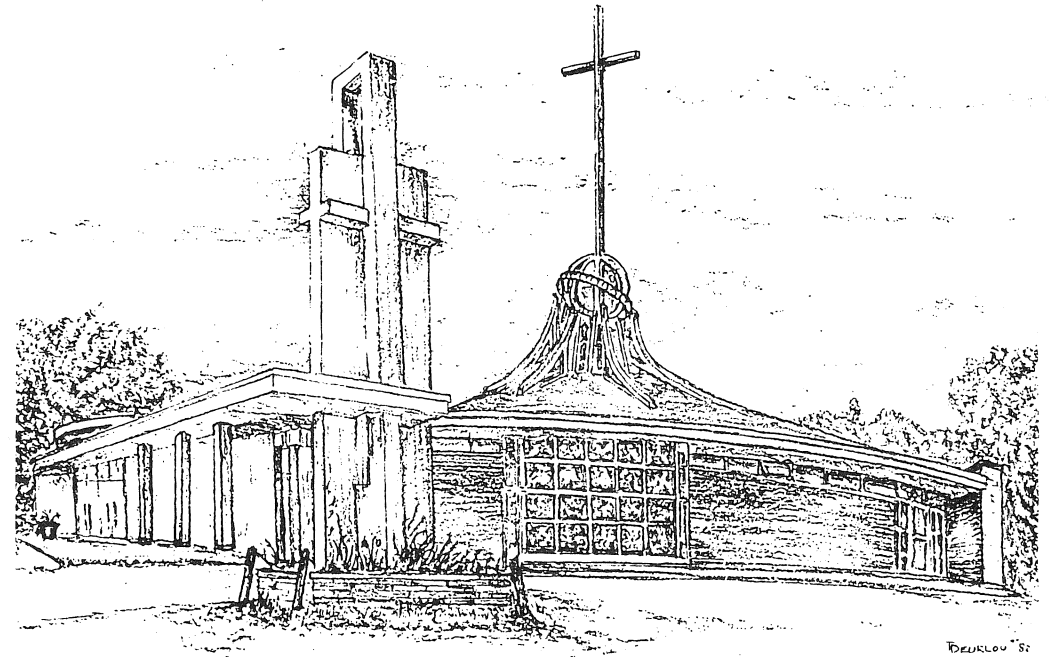


St. George's
Roman Catholic Church



ST. GEORGE'S RC. CHURCH CRYSTAL BEACH.

Silver Jubilee

1964 - 1989

Silver Jubilee

Sunday, June 25th, 1989

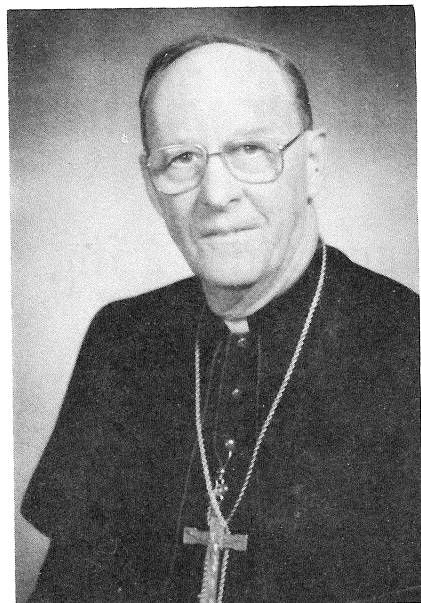


Program

11:00 a.m.: Concelebrated Mass
Principal
Celebrant: Most Reverend T. B. Fulton, D.D., J.C.D.
Homily: Most Rev. A. Tonnos, D.D.
Bishop of Hamilton Diocese
Pastor: Rev. H. J. Dopp
Honour Guard: Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus



Reception immediately following
at the Lions Hall
538 Prospect Point Road North, Ridgeway
Hostesses: Catholic Women's League



DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

122 RIVERDALE AVENUE
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, CANADA
(416) 684-0154 L2R 4C2

May 19, 1989

Dear Father Dopp:

Greetings to you and the parishioners of St. George's Parish as you celebrate the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the erection and blessing of your parish church.

It is significant that this year, 1989, also marks the twenty fifth anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the first published document of Vatican Council II. Our Holy Father has issued a special apostolic letter to mark this occasion.

St. George's Church can be seen as one of the first fruits of the liturgical renewal. It incorporates in its structure the recommendations of the Council as an assembly place so as to make it as convenient as possible for the participation of the whole congregation in the Eucharist.

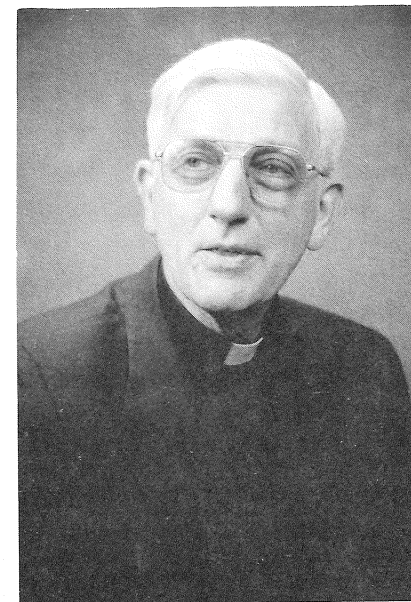
It has served the community well in the past quarter century as the house of God and the symbol of the Christian life of the people of this parish.

May it continue to flourish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas B. Fulton

(Most Rev.) Thomas B. Fulton
Bishop of St. Catharines



Telephone Ridgeway 894-2853

St. George's Church

Ridgeway Road
Crystal Beach, Ontario
Box 300 LOS IBO

Dear Parishioners and Summer Residents:

For 25 years we have worshipped God in our beautiful new St. George's Church. With joy we give thanks to God for all the spiritual growth and joy that our Church has meant to us.

A Church is always a building of great importance in our life. It is a sign of Christ who is the Church. The Church is Christ's mystical body, of which he is the head, and through our Baptism we are the living members of that body.

In the gospel Christ says of himself, that he is the light of our world. It is especially in our Church that we turn to Christ as the light of our world.

We come here on the Lord's day so that Christ may give his light to our everyday work of the coming week. We come here on days of joy when we celebrate Marriage, Baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation, so that the light of Christ may be the focal point of our joy.

We come to the Church when disease or death come our way in life. In the darkness of disease and death, we turn to Christ our light, that he may guide us through our time of darkness, to bring us again to the light of his love and peace.

Through St. George's Church, may Christ, the light of our world, bring to all of us the eternal light of his love, his peace and his salvation.

H. J. Dopp
Rev. H. J. Dopp, Pastor

History of St. George's Parish

Before the turn of the century, not long after Crystal Beach came into being, a group of Catholics who had been meeting for Mass in various homes in the area began gathering for Mass at the original roller rink at the top of Ridge Road cut to Lake Erie shore. It was there that they started to formulate plans for a new church. The very first wooden structure of St. George's was erected in 1905.



St. George's first church.

This church burned in 1921, but was immediately rebuilt, featuring a yellow wood exterior. The new building served the parish well and later was insulated with imitation brick siding.

In the early years, St. George's was a mission of the Fort Erie church — St. Michael's — and a priest would come to serve Mass in winter at the homes of some of the members, among them the Lampings, Scott Sherks, and John Dalton. In the summer, Mass was celebrated every Sunday at the church. This was around 1913, when Rev. Michael Cullinane served the parishes. Other priests who followed were Fathers Murphy, Johnson, Prance and Quinlan. After Crystal Beach became a summer resort, a priest from Niagara University would assist



The rebuilt church.

Religion was taught the children in homes — among them, the Cammaratas and the Donnellys — as well as in the church. The young ladies of the Sodality and the choir of the parish met regularly at parishioners' homes, including those of the Daltons, Meaghers, Carrs, Lampings, Stickles, Cammaratas and the Donnellys.

St. George's became a parish in 1947, when Rev. E. J. Canning was appointed its first pastor. The beautiful home at Ridge and Victoria served as its first rectory. Father Canning kept the grounds and garden immaculate, working by himself.

In September 1959, Rev. James Noonan was appointed pastor, succeeding Father Canning. The parish had grown considerably by this time, and with the influx of summer residents more adequate facilities were needed desperately.

Land was purchased for the new church in 1960, on what was known as "the old golf course," and on July 9, 1961, Campaign Sunday was celebrated. Through the work of the various church organizations and individuals, a parish dream came true, with groundbreaking in May 1962. On Easter Monday morning, March 30th of 1964, transfer was made to the new rectory. The final Mass was said in the old church that same day. The following day, March 31st, witnessed the first services in the new church.

Consecration of the altar was on the Feast of St. Joseph —
March 19, 1964.

The parish has an active Catholic Women's League, which sponsors an annual parish brunch in addition to their popular annual bazaar; an active parish council; League of the Sacred Heart; secular order of St. Francis; Our Lady of Grace School; and an excellent choir.

In the meantime, the old church was sold to the local volunteer firemen, who erected a new fire hall on the site. The firemen, in turn, sold the building for \$1.00 to the Kinsmen Club, which moved it to Rebstock Road East and turned it into a recreation centre (June 1965). However, around 1971 the recreation centre was also destroyed by fire, which means that every remnant of the original church is now gone, with the exception of a few stained glass windows and several pews preserved in the homes of some of the residents.

The first and only ordination in St. George's was Father Peter Walton in 1984.

St. George's parish is very grateful to the summer residents for their generosity over the years, both in the old church and in the new. Their help has been vital to the success of the parish.

In conclusion, let us all hope and pray that our Lord will bless the endeavours of our parish as richly in the future as He has in the past.



Priests who served St. George's Parish

Early years	Rev. Michael Cullinane Frs. Murphy, Johnson, Prance and Quinlan
1947 - 1959	Rev. Edward J. Canning
1959 - 1975	Rev. James Noonan
1976 - 1983	Rev. Joseph Killoran
1983 - 1986	Rev. Ben Vanco
1986 - present	Rev. Hubert Dopp

Associates

Summers of 1961, 1963 - 1966, and 1971	Rev. Anthony Tonnos
1962 - 1968	Rev. Edward Pythian
1970	Rev. Donald Grecco
1972	Rev. Donald Lizzotti
1973	Rev. Leo Clutterbuck
1984	Rev. Peter Walton

The parish is very grateful to those priests who have assisted St. George's over the years: Rev. K. Burns, Rev. J. Ingrao, Rev. P. LaBelle and Rev. J. Demsky, as well as Rev. E. Ryan of Buffalo.



The interior of the new church.