

## HISTORY OF OUR PARISH

- 1852 Most Rev. James Oliver Van de Velde, Bishop of Chicago visited Geneva with a view toward locating a parish here.
- 1860 Catholics in Batavia built a church and for the next 50 years, Geneva Catholics attended one of the two neighboring missions (Batavia or St. Charles).
- July 5, 1911 Right Rev. Peter James Muldoon, first Bishop of Rockford, appointed Rev. Theodore B. McCormick the first pastor of St. Peter church.
- July 23, 1911 First Mass in Geneva offered in the Unitarian Church building. Later an unused Swedish Methodist church was leased for one year.
- April 1912 The Charles S. Field property located at Fifth and James Streets was purchased for \$2,500. A brick church and rectory were built at a cost of \$15,000.
- May 30, 1913 Solemn Dedication of the Church.
- 1915 St. Peter Church was given charge of the State Home for Girls near Geneva and a chapel was built there.
- January 1958 Began to look into the possibility of building a new school, convent and all-purpose hall with the school gymnasium being viewed as a temporary church.
- 1959 School and temporary Church on Kaneville Road are dedicated.
- 1962 St. Peter Thrift Shop opened in a classroom of the school by seven women of the parish.
- July 1981 St. Peter Church, under the auspices of the Women's Club, became the first organization in the Fox Valley to be associated with Market Day.
- April 15, 1982 President Ronald Reagan visited St. Peter School during national Catholic Education Week.
- 1983 St. Peter Church opened its Food Panty.
- June 14, 1985 Rev. James W. McLoughlin, Pastor of St. Peter Church, along with four parishioners, were taken hostage on TWA Flight 847 in Athens, Greece.
- June, 1985 The shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary was erected in front of the Parish Center in thanksgiving for the safe return of all the hostages.
- 1986 The former convent was converted into parish office space and meeting rooms.
- 1987 A planning committee was appointed to review our growth rate and assess the long-term implications.
- September 1987 The First Barn Sale was held and continued annually through 1996. over \$1 Million was contributed to the Building Fund.
- September 24, 1989 Parishioner Joseph McCafferty was ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Arthur J. O'Neill.
- 1989 A Building Committee was formed and "Building on Catholic Tradition--Forging Bonds for the Future" was the theme for the new building fund drive.
- Fall 1991 A free-standing two classroom annex was built with the help of parishioners.
- March 8, 1992 Bishop Arthur J. O'Neill presided at ground breaking ceremonies for the new church.
- August 5, 1992 Mary Wheeler, last of the original parishioners, died and was buried from St. Peter Church.
- June 5/6, 1993 Parishioners attended the liturgy of the Word in the former church (currently the Multipurpose Room) and processed into the new church for the first Liturgy of the Eucharist at all Masses.
- 1996 Modular classrooms were added to the north end of the property and a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of expanding our education facilities.
- November 11, 1997 Rev. Joseph F. Jarmoluk is appointed Pastor.