

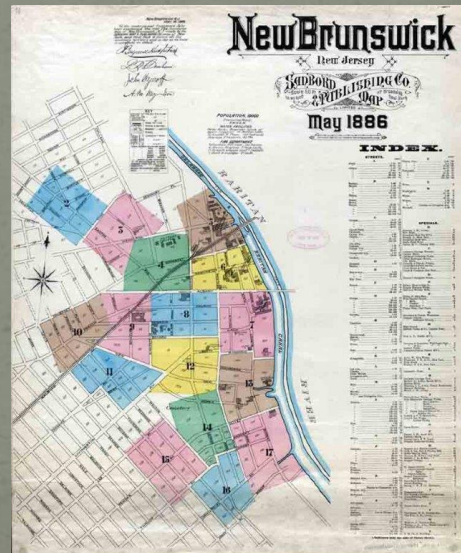
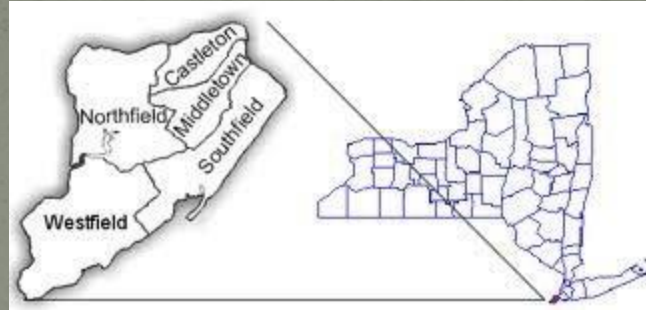
Parish of St. Peter

175th Anniversary

March 8, 2014

Parish Boundaries 1839

The Parish of St. Peter, established by Bishop Dubois in March 1839, was the first Roman Catholic parish in Staten Island.



The original bounds of the parish included all of Staten Island AND parts of what are now the Dioceses of Trenton and Metuchen. Parishes in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy were preceded by St. Peter's. Indeed, Fr. Madrano, the first pastor, was asked to "keep an eye on Princeton", too!

Humble beginnings...

- The first mass in the Parish of St. Peter was celebrated in 1839 in an abandoned gun factory located on the corner of Lafayette Street and Richmond Terrace.
- The first pastor of the Parish of St. Peter was a Spanish priest, Fr. Ildefonso Madrano, who learned English while serving as chaplain to the Irish troops during the Napoleonic Wars in Europe.

“...the most laborious parish in the diocese”

The Freeman's Journal, c.1848

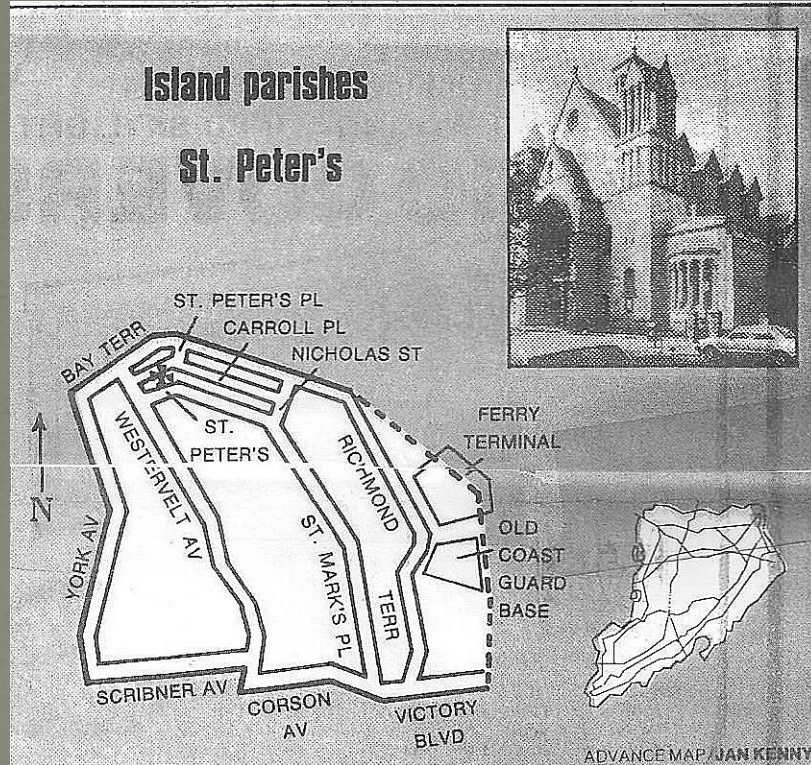
The pastor of St. Peter's, as the only priest on the Island, attended to the parish in New Brighton, the mission in Rossville (at the other extreme of the Island), Sailors' Snug Harbor (with its 800 residents), but above all the Quarantine Hospital, with 850 to 900 sick patients, a great many of whom were Catholic immigrants, including Irish immigrants escaping the potato famine.

Indeed, on February 11, 1848, Father Patrick Murphy, then pastor of St. Peter's, died of a fever contracted from a patient in the Quarantine Hospital.

Today's Mosaic

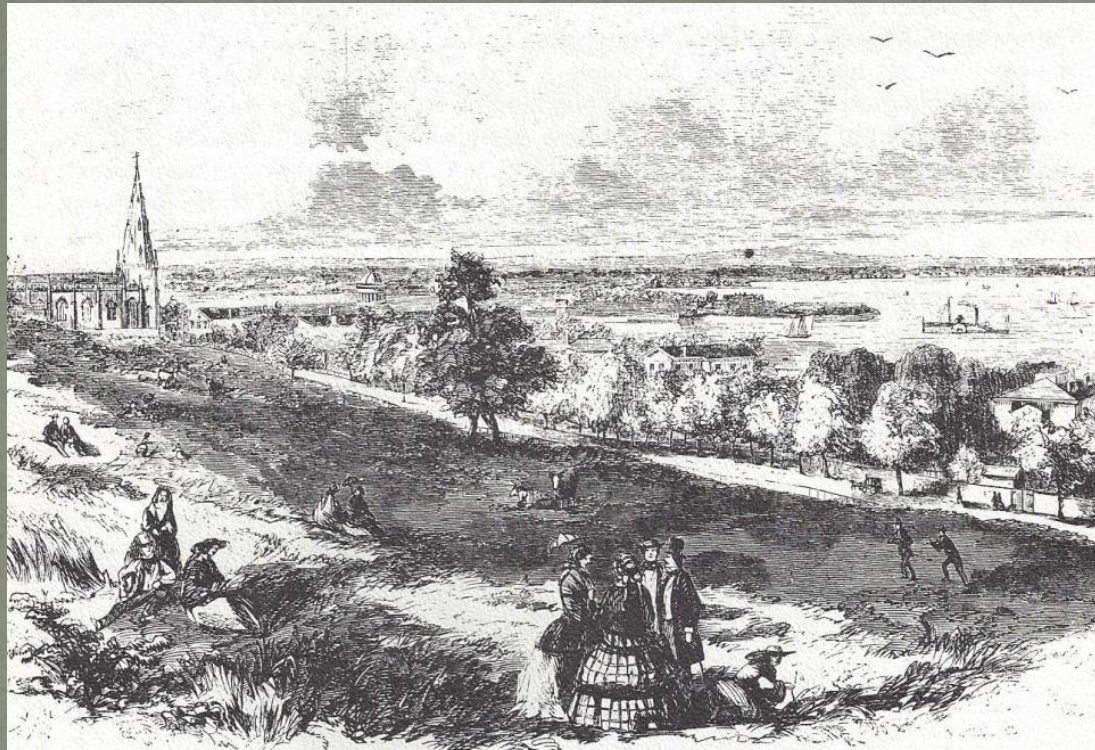
On the current parish membership rolls, St. Peter's boasts many, many more nationalities including Irish, German, Italian, Spanish, Guatemalan, Mexican, Sri Lankan, Liberian, Nigerian, Filipino and a dozen others that contribute to a truly international mosaic!

Parish Boundaries 2014



Today, the Roman Catholic congregation on Staten Island, where St. Peter's was the original mother house of worship, has multiplied into over 30 parishes throughout the borough.

The Mother Church



VIEW OF BRIGHTON, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1857.

Printed by Permission: "Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences."

1857

St. Peter's I

The New Brighton Realty Company deeded a plot of ground overlooking the upper bay as a site for the church. The original church, which opened on March 25, 1844, the Feast of the Annunciation, stood in almost exactly the same footprint as the current church. However, it was oriented so that the main entrance faced Carroll Place.

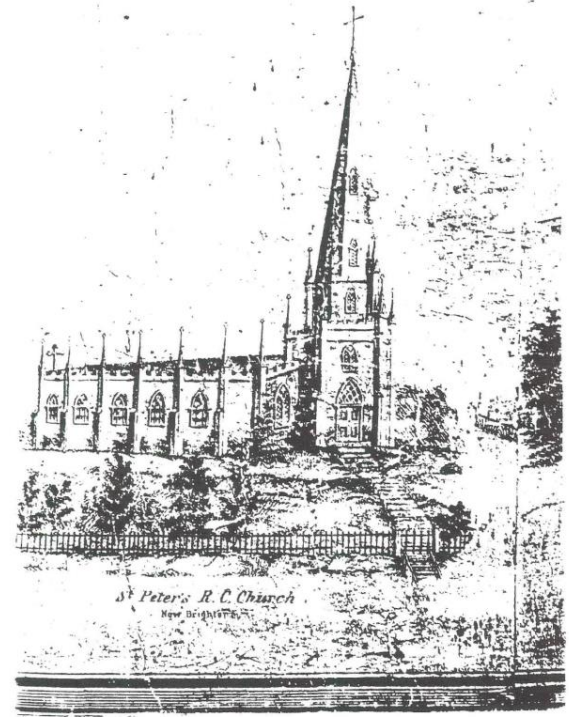
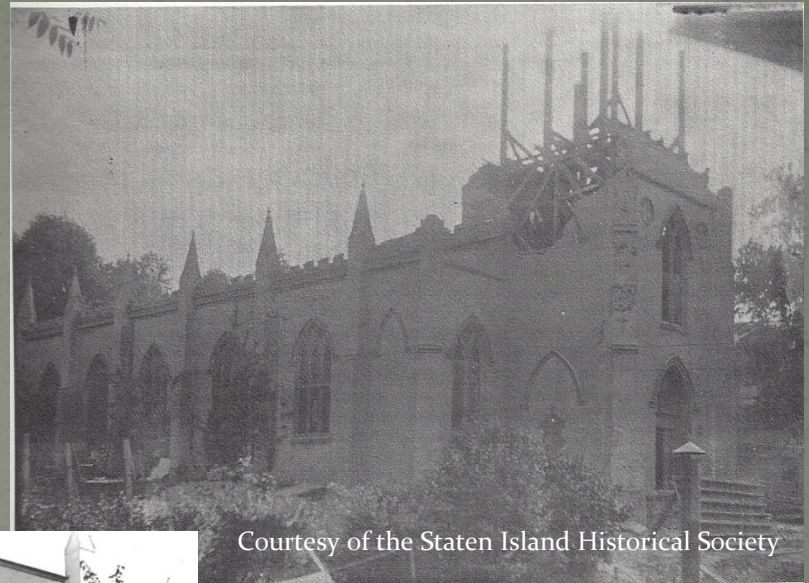


Fig. 6 St. Peter's R.C. Church, circa 1853.

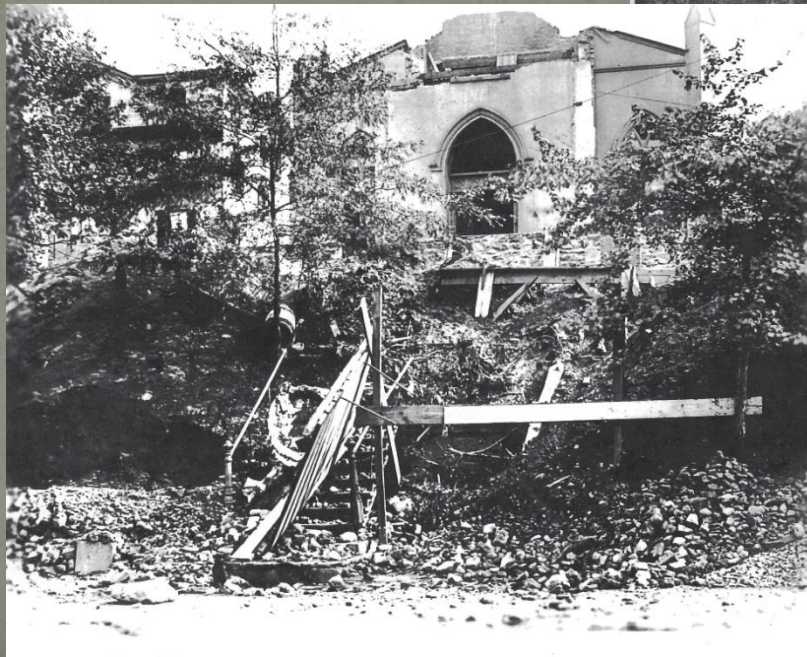
c. 1853

St. Peter's I

The original church was severely damaged by a fire in the late 1890s. However, the walls, windows, entrances and exits largely survived and form the shell of Farrell Hall that you are standing in today!



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society



c. 1895

Stairways to Heaven

The altar of the original church was on the St. Mark's Place end of Farrell Hall; entrance to the Church was from a stairway rising up from Carroll Place, even steeper than the two that are in use today!



To Farrell Hall



To the Convent/Brothers Residence



To 1844

Building and Rebuilding

The current neo-Romanesque church is the third building housing the Parish of St. Peter, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1900.

- Dawn of Time – April 1, 1839
- April 1, 1839-March 25, 1844
- March 25, 1844-late 1890s
- Late 1890s-November 26, 1903
- November 26, 1903-Present

No regular Masses

House in New Brighton/Abandoned Gun Factory

St. Peter's I

St. Peter's I 1/2

St. Peter's II



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

Laying of Cornerstone, October 14, 1900

The Sum of the Parts...

Many of the current church's iconic features were imported from European nations including France (Stations of the Cross), Italy (the onyx altar rail) and Germany (stained Glass windows from Munich).



Advance File Photo



2013



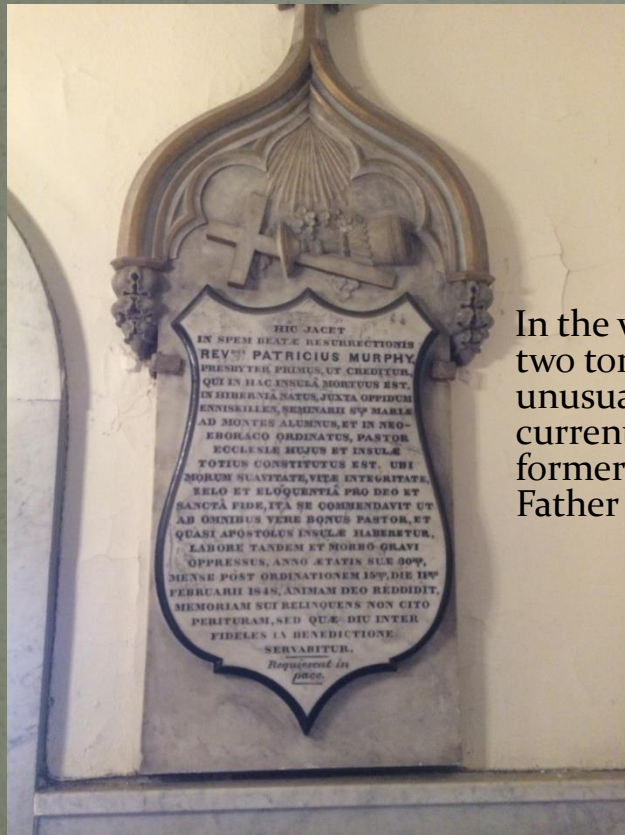
Robert Catalano

2013

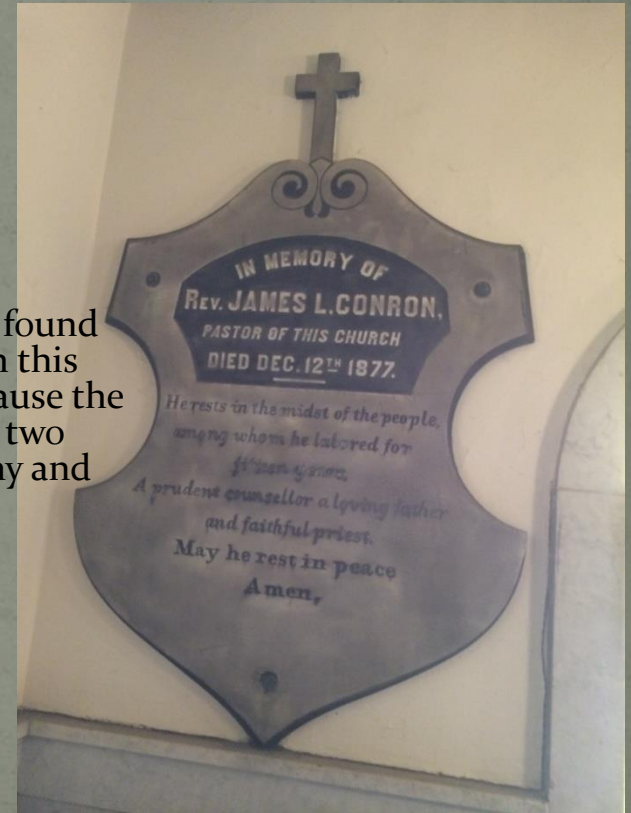


Robert Catalano

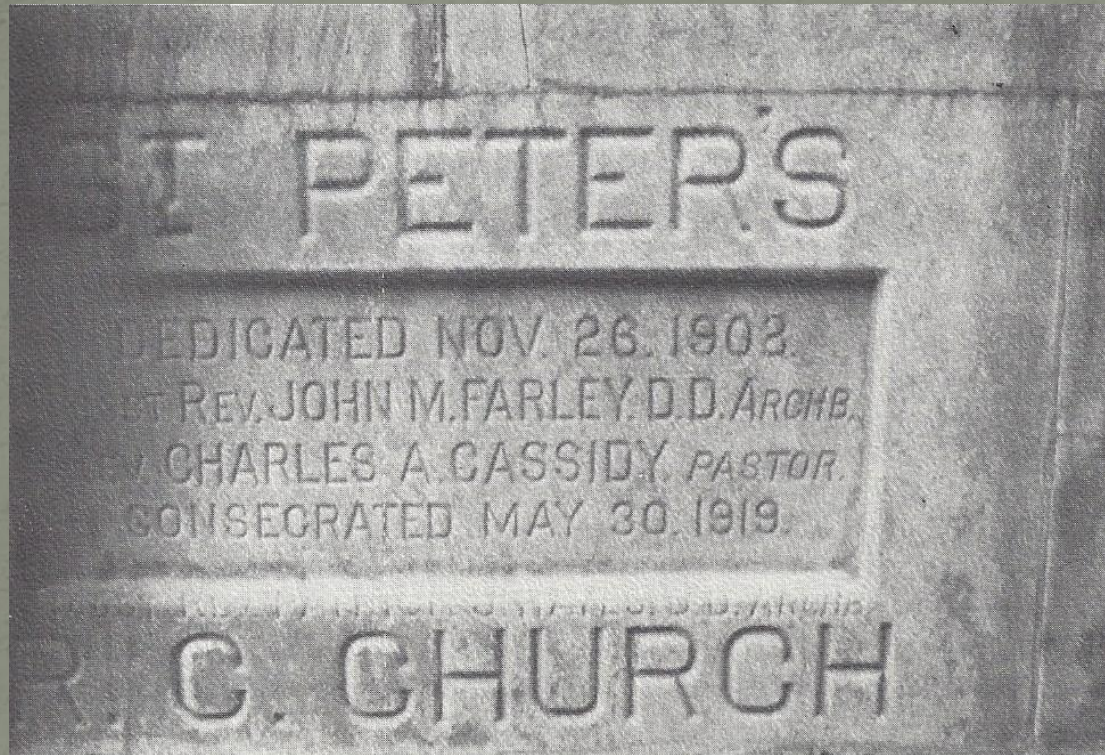
Resting in Peace



In the vestibule of the Church can be found two tombstones. They were placed in this unusual and prominent position because the current Church covered the graves of two former pastors, Father Patrick Murphy and Father James Conran.

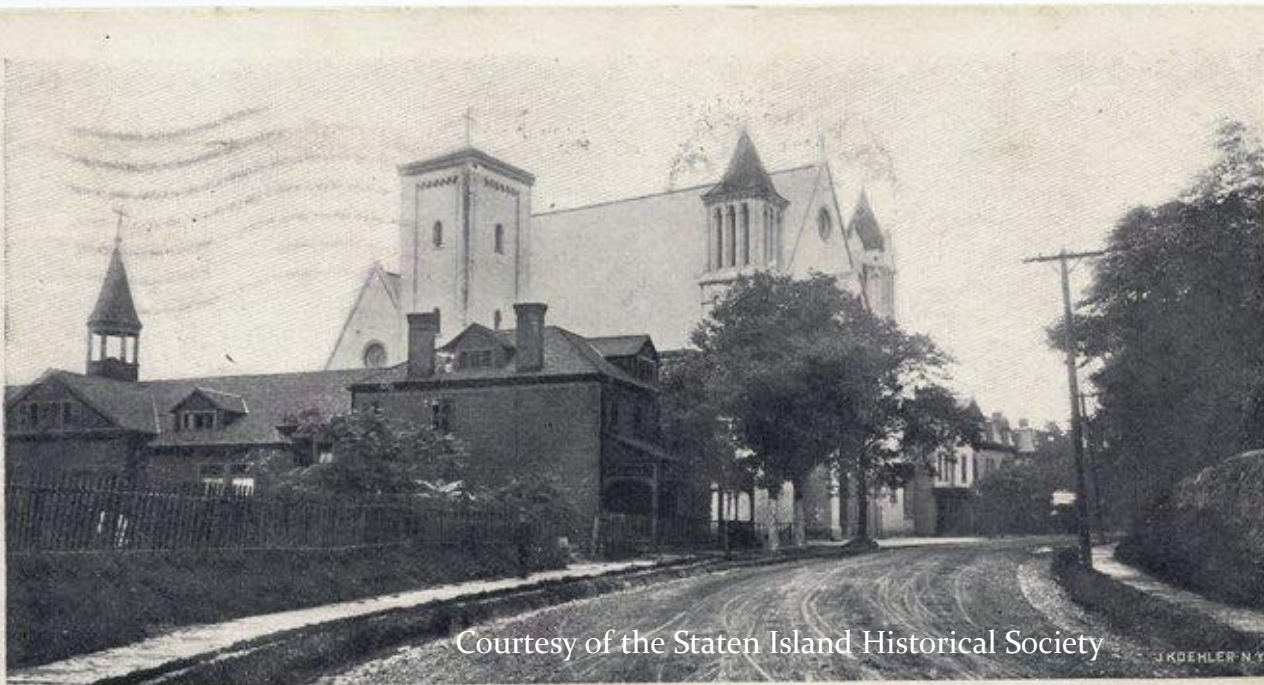


St. Peter's II



1905

No. 12—St. Peter's Church and Academy, New Brighton, S. I.



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

J. KOEHLER N. Y.

*This is the one you asked for
I think.*

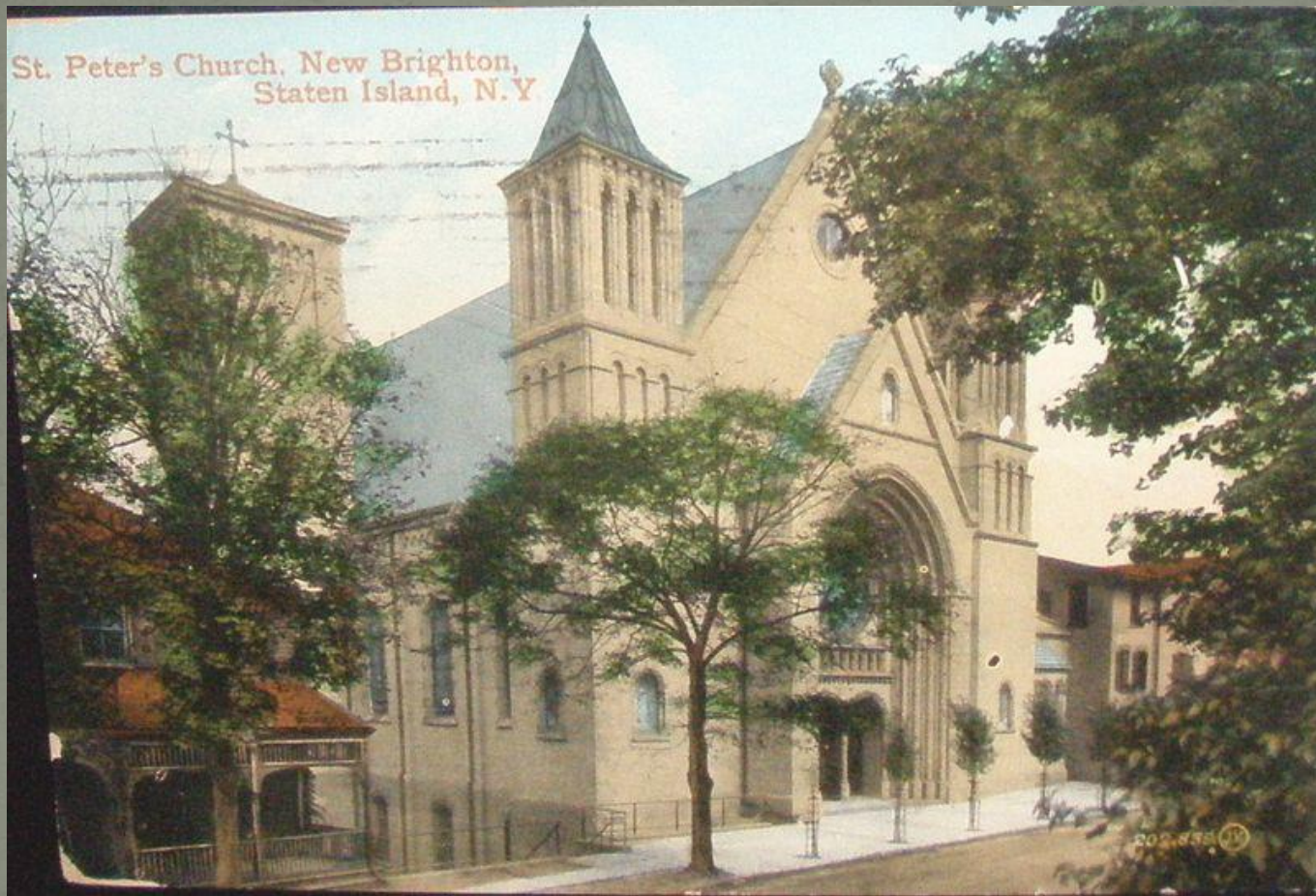
*v e e
" " b e*

C. 1910



The original rectory, dating from the Civil War era, stands to the right of the church, abutting the chapel.

C. 1910



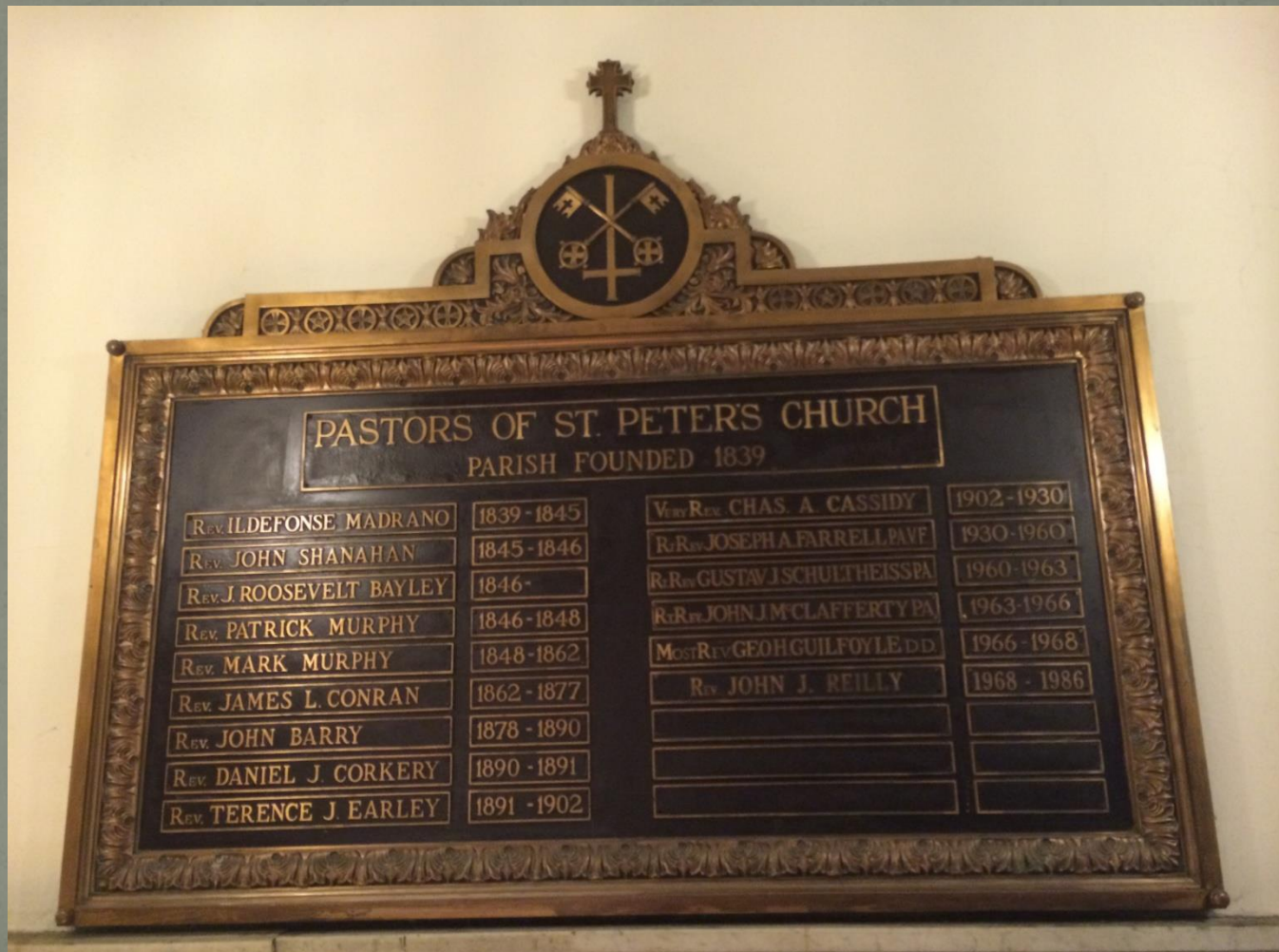
Post card dated July 15, 1915

2013



Robert Catalano

The Pastors



The Pastors

Rev. Ildefonso Madrano	1839-1845
Rev. John Shanahan	1845-1846
Most Rev. James Roosevelt Bayley	1846
Rev. Patrick Murphy	1846-1848
Rev. Mark Murphy	1848-1862
Rev. James L. Conran	1862-1877
Rev. John Barry	1878-1890
Rev. Daniel J. Corkery	1890-1891
Rev. Terence J. Earley	1891-1902
Very Rev. Msgr. Charles A. Cassidy	1902-1930
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Farrell	1930-1960
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gustav J. Schultheiss	1960-1963
Rev. Msgr. John M. McClafferty	1963-1966
Most Rev. George H. Guilfoyle	1966-1968
Rev. John J. Reilly	1968-1986
Rev. Msgr. James J. Dorney	1986-2013

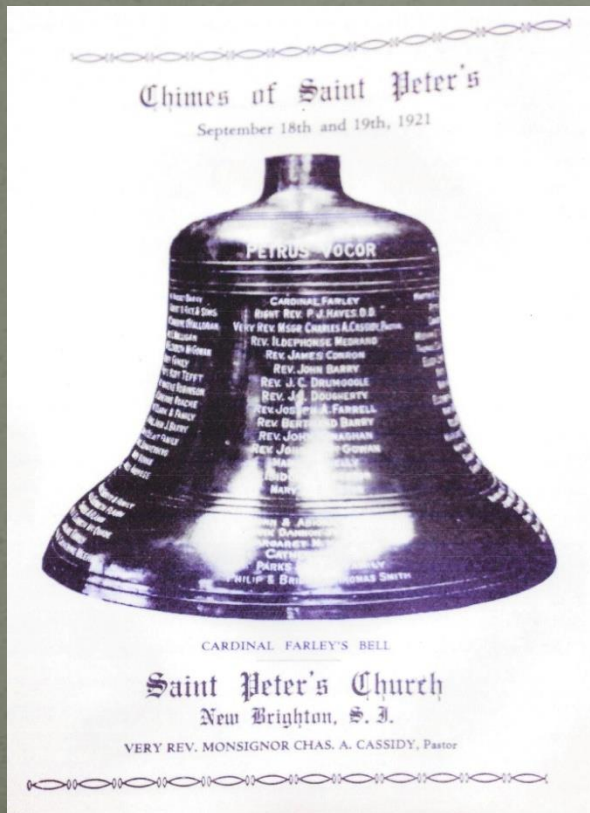
Not a Pastor, but . . .

An assistant at St. Peter's from 1870-1872, Father John Murphy Farrelly changed his last name to Farley and spent 16 years as archbishop of New York.



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

1920



CARDINAL FARLEY'S BELL

Saint Peter's Church
New Brighton, S. I.

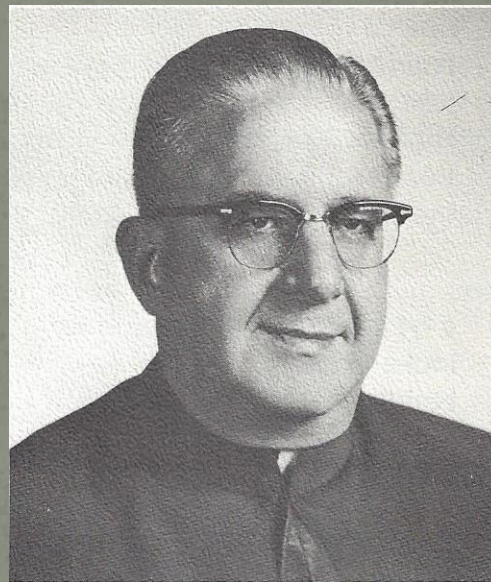
VERY REV. MONSIGNOR CHAS. A. CASSIDY, Pastor

- The iconic bell tower, known as the Cardinal's tower, was blessed by, and dedicated to, Cardinal Farley in 1914.
- The Cardinal's coat-of-arms, with the 15 tassels of his office, appear on the exterior of the tower.

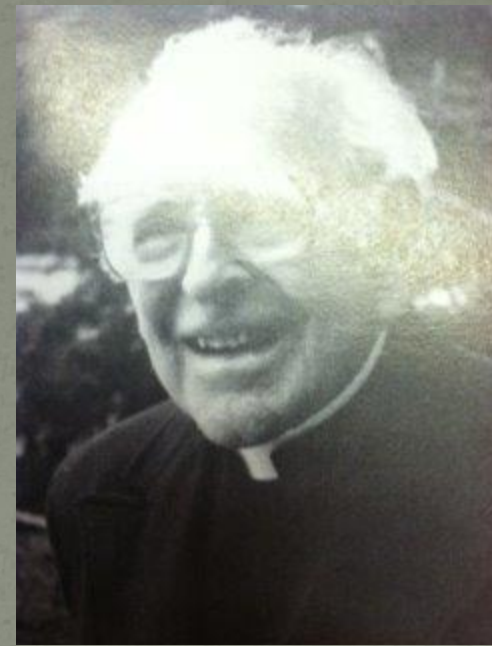
The Pastors: 1930-1966



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Farrell
1930-1960



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gustav J. Schultheiss
1960-1963

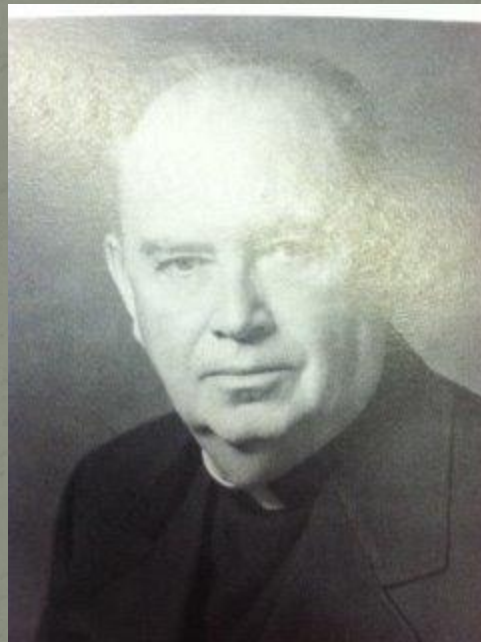


Msgr. John M. McClafferty
1963-1966

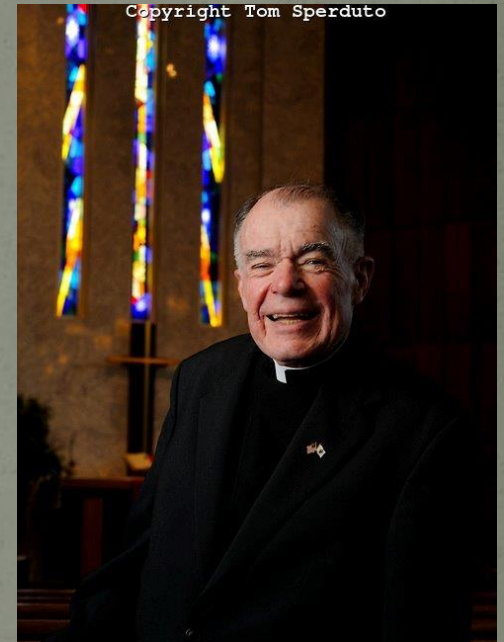
The Pastors: 1966-2013



Most Reverend George H. Guilfoyle
1966-1968



Rev. John J. Reilly
1968-1986



Msgr. James J. Dorney
1986-2013

A Pastor and a Pastor-to-Be



Msgr. John M. McCarthy and Fr. John J. Reilly

Msgr. James J. Dorney, Pastor Emeritus



Advance File Photo

The Progeny

Among other things . . .

- Father Madrano built a mission church in Perth Amboy, NJ in November 1845.
- Father Shanahan was transferred to Paterson, NJ, where he took charge of all Catholics in northern NJ.
- Father Bayley became the Archbishop of Baltimore, MD.
- Father Patrick Murphy established a mission church in Rossville, which his brother, Father Mark Murphy, developed into **St. Joseph**.
- Father Mark Murphy supervised the division of the parish when a new one was established at Clifton, called **St. Mary of the Assumption**.
- Father Conran built a church in West Brighton called St. Rose of Lima, which, when rebuilt in 1899, was renamed **Sacred Heart**.
- Father Earley supervised the detachment of the Eastern and Southern portions of the parish to become a new parish called **Our Lady of Good Counsel**.
- Father Cassidy spun off the west part of the parish to become the parish of **St. Paul**.
- Msgr. Farrell instituted the first all-male Catholic school on the North Shore (St. Peter's High School for Boys – 1941) and the first all-male Catholic school on the South Shore (to be named in his honor when it opened in 1962, two years after his death).

Where They Lived



The "Old" Rectory, 1910

Where They Lived



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

The "New" Rectory, 1912

Where They Live



The "New" Rectory 2008

Where They Lived

The “Old” Convent



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

For many years, the parish was served by the Sisters of Charity, who opened the parish's first school.

Liturgical Music: The Organs



The Organs – I/II

I. Original Church

Henry Erben
New York City (1850-c. 1895)
Mechanical action

The Erben organ probably burned with the church in the late 1890s.

II. “New” Church

Unknown Builder
(c. 1903-1925)

No details are available about the organ which preceded the 1925 M.P. Möller instrument, but the contract, dated May 20, 1925, states that Möller "agrees to dismantle present old organ in above church and erect it in the basement of said church free of charge."

The Organs - III

M.P. Möller, Inc.
Hagerstown, Md. – Opus 4414 (1925-c. 1962)
Electro-pneumatic action
4 manuals, 101 registers, 61 stops, 42 ranks

The impressive four-manual and pedal organ was built in 1925 by the M.P. Möller company at a cost of \$18,400. The Möller organ was installed in three areas of the church: in the west gallery are the Great, Choir, Swell, Solo and blower; in an arched gallery on the south wall of the nave is the Antiphonal Great, and the four-manual draw knob console; and in an arched gallery on the north wall of the nave is the Antiphonal Swell.

The Organs – IV/V

IV.

Allen Organ Company
Macungie, PA (c. 1962-2012)
Electronic tonal production
3 manuals

Installed when the 1925 Möller organ became unplayable.

V.

Allen Organ Company
Macungie, PA (2012-present)
"Protege" Model
Electronic tonal production
3 manuals

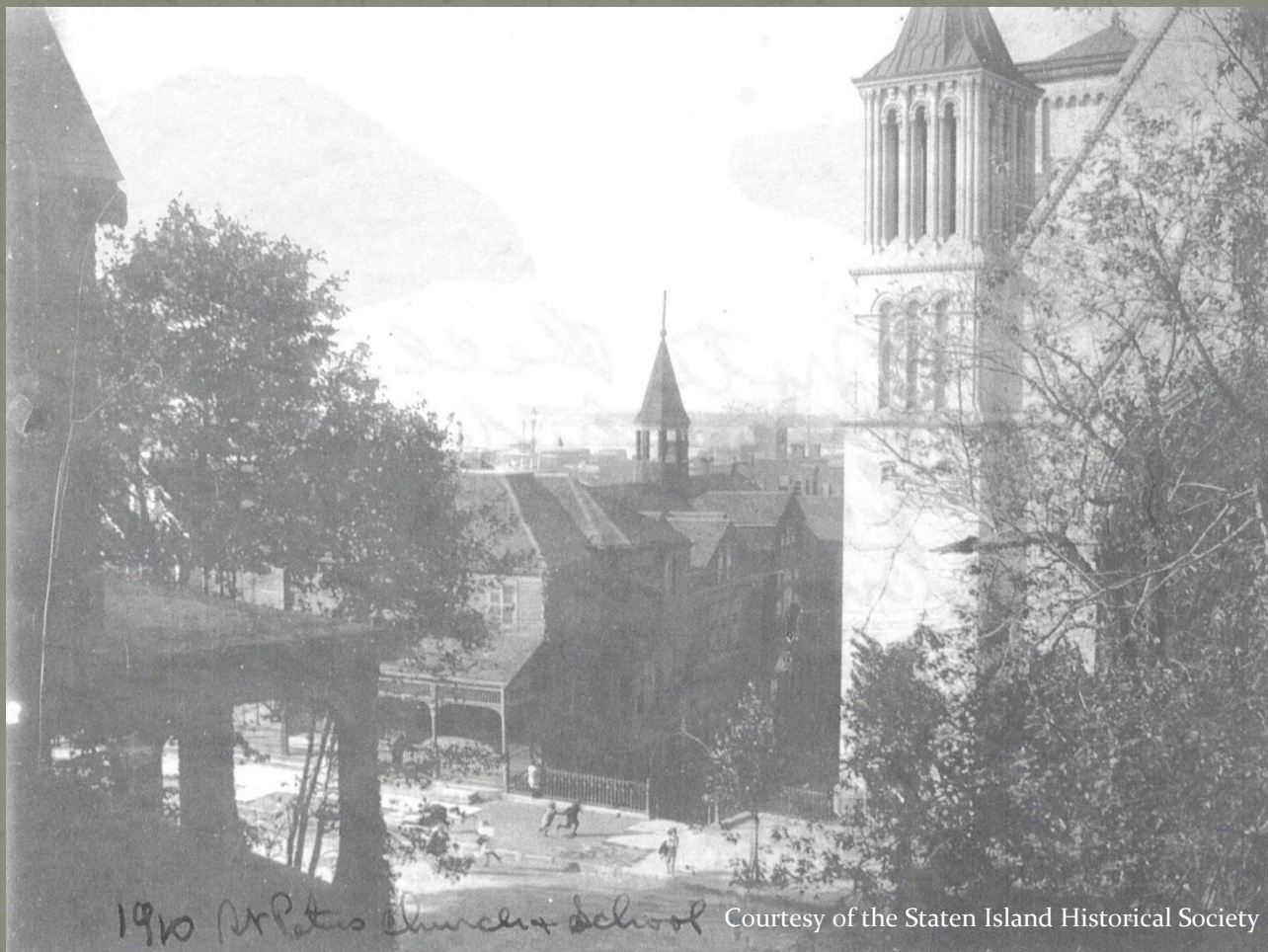
The Schools



The Schools



Where the Tradition Began



The Schools

John Cardinal Farley's passion was education and his contributions to Catholic education on all levels were legendary. This included, in 1915, the opening of the very first "central" Catholic High School at St. Peter's.

Nominally a parochial high school, St. Peter's was intended from the very beginning to serve all the Catholics on Staten Island who could not afford the private high schools.

St. Peter's High School for Boys



The former Nicholas Muller mansion (1857) became the residence of the Christian brothers who teach next door.



A Sign of Faith



St. Peter's High School for Girls



1928

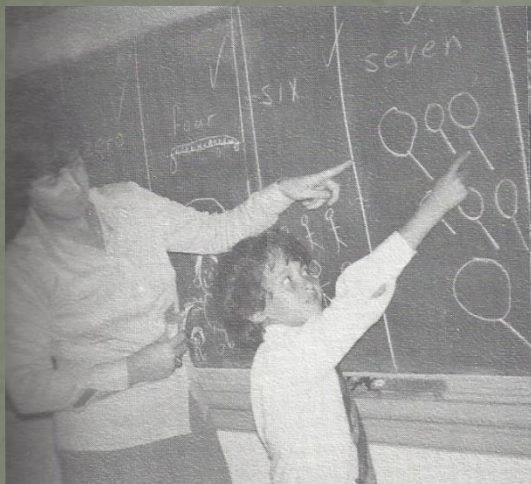
St. Peter's High School for Girls



St. Peter's High School for Girls



St. Peter's Elementary School



St. Peter's Elementary School



St. Peter-St. Paul Elementary School



The Cemetery



Instituted in 1848, St. Peter's Cemetery is the oldest Roman Catholic cemetery on Staten Island.



55 Civil War veterans and Vietnam War hero Father Vincent Capodanno are buried here.

In times of war...



In times of peace...



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

In the music. . .

St. Peter's Choir

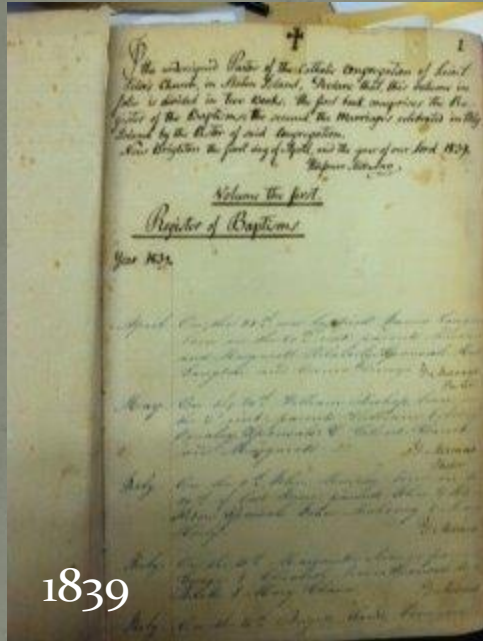


Richmond County Orchestra



Curtis Symphonic Band

In the Sacraments...



1839

First Baptism
April 28, 1839

James Langton

First Marriage
August 1, 1839

John Mahoney (24), "bachelor"
Margaritte Shanesy (22), "spinster"



In times of sadness...



Lisa Moudatsos
Principal, Elementary School
1964-2008



...and in times of joy,



In the spring time...

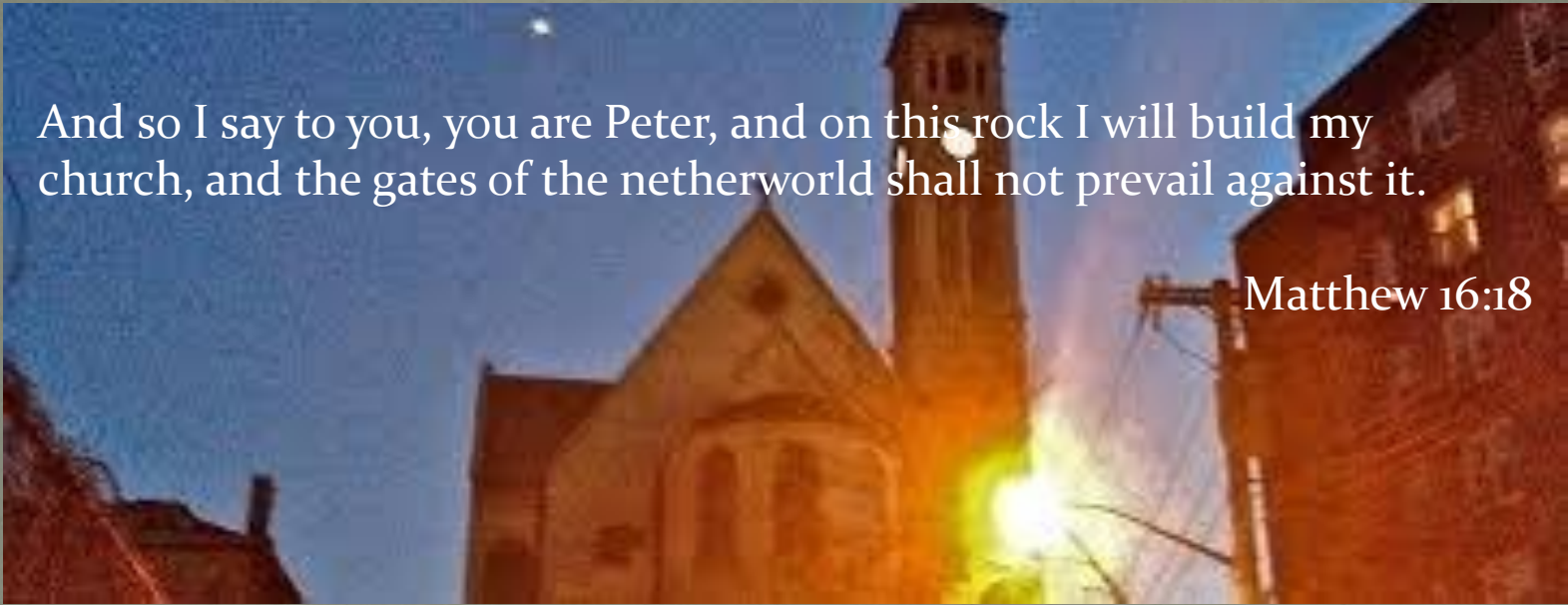


...and in the winter time



Courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

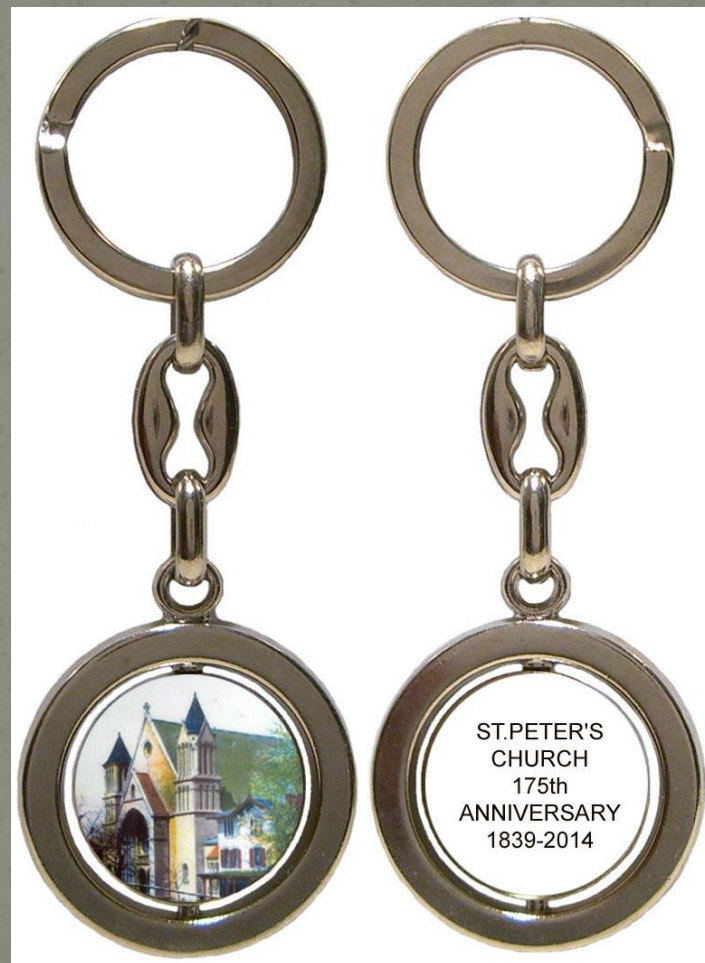
...for all time



And so I say to you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

Celebrating 175 Years



This reception brought to you in part by...



A St. Peter's Tradition:
Still Crazy After All These Years

Thank you doesn't say enough



We are particularly grateful to Brian Hall of Hall Monuments for his incredibly generous donation of the statue of St. Peter that now stands to the west of the Church, looking over the entrance to Farrell Hall. Blessed by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan on this date, this statue will remind us always of the devotion to the Rock upon which Christ built the Church, and of the spirit of love in which Mr. Hall bestowed upon us this tremendous work of art. Those reminders will live on as long as the Church of St. Peter stands on this site.

We are truly overwhelmed. Thank you!

-- The Parishioners of St. Peters