



## St. Peter's Church Historical Timeline 1837 – 1997



- 1837 July 19 Bishop John Dubois of the Diocese of New York visits the Rome-Utica area where many had never seen a Bishop before. It is believed this stay prompted the Bishop to establish a Parish in the vicinity.
- 1840 Work is begun of the construction of the first permanent church. Seating 500, it was dedicated by Bishop John Hughes of New York.
- 1845 The first Catholic School was completed and staffed by the Holy Name Sisters.
- 1868 Oct. 23 Our third Pastor, James J. Carson is born in Castlebar, Ireland.
- 1876 Mar. 10 Father William Beecham, our first Pastor in the old St. Peter's Church, dies and is replaced by Father Aloysius Murphy, destined to be our first Pastor in the new church.
- 1876 Apr. 9 Bishop McNeirny appoints Reverend Aloysius Murphy to succeed Reverend William Beecham as Pastor of old St. Peter's Church. With Father Beecham as Pastor, his Parish had grown from 5 members to three hundred families.
- 1878 Old St. Peter's Church is enlarged and renovated.
- 1886 The old rectory is torn down and a fine new three story frame building of twelve rooms is built to replace it.
- 1893 Plans are made to convert old St. Peter's Church into a much-needed school. Lots are purchased in one of the most desirable locations in the city to prepare for the building of a new church. With the help of Architect Archimedes Russell of Syracuse, work begins on the foundation.
- 1895 May 31 Destined to be our fourth Pastor, Edward Patrick Buttimer is born in Oswego, NY.
- 1895 May 21 The cornerstone is laid for the new St. Peter's Church.
- 1896 Jan. 2 Rev. James J. Carson is appointed assistant to Father Murphy.

- 1897 Oct. 24 The new St. Peter's is completed. Our church has been considered the first Parochial church in America consecrated, and therefore free of debt, immediately upon being completed.
- 1906 Apr. 6 Reverend Murphy dies and is replaced by Rt. Reverend Msgr. James J. Carson on June 14.
- 1908 The Catholic Association Building at 125-127 N. James St. is purchased for suitable meeting rooms for the various church societies. It has a bowling alley in the basement, two stories at ground level, an office and a gymnasium on the upper floor.
- 1911 The building of St. Aloysius Academy is completed.
- 1914 Sept. 18 Francis J. Culkin, our fifth Pastor, is born in Fulton, NY.
- 1915 Aug. A new rectory is built and is considered, even today, as one of the most handsome commodious dwellings in the Diocese.
- 1921 The Scudder block is purchased, a highly desirable tract of land in the heart of the city and adjoining the church property.
- 1928 St. Peter's interior, under the guidance of Msgr. Carson, is completely renovated. A new pulpit and an entirely new lighting system is installed. The church floor is reinforced and new steam boilers installed.
- 1940 May 10 Our present Pastor, Father Philip A. Hearn, is born.
- 1950 Nov. 8 Right Reverend Monsignor James J. Carson dies. Monsignor Edward Patrick Buttimer is appointed our fourth Pastor by Bishop Walter A. Foery of the Syracuse Diocese.
- 1954 May 9 The new convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph is completed.
- 1957-58 The entire church is completely renovated both inside and out.
- 1958 Oct. 26 The new St. Paul's Church and rectory is completed and dedicated with Bishop Foery officiating.
- 1966 May 21 Our present Pastor, Reverend Philip A. Hearn, is ordained.
- 1971 Feb. Monsignor Buttimer retires.
- 1971 Mar. 1 Monsignor Francis J. Culkin is assigned our fifth Pastor by Bishop David F. Cunningham of Syracuse.

- 1971-1987 The entire exterior of the church is sandblasted and all the stained glass windows are restored and repaired, an extensive and time-consuming undertaking that is still in progress to this date. Major repairs are made to the church's roof and a social hall, an important and significant undertaking, is completed in the basement.
- 1981 Feb. 3 Ten years after his retirement, Monsignor Buttimer dies.
- 1987 Our organ, originally a water powered tractor tubular unit, later modified to an electric and tubular pneumatic action, is completely rebuilt and dedicated in June of 1988.
- 1990 July 1 Monsignor Culkin retires and Father Philip A. Hearn is appointed his replacement by Bishop Harrison of Syracuse.
- 1997 St. Peter's Church celebrates their 160 years as a parish and 100 years in the new St. Peter's Church.