

The Church of the Sacred Heart

Celebrating 200 Years

Where the parishioners are its sacred heart



A Brief Guide to Our History



First Church

New Jersey's first Catholic church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was built in 1814 at Market and Lambertson Streets in Trenton. A simple brick building 30 feet wide by 50 feet deep, St. John's drew a congregation of 30 families from both sides of the river, who continued to depend on visiting Philadelphia priests until 1830, when a resident pastor was appointed.

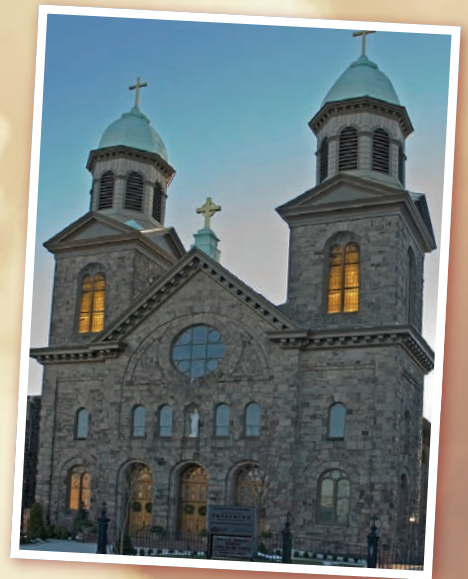
Second Church

Fourteen years later, Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine had begun to swell the ranks of a congregation of German, French and Irish origin. The cornerstone for a new, much larger St.

John's was laid that year at Broad and Centre Streets. Completed in 1848, the new church was classical in design, built of stuccoed brick with a three-story bell tower. So rapid was the growth of the parish that a wing was added in 1856. Then, on Sunday night, September 30, 1883, fire destroyed the church, leaving only the exterior walls, belfry and cupola standing.

Third Church

A year after the fire, on August 3rd, 1884, the cornerstone for a new church was laid. On June 12th, the following year, the old St. John's bell, the one survivor of the fire, rang out again to signal the partial completion of the new church. Mass was celebrated for the first time in the basement chapel, designed to seat 1,300, although the pews hadn't arrived and parishioners stood or knelt. Long after the June 30th, 1889 dedication of the new Sacred Heart Church, it was the custom to celebrate only Sunday Masses in the church, while daily Mass continued in the basement chapel.



200th Anniversary Events Years

February 2014

We are collecting wedding pictures for the month to be displayed in the vestibule of the Church.

February 13th: Pilgrimage to Saint Katherine Drexel, Philadelphia, PA

All couples who were married at Sacred Heart are invited to renew their marriage vows on February 16, 2014 at either the 9:00 or 11:15 Masses. Light refreshments will be served in Msgr. Toomey Hall following both Masses. For more information or to make reservations, contact Linda at lteresky@tretonsacredheart.org or 609-393-2801

March 2014

Ash Wednesday Celebration

Lent: We encourage all of you to participate in visiting of the Station Churches each evening in Mercer County

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Tuesday Evenings from 5:00 to 6:00pm during Lent; on Friday's following the 12:10 noon Mass and on Saturday's from 4:30 to 5:00pm, or by appointment.

March 19th 7:00: Dr Bellitto and Rabbi Susman Traditions and Similarities of Easter and Passover in Msgr. Toomey Hall

April 2014

April 12th: Following the 5:15 Mass, a light dinner of pizza and salad will be prepared in Msgr. Toomey Hall prior to a Night of Reflection presented by our Parishioners on "The Last Supper" beginning at 7:00

Holy Thursday April 17th 7:00 pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Supper. The church will remain open for prayer until 10:00pm.

Good Friday April 18th 3:00 pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Bishop David M. O'Connell Main Celebrant

Holy Saturday April 19th 12:00 noon: Blessing of Food, Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 20th: Sunday Liturgy - 9:00am and 11:15am

May 2014

We are collecting First Communion Pictures for the month to be displayed in the vestibule of the Church.

Service to Prison Ministry: Collection for Bibles to share with inmates.

Pilgrimage to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine

Memorial Day Mass at Saint John's Cemetery 9:00 am

June 2014

June 12: New Jersey's first Catholic Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist on June 12, 1814, and was built at Market and Lamberton Streets in Trenton.

June 24th: Feast of Saint John the Baptist

June 24th to June 27th: Parish Retreat 11:00am Morning Session followed by Mass at 12:10. Soup and Bread lunch available. 7:00pm Evening Session followed by Mass at 8:00. Light refreshments available .

June 27th 5:00 - 8:00pm: Feast of The Sacred Heart of Jesus.

June 29th: Parish Family Picnic at CYO in Yardville, NJ.

July 2014

Service to Run-a-ways at Anchor House in Trenton

Pilgrimage to St. John Neumann Shrine/Miraculous Medal St. Rita Cascia

September 2014

September 13th: Reunion of Sacred Heart School in Msgr. Toomey Hall

September 14th: Children's Celebration in Msgr. Toomey Hall

Parish Trip to Sight and Sound, Lancaster PA

"Moses"

October 2014

October 12th: Anniversary Mass Bishop David M. O'Connell Main Celebrant and Dinner at the Trenton Country Club

October 19th to October 29th: Parish Pilgrimage to Italy Including Rome, Assisi and Florence.

November 2014

Month to remember the deceased from our Parish Family

November 23rd: Closing Mass for the 200th Anniversary Year

ELLARSLIE MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Sartori to Sacred Heart: Early Catholic Trenton, June 27 through October 12

