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ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Celebration of a 160-year story

Anniversary Mass to be celebrated Aug. 6; day will include tours of church, rectory

Submitted by
Msgr. Michael Farmer

MOBILE — The history of St. Joseph Parish in Mobile began on May 31, 1857, when Bishop Michael Portier assigned the priests of the Society of Jesus at Spring Hill College with the care of erecting a church in the vicinity of the one and only hospital in the City of Mobile.

The first pastor was Fr. Peter Imsand, S.J. (1858-1880). The original church and the present church, which was dedicated on Aug. 4, 1908, have always been situated in the vicinity of Springhill Avenue and Broad Street. The cornerstone of the present church, dated Aug. 8, 1907, states “The church is built to the honor of St. Joseph of the Holy Family. Pope Pius X was the reigning Pontiff. Edward P. Allen was the Bishop of Mobile. Edward O’Connor, S.J. was the Provincial of the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus and Daniel I. Murphy, S.J. was Pastor of the church.”

St. Joseph’s School, now the site of Wings of Life Center, was built by Fr. Schuler, S.J. during his pastorate (1921-1926). From 2003-04 St. Joseph Church also served as the Pro-Cathedral until Cathedral renovations were completed on Ash Wednesday in 2004.

“These are only a few of the significant historical things about St. Joseph Parish. Probably what most people love the most are the beautiful stained glass windows, the reredos altar pieces and the Stations of the Cross,” stated Reverend Msgr. Michael L. Farmer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish.

Thus, Msgr. Farmer stated that as the 160-year story of St. Joseph Parish will conclude at the end of this year, the opportunity to celebrate its 160-year history is fitting to take place on Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017, only two days after the actual dedication of the present church building



ABOVE: Parishioners attend Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Mobile. A 160-year anniversary Mass will be celebrated at the parish at 9 a.m. Aug. 6.



LEFT: The exterior of St. Joseph Parish.

The Catholic Week file photos

documented in a variety of ways, will continue in the final months of the life of the parish.”

Although St. Joseph Parish will be closing in January 2018, the stained glass windows, reredos altar pieces, Stations of the Cross, pews and other sacred art of the parish will be preserved and integrated in totality in a new parish church at St. Ignatius Parish.

Aug. 4, 1908.

Msgr. Farmer stated the Mass and celebration on Aug. 6, beginning at the 9 a.m. Mass, will also include tours of the church and rectory and a celebratory lunch at a nearby restaurant. The members of St. Joseph Parish are inviting the faithful throughout the archdiocese, particularly those with a connection to the parish and the once-parish school, to attend this celebration of the completion of the 160-year story of St. Joseph Parish.

Msgr. Farmer stated: “Even though the parish story is coming to a completion, the artis-

tic beauty of the parish will be preserved for future generations in a parish church located in Mobile and the history of the parish, which has already been

Archdiocesan Clergy Deceased in August

1	Reverend Anthony Lima	1853
2	Reverend Ernest R. Hyndman	2011
6	Reverend James S. Downes	1948
10	Right Reverend Jeremiah O’Sullivan	1896
11	Reverend Monsignor James Edwin Coyle	1921
14	Reverend Edward J. Conlon	1962
	Reverend Peter McMahon	1962
15	Reverend Timothy J. Murphy	1867
18	Reverend Monsignor Robert W. Fulton	2013
19	Reverend Michael Keys	1941
21	Reverend Joffre Robichaud	1994
	Reverend Monsignor J. Edwin Stuardi	2003
22	Reverend John O’Sullivan	1950
	Reverend Paul I. Plouffe, SSE	2004
23	Reverend A. Dominic Gibbons	1870
	Reverend Monsignor Joseph G. McArdle	2000
24	Reverend James Howard	1978
27	Reverend Patrick S. Littleton	1976
28	Reverend David J. Kosky	1977
29	Reverend Monsignor John A. O’Hara	1989
	Reverend Monsignor Francis Vincent Cusack	2013
30	Reverend Monsignor Daniel A. Brady	1927
31	Reverend John W. Dunne	1922
	Deacon Duncan Turnbull	1995

Pray for Vocations

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