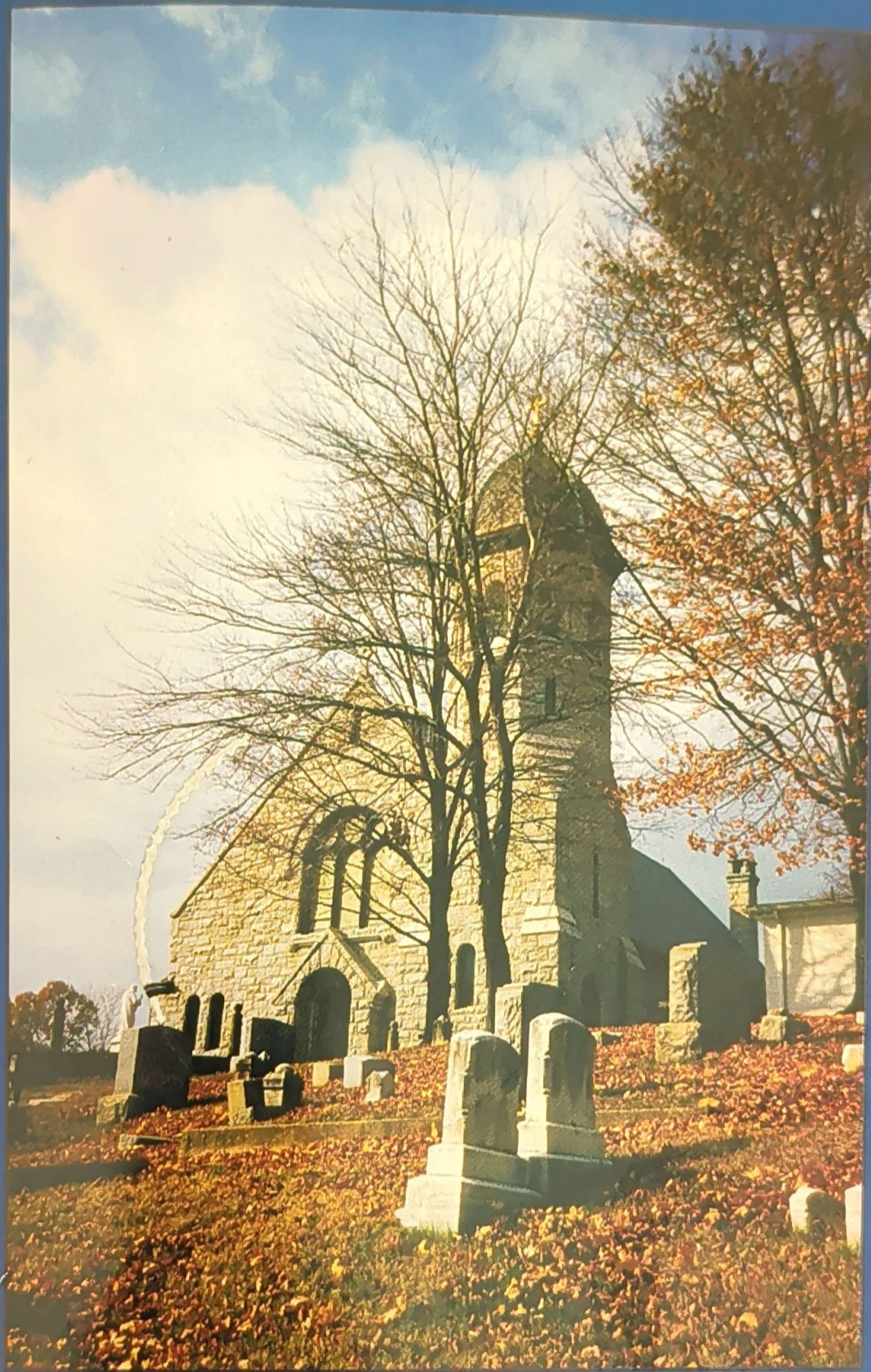


"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism..."



*St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church
Elkridge, Maryland*

1999

*One Lord
One Faith
One Baptism*

1999

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

**St. Augustine Roman
Catholic Church**

5976 Old Washington Road

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

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Rev. Gerard J. Bowen, Pastor

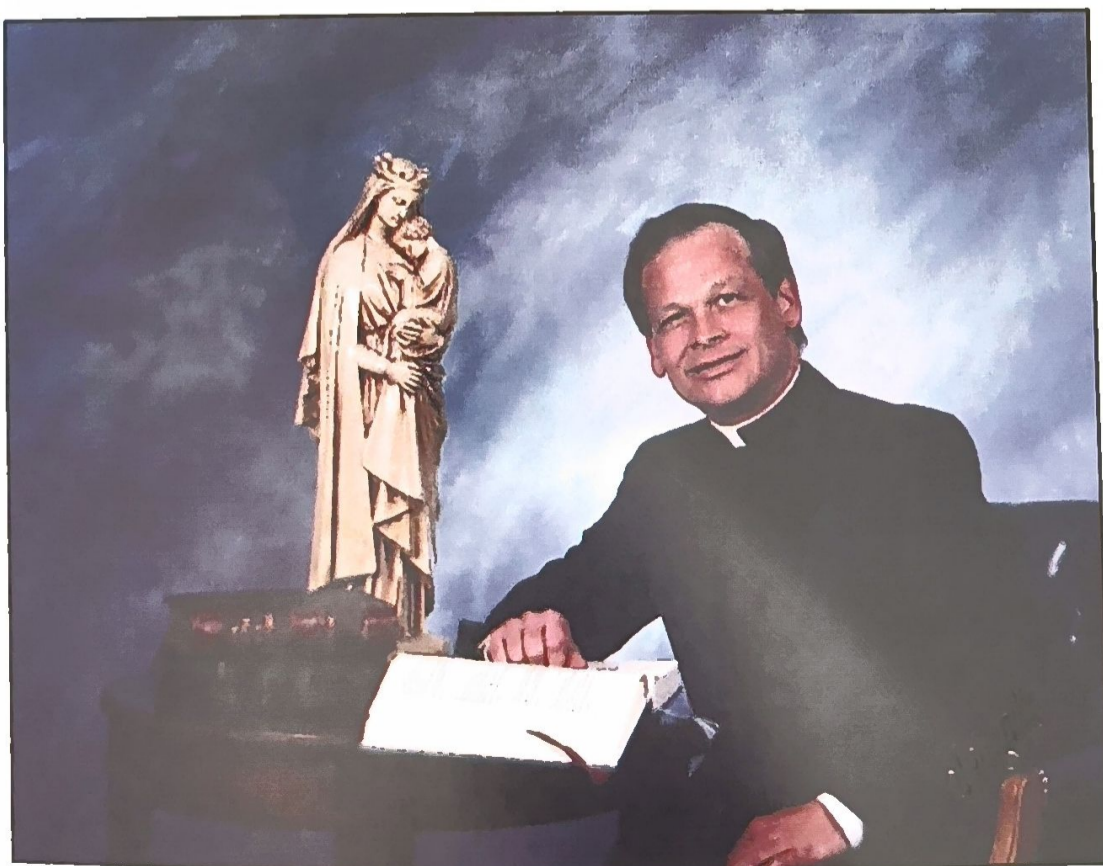
Msgr. Chester Mieczkowski, In Residence

Welcome !

In the entrance to our parish offices, there is a copy of Rubens' famed painting "The Holy Family". Although only a small picture, its composition is all warmth, light, and tenderness, and it is remarkable for the way in which the artist has surrounded the infant Christ with hands that bless and embrace, and faces that convey quiet thanks for the presence of each other. Not one member of this small picture is separated from the other. All hands are connected one to another, and the theme of this family portrait speaks of mutual joy at being in the presence of Christ, God's gift to each.

In this picture, I see an image of our own parish family; what is possible for us, and what we are called to be for one another. So many people are drawn to this handsome parish not just for its considerable beauty, but also for its remarkable sense of being a family. For this, I give you thanks, and I ask you to please pray with us at this time that we may continue to grow as a parish family, in the image and peace of Christ, and with joyful appreciation and gratitude for one another. May we reach out to each other, and help each other in Christ's Name.

In the name of our parish, may I say thanks to you for your prayers, support, and interest for St. Augustine's parish. At this time I thank God for your becoming a part of our family. More than anything else, people like you make our parish what it is.



Sincerely,

G. Bowen

Fr. Gerry Bowen, Pastor

*One Lord
One Faith
One Baptism*

St. Augustine Parish History

Long before the establishment of the St. Augustine parish in 1844, the area now called simply Elkridge was a thriving community, known as Elk Ridge Landing. In spite of the present low level of the Patapsco River, Elkridge Landing was once a busy port that attracted deep draught ships from all over the world, trading their wares for tobacco. During Colonial times, that cash crop was grown in what is now upper Baltimore County and packed into large barrels called hogsheads which were rolled down Rolling Road (hence its name) to the wharves on the Patapsco.

In those early years Mass was celebrated by circuit riders and missionary priests in the homes of local residents, usually the more successful farmers and wealthy merchants. Some folks would make the journey to Ellicott City for Mass. Today it is hard to imagine a trip to Ellicott City as a journey, but in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, roads were rare, paved or otherwise, and the five or ten mile round trip would consume the better part of a day, even on horseback.

By the early 19th century the Catholic Christian community in Elkridge had grown large enough to warrant the building of a church and the establishment of a parish. The laying of the cornerstone took place on October 22, 1844. Six months later our first little church, a modest brick building high on a hill not far from the Patapsco on the main pike between Baltimore and Washington was completed at a cost of \$2200. Father Bernard Piot our first Pastor, would journey from Ellicott City once a month to celebrate the sacraments. In 1846, Bishop Eccleston asked the Redemptorists to minister to the parish. For twenty years they would travel to St. Augustine's from St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore.

During that period, St. Augustine's was blessed with the ministry of many fine pastors. One in particular, Father John Neumann served the people of our parish from 1849 until 1851 before he reluctantly accepted an assignment as Bishop of Philadelphia. He was canonized in Rome on June 19, 1977.

After the Civil War, in 1866 the Archdiocese took St. Augustine's over and the first Resident Pastor was assigned to the parish. During this time one of the first Parochial Schools, not only in Howard County, but also in the Archdiocese, was established here at St. Augustine's. In 1892 School Sisters of Notre Dame took charge of our school, and they have served here ever since. In 1894 funds were donated to build a larger church, which was completed, and then consecrated by Cardinal Gibbons on November 23, 1902. This is the same warm, lovely church that is presently in use by the Parish. Our present Rectory was built in 1915. The school building now in use was dedicated, together with the present-day Convent in 1957. St. Augustine's Hall, which is still the largest meeting place in Elkridge, was dedicated in 1961.

Today the parish is in the process of implementing a ten-year Master Plan, in order to meet the growing needs of our lively parish, and to repair and restore the church in time for its 100th anniversary, in the year 2001.

Parish Staff

Sr. Rita Dorn
S.S.N.D.



Rev. Gerard Bowen



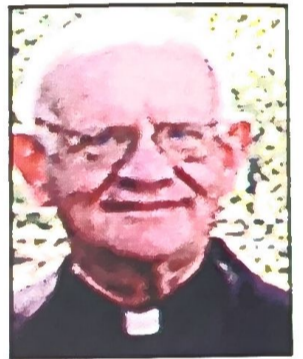
Msgr. Chester
Mieczkowski



Mrs. Mary Jane Thomas



Fr. Frank Ernst S.J.



Mr. John Barnett Ms. Dottie Neubauer



Ms. Veronica Cavanaugh



Mrs. Diane Hodges









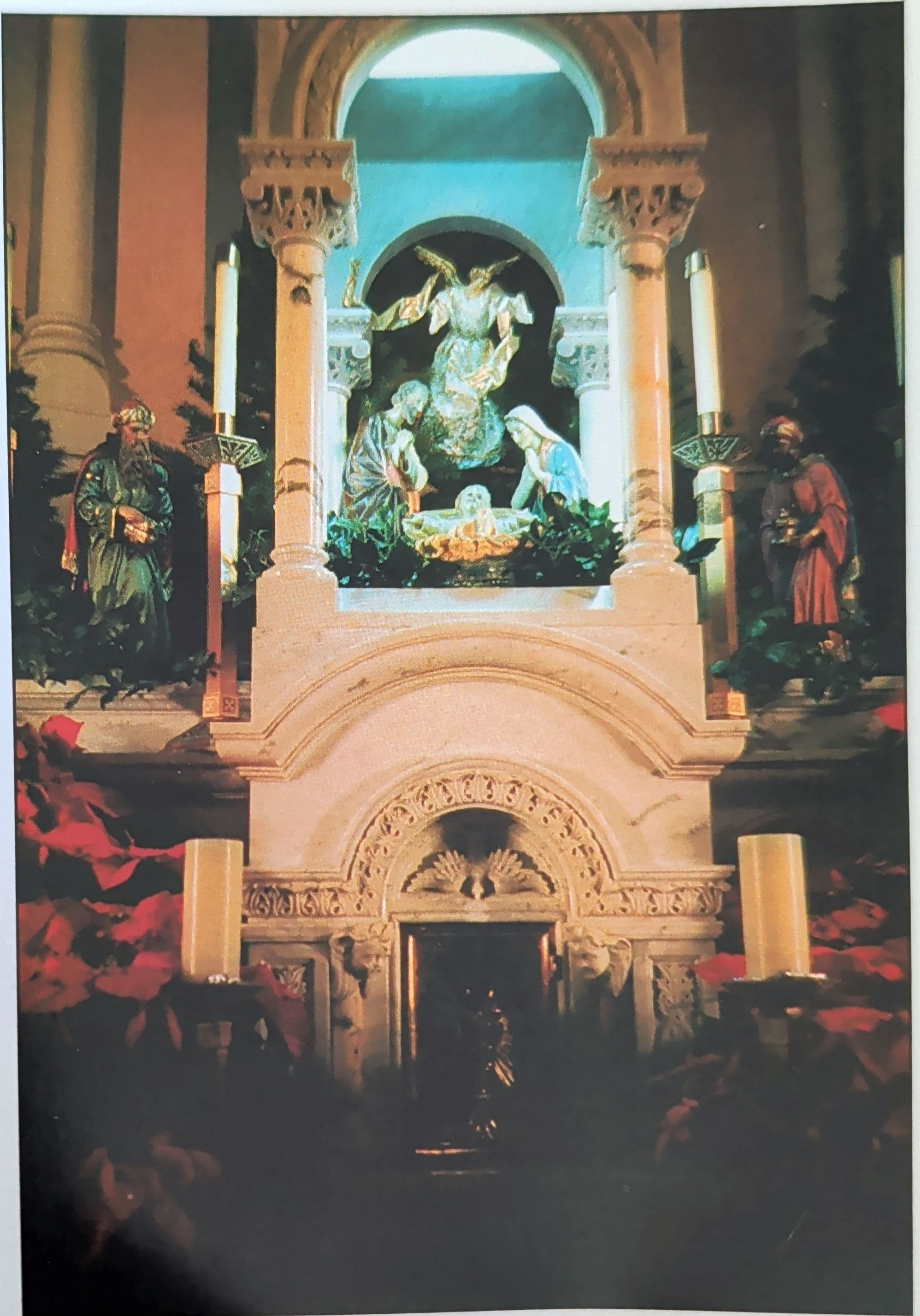


Parish Life



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