

History of St. Joseph's Parish

St. Joseph's Church: A Welcoming Community United in Prayer, Committed to Service, Rooted in Faith

In 1889, the Articles of Agreement were signed by Ebenezer Warner and four lots were transferred costing \$625, establishing the future site of St. Joseph's Parish. The parish was considered established in 1892, with the assignment of a first pastor, Reverend Joseph W. Treis. His responsibility included coverage for all of Pike County: Lackawaxen, Shohola, Milford, Parker's Glen, Mast Hope and Pond Eddy. In 1894, with a crowd of one-thousand in attendance, the cornerstone for St. Joseph's parish was consecrated. The dedication of the erected church followed in 1896.

In 1956, groundbreaking for the Holy Family Church of Mill Rift began, with dedication to follow in 1957, under the leadership of Reverend Raymond A. O'Neill.

In 1969, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for the new St. Joseph's Church. The church was completed in 1970, and dedicated by the Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., Bishop of Scranton. The Reverend Raymond O'Neill, pastor, and six hundred parishioners were in attendance.

In 1975, Reverend John J. Turi was assigned pastor of St. Joseph's parish coming to us from St. Joseph's Parish, White Mills. Among his many accomplishments was the construction of St. Joseph's Rectory in memory of Reverend Raymond A. O'Neill.

1992 brought the wonderful Centennial Celebration for St. Joseph's Parish, well attended by the Christian Community. Reverend John J. Turi retired in July 2004, having served our parish for twenty-nine years.

Reverend August A. Ricciardi (Father Gus) began his assignment as pastor of St. Joseph's in July 2004 and was transferred in 2013.

Reverend James J. Walsh, J.C.L., the current pastor, began his assignment on July 9, 2013. He has been a pastor of parishes prior to his arrival. This is his first experience of Pike Co. He wishes it had occurred long before now, but is pleased to be able to shepherd the wonderful people of the Church of Saint Joseph, Matamoras, PA.

Pastor's of St. Joseph's Parish -

Reverend Joseph Treis	1891 - 1906	Reverend Peter Lynott	1906 - 1918
Reverend C.A. McHugh	1918 - 1926	Reverend Edward Burke	1926 - 1943
Reverend Vincent Mahon	1943 - 1946	Reverend John Carroll	1946 - 1948
Reverend Raymond A. O'Neill	1948 - 1975	Reverend John J. Turi	1975 - 2004
Reverend August A. Ricciardi	2004 - 2013	Reverend James J. Walsh J.C.L.	2013 - 2015
Reverend Gregory W. Kelly	2015 - 2016	Reverend Alfred J. Vito	2016 - Present