St. John’s Celebrates Centenary

Newark Valley – While St. John the Evangelist Church here has been celebrating its centenary, Catholic settlement in the area preceded the establishment of the parish by at least a decade.

It was in 1870 that the first Catholic families began moving into the township of Newark Valley. The first Catholic congregation met in the homes of Michael and Bridget Fehey. That congregation was Irish, some of them farmers and others tannery workers.

The area was under the spiritual jurisdiction of St. Patrick’s in Owego, and during the period 1871 to 1877, Father James Rogers, the Owego celebrant, celebrated Mass in Allison Hall. He was succeeded by Father James O’Mara who oversaw the construction of the present church.

On June 30, 1880, Dr. R.C. Tappan donated land on East Newark Bush for building the church. Father O’Mara directed the construction of a brick structure to Samuel Loring, using brick from the Loring Brickyard.

On Jan. 8, 1881, Bishop Stephen V. Ryan, the second Bishop of the diocese, visited the area where his jurisdiction Newark Valley then fell, dedicated the new structure at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church of Newark Valley. Nine years later, parishioners John and August G. O’Brien donated land for a cemetery and an organ was purchased from E.P. Carpenter Co., of Rochester, N.Y.

In 1896 the Tioga County parish was transferred to the jurisdiction of Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid of Rochester, N.Y. In 1902, Father, Mathew Siudara, was named pastor in 1909, the parish was named St. John the Evangelist.

In 1909, the parish was incorporated, among the signatures of the incorporation was Father Edward Stec, the first pastor, who has, to date, supervised the redecoration of the Stations of the Cross, the ministry of new kneeler pads, the painting of the church and the installation of a new entrance drive.

Father Matthew Siudara was named pastor in 1959 and served in that post until 1974, a period which encompassed the renewal engendered by the Second Vatican Council.

Father Siudara was succeeded by Father Robert Donovan, during whose three-year tenure the rectory was renovated, the size of the parking lot was doubled and seven classrooms were constructed in the hall basement.

He was followed in 1977 by Father Eugene Wett, the present pastor, who has, to date, supervised the redecoration of the Stations of the Cross, the ministry of new kneeler pads, the painting of the church and the installation of a new entrance drive.

Last Time this offer available for Christmas Gift Giving!

95¢ deposit

$12.95

FULL PACKAGE

Full package $12.95

Less deposit .95

Balance due 12.00

TOTAL

Includes one 8x10, three 5x7 and fifteen wallet size color portraits and three color miniatures in charms • money refunded if not satisfied • second subject in full payment • order for portraits taken by phone

CHILDREN’S PHOTOGRAPHY

LONG RIDGE MALL

Monday through Saturday 10 A.M.-6:00 P.M.