

DEDICATED TO

Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Culkin

Our Pastor, confessor, friend.

Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum.

A
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY
OF
ST. PETER'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rome, N.Y.
Diocese of Syracuse

First Edition
May, 1976

Compiled by: George H. Eiffe

CHRONOLOGY

1622 –

Pope Gregory XV establishes Congregation de Propaganda Fide, under the jurisdiction of which American Catholics remained until 1908.

March, 24, 1634 –

The first Roman Catholic Mass in English America was celebrated this date on an island in Chesapeake Bay (which the colonists called St. Clement's) by Father Andrew White, an English Jesuit.

October 1646 –

Jesuits Isaac Jogues and John Lalande were martyred by Iroquois at Ossernenon, now Auriesville.

October 1, 1674 –

Pope Clement X issues Bull erecting Diocese of Quebec. It became an Archdiocese in 1819, and a Metropolitan See in 1844.

1777 –

New York's Constitutional Convention bars Catholics from office through the oath foreswearing all foreign powers, "ecclesiastical as well as civil".

June 9, 1784 –

Ex-Jesuit Father John Carroll appointed Prefect Apostolic and Superior of the American Missions in the thirteen United States of America by Pope Pius VI. Thus did there come about the first step toward giving a form and government to the Church in the United States.

October 5, 1785 –

Cornerstone laid for Saint Peter's Church, Barclay Street, New York City. The first Catholic Church of permanent structure in New York State.

November 4, 1786 –

First Mass celebrated at Saint Peter's Church in New York City by Father Andrew Nugent.

November 6, 1789 –

The Brief Ex hoc apostolicae of Pope Pius VI (1775-1799) erecting the Diocese of Baltimore and appointing Father John Carroll as the First Bishop. The Diocese took in the then entire territory of the United States. Note: George Washington took office in April of this same year.

August 15, 1790 –

Bishop John Carroll consecrated (in England) as the First Bishop of Baltimore by the aged Benedictine, Bishop Charles Walmesley. This took place in the private Chapel of Lulworth Castle owned by Thomas Weld.

December 12, 1790 –
Bishop John Carroll takes possession of his See, Saint Peter's Pro-Cathedral, Baltimore.

September 13, 1797 –
Cornerstone laid for St. Mary's Church, Albany. The oldest church in New York State with the single exception of St. Peter's on Barclay Street in New York City.

1798 –
Oneida County set off from Herkimer County.

August 29, 1799 –
Death of Pope Pius VI. The Chair of Peter that erected the Diocese of Baltimore – our first Diocese.

March 14, 1800 –
Cardinal Barnaba Chiaramonti elected to the Chair of Peter as Pope Pius VII.

1805 –
Father William Beecham born in Drummond, Queens County, Ireland. Destined to be our first Pastor.

1806 –
Francis Cooper, a Catholic, takes seat in New York Legislature after repeal of oath against foreign ecclesiastical powers.

April 8, 1808 –
Pope Pius VII establishes the Diocese of New York. This was a division of the Baltimore Diocese and four Sees were established – Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Bardstown, Kentucky. It also made Baltimore an Arch-Diocese.

April 24, 1808 –
Father Richard Luke Concanen, an Irish priest of the Dominican Order, consecrated Bishop of New York in Rome, Italy, by Cardinal di Pietro. Bishop Concanen was born December 27, 1747 in Kilbegnet, County Roscommon, Ireland.

June 19, 1810 –
Death of Bishop Richard Luke Concanen of Diocese of New York in Naples, Italy. Our first Bishop never took possession of his See.

1813 –
New York Court of General Sessions renders historic decision that was favorable to Anthony Kohlmann, S.J., in case involving the secrecy of the confessional.

November 6, 1814 –

Irish Dominican Father John Connolly consecrated Bishop of New York in Rome, Italy. Bishop Connolly was from San Clementes Monastery in Rome as was Concanen. He arrived in New York November 24, 1815.

July 4, 1817 –

Erie Canal begun at Rome, N.Y. The building of the Canal attracted the Irish emigrants to the country through which it passes and added materially to the numerical strength of the Catholics throughout the State.

January 25, 1819 –

St. John's Church in Utica founded by Rev. Michael O'Gorman, pastor of St. Mary's in Albany. St. John's was the fourth Catholic church in the State of New York and is the oldest in the Diocese of Syracuse. When you study the growth of the Church in our area you begin with old St. John's.

1819 –

Village of Rome incorporated. First Trustees elected the following year.

1821 -

Dedication of the Cathedral of the Assumption, Baltimore, the mother Cathedral of American Catholics.

February, 1821 –

The Rome Daily Sentinel newspaper started by Lorin Dewey under the name of the Rome Republican.

May 23, 1822 –

New York State Arsenal on Floyd Avenue burns in a bad fire. In June, 1809 Dominick Lynch had deeded to the State by gift of parcel of land here 98' x 200' deep to be used as a deposit for military stores. A brick building with a stone foundation was erected o/a 1809 on that site as an arsenal for depository of 700 stand of arms. In not too many years this would be the site of our first St. Peter's Church and later our school.

August 20, 1823 –

Pope Pius VII dies. Succeeded by Annibale de la Genga as Pope Leo X.

February 6, 1825 –

Death of Bishop John Connolly of Diocese of New York.

October 29, 1826 –

Father John Dubois, a Sulpician of Mt. Saint Mary's, consecrated Bishop of New York in the Baltimore Cathedral by Archbishop Marechal assisted by Father John Power Administrator of the Diocese. Father William Taylor preached the sermon. Bishop Dubois was born August, 1764 in Paris France. According to John Talbot Smith, who wrote a history of the New York

Diocese, there were at this time just about 150,000 Catholics, 18 priests, and 15 Churches in the Diocese.

1827 –

St. John the Baptist Church completed in Syracuse (Salina) by Rev. Francis Donohue, first resident Pastor.

1828 –

New York State Legislature enacts a law upholding sanctity of seal of confession.

February 10, 1829 –

Pope Leo XII dies. Cardinal Francesco Saverio Castiglioni succeeds as Pius VIII.

November 30, 1830 –

Pope Pius VIII dies. Cardinal Mauro Capellari succeeds as Pope Gregory XVI.

1833 –

Father Aloysius Murphy born in County Fermanagh, Ireland. Destined to be our second Pastor.

1834 –

Ordination of Rev. John McCloskey, first native New Yorker to become a secular priest.

November, 1836 –

Father William Beecham, later to be our first Pastor, ordained by Bishop John Dubois in Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

December 23, 1836 –

Father William Beecham assigned to St. John's Church in Utica as assistant to Father Walter J. Quarter, Pastor there at that time. Father Beecham had the single honor of celebrating the first Mass in the new St. John's Church (their second) on Christmas Day, 1836.

1836 –

A law was passed, Chapter 157, authorizing construction of the Black River Canal and Portus R. Root appointed Chief Engineer. Inserted here as one wonders, in the nearly 20 years of construction, just how many of its workers gave financial assistance or even became parishioners in the early days of our nearby St. Peter's Church at Floyd/St. Peter's Avenues.

July 19, 1837 –

Bishop John Dubois of the Diocese of New York visits the Rome-Utica area. This in itself was a tremendous event in those days as many had never even seen a real Bishop. It is believed that on this visit the Bishop made the decision to establish a new parish somewhere in the vicinity, but no known record exists.

August 3, 1837 –

Father William Beecham appointed first Pastor of the new St. Peter's parish in Rome, N.Y. by Bishop John Dubois, Diocese of New York. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

January 7, 1838 –

Father John Hughes consecrated as Coadjutor Bishop of the New York Diocese under Dubois. Bishop Hughes is destined to become the leading Catholic prelate while he lived.

1840 –

Old St. Peter's Church (our first) built at Floyd/St. Peter's Avenues – site of present school – by Daniel Baldwin Prince, noted builder and carpenter of that day. A year earlier this same man had taken part in the building of the famous John Stryker home at E. Liberty and Spring Streets. He is also noted for taking a large part in the building of the Edward Huntington home on W. Liberty, the Oxner House (now the Rome Club), and the Zion Church at Liberty and Washington.

December 29, 1840 –

Item in the Roman Citizen, the local paper of that day: "The Catholic Church was opened in this village on the morning of Christmas at 8 o'clock, and great numbers of the Irish Catholics attended the celebration of Mass, the Reverend Mr. Beecher presiding." Our first St. Peter's Church is a reality! Of course, the "Reverend Mr. Beecher" is our beloved first Pastor, Father William Beecham.

December 20, 1842 –

Death of Bishop John Dubois, Diocese of New York. As far as is known, Bishop Dubois never saw the fruits of Father Beecham's efforts in this imposing edifice.

December 20, 1842 –

Bishop John Hughes succeeds Dubois as Bishop of the New York Diocese. He had been made Coadjutor January 7, 1838.

March 10, 1844 –

Right Rev. John McCloskey named Coadjutor Bishop of New York.

1845 –

Old St. Peter's Church dedicated by Bishop John Hughes, Diocese of New York.

June 1, 1846 –

Pope Gregory XVI dies. Cardinal Mastai-Ferretti succeeds as Pius IX.

April 23, 1847 –

Diocese of Buffalo established by Pope Pius IX. Rt. Rev. John Timon, C.M. appointed its first Bishop.

April 26, 1847 –

Diocese of Albany established by Pope Pius IX. Right Rev. John McCloskey, D.D. appointed its first Bishop and installed by Bishop Hughes on September 19, 1847.

June 1850 –

Five years after our first Church was dedicated, St. Peter's receives the first of a long and honored line of assistants. Rev. William Coghlan is assigned on this date by the Diocese of Albany. Father Coghlan left in October, 1850 and was replaced by Father Patrick Kenna who remained to assist Father Beecham until February 1851.

July 18, 1850 –

New York made Archdiocese (also Cincinnati and New Orleans).

May 9, 1852 –

First Plenary Council of Baltimore convoked with Archbishop Francis P. Kendrick of Baltimore as papal legate.

January 5, 1860 –

Death of Bishop John N. Neumann of Philadelphia. His successor was Bishop Frederick Wood – likewise a native and a convert.

January 3, 1864 –

Death of New York Archbishop John Hughes. The lion-hearted Hughes has been called by many the leading Catholic prelate while he lived.

May 6, 1864 –

Bishop John McCloskey named Archbishop of New York to succeed Hughes.

October 7, 1866 –

Second Plenary Council of Baltimore convoked under the Presidency of Archbishop Martin J. Spalding.

July 12, 1868 –

Bernard J. McQuaid consecrated this date as Bishop of the new Diocese of Rochester that was established this year.

October 23, 1869 –

Father James J. Carson born in Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland. Years later this man will be our third Pastor.

1868 –

Patrick H. Beecham, born in Ireland and nephew of our first Pastor, comes to Rome, N.Y. in the Fall of this year, and at the solicitation of his venerable uncle enters St. Joseph's Seminary in Troy.

February 23, 1870 –

City of Rome incorporated. Incorporation legislation signed this date by Governor Hoffman.

1871 –

Father Aloysius Murphy ordained at St. Boneventure's Seminary at Alleghany, N.Y. by Bishop Ryan of Buffalo. This priest will be our second Pastor and builder of our present Church.

September, 1871 –

Father Aloysius Murphy appointed assistant at St. Mary's Church, Hudson, N.Y. He remained there until December, 1872.

February 16, 1872 –

Diocese of Ogdensburg established. Edgar P. Wadhams first Bishop.

December 2, 1872 –

Father Aloysius Murphy appointed assistant at St. John's, Utica. There until April, 1874 when he became Pastor at Hunter, N.Y.

March 15, 1875 –

Archbishop John McCloskey of New York named Cardinal by Pope Pius IX with the Titular Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva in Rome. First Roman Cardinal, Prince of the Church, in the New World.

April 27, 1875 –

Biretta Rosa imposed on Cardinal John McCloskey in Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop John Bayley of Baltimore.

March 10, 1876 –

Death of Father William Beecham, our first Pastor. This giant of the Church, who died at 71 in the year of America's 100th Anniversary, was the second oldest priest in New York State at the time of his death. A legion of writers could never fully document how he graced the office of Pastor of our beloved Saint Peter's.

April 19, 1876 –

Father Aloysius Murphy appointed our second Pastor by Bishop Francis McNierney of the Diocese of Albany.

1876 –

Bishop McNierney of Albany erects St. John the Evangelist, Camden, into a Parish. Rev. Patrick H. Beecham, newly ordained and nephew of our first Pastor who died this same year, is appointed the first resident Pastor of St. John's.

February 7, 1878 –

Death of Pope Pius IX. Cardinal Count Pecci succeeds as Leo XIII.

May 14, 1878 –

Architect Cooper of Utica prepares plans and drive begins for funds to rebuild and enlarge old St. Peter's Church on Floyd and St. Peter's Avenues. Father Aloysius Murphy, Pastor.

June 17, 1878 –

Preliminary work on improvements to old St. Peter's Church begins.

July 9, 1878 –

Contracts for improvements to old St. Peter's are finalized and let.

August 20, 1878 –

Item in Rome Sentinel this date:

“St. Peter's Church congregation will worship in the Court House hereafter, until the repairs on the Church are completed.”

December 25, 1878 –

First services held in remodeled old St. Peter's.

June 29, 1879 –

Dedication of remodeled old St. Peter's Church by Bishop Francis McNierney. Sacrament of Confirmation also administered.

October 1, 1880 –

Bishop Michael A. Corrigan of Newark transferred to Archdiocese of New York as Coadjutor Bishop.

November 9, 1884 –

Third Plenary Council of Baltimore called into session by Archbishop James (later Cardinal) Gibbons. The enactments of the three Plenary Councils at Baltimore have had the force of particular law for the Church in the United States.

October 10, 1885 –

Death of Cardinal John McCloskey of New York. Succeeded by Archbishop Michael Corrigan.

1886 –

James Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, named the second American Cardinal.

March 1, 1886 –

Rev. Patrick H. Beecham, nephew of our first Pastor, made Pastor of St. Mary's in Baldwinsville. He labored here successfully for nearly 20 years until his death on February 7, 1905. The accounts of this funeral indicate he was a well loved and respected priest.

November 10, 1886 –

Diocese of Syracuse established by Pope Leo XIII. Right Rev. Patrick A. Ludden, D.D., appointed its first Bishop on December 8, 1886, and consecrated May 1, 1887.

May 1, 1887 –

Consecration of Right Rev. Patrick A. Ludden, D.D. as Bishop of Diocese of Syracuse by Most Rev. Michael A. Corrigan, D.D., the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York in the Church

of the Assumption, Syracuse. Assisting were Right Rev. Bernard McQuaid, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, and Right Rev. Francis McNierney, D.D., Bishop of Albany.

1892 –

Transactions which culminated in the building of our present Church are believed to have begun in the summer of this year. Father Murphy and his parishioners had decided to build a new church and convert the old into a school. Father Murphy had already purchased the M. M. Davis property at N. James and E. Park Streets. Subsequently he bought the Grady residence on E. Park Street and the Lennox on North James. In 1894 the contract was let for the foundation of the new church to W. J. Cramond of Rome.

June 24, 1892 –

The Catholic Sun is established – the official newspaper of the Diocese of Syracuse.

January 24, 1893 –

The Holy See establishes the Apostolic Delegation at Washington, D.C. The Apostolic Delegate is the representative of the Pope to the Catholic Church in this country. The first was Archbishop Francesco Satolli, who served from 1893 to 1896.

May 21, 1895 –

Cornerstone laid for new St. Peter's Church at N. James and E. Park Streets, our current and beautiful place of worship.

May 31, 1895 –

Msgr. Edward P. Buttimer born at Oswego, N.Y., son of Daniel J. and Rose McHenry Buttimer. Ten days after cornerstone laid for a church of which he would become its fourth Pastor.

December 21, 1895 –

John Farley consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of the New York Diocese. Born April 20, 1842, in County Armagh, Ireland.

December 21, 1895 –

Father James J. Carson ordained in Baltimore Cathedral. Father Carson was from Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. In due time this priest of God would serve our Parish for over half a century.

December 25, 1895 –

Father Carson's first Solemn High Mass sung at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany.

January 2, 1896 –

Father James J. Carson assigned to St. Peter's as assistant to Father Aloysius Murphy, Pastor.

March 29, 1897 –

Scaffolding removed from interior of new St. Peter's Church under construction on N. James Street. Lawrence Carey, contractor, allows parishioners in to view completed ceiling and fresco work. Stained glass windows not in as yet.

April 29, 1897 –

Minstrel and Kirmess entertainment given by parishioners of Saint Peter's and other Rome talent at the old Washington Street Opera House for the benefit of the organ fund of new Saint Peter's Church. M. J. Larkin, Interlocutor. End ladies: Misses Nellie Martin, Mary Splain, Lillian Carey, Alice Lawler, May Scott, and Anna Meagher. End men: W. J. Abbott, William A. Russell, Frank Fogarty, O. W. Sellick, M. J. Healy, and John Schroth. Other performers: Mrs. George Grosvenor, S. O. Evans, Grace McDermott, William Clark, Plunket Bros., Celia Quinn, Thomas Broderick, James A. Spargo, and Kitty McDermott. Many others were in Chorus and Kirmess.

July 3, 1897 –

W. H. George and Co. has nearly completed installation of Georgia pine floors and oak woodwork and wainscoting in new St. Peter's Church on N. James. Also, the stained glass windows, which came from Meyer and Co. of Munich, Germany, are now being installed.

July 26, 1897 –

The beautiful main altar given to the new St. Peter's Church by James A. Murphy of Chicago in memory of his parents, is now being set up in the Church under the supervision of G. J. Gilman of Boston. The altar was ordered through W. C. White of Rome and was made by Charles E. Hall and Co. of Boston, Mass.

October 14, 1897 –

St. Peter's Choir begins preparation for Consecration of the new Church (on 24th) with first rehearsal held this date as movement of the pipe organ from the old Church had just been completed and the organ was used at this rehearsal. 49 voices and an orchestra of 20 pieces were on hand. Prof. George H. Fischer, organist at St. John's in Utica, would be the music director at the Consecration services. Prof. O. R. Parkhurst to be at the organ.

October 20, 1897 –

The last wedding to be performed in old St. Peter's Church on Floyd/St. Peter's Avenues and Stanwix Street, took place this afternoon when Daniel J. O'Brien and Miss Nellie A. O'Donnell were united by Father Aloysius Murphy, Pastor.

October 22, 1897 –

The old flag sidewalk in front of the new St. Peter's Church was completed this date by John H. Cramond – cost: \$510.62.

October 24, 1897 –

New St. Peter's Church Consecrated by Bishop Patrick A. Ludden, Diocese of Syracuse. First parochial Church in America consecrated immediately on being completed.

May 5, 1902 –
Death of Archbishop Michael Corrigan of New York.

September 15, 1902 –
Bishop John Farley of New York made Archbishop.

July 20, 1903 –
Pope Leo XIII dies. Cardinal Giuseppe Sarto succeeds as Pius X.

February 7, 1905 –
Death of Rev. Patrick H. Beecham, Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Baldwinsville and nephew of our first Pastor.

April 6, 1906 –
Death of Father Aloysius Murphy, our second Pastor. Light eternal must certainly shine upon this great priest who gave so very much to our St. Peter's.

June 14, 1906 –
Father James J. Carson appointed as the third Pastor of St. Peter's, Rome, N.Y. At the time of this writing, Monsignor Carson, our third or "middle" Pastor, is the chronological hinge of my history, and of our beloved St. Peter's.

May 2, 1908 –
The Dramatic Club of St. Peter's Church presents the play "Kathleen Mavourneen" in the old Lyric Theatre.

February 9, 1909 –
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Grimes, D.D., named as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, with title of Bishop of Imeria, in partibus infidelium. His Consecration took place on May 16th.

June 15, 1909 –
"Bishop Patrick A. Ludden and the Rev. J. J. Carson of St. Peter's Church are in Florence for a few days of fishing." – Item in the Rome Daily Sentinel this date.

November 27, 1911 –
Archbishop John Farley of New York make Cardinal.

August 6, 1912 –
Death of Bishop Patrick A. Ludden, D.D. – first Bishop – Diocese of Syracuse. Succeeded by Bishop John Grimes.

August 20, 1914 –
Pope Pius X dies. Cardinal della Chiesa succeeds as Pope Benedict XV.

September 18, 1914 –

Monsignor Francis J. Culkin, our fifth Pastor, born at Fulton, N.Y. son of Francis A. and Mary Caywood Culkin.

October 28, 1914 –

Patrick J. Hayes consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

August, 1915 –

New rectory on East Liberty completed under the guiding hand of Monsignor James J. Carson, Pastor. The old rectory on Floyd Avenue was converted to a Convent, answering the necessity of a convent home near the school and the need of a rectory near the church. Architects for the new rectory were M. L. and H. G. Emery of Albany and New York. Contractor was Lawrence Carey.

February 3, 1918 –

The Paulist Choristers of Chicago, 100 voices, and considered the finest musical organization of its kind in the country, give a sacred concert in St. Peter's Church before the audience of nearly thirteen hundred people.

September 27, 1918 –

Death of Cardinal John Farley of New York.

March 10, 1919 –

Bishop Patrick J. Hayes of New York made Archbishop.

December 7, 1920 –

Father James J. Carson given title of Right Reverend Dean.

January 23, 1921 –

Investiture of Father James J. Carson as Right Reverend Monsignor at St. Peter's by Most Rev. John Grimes, Bishop of Syracuse.

February 19, 1921 –

Father Edward P. Buttimer ordained at St. Mary's Seminary Chapel, Baltimore, by Bishop Owen Corrigan.

February 20, 1921 –

Father Edward P. Buttimer's first Solemn High Mass sung on the Altar of the Crucifixion in the Franciscan Monastery, Washington.

January 22, 1922 –

Pope Benedict XV dies – succeeded by Pope Pius XI.

July 26, 1922 –

Death of Bishop John Grimes, Diocese of Syracuse.

May 1, 1923 –

Most Rev. Daniel Joseph Curley, D.D., consecrated as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

March 24, 1924 –

Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes of New York names Cardinal by Pope Pius XI.

February 26, 1926 –

Women members of St. Peter's parish meet in the old Catholic Association building and form the Catholic Women's Club of Rome. Officers named were: President, Mrs. W. H. Doyle; Vice President, Mrs. J. H. Carroll; Secretary Mrs. T. E. Shortall; Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Hurley.

November 9, 1926 –

Blessing of new tubular bell chimes for Northwest tower of church by Rt. Rev. Msgr. James J. Carson, Pastor. Assisted by Reverends Lyial A. Tobin and Francis R. Dempsey, Assistants.

November 11, 1926 –

New bell chimes place in NW tower of church. Installation was completed on December 13.

December 9, 1926 –

Bronze tablet placed in vestibule of church listing names of the donors of new bell chimes in NW tower. Tablet presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Doyle in memory of their parents.

1928 –

Governor Alfred S. Smith of New York, first Catholic presidential candidate of a major political party, defeated by Herbert C. Hoover.

August 3, 1932 –

Death of Most Rev. Daniel Joseph Curley, D.D., third Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

November 1932 –

The \$32,000 addition to Saint Aloysius Academy is completed. (6 classrooms and kitchen).

June 29, 1933 –

Most Rev. John Aloysius Duffy, D.D., consecrated as fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

November, 1936 –

New 22 bell carillon installed in NW tower of church to replace chimes installed ten years earlier. Carillon purchased from and installed by J. C. Degan Company, Chicago.

November 29, 1936 –

New 22 bell carillon played for first time by Professor O. R. Parkhurst, church organist.

January 9, 1937 –

Most Rev. John A. Duffy, D.D., fourth Bishop of Syracuse, appointed Bishop of Diocese of Buffalo. Installed in See of Buffalo April 14, 1937. Died September 27, 1944.

August 18, 1937 –

Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, D.D., PhD, consecrated as fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

September 4, 1938 –

Death of Cardinal Patrick J. Hayes

November 25, 1938 –

Funeral services for O. R. Parkhurst, organist of St. Peter's, were held today at the Griffin and Aldridge Funeral Home with Dr. Alvin C. Goddard, Pastor of First M. E. Church, officiating. The chimes of St. Peter's Church, so often played by Mr. Parkhurst who was not a member of our faith, were played during the funeral service. The talents of this gentleman resulted in many, many hours of beautiful music in St. Peter's. He is remembered fondly by many living today who served in the Choir and/or on the altar.

February 10, 1939 –

Death of Pope Pius XI.

March 2, 1939 –

Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli elected Pope and assumes the name of Pius XII (Coronation March 12).

April 15, 1939 –

Bishop Francis J. Spellman transferred from Boston to Archdiocese of New York.

June 3, 1944 –

Father Francis J. Culkin ordained at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse, by Bishop Walter A. Foery, Diocese of Syracuse. His first assignment was to St. John the Baptist in Rome where he remained until 1947. In not too many years he would return to Rome as our fifth Pastor.

May 9, 1945 –

Father Edward P. Buttimer elevated to rank of Domestic Prelate with title of Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII.

1946 –

Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York made Cardinal by Pius XII.

November 8, 1950 –

Death of Monsignor James J. Carson, third Pastor of St. Peter's. So much has been written of this priest who gave over half a century of service to St. Peter's and its people. Any further words adding greater adulation are beyond the abilities of this writer. May he, and the men who preceded him in gracing the office of Pastor, Saint Peter's, rest in peace.

November 20, 1950 –

Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, D.D., Bishop of Syracuse, announces the appointment of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward P. Buttimer as the fourth Pastor of St. Peter's to be effective November 30th.

May 19, 1951 –
Father Robert P. Collins ordained at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse by Bishop Walter A. Foery.

May 1954 –
New Convent for Sisters of St. Joseph completed fulfilling first promise of Monsignor E. P. Buttimer, fourth Pastor.

October 9, 1958 –
Death of Pope Pius XII. Angelo Cardinal Roncalli elected Pope John XXII.

October 26, 1958 –
Dedication of new St. Paul's Church in Rome, N.Y. by Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, D.D., Bishop of Syracuse. Rev. Ambrose J. Ruppert, first Pastor. Thus was lost some old and faithful parishioners of St. Peter's to a newly established Parish.

November 4, 1958 –
Coronation of Pope John XXIII on the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo.

May 17, 1959 –
Opening performance of the popular and highly successful musical/variety shows "Down Melody Lane" at the Laurel Street school, Father Robert P. Collins, directing. These grand shows put on by the people of St. Peter's and other local talent, which stir only the fondest of memories, ran annually through 1964.

1960 –
John F. Kennedy becomes the first Catholic to be elected to the Presidency.

February 14, 1961 –
Father Robert P. Collins given the highest award of the SAA Athletics Association, the A in Life.

1962 –
Monsignor Edward P. Buttimer appointed Dean of Oneida and Madison Counties by Bishop Walter A. Foery.

April 3, 1962 –
Father Robert P. Collins named as the first Principal of the new Rome Catholic High School (under construction).

August 31, 1962 –
Death of Father Robert Collins. Father has been mentioned in the Chronology not in any unjust attempt by the author to set him above the many other fine assistants who have served here, but because he is vivid in our memory, and mostly because as far as is known he is the only priest to be called by God to his eternal reward while serving as an assistant at St. Peter's.

June 3, 1963 –

Death of Pope John XXIII. “The peoples Pope.” This humble vicar opened the Vatican’s doors to internal reform and ecumenical debate. Cardinal Montini succeeds as Paul VI.

October 4, 1965 –

Francis Cardinal Spellman welcomes Pope Paul VI to St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York City. The first trip a Pontiff of the Catholic Church had ever made to America. Later in the day he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in French.

June 19, 1967 –

Most Rev. David F. Cunningham appointed Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse with the right of succession. He succeeded to See August 4, 1970.

December 2, 1967 –

Death of Francis Cardinal Spellman.

October 11, 1970 –

Monsignor Edward P. Buttimer concelebrates a 10:30 Solemn High Mass with his former assistants at St. Peter’s to begin a three day celebration on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee in the Holy Priesthood.

October 11, 1970 –

Golden Jubilee dinner is held at the Beeches here in Rome to honor Rev. Msgr. Edward P. Buttimer, P.A., V.F., on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee in the Holy Priesthood. Charles T. Lanigan, Jr. was Master of Ceremonies. Principle address given by Msgr. John B. Daley.

March 1, 1971 –

Father Francis J. Culkin appointed as the fifth Pastor of St. Peter’s by Most Rev. David F. Cunningham, D.D., Bishop of Syracuse, to succeed Monsignor Edward P. Buttimer, retired.

April 22, 1971 –

Most Rev. Francis J. Harrison, D.D., consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

August, 1973 –

Father Francis J. Culkin elevated to rank of Monsignor.

September 30, 1973 –

Investiture of Father Francis Culkin, Pastor, as Monsignor in Saint Peter’s Church by Rev. Msgr. Daniel E. Lawler of Our Lady of Lourdes, Utica.

March 31, 1974 –

A commemorative plaque in testimony to the service of the Rev. Msgr. Edward P. Buttimer, fourth Pastor of St. Peter’s, was unveiled at the 9:00 a.m. Dedication Mass this date. Mounted in the vestibule of the Church, the plaque is a gift of St. Peter’s Men’s Club and was unveiled by

Charles R. Getty. Rev. Msgr. F. J. Culkin, present Pastor, offered the dedication prayer. Assisting him in the Mass were Father Edward Madore and Father Vincent Long.

November 17, 1974 –

Three day 1975 Holy Year services begin at St. Peter's. They end on Tuesday evening, November 19, with Solemn Concelebrated Mass of the Holy Eucharist.

March 1975 –

Pope Paul notes 100th Anniversary of America's first Cardinal – John McCloskey – via hand inscribed letter to Cardinal Terrance Cooke of New York.

February 22, 1976 –

Parish election held this date to elect four members of the parish to the new Parish Council. Elected were: Paul Worlock, Edwin Stanton, James Lanigan, and Joseph Simons. Other nominees were Thomas Reilly, John Belius, Virginia MacEntee, Edward Doyle, Sheila VanDewalker, and Gerald Sweeney. Thanks are also due to these people for their willingness to allow their names to be put in nomination.

May 3, 1976 –

Mrs. Francis A. Russell, Sr., installed as President of the newly organized Altar-Rosary Society of St. Peter's Church with the Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Culkin, Pastor, as installing officer. The other officers installed were Mrs. Cornelius Walsh, Vice President; Mrs. Thomas Dunning, Secretary; and Miss Mary A. Russell, Treasurer.

May 16, 1976 –

10:30 Mass at St. Peter's said at St. Peter's in celebration of Perpetual Profession of Vows by Sister Mary Josita Worlock, P.V.M.I. on May 1 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Marycrest, Monroe, N.Y. Monsignor Victor F. Ciciarelli, Pastor of Saint John the Baptist church here in Rome, was a special guest at this Mass.

June 22, 1976 –

At 11:30 a.m. the tubular bells were restored to service. Present were Jack Stannard, Ed Stanton, John Stanton, Msgr. Francis J. Culkin and Rev. Vincent Long.

ADDENDA

If our first church (1840) followed by three years the date our parish was established (1837), the inevitable question is – where were services held during this pre-church period? The one documentary proof we have at present is that some of the earliest services were held in a cooper's shop Hiram Whedon erected in 1826 on the easterly side of S. James Street near the corner of Wright Street. There is more than one written reference that our first Pastor, Father Beecham, told many people his earliest services were indeed held in this building which of course no longer stands. A few parishioners say some services were held in the home now occupied as an office by Dr. Ernest Panasci at 103 W. Court Street. Research to confirm this is not complete. Continuous research is being done to identify and fix the location of all the early services. If any parishioner has records that will aid in this very important work it would be most helpful if they would make them all known to me.

To get back to our parish establishment, in November of 1837 a church organization (incorporation) was formed under the laws of New York, and the following Trustees were named:

1st Year – Joseph Shields, Thomas Gilson, Francis N. Bougeot.

2nd Year – William White, Andrew Conlon, Francis Miller.

3rd Year – Patrick Kelley, Thomas Hannerty, Thomas Delany.

This information has only recently been found and is placed in this addendum to further enlighten our past.

GHE
May 1976
George H. Eiffe

BISHOPS

Diocese of Syracuse

(Diocesis Syracusensis)

Established November 20, 1886

Corporate Title: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y. Comprises the Counties of Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego. Square miles, 5,749. Total population (1970 census), 1,207,555. Catholic population, 411,523.

**

Most Reverend
DAVID F. CUNNINGHAM, D.D.

Bishop of Syracuse; ordained June 12, 1926; appointed Titular Bishop of Lampsacus and Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse, April 5, 1950; consecrated June 8, 1950. Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Syracuse with the right of succession, June 19, 1967. Succeeded to See, August 4, 1970.

Most Reverend
FRANCIS J. HARRISON, D.D.

Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse; ordained June 4, 1937; appointed Titular Bishop of Aquae in Numidia and Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, March 1, 1971; consecrated, April 22, 1971.

FORMER BISHOPS

First Bishop – Rt. Rev. Patrick Anthony Ludden, D.D.; ordained June 21, 1864; consecrated May 1, 1887; died August 6, 1912.

Second Bishop – Rt. Rev. John Grimes, D.D.; ordained February 19, 1882; consecrated May 16, 1909; Coadjutor Bishop 1909 – 1912; and succeeded to See August 16, 1912; died July 26, 1922.

Third Bishop – Most Rev. Daniel Joseph Curley, D.D.; ordained May 19, 1894; consecrated May 1, 1923; died August 3, 1932.

Fourth Bishop – Most Rev. John Aloysius Duffy, D.D.; ordained June 13, 1908; consecrated June 29, 1933; installed July 11, 1933; appointed Bishop of Buffalo, January 9, 1937; installed in See of Buffalo, April 14, 1937; died September 27, 1944.

Fifth Bishop – Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, D.D., PhD; ordained June 10, 1916; appointed May 26, 1937; consecrated August 18, 1937; Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, December 11, 1961; named Titular Bishop of Miseno-Cape, August 4, 1970.

MAP OF COUNTIES OF THE SYRACUSE DIOCESE

PASTORS

St. Peter's

Rome, N.Y.

REV. FATHER WILLIAM BEECHAM

August 3, 1837 until his death on March 10, 1876. Rest in peace.

REV. FATHER ALOYSIUS MURPHY

April 9, 1876 until his death April 6, 1906. Rest in peace.

REV. MONSIGNOR JAMES J. CARSON

June 14, 1906 until his death November 8, 1950. Rest in peace.

REV. MONSIGNOR EDWARD P. BUTTIMER

November 30, 1950 until his retirement in February of 1971.

REV. MONSIGNOR FRANCIS J. CULKIN

March 1, 1971 to present.

ASSISTANTS ASSIGNED TO ST. PETER'S
(including Teaching Clergy In Residence)

Rev. William Coghlan – June 1850 to October same year

Rev. Patrick Kenna – October 1850 to February 1851

Rev. Patrick Conlon – May 1855 to April 1856

Rev. William Howard – June 1858 to December 1861

Rev. Robert Byrne – December 1865 to October 1866

Rev. Daniel O'Connell – February 1867 to October same year

Rev. James O'Reilly – October 1867 to August 1869

Rev. D. J. O'Keefe – September 1869 to November same year

Rev. John Craven – December 1869 to August 1870

Rev. Charles Zucker – November 1870 to March 1871

Rev. H. J. Shields – May 1871 to September 1872

Rev. Francis Maguire – November 1872 to January 1873

Rev. Patrick Birmingham – February 1873 to November 1874

Rev. James Bloomer – November 1874 to September 1878

Rev. Francis Cunningham – October 1878 to November 1883

Rev. James Ward – November 1883 to January 1890

Rev. John McLoughlin – February 1890 to October 1895

Rev. James J. Carson – January 1896 to April 1906

Rev. Robert J. Henry – April 1906 to September same year

Rev. Joseph Ellis – August 1909 to September same year

Rev. Patrick J. Mattimoe – September 1909 to January 1915

Rev. D. Francis Curtin – January 1915 to August same year

Rev. Patrick A. Kelly – August 1915 to June 1920

NOTE: A Father Davern was assigned on June 25, 1920 to assist during Father Kelly's visit to Ireland. No record as yet as to date this priest left.

Rev. Daniel C. Hartnett – June 1920 to November 1923

Rev. Michael Grehan – November 1923 to November 1926

Rev. Lyial A. Tobin – March 1925 to July 1931

Rev. Francis R. Dempsey - November 1926 to July 1927

Rev. J. Norbert Lutz – July 1927 to June 1930

Rev. Gannon F. Ryan – June 1930 to March 1934

Rev. James K. Bennett – July 1931 to March 1938

Rev. John H. Donovan – March 1934 to September 1936

Rev. John A. Scanlon – October 1936 to June 1939

Rev. William J. Clark – 1938 to 1945

Rev. Lawrence D. Patterson – October 1939 to February 1941

Rev. John E. Muldoon – June 1941 to January 1943

Rev. John J. Burke – 1943 to February 1955

Rev. James R. Quigley – April 1945 to September 1951

Rev. John E. Martin – June 1949 to November 1950

Rev. Robert P. Collins – October 1951 until his death August 31, 1962

Rev. Joseph C. Kuchanski – November 1952 to January 1953

Rev. James F. Larkin – March 1954 to February 1966

Rev. Wilbur J. Votraw – February 1955 to February 1956

Rev. William D. Vickers – February 1957 to January 1960

Rev. James F. Gillen – February 1960 to February 1962

Rev. Robert J. Breed – 1958 and to St. Paul's, Rome, same year

Rev. J. Murray Elwood – 1962 and to St. Paul's, Rome, in 1963

Rev. John B. O'Brien – February 1962 to April 1963

Rev. James J. Fallon – February 1963 to February 1966

Rev. James J. O'Connell – August 1965 to April 1966

Rev. Robert D. Dwyer – June 1966 to July 1968

Rev. Michael D. Johnson – 1966 to 1969

Rev. Bernard J. Stephan – December 1966 to 1970

Rev. Vincent J. Kelly – July 1968 to July 1971

Rev. James E. Mullen – November 1969 to December 1970

Rev. Victor R. Tucci – 1969 and to Binghamton same year

Rev. James L. Riley – September 1970 to June 1972

Rev. Jerome A. Katz – July 1971 to June 1973

Rev. William Guckert – September 1972 to July 1973

Rev. Edward C. Madore – June 1973 to February 20, 1976

Rev. Vincent P. Long – September 1973 to present

Msgr Robert B. Davern – 1973 (two months interim assignment)

Rev. James D. Bartnik – February 20, 1976 to June 1, 1976

Rev. Thomas Durant – June 1, 1976 to present

PARISH MINISTRY

Sister Elaine Marie Breslin – September 1974 to June 1975

Deacon Mr. Thomas Durant – Summer 1975

Sister Denise Pidgeon – September 1975 to present

PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS FROM ST. PETER'S PARISH

Priests

Rev. Francis Donnelly, born in 1854. Died in 1898
Rev. Richard Lynch, Diocese of Syracuse. Ordained in 1917
Rev. Leo F. White, Diocese of New York. Ordained in 1909
Msgr. Thomas Hayes, Ordained June 1935
Rev. George Hurley, Ordained June 6, 1936
Msgr. Thomas Costello, Ordained June 5, 1954
Msgr. Francis Willenburg, Ordained February 2, 1954
Rev. W. Louis Barry, Ordained June 5, 1954
Rev. Delos Humphrey, M.M., Ordained June 12, 1954
Rev. William Baker, Ordained February 2, 1955
Msgr. Everett Finley, Ordained May 22, 1948; Deceased December 12, 1975
Rev. James T. Leahey, Ordained June 6, 1942
Rev. James Russell, Ordained January 24, 1970
Rev. Timothy Boyle, Ordained May 20, 1967
Rev. Walter Cannan, Ordained December 20, 1968
Rev. Dermot C. Dunn, O.F.M., Ordained June 15, 1946 (Deceased)
Rev. James Engle, Ordained May 15, 1947
Rev. Thomas Riley, Ordained June 7, 1941 (home parish St. Mary's, Florence)

Religious

Miss Sarah Garrett	Sister Mary Mark
Unknown	Sister Frances of Paula, 1869
Miss Theresa Dunn	Sister Victoria, 1869
Ammie Fitzimmons	Sister Rose of Calvary, SNJM
Catherine O'Connell	Mother M. Geraldine, SNJM
Anna O'Neill	Sister Mary Roselina, SNJM
Rose Mary O'Connor	Sister Albert Mary, SNJM
Dorothy Eames	Sister M. Odelia Margaret, SNJM
Helen Spargo	Sister Emma Jane Marie, SNJM
Mable Carroll	Sister Mary Ruth, R.S.M.
Alice Carroll	Sister Mary Consolata, R.S.M.
Irene Finnegan	Sister M. Aquinas, Sisters of St. Mary's
Marion Finnegan	Sister Rene Marie, CSH
Anna Stack	Sister John Anthony
Bridget White	Sister M. William, SNJM
Naomi Breads	Sister Immaculata, CSJ
Evelyn Valentine	Sister Marie Marce, CSJ
Lucy Zoccolillo	Sister Gerarda Joseph, CSJ
Joyce Courtney	Sister Celine Courtney, CSJ
Janet Courtney	Sister Helene Courtney, CSJ
Mary Alice Dowd	Sister Ruth Cecelia Dowd, CSJ

Mary Finnerty	Sister Rosita Joseph, CSJ
Theresa Finnerty	Sister Theresa Maria, CSJ
Rose Finnerty	Sister Rose Finnerty, CSJ
Mary Hyde	Sister Jean Martin, CSJ
Ann Hyde	Sister Alice Loretta, CSJ
Alice Larkin	Sister Martha Vincent, CSJ
O'Connor	Sister Mary Bernadette, CSJ
Rose Parkhurst	Sister Rose Irene, CSJ
Kathleen Parkhurst	Sister Kathleen Mary, CSJ
Patricia Propper	Sister Patricia, CSJ
Helen Sullivan	Sister Marie Anthony, CSJ
Ann Regan	Sister Ann Regan, SNJM
Mary Spellicy	Sister Mary Spellicy, SNJM
Angela Worlock	Sister Mary Josita, PVMI
Betty Domino	Sister M. Joachim, Sisters Presentation

Community initials for the Holy Names	SNJM
St. Joseph	CSJ
Parish Visitors	PVMI
Mercy Order	RSM

TEACHING ORDERS IN OUR SCHOOLS

FRANCISCANS SISTERS (1860-1865):

The Mother of the Franciscans was Mother Hyacinth and Sister Marie Anne was also a member of the faculty, who later became renowned for her work among the lepers with whom she died.

HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY (1865-1915)

In 1865 the list of those who taught was as follows: Sister Mary Alphonse, Superior, Sister Mary Joseph, Sister Mount Carmel, Sister Mary Leonida, the organist, and Sister Amabalis who was the housekeeper. In 1867 Mother Holy Family and Sister Mary Augustine joined the faculty. The Holy Name Superiors were: 1865 Sister Mary Alphonse, in 1866 Sister de Son Secours, 1867 Sister Mount Carmel, 1870 Sister Eugene, 1872 Sister Ignace, 1882 Sister Euphrasia, 1889 Mother of the Holy Family, 1899 Mother Patrick, in 1904 Mother Regina, 1909 Mother of the Holy Family, 1911 Mother Thomas Aquinas, 1915 Mother Theresa of Jesus.

ST. JOSEPH (1915 to the present):

Sisters of St. Joseph who were Principals (from 1915 to the present and in the order of their assignments):

Sister M. Julia Ford (1915)
Sister Marie Antoinette
Mother Wilhomena
Sister Camilla
Sister Anna Gonzaga
Sister Anna Francis
Mother St. John
Mother John Aloysius
Sister Clara Vincent
Sister Camilla (2nd assignment)
Sister Naomi
Sister Anne Barbara
Sister Helen Patricia
Sister Marie Ailbe
Sister Maria Charles
Sister Geraldine (present – 1976)