



**ST. PATRICK'S**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
**CHURCH**

*A Our Lady of the Lakes Parish*

***Celebrating***  
**150 YEARS**  
**August 14, 2016**

## **MISSION**

With Mary as our model,  
Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic  
Community seeks to be a welcoming  
parish. While recognizing that we are made  
up of diverse rural communities, we strive to live as  
members of the one Body of Christ, ministering to each  
other, and working together to nurture our God-given talents in  
order to reach out to others in a caring and compassionate manner  
that witnesses to our fervent love for God.



***May the Irish hills caress you. May her  
lakes and rivers bless you. May the luck  
of the Irish enfold you. May the  
blessings of Saint Patrick  
behold you.***



## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

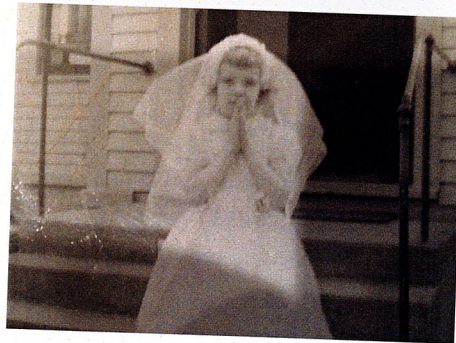
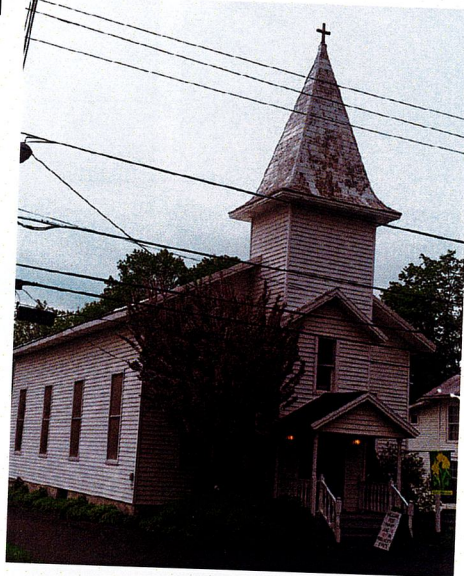
Beginning with the early 1850s, people from Ireland began to locate on various farms in the vicinity of Prattsburgh village and during the next 15 years the Irish population was increased by many more families, some of whom came directly from the old country and some had temporarily made their homes in other places in the United States before coming here. These people were mostly of the Catholic faith. In 1851-52, the Catholic of Prattsburgh were served by Father John Gilbride who came from Penn Yan. Later they were served by priests from Bath until St. Patrick's became a mission parish of St. Gabriel's in Hammondsport in 1880.

In the early 1860s they purchased the lot on North Main Street where the current church was built in about 1866. The families included John H. Trant, Pat Gallivan, John Rob(h)an, Hugh Crean, Pat Flaherty, Morgan O'Connell, William Gleason, John J. Trant, Jerry Flynn, Tom Flynn, John Flaherty, John Curran, Mary Walsh and Michael Dowd. Many of these family names can be seen on the original stained glass windows of St. Patrick's Church.

## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH CONTINUED

St. Patrick's Church Cemetery land was purchased in 1877.

Due to moving to other places by many of the younger church members and gradual passing away of older ones, the church membership by 1920 was greatly reduced. Then the Polish Catholics began to buy farms here. Farm prices were low at that time and much of the farm land was being neglected and this seemed to be an opportunity for them. These people nearly all made good and it is noticeable that both the Irish and Polish were anxious to have their children get a school education and, as a result, we find that many of these pupils had top honors in their school grades and particularly the Irish descendants became efficient teachers and successful business and professional people. There are now also some members of Italian descent.



Since 1940 the

Catholic Church has received many new members from Maine and elsewhere who have moved to Prattsburgh to grow potatoes. In 1949 the church improved with a basement and heating furnace. At that time it was



still a mission of the Hammondspport Church and did not, and still doesn't have a resident priest.

There is very little written about the early days of the Prattsburgh's St. Patrick Catholic Church as most of the records were destroyed by fire that burned the Parsonage in Hammondspport. Most of the above information was given to Stephen Bert Merritt by Alexander Crean. Mr. Crean was born in Ireland August 15, 1862 and settled in Prattsburgh with his parents on July 1, 1874 after a short stay in Auburn NY In 1868 the inside of the church was renovated and a new altar was installed. St. Patrick's Church is now in a



cluster known as "Our Lady of the Lakes" which includes St. Michael's in Penn Yan, St. Januarius in Naples and St. Theresa's in Stanley. Religious leaders include:  
Pastor: Rev. Leo Reinhardt, Rev. Felicjan Sierotowicz, Assisting Priests:  
Rev. Jack O'Connor and  
Rev. George Wiant.

## Pastors/Rectors/Administrators

- Fr. John A. Muller, 1880-1881
- Fr. Christopher Byrne, 1881-1882
- Fr. Theodore Voss, 1882
- Fr. Dennis J. Baly, 1882
- Fr. George W. Agler, 1883-1886
- Fr. Franics J. Naughton, 1886-1893
- Fr. John Colgan, 1893
- Fr. John J. Gardiner, 1893-1895
- Fr. Maurice O'Shea, 1896-1900
- Fr. James E. Kennedy,  
Feb. 1, 1901-1910
- Fr. George T. Johns, 1910-1914
- Fr. Edward John Dwyer, 1914-1920
- Fr. Daniel P. Quigley, 1920-1922
- Fr. Francis T. Moffett, 1923-1929
- Fr. Patrick Kelly, 1929-1937
- Fr. William Cannan, 1937-1941
- Fr. Lawrence Cannon, 1941-1945
- Fr. Joseph M. McDonnell, 1944/5-1950
- Fr. John W. Brill, 1950-1955  
*[upon retirement, poor health]*
- Fr. Thomas J. Manley,  
June 28, 1955-Oct. 1955
- Fr. Earl Tobin, 1955-Aug. 31, 1965
- Fr. Edward J. Tolster,  
Aug. 31, 1965-June 27, 1968
- Fr. Charles Leo McCarthy, 1968-1978
- Fr. James R. Cosgrove,  
1978-June 1985
- Fr. Gerard McMahon, June 1 1993  
*[upon transfer to Diocese of Scranton]*
- Fr. Louis A. Vasile, Late 1993  
*[Temporary administrator]*
- Fr. Philip J. Billotte,  
June 28, 1994-June 26, 2001  
*[upon resignation]*
- Fr. Thomas P. Mull,  
June 26, 2001-Sep. 2001  
*[Temporary administrator]*
- Fr. Robert P. Ring,  
Sep. 2001-June 28, 2011 6  
*[Temporary administrator, sabbatical]*
- Fr. Jeffrey s. Tunncliff,  
June 28, 2011-Sep. 2011  
*[Temporary administrator]*
- Fr. Stanley G. Kacprzak,  
Sep. 2011-June 25, 2013
- Fr. Leo Reinhardt,  
June 2 2013 [Administrator],  
June 24, 2014 [Pastor]-present

<http://dorchurches.com/stpatrickprattsburgh>



# Religion

## St. Patrick's Church Marks 150th Anniversary

### Article Submitted

The New York Eagle News

**O**n August 14th the Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester, visited Prattsburgh to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Organized in the 1850s by Irish immigrants, the Church has undergone many changes over the last 15 decades and at one time was scheduled to close, which made this milestone a true celebration. Currently the Church serves a community of approximately 100 parishioners.

Bishop Matano first stopped at St. Patrick's for a special blessing and a few words of congratulation. He encouraged those in attendance to continue the fine tradition for future generations in recognition of the contributions by those who came before.

Then it was on to the Prattsburgh Central School where he was greeted by an estimated 180 present and former parishioners, members from other worship sites in Our Lady of the Lakes parish including St. Januarius in Naples, St. Michael's in Penn Yan and St. Theresa in Stanley. During the 2 p.m. celebratory Mass, Bishop Matano mentioned John Filkins (who recently passed away) and his immeasurable contributions over the years to St. Patrick's Church.

During the Homily Bishop Matano stressed the importance of devo-



On August 14th the Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester, visited Prattsburgh to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. (Photo provided)

tion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and referred to the great Saint of St. Patrick's Church. The Bishop also recalled it was just fifty years ago that a former Rochester Bishop, Reverend Fulton Sheen, celebrated the one hundred year anniversary in the same school setting.

Other priests celebrating with the Bishop were Father Leo Reinhardt, the current Pastor; Father Jack O'Connor, an assisting priest; Father Bob Ring, a former Pastor; Father Mickey McGroft, a former Parochial Vicar; and the Bishop's personal assistant, Father Dan White.

There were many favorable comments on the religious setting for the service, with much of the credit going to the Prattsburgh Central School for their excellent support and accommodation.

Following the Mass there was a reception for all those in attendance. ■