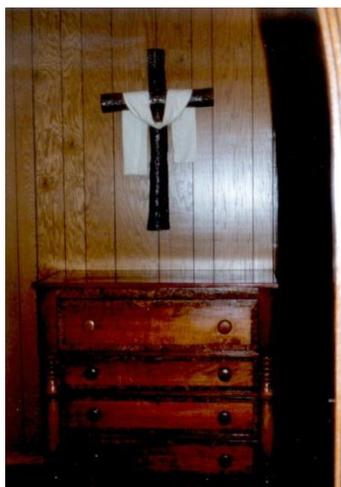


The History of St. Joseph Church

The beginnings of Catholicism and the establishment of St. Joseph parish in Circleville go back to the arrival of John McLean in 1836. In 1840 the Riley family and others of the McLean family settled in the town. A number of the pioneer Catholics were German: the Miller brothers, the Snyder's, the Bayer's, the Puckers, the Smiths, the Wolfs, and the Drenchers. The construction of the Zanesville and Maysville turnpikes brought many families to the parish.

The first mass was celebrated in Circleville in 1840 by Rev. Nicholas Dominic Young, O.P. in the home of Mrs. Turner. Rev. Joshua Young, later the first Bishop of Erie, Pa. came from Holy Cross in Columbus during the 1840's to minister to the needs of the people here. Other priests who came to Circleville were Father



Puncher, the first pastor of St. Peter's Church in Chillicothe, and Fathers Caulkers, DE Hope and Carroll. It is interesting to note that Mass was celebrated in Protestant homes in the early days of these missionary priests.

It was in Father DE Hope's time that the first Catholic Church was acquired. It was a small frame building situated on East Franklin Street directly north of the Presbyterian Church. (This site was once owned by Dwight Steele.) The ground, which was purchased from Thomas Huston for \$300, was partly covered by the ditch and embankment of the old circle. Thus St. Joseph's was truly a part of original Circleville. The good relationship existing among the different denominations of the town in those days is shown by the fact that nearly everyone, irrespective of creed, turned out to help level and prepare ground for the new church. In 1848 a frame structure, already built, was moved onto the lot and was used for nearly twenty years.

The first resident pastor was Rev. P. Tschieder, a Jesuit priest, who came in 1850. He did not reside in Circleville but came every week to discharge his pastoral duties, returning to his home in Chillicothe. He was succeeded by Rev. Michael Forde in 1852. Father Forde boarded at the home of Andrew Lynch. Rev. Nicholas Thisse came in 1854 and built the first rectory. In December of 1856, when Rev. John D. Duffy became pastor of the parish, he was assisted, due to his poor health, by Father Edward Fitzgerald. During Father Duffy's pastorate one of the women of the parish began the first Catholic school, which for a short time, was housed in a little frame house standing on Pickaway Street. A choir was also forming during Fr. Duffy's time. According to the Sketch of St. Joseph Parish, Circleville, Ohio 1911, "A happy memory of this time was the sacred concert given in 1865 at Washington Court

House, the choir going over on the Cincinnati and Muskingum Valley Railway and taking their melodeon with them. A recent accident made the river bridge impassable, and the musicians walked down the tow-path and boarded the train west of the river. The organ was carried to the ferry strapped to a mule's back, a thick bed quilt intervening for the comfort of the mule." Father Duffy died on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 1865 and Father Fitzgerald administered the affairs of the parish until the Rev. C.L. Pindar was named pastor in September 1865.

During the pastorate of Father Pindar, ground was purchased on West Mound Street for the erection of the new church. A brick church costing \$15,000 was dedicated in June 1868 by Rt. Rev. Bishop Rosecrans. The old Franklin Street property was sold on March 15, 1870 and the money was used for the new church.

In the summer of 1869 Rev. Sergius de Stchoulepnikoff, the son of a noble Russian family and a man of fine education came to the parish. Father Sergius was a convert to Catholicism. He studied in Paris and was eventually ordained to the priesthood. Later he came to the United States and was given an appointment in Buffalo, New York. He remained in Circleville until June 1872. While on a trip to Columbus from Dresden, he disappeared and was never heard from again. His valise was found in the railroad yards in Columbus, but no one ever learned what happened to Fr. Sergius.

Rev. A.M. Mazeau succeeded Fr. Sergius as pastor but remained only a few months. Fr. D.B. Cull was appointed to Circleville during the latter part of 1872. He was responsible for the building of a rectory, which was finished in 1873. Shortly after Fr. Cull moved into the new rectory, he was transferred. In 1874 Rev. A.O. Walker became the new pastor. During his pastorate a strip of land, containing six acres lying on N. Court St, nearly opposite Forest Cemetery was purchased and on July 4, 1878 it was consecrated a cemetery. Prior to the purchase of this property for a cemetery, Catholics had been buried in the old High Street and Forest Cemeteries. Since the new cemetery proved to be quite swampy, and unfit for burials, a new tract of land, comprising nineteen acres which adjoined Forest Cemetery on the north was purchased on December 12, 1892. All bodies that had been interred in the first cemetery were soon after reinterred in the new one.

On April 20, 1882, Rev. M.M. Meara, a native of Columbus was appointed to this parish. He was admired by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. While Fr. Meara was pastor the school and convent building were erected, the work having begun in 1885.

The school was opened in 1886, with the Sisters of Charity, Nazareth, KY in charge. St. Joseph's School was ranked as one of the best in the state. The first commencement exercises were held in 1889. After Fr. Meara was transferred, Rev. Charles Watterson was appointed temporary pastor and on July 2, 1901 Rev. John S. Hannan was placed in charge of the parish.

Shortly after the arrival of Fr. Hannan, plans were made for the building of a new church. Offerings made by St. Joseph's School and Convent were collected by parishioners. Socials, concerts, and entertainments were given and nothing was overlooked that would bring in the necessary funds for the proposed new church. The brick church was torn down after the last service was held on September 6, 1901. During the many meetings held to discuss the new church, it had been proposed that another brick church be built. Later Fr. Hannan called a meeting to discuss the feasibility of using stone in the construction which met with the approval of the congregation. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Sunday, April 10, 1910, at 3:30 p.m. with the Rt. Rev. J.J. Hartley, Bishop of Columbus, officiating. In that same year, the bells were blessed and consecrated on Sunday, September 18. The ceremony was witnessed by a large congregation of people. When the basement of the new church was completed, Mass was held there and everyone looked forward to the day when the church would be completed. The present church was dedicated on June 25, 1911 by Bishop Hartley. It was a festive day indeed. Circleville had a stately Gothic church, enhanced by Carrara marble and several Munich stained glass windows. In 1922 also during Fr. Hannan's pastorate the three year high school was discontinued. It was a very sad day when the grade school closed its doors in 1926, at which time enrollment was very small.



Fr. Hannan also built a splendid new parish house in 1924. He was pastor here for thirty-one years and passed away in August of 1932. The school stood vacant for years with no attempt made to keep it in shape. The Bishop refused permission to raze it, an action the congregation later appreciated.

Rev. Joseph Herman arrived following the death of Fr. Hannan. During Fr. Herman's administration the church was redecorated for the first time. Fr. Herman resigned the pastorate in 1940 due to ill health and died in Columbus in 1943.

In 1941 the Bishop appointed Fr. Edward Reidy pastor and at once he did what



the Bishop wished to have done years before. The school was repaired, put in order and was used as a Community Center. The school had three stories but during the remodeling, the third floor was removed, a new roof laid, and a steam heating plant installed. Fr. Reidy also arranged for two Sisters of Charity to come from Columbus every Sunday to teach Sunday School and prepare children for their reception of first Communion. It

was also during this time that an Altar-Rosary Society was organized for the ladies of the parish.

Very Rev. Msgr. George Mason was appointed to our parish on September 26, 1951. After mountains of work, much of it done by the pastor, the school was reopened in the fall of 1953. At that time rooms were made available for a school for developmentally disabled children, a forerunner of the present Brooks-Yates School. Replacing the Sisters of Charity were the Sisters of St. Joseph from Baden, Pa. Also in the same year a large frame house on the corner of West Mound and South Scioto Streets was purchased and used as a convent for the teaching Sisters. Cooperation from the entire parish was necessary for the operation of the school. The Knights of Columbus, Fr. John S. Hannan Council, was organized in 1962.

Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph McGlynn was appointed pastor in 1965. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes were started in the parish as well as a pre-school program. Classes for children who attended public school were held on Sunday morning. Msgr. Also established a program for the elderly which included parties in the church basement and home Masses for the shut-ins. Adult study clubs were also begun.

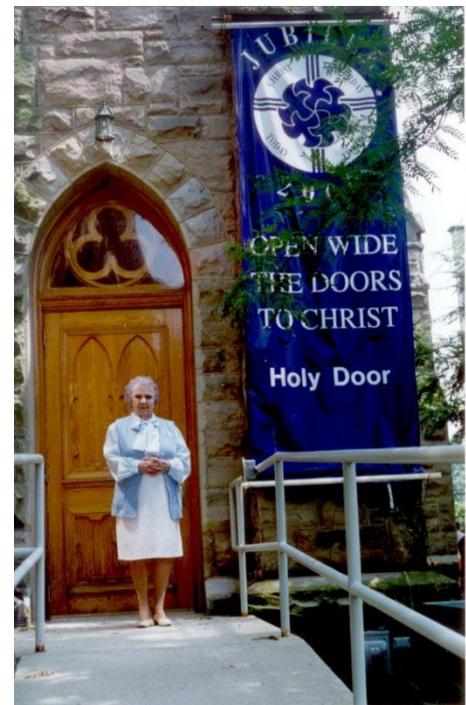
Very Rev. Msgr. George Buchmann came to the parish in 1969. In May 1970 the teaching Sisters were removed from the parish and this resulted in the closing of the school. In May of 1971, Msgr. Started extensive work on the cemetery with the repairing of roads, planting of new trees, and long range landscaping. The Catholic Youth Organization was again organized. Also in the same year a new roof was placed on the school. Each year as funds permitted, more work was done on the cemetery as well as on the church. In June 1974 revamping of the interior lighting system of the church was effected. The latter part of 1974 and the beginning of 1975 found Msgr. Buchmann in and out of Mt. Carmel Hospital. Because of the serious illness Monsignor, Fr. David E. Petry was appointed administrator of the parish until Fr. Frank J. Meagher as appointed pastor in June 1975.

Soon after the arrival of Fr. Meagher, work was started to form a Parish Council. On September 21, 1975 the first election of Parish Council members took place. In October 1975 a liturgical choir was organized. In the early part of 1976 instrumental, guitar, and funeral choirs were organized. As the year progressed plans were made to sell the convent and hold all CCD classes in the school. Two new CCD Coordinators, one for Pre-School, the other for Grade and High School were selected from the parish. Late in 1977 the Catholic Youth Organization was incorporated into the CCD program. The convent became the property of new owners in May. In June remodeling of the school was started.

A bequest was given to the church in 1976 for a new organ which was built by Schantz Organ Co of Orville, Oh after consultation with Peebles & Herzog and installed in December of 1977. The old organ was given to the Lowery Lane Mission Church. The church sanctuary was redone in March of 1978 with Mass being held in the church basement. On October 8, 1978 at 4:00 p.m. Bishop Herrmann rededicated and consecrated the new altar of sacrifice. Priests of the diocese were invited to concelebrate Holy Mass. Dinner was served for those in attendance followed by an organ recital.

The convent on the corner of Mound and Scioto Streets was sold in 1978. During Father Meagher's service, the church roof was replaced, the basement kitchen was remodeled, air conditioning was installed for the church, the cemetery roads were repaved and drive-by Stations of the Cross were erected in the cemetery as a living memorial to Msgr. Joseph McGlynn. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) was started in September of 1984. In the fall of 1985, during an Adult Discussion Group on Sunday, the idea to serve Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to all those in need, both financially and socially, was developed and put into action. The much appreciated practice has come to include other churches in the community. St Joseph Church also was instrumental in forming a non-profit group called Churches United for Senior Housing (CUSH). Through the HUD program, senior housing was constructed and is known as Eden Place in Circleville. St Joseph continues to be one of six churches who direct the management of the property. The Lay Eucharistic Minister program was begun for Sunday Masses and eventually expanded to include bringing Holy Communion to shut-ins, nursing homes, the hospital, and assisting with the communion distribution during mass. Father Meagher became pastor of St Agatha Parish in Columbus on July 8, 1986.

Father Robert F. Reilly arrived in Circleville in July of 1986. Communion with both bread and wine was offered at all masses and female altar servers were permitted to serve alongside the males. In 1987 a new entrance to St Joseph Cemetery was blessed. The first Parish Finance Committee was put in place in March of 1987 by a directive of the Bishop. 1988 brought the participation in a Community Soup Kitchen established at the Presbyterian Church to serve meals to the hungry and lonely on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with other churches and civic organizations taking turns serving the meals. St Joseph was assigned the fifth Monday of a month which still continues today. In April of 1988, the Blessed Sacrament was repositioned to a special chapel west of Mary's shrine. In October 1989 the parish entered into the process of RENEW or faith sharing which was based mainly on weekly small group meetings in homes for a six week period. These discussions included scripture readings, discussion of the readings, and prayer. This process fostered the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group. A new slate roof was put on the church in April 1991 by the Berlin Roofing Company. During his service to St Joseph, Father Reilly also started positions for a Pastoral Assistant and Director of Religious Education for grades preschool through 12. In January of 1992, the ReMembering Church process was started. This process was instituted to invite inactive Catholics in the community back to full participation with the church. Father Reilly was a strong proponent of Catholic education. We were also able to have Deacon Bill Whalen assigned to our parish in March 1993. Father Reilly celebrated his 40th Ordination Anniversary on May 28, 1995 with a mass and reception. A wheelchair ramp and new entrance door to the church was blessed in 1995. On February 1, 1997, Mark Scarpitti, a parishioner was ordained a Deacon and assigned to St Joseph, Circleville. Deacon Scarpitti served here until Father Reilly retired and then transferred to St Bernadette, Lancaster. Father Reilly retired to Nazareth Towers in Columbus on July 19, 1999. He died April 9, 2006.



Father Stephen L. Krile assumed pastoral care of St Joseph Church in July of 1999. During his time in Circleville a Ministry Of Mother's (MOMs) Group was established. As one of their projects they decided to have a booth at the Pumpkin Show selling penny candy and later apple cider slushies to support the youth program for their summer activities. The church also put a float in the Pumpkin Show Parades. The church basement was given a major renovation in 2000 which is now known as the "Church Hall". The rectory was also brought up to date with significant upgrades during the same time. The Mound Street churches started Vacation Bible School as a group effort and continued the project for a few years, but in 2010, St Joseph left the Mound Street group to become

Mrs. Regina Dawson (pictured in 2000), current oldest member of St. Joseph parish.

affiliated with a church group in Stoutsville for Bible School. Father Krile also started lay members having prayer services in all the nursing homes in Pickaway County on a monthly basis. A “55 & Over” group was established for parishioners to come together for social activities and to enjoy each other’s company. In 2005 luncheons were started on Fridays to raise money for future development. The St Joseph School was demolished in December of 2006 (now known as St. Joseph Center). A fund raiser was started for money to build a new PSR Center on land the Columbus Diocese has purchased on the corner of Kingston Pike and Ohio Streets. Ground breaking is to be held the spring of 2011.

Priests Serving Our Parish Include:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1850..... | Rev. Fr. P. Tschieder |
| 1851..... | Rev. Fr. DeHope |
| 1852..... | Rev. Fr. Michael Ford |
| 1854..... | Rev. Fr. J. Nicholas Thisse |
| 1856..... | Rev. Fr. John D. Duffy |
| 1865..... | Rev. Fr. Edward Fitzgerald |
| 1865..... | Rev. Fr. Christopher L. Pindar |
| 1869..... | Rev. Fr. Sergius Stchoulepnikoff |
| 1872..... | Rev. Fr. A. M. Mazeau |
| 1872..... | Rev. Fr. D. B. Cull |
| 1874..... | Rev. Fr. A. O. Walker |
| 1882..... | Rev. Fr. M. M. Meara |
| 1901..... | Rev. Fr. Charles Watterson |
| 1901..... | Rev. Fr. John S. Hannan |
| 1932..... | Rev. Fr. Joseph Herman |
| 1941..... | Rev. Fr. Edward Reidy |
| 1954..... | Rev. Msgr. George Mason |
| 1965..... | Rev. Msgr. Joseph McGlynn |
| 1969..... | Rev. Msgr. George Buchmann |
| 1974..... | Rev. Fr. David Petry (administrator) |
| 1975..... | Rev. Fr. Frank Meagher |
| 1986..... | Rev. Fr. Robert F. Reilly |
| 1999..... | Rev. Fr. Stephen L. Krile |

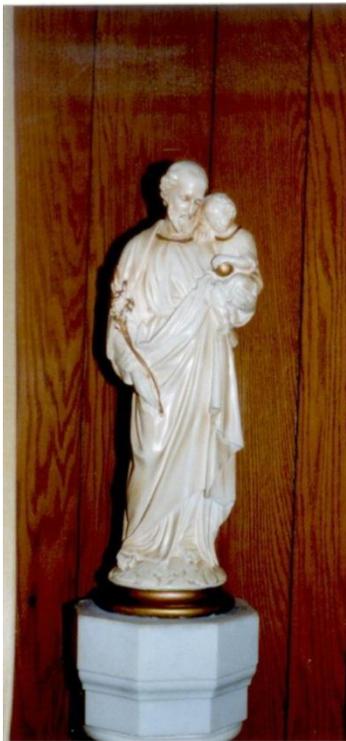
Assistant priest serving in our parish: Rev. Fr. William Metzger

Ordained From Our Parish

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | Rev. Fr. Raymond Cathe |
| 1874..... | Rev. Fr. S. B. Hedges |
| 1895..... | Rev. Fr. James Kirwin |
| 1898..... | Rev. Fr. J. M. Haughran |
| 1921..... | Rt. Rev. Msgr. James M. Kirwin son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kirwin, served his pastorate in Texas |
| 1960..... | Rev. Fr. Joseph E. Knecht, S.J. son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Knecht, served his pastorate in India |
| 1989..... | Rev. Fr. Theodore Sill son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sill |

Nuns From Our Community

- Sister Mary Celestine Snider, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Snyder, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- Sister Sylvester Prentiss, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Prentiss, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- 1912 Sister Albert Dodd, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dodd, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- 1916 Sister Jane Maechtel, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. William Maechtel, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- 1920 Sister Mary Christopher McKenzie, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Leo McKenzie, a Sister of Charity of Mt. St. Joseph
- 1930 Sister M. Teresina McKenzie, CSC, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. McKenzie, a Sister of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame
- 1952 Sister Mary Rose Griffin, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Griffin, a Sister of St. Francis of Rochester, MN
- 1953 Sister Agnes Goode, OSF, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. William Goode, a Sister of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, IL
- 2004 Sister Clare Marie of the Cross, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Matthias, a Sister of the Community of Franciscans of the Renewal, Bronx, NY



Original statue of St.
Joseph used in church

Our Church Building

In the Early 1900's, parishioners were talking about the need to build a new church. A legacy of \$1,000 was left to the parish by Mrs. Thomas Ucker, and thus began the impetus to finance the building. Many, many fundraisers were held. In 1909, architects were invited to submit plans at a cost of \$25,000, exclusive of interior furnishings. Although a brick church was originally planned, it was decided that a stone church could be constructed for an additional \$1.2 thousand, and would be much more durable.

The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, April 10, 1910. The stone came from the Berea sandstone quarries near Cleveland. The exterior architecture is pure Gothic, with 13th century or Tudor Gothic on the inside. The floors were laid in small tiles.

The inside woodwork was done in golden oak finish, and the altars were of Italian marble, ordered through F.R. Pusted & Co. of New York. The gates marking the entrance to the sanctuary were of brass. The pews, confessionals and other wood carvings were made by the Josephinum Church Furnishing Company of Columbus.

The Stations of the Cross came from the Joseph Sibble studio, New York, and are the exact reproduction of those found in the cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA. The figures in the Stations are made from minute sea pebbles and hard cement plaster, and were delicately colored.

The windows are some of the finest in the Columbus Diocese, and were donated by various societies and individual members of the congregation. They are the work of the F.X. Zettler Company in Munich, Germany. Zettler perfected the idea of "perspective" in stained glass, thereby giving the windows depth in perception. (The Zettler Co. merged with the Mayer Company in 1939, and the company continues to be in business at this writing. However, during World War II, all records were destroyed.)



Windows in the Body of the Church: The first window in the west Transept represents the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. The east window in the Transept represents the Holy Family. The first window south of the West Transept is the marriage of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph; the second represents the Birth of Christ; the third represents the Presentation of Christ in the temple. The Baptistry window represents the Baptism of Our Lord by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Over the front door in the vestibule the Good Shepherd is represented. The window in the organ loft represents St. Cecelia, Patroness of Music. The first east/south window depicts the Flight into Egypt. Next is Christ teaching in the temple at the

age of twelve. And the next, shows the death of St. Joseph. The set of windows above the front entrance depicts a farmer, St. George and the dragon, and a man reading a book. These windows were a gift to the parish by Monsignor Buchmann (1969-1975) and represent Monsignor, his father and his uncle.

There is no verification for the Apostle Windows that surround the sanctuary and there tends to be a difference of opinion on some depictions. The first window, on the left as we face the altar, shows St. James the Less, who is shown with a club, because he was beaten to death with a club. The Apostle with him is St. John, who is shown with a chalice and serpent because he was poisoned with wine in a chalice. Window #2 is one with a discrepancy. One version is that it is St. Andrews, with a cross in the "X" shape; the other version is that it is St. Phillip, with a cross and loaves of bread. The second apostle in this window is also not certain. One thought is that it is James the Greater, with shell, jug and staff, and the alternate thought is that it is St. Matthias, because he was killed by being put in a boiling cauldron. Apostle Window #3 suggests that it is St. Thomas, holding a carpenter's square, because he was a builder, and died by being pierced with a sword and beheaded. An alternative perception is that it is St. Matthias, holding a lance. Standing next is perhaps St. James the Greater, who was a fisherman and is shown with a bamboo stick, along with scallop shells, or it could be St. Thaddeus (Jude) holding a club. Window #4; All agree that this is St. Peter, holding the keys to the kingdom. Next could be St. Thaddeus, with a hoe or an ax or it could be St. Thomas with a carpenter square. Window #5 is thought to be St. Andrew because it is thought he was crucified by being bound, not nailed, to a cross, where he suffered for two days. OR possibly it could be St. Philip, who preached about the cross. The 10th Apostle is generally believed to be St. Matthew, carrying a tax book and money bags, the tax collector. Window #6: Here we are in agreement that the 11th Apostle is St. Simon, carrying a saw, because he was tortured by being sawed into pieces. And the 12th Apostle is St. Bartholomew with a knife, because he was flayed with a knife.

The church was redecorated for the first time during the tenure of Fr. Joseph Herman (1932-1941). In 1964, under Msgr. Mason's pastorate, a new wooden altar was added and the priest turned to face the congregation for the liturgy.

In 1979, after two years of study and work by church committees, major changes occurred to the interior of the church. A new altar, facing the congregation, was installed on a platform. Pews were arranged around three sides of the altar. The new altar is made of marble of Fior Depesco Carnico, flanked by dark marble. Relics of Saints Agnes, Francis deSales, John Vianney and Francis Assisi were enclosed. The church was carpeted and pews were refinished with book holders added and the kneelers were padded. A rededication ceremony was held October 8, 1978, with Bishop Edward J. Herrmann presiding.

St. Joseph's School

St. Joseph's Catholic School was opened in 1886 under the pastorate of Rev. Fr. M.M. Meara. The Sisters of Charity from Nazareth, KY staffed the school serving grades 1-12. A convent was housed on the third floor of the building. In 1922, the high school was discontinued because of dropping enrollment. The grade school continued for another four years, but then, because of a falling enrollment, the school closed its doors. Catechism was taught by the pastors and several lay teachers.

In 1941, with the arrival of Rev. Father Edward Reidy, the building was completely remodeled, and the upper story was razed. The school building became an activity center for the community.

In September of 1951, Msgr. George Mason became pastor and the structure was remodeled to accommodate a grade school for the children. The elementary school, (gr. 1-8) was officially reopened in the fall of 1953. During the same year, a large frame house on the northeast corner of W. Mound and S. Scioto Sts. was purchased to serve as a home for the Sisters teaching in the school. The Sisters of St. Joseph's from Baden, PA assumed leadership, along with one lay teacher. Enrollment soared as high as 220 over the years. A cafeteria was located in the church basement and was originally staffed by volunteer women of the parish. A paid staff, along with volunteers was later initiated.

During this same time, the Very Rev. Monsignor Mason made rooms available for the instruction of children with developmental disabilities. This endeavor later became the present day Brooks-Yates School.

A fleet of six school buses operated daily, driven by parishioners. Men of the Holy Name Society voluntarily contributed their time, effort and skill to complete the remodeling of the school and the renovation of the basement of both the church and school. The school thrived for quite a few years.

However, in May of 1970, under the pastorate of the Very Rev. Msgr. George Buchmann, the teaching sisters were recalled by their order in Baden, PA. Because of the cost of hiring all lay teachers along with dwindling enrollment, the school was forced to close. But the building continued to be a viable meeting place for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and other venues. A new roof was placed on the school.

During the pastorate of Fr. Frank Meagher, extensive remodeling of the school building took place, including carpeting in some classrooms, new windows, painting and new furnishings. To increase the number of classrooms, dividers were installed in three of the rooms. The outside was sandblasted and tuck pointed. Use of the building increased as activities in the church expanded.

Although use of the building continued, the upkeep was kept to a minimum. Several years after the arrival of Fr. Stephen Krile, it was determined that the building was becoming unsafe. Fr. Krile sought a decision from the Diocese and his appraisal was confirmed. And so, on December 13, 2007, the demolition of the 121-year-old building was begun and was completed within a few days.

