



**Holy Family Church
Union Beach/Hazlet, NJ
Our History**

Early in 1923, the Catholic population of the small Bayshore community of Union Beach, then known as the Union section of Raritan Township, came together to form a Catholic Club with the goal of building a church in their own town. At this time, the local fire company's hall was used to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. On Sunday mornings, members could be seen carrying their chairs to Mass. A small portable altar was set up in the hall and women of the community prepared the altar with linens and candles. There was only one altar boy to assist the visiting priest from one of the neighboring parishes of St. Ann's in Keansburg and St. Joseph's in Keyport.

In 1924, Bishop Thomas J. Walsh was asked to visit the borough and tour several sites that might be suitable to build a church. Together, with several club members Bishop Walsh selected a site on Stone Road (Route#36) in Union Beach. This land was finally acquired in 1929. The house that stood on the purchased property was named the "Catholic Clubhouse" and became the location for weekly Sunday school classes, meetings, and church suppers. A Church Building Fund was then established, and children as well as adults assisted in the many fundraising events. A successful annual fair was held every summer, bringing out the entire town.

Finally, in 1941, Bishop Griffin gave permission for the groundbreaking of the Church of the Holy Family. One year later, the mission-styled church was completed. The new church had a seating capacity of 200 and offered two Masses on Sundays. In June of 1942, Rev. Walter Slattery was named the first pastor of Holy Family Church. Under Father Slattery's direction, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Altar and Rosary Society, Holy Name Society, and the St. Vincent DePaul Society were formed as the first parish organizations and flourished for many years to come. The Sisters of Mercy came to Holy Family Church once a week to instruct the children of the parish in their "catechism" classes. The good Sisters would continue this work for nearly two decades. With Father Slattery's reassignment in 1948, Holy Family Church welcomed our second pastor, Rev. Edward Sullivan.

During his administration, the Bayshore population began growing, and in 1954 it was more than evident that the Catholic community of Union Beach, which now included part of Hazlet Township, needed a much larger church. Once again the people of the parish, together with their young pastor, would seek approval from their bishop, George W. Ahr, to erect a 600-seat church over the existing worship site. Permission was granted to proceed with their plans and construction commenced immediately. After a short illness, Father Sullivan's untimely death in December of 1954 left the completion of the erection of the church to Rev. Joseph G. Fox. The new church was dedicated in June of 1957 and stood as a landmark with its soaring spire and cross. Father Fox would foresee the need to offer a Catholic education to the young of our growing parish. He began the task of building a school on the 17-acre property in Hazlet, across the highway from the church, which the parish had previously purchased in 1958.

September 1967 saw the opening of the doors of Holy Family School to the parish's elementary school students. The school would stand for the next forty years as a sign of the parish's love of God and commitment to Catholic education. With Father Fox's retirement in 1979, the people joined together in prayer and welcomed the new pastor, Rev. Patrick G. Fitzpatrick. For the next 28 years until his death in 2008, Father Fitzpatrick continued the work of his predecessors while bringing and inspiring a sense of "parish family" to our church community, which now welcomes over 3,400 registered households.

Over the past 75 years, the physical structure of Holy Family Church has transformed many times, but the spiritual life of the parish, through the grace of God, has remained ever-faithful, ever-prayerful, and ever-loving. Today, with our present pastor, Rev. Mark T. Devlin, Holy Family Parish once again looks to the future. It is a future that guarantees continued change and personal sacrifice, and we are left to God's providence. The past and present parishioners of Holy Family are not strangers to these notions. We will go forward in faith and hope.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GUIDED US

PASTORS

God's flock is in your midst; give it a shepherd's care. 1Peter 5:2
 Rev. Walter Slattery 1942-48
 Rev. Edward Sullivan 1948-54
 Rev. Joseph Fox 1954-79
 Rev. Patrick Fitzpatrick 1979-2008
 Rev. Mark Devlin 2009-present

DEACONS

*The spirit of the Lord is upon me....*Isaiah 61:1
 Rev. Mr. George Hooker 1984
 Rev. Mr. John Clymore 1995
 Rev. Mr. James Hewitt 2003
 Rev. Mr. Daniel McNerny 2004
 Rev. Mr. James Neubauer 2012

ADMINISTRATORS

Rev. Rocco Cuomo 7/79-11/79
 Msgr. Hugh Roman 3/08-6/08
 Rev. Douglas Freer 7/08-6/09

ORDINATIONS

Rev. Salvatore Livigni 1961
 Rev. Edward Griswold 1973
 Rev. Brian Woodrow 2006

ASSISTANTS

Rev. John Meehan 1961-1963
 Rev. Joseph Miserak 1965
 Rev. Tej Lal 1980-1984
 Rev. James Brady 1981-1987
 Rev. Joseph Puthenkandan 1985-1987

WOMEN RELIGIOUS WHO SERVED HOLY FAMILY

*The I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Who shall I send"....*Isaiah 6:8

MERCY SISTERS 1980-2004

Sister Margaret Noone
 Sister Louise Gorka
 Sister Marie Pierson
 Sister Gloria Jean Bateman
 Sister Rose Mary Malague
 Sister Nadine Boyle
 Sister Edwardine Brown
 Sister Denise O'Boyle

VISITING PRIESTS

Rev. Antonio daCosta
 Rev. Geraldo daCosta
 Rev. Richard Calligaro
 Rev. James Hyland
 Rev. Emilio Santa Rita
 Rev. Samuel Winters

SCHOOL SISTERS OF

NOTRE DAME 1967-1972
 Sister Nicholas Marie
 Sister Mary Andrew

SISTER OF CHARITY

1972-1973
 Sister Jean Kolb

SISTERS OF ST. TERESA OF AVILLA (CARMELITES)

1973-1983
 Sister Rosarita
 Sister Yvonne Marie
 Sister Angel Mary
 Sister Assumpta
 Sister Marguerite
 Sister Antonilla
 Sister Mary
 Sister Eunice

FIRSTS IN PARISH

First Wedding
 July 4, 1942
 Eleanor Cullen/William Wilson
 First Baptism
 July 19, 1942
 Jean Marie Stout (Brady)
 First Holy Communion
 May 2, 1943
 First Confirmation
 April 21, 1945

SISTER OF THE

RESURRECTION

2004-2006
 Sister Kathleen Gerritse

ESTABLISHED IN PARISH

1930
 Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 1939
 Choir
 1942
 Altar Rosary Society
 Holy Name Society
 St. Vincent DePaul Society
 Ushers
 1949
 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

VOCATIONS

1948 Sister Mary Victoria (Ernestine Kolodziej)
 1961 Sister of Mercy
 1973 Rev. Salvatore Livigni
 2006 Rev. Edward Griswold
 Rev. Brian Woodrow