

# ASPIRING CHRISTIANS

## HISTORIES OF YATES COUNTY CHURCHES

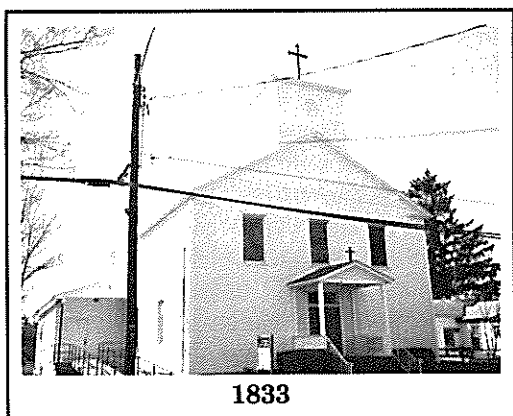


**Compiled by: Linda J. Jackson**

*Created for the 175th Anniversary of Yates County, New York*

1823-1998

## ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DUNDEE



The building which houses St. Andrew's Church was built in 1833 by the Free Christian Church members. In 1877, after the Free Christian Church had ceased to exist, Father Eugene Paganini, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Penn Yan, helped Dundee's Catholic population buy the empty building. Later that year it was rededicated and blessed by Bishop McQuaid as a Catholic church with 125 members. As a mission church of St. Michael's, Mass was held every third week.

In the early half of this century several prominent families gave of their resources for the needed renovations. Stained glass windows were donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Sullivan. The old altar was moved with donations from Mr. and Mrs. James Clary who were part owners of an early hardware store in town. Other congregation members included the family of John Cassion, a rural mail carrier and railroad station agent, Mr. and Mrs. John J. O'Brien, Francis and Desmond O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dailon and the Ed and Tom Finnegan families.

Under the pastorship of Monsignor Joseph Sullivan, St. Andrew's started their first club for service, prayer and fellowship, St. Andrew's Altar and Rosary Society in 1965. Since then parishioners and members have given time, talent and money to the House of Concern and the Rushville Clinic. Area needy families, shut-ins and veterans have been remembered each Thanksgiving, Christmas and more recently Easter. Many layettes were sewn and knitted for an unwed mothers home in

Selma, Alabama where Sisters of St. Joseph helped the poor. The women's organization has taken care of altar linens, candles, flowers and many other duties at the church. The A & R Society started parish pot-luck suppers, picnics and coffee hours after Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Hunt bequeathed money to the church which helped build St. Andrew's Hall in 1988. Our hall provides room for religious education, meetings, celebrations and a warm place for funeral luncheons.

Dundee's only resident priest, Fr. Henry Adamski, retired here in 1987. He promoted the monthly coffee hours and provided us with a friendly ear. He also enjoyed singing ("Hit it!") and telling us about his conversations with Bishop Clark ("Young man, you've got a lot to learn."). His untimely death in 1989 left a hole that hasn't been filled. Mrs. Kay Greyback was our organist and choir director in the 50's, 60's, and early 70's. She helped the musical transition that took place after Vatican II. More recently our music is provided by organist Anita McGee and guitarist Nancy Sisbarro.

In 1833 a bell was cast for the Free Christian Church. At some point in the 1800s the bell was removed and left up above the choir loft. In 1990 the bell was rehung by Randie, Neil, Jesse and Chris Rogers, Bob Sullivan and Carl Kaiser. It rang for the first time in the twentieth century on Christmas Eve 1990.

St. Andrew's is no longer a mission church but is independent sharing the services of priests, family minister and administration with St. Michael's. Our co-pastors Fr. Charlie Mulligan and Fr. Peter Deckman are leading us into an age where priests will be in short supply and sharing services with other parishes will be the norm. St. Andrew's Parish Council and congregation invite you to join us on any Sunday morning (or Saturday evening in the summer) for Mass. All are welcome.

Contributed by: *Jane Monagan*