Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Most Holy Redeemer Parish
Old Bridge Township
133 Amboy Road
Matawan, New Jersey 07747
MASS OF DEDICATION

MOST HOLY REDEEMER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

133 Amboy Road
Old Bridge Township
Matawan, New Jersey 07747
September 26, 1987
5:00 p.m.

MOST REVEREND EDWARD T. HUGHES
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
Celebrant

REVEREND JOSEPH L. DESMOND
Founding Pastor
November 2, 1984 – June 11, 1996

REVEREND HENRY L. HEMMERLING
Pastor Emeritus
Second Pastor

REVEREND EDWARD J. STRUZIK
Pastor Emeritus
Third Pastor

REVEREND CHESTER H. CARINA
Present Pastor
Fourth Pastor
November 11, 2003 – Present
HISTORY OF MOST HOLY REDEEMER

CHAPTER ONE: THE BEGINNINGS

Pope John Paul II proclaimed 1983 as a Holy Year celebrating the 1,950th year of our redemption. In response to this, on June 2, 1983, Bishop Theodore E. McCarrick, founding Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, established the Parish of Most Holy Redeemer in Old Bridge. This parish was carved out of St. Ambrose, Old Bridge, St. Lawrence, Laurence Harbor, and St. Bernadette, Parlin.

On November 2, 1984, Reverence Joseph L. Desmond began the work of gathering the members of the Parish of Most Holy Redeemer.

The first Mass was celebrated November 17, 1984 at Carl Sandburg Middle School. On January 26, 1985, the Bishop personally installed Father Desmond as the Founding Pastor. In March 1985, 88 Lakeridge Drive was purchased as the Rectory and Parish Offices.

The parish center, which houses the church hall, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and offices, cover 15,180 square feet and is built on pre-design construction. It has been built on 8.5 acres on Amboy Road, Old Bridge.

An area wide census was conducted in May of 1985. This census revealed that there were more than 325 Catholic families living within the parish boundaries. Today we have more than 1,400 families.

In May of 1986, the Building Fund Campaign, "Building our Home" was launched. Pledges and memorials are still available.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 22, 1986, attended by parishioners, local civic and ecclesiastical dignitaries.

On Saturday, July 18, 1987, at 5:00 p.m., the first Mass was celebrated at Most Holy Redeemer Church. On Saturday, September 26, 1987, Bishop Edward T. Hughes, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, dedicated OUR HOME, the Church of Most Holy Redeemer. On May 8, 1988, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark, blessed the statues in the Church.

Our Religious Education Center was blessed September 19, 1993 by Bishop Edward T. Hughes.

TIMES TO REMEMBER

11/02/84 Father Desmond’s arrival in Old Bridge to begin his work at Most Holy Redeemer.

11/03/84 Celebration of Mass at St. Ambrose by Father Desmond, inviting new parishioners to be a part of this new adventure.

11/11/84 Celebration of Mass at St. Lawrence and St. Bernadette by Father Desmond, again inviting new parishioners to be a part of this new adventure.

11/17/84 Celebration of Most Holy Redeemer’s First Mass at Carl Sandburg Middle School at 5:00 p.m.

12/01/84 First Mass of Resurrection celebrated for deceased parishioner, Anthony J. Guidice, Jr.

12/10/84 First Neighborhood Mass hosted by Patricia Seltzer

12/25/84 Celebration of Mass by Bishop McCarrick on our First Christmas at 10:00 a.m.

12/27/84 Celebration of Mass for the first time for our parishioners at Emery Manor Nursing Home.

01/06/85 First Baptism of Most Holy Redeemer parishioners at St. Ambrose Church; four babies were baptized.

01/26/85 Installation of Father Desmond by Bishop McCarrick as First Pastor of Most Holy Redeemer.

02/85 First Ashes to Easter Lenten Program

03/15/85 Closing on 88 Lakeridge Drive house, marking the establishment of the First Rectory.

03/17/85 Trip to Atlantic City, our First Fundraiser

03/29/85 First Annual Pub Night at the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh
04/14/85  A Second Trip to Atlantic City

04/15/85  First Weekday Mass in Rectory Chapel

04/18/85  First Marriage in Most Holy Redeemer
          Rectory Chapel between Gerard V. Smith
          and Frances Theresa Halligan

05/85    Parish Census

05/08/85  First Pre-Baptism Instruction Session

TO BE CONTINUED...