen Murray and Sister Sally White, retired and moved back to the Motherhouse in Yardley, Pennsylvania. From the time they arrived at St. Jude School in the early 1960s, Grey Nuns have touched generations of St. Jude parishioners and school families. They leave a legacy of compassion, education, and Christ's love that will always be with us. Plans are currently underway to create a Spiritual Life Center in the home at 725 Spalding Drive which was the last convent of the Grey Nuns at St. Jude. The new center will be a welcomed addition that will beautify the church grounds and serve as an additional place of fellowship and prayer for our parish.



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St. Jude the Apostle *The Journey Continues*



St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church has been a spiritual home to thousands of parishioners and countless visitors during the past 50 years.

As our founding pastor, Fr. Stapleton, said during his homily on March 13, 1966, when our church building was dedicated, “Truly this church from this day forward will be the gate of heaven for each one of us and for those who will come after us.”

By the grace of God, St. Jude will continue to be a source of “strength for the journey” for all.





This commemorative booklet was made possible by the following contributions

In honor of

Wally and Eileen Dietrich

Loyal St. Jude Parishioners for over 37 years

With best wishes and our congratulations to
St. Jude the Apostle on its 50th Anniversary

from

The Erdman Family

Steve, Kristin, John, Elizabeth and Katherine

Blessings from

The Jardina Family

Larry, Kim, Jack, Madelyn, Elizabeth and George





