

# Sacred Heart

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## Church

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Riverton, N. J.



Sketch of the Church  
Commemorating its  
Silver Jubilee  
October Ninth  
Nineteen Hundred and Four



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## SKETCH OF SACRED HEART CHURCH.

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Compiled and Written by Rev. J. F. Hendrick.

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Prior to the year eighteen hundred and seventy-three the Catholics of Riverton and vicinity were accustomed to attend Mass at Riverside, Moorestown and Camden. Though summer sun or wintry blast could not prevent those sturdy old people from assisting at the Holy Sacrifice on Sunday, still the inconvenience of travel often turned their thoughts towards the hope and desire of one day having their own little house of worship which they could visit more often to pour forth their petitions and prayers of thanksgiving at the feet of Our Crucified Redeemer. This feeling it was that moved the Farleys, Burns's, O'Neils, McKeones and others to consult Rev. Peter Jacetti, then pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Riverside, and enlist his aid towards assembling the few Catholics of Riverton, with the view of building a church. The first meeting of these people was held in the house of Owen Farley, presided over by Rev. Father Anselm, O. M. C., who represented Father Jacetti. It was decided then to purchase a lot of ground. In 1874 Mass was celebrated for the first time, within what is now the borough of Riverton, at the house of Edward McKeon, which still stands on Main street. The altar boys on this occasion



RT. REV. JAMES A. McFAUL, D. D., L. L. D.,  
Bishop of The Diocese of Trenton.



were William Ryan and Patrick Burns, the latter now a resident of Philadelphia. From this time on Mass was said occasionally at the houses of Owen Farley, James O'Neill and Michael McDonald. During the time services were being held in private houses the parishioners were making every effort to collect funds for a church. It was at last arranged to purchase ground on Lippincott avenue, but when it became known that a Catholic church was to be erected on the site, some of the residents on that thoroughfare petitioned the owner not to sell his property for that purpose. In this trying time, however, there was one man, Mr. Lemuel Davis, a Presbyterian by faith, who did not share the opinion of his neighbors. Liberal in his views and deep in his practices of the Christian religion, this man asserted, "The more churches we have the better it is for the people." He came to the aid of these zealous Catholics, and what they could not purchase for money, he in the charity of his heart and the nobleness of his soul donated to them. His gift was a piece of ground on Fourth street, near Main, on which the first church was erected and which is now used as a kindergarten to the public school. Though five and twenty years have passed, and the priest who accepted his gift has gone to his eternal reward, we take this occasion to express our gratitude to Mr. Davis and to wish him length of days and happiness of years for this noble and Christian act.



REV. PETER JACETTI.



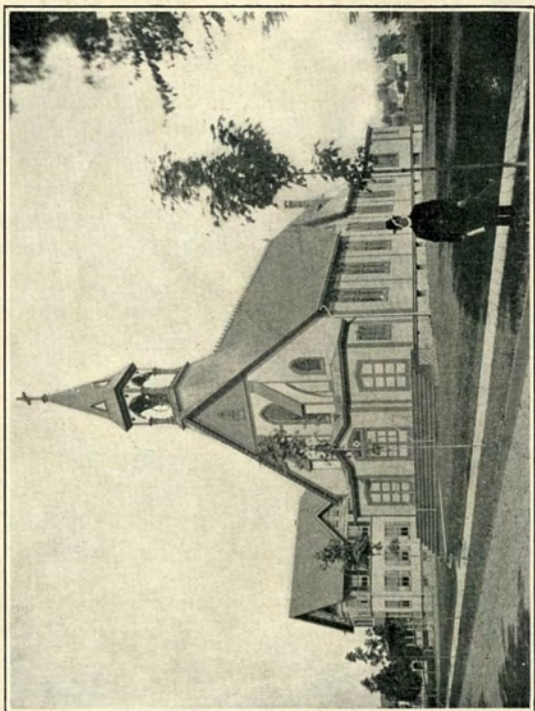
## HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

The corner stone of the first church was laid May 31, 1879, by the Rev. Peter Jacetti, O. M. C., who had charge of the mission. The edifice was dedicated to Divine worship on July 6th of the same year by Rt. Rev. M. A. Corrigan, Bishop of Newark, who afterwards became Archbishop of New York.

The Catholics of Riverton and vicinity attended Mass at this church until the erection of the present edifice. This mission was attended from time to time by the Franciscan Fathers, among whom were Revs. Peter Jacetti, Fr. Sharoun, Fr. Anselmn, Fr. Francis Lehner. Faithfully and loyally for nine years they attended to the spiritual wants of their flock with that zeal that has always characterized their lives.

About this time a number of young women came to live at Riverton, who took a great interest in the welfare of the church, among whom might be mentioned the Misses McCreeley, Mrs. Catherine McLyndon, Miss Lizzie Roe, Miss Margaret Harty.

The secular priests, under the guidance of our late and lamented Bishop O'Farrell, took charge of the mission in the person of Rev. James McKernan, February 26, 1888. Father McKernan at the time was pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Beverly, and attended Riverton every Sunday. Seeing that the edifice was becoming too small for the growing congregation, he resolved to purchase a plot of ground for a more commodious church building.



PRESENT CHURCH.

## LARGER EDIFICE BECOMES NECESSARY.

Father McKernan started a building fund and purchased the nicely located site of the present church, which is now conveniently attended by the Catholics of Riverton and Palmyra. In 1891 this zealous and pious man was transferred to the pastoral charge of St. Joseph's Church, Sea Isle City. After his transfer the parish was attended by Rev. Father Degnan, who died after three months' work here and in Beverly. He was succeeded by the Rev. John M. McCloskey, who took up with ready and willing heart the work so nobly begun by Father McKernan. Father McCloskey immediately had plans and specifications prepared for the proposed new edifice, having a seating capacity of five hundred, the corner stone of which was laid August 6, 1892, by the Rt. Rev. Michael O'Farrell, D. D, first Bishop of Trenton. It was dedicated August 20, 1893, by Bishop O'Farrell, the sermon on this occasion being preached by Very Rev. James A. McFaul, Vicar General, now the Rt. Rev. Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton.

Father McCloskey, like his predecessor, lived in Beverly, but said Mass in Riverton every Sunday. In 1894 Father McCloskey, whose name will ever be associated with the Sacred Heart Church, was promoted by Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul to the Chancellorship of the Diocese of Trenton, which position he filled with credit to himself and his Diocese until called to his eternal reward Oct. 1898. He was succeeded by Rev. M. J. Haggerty, D. D., who





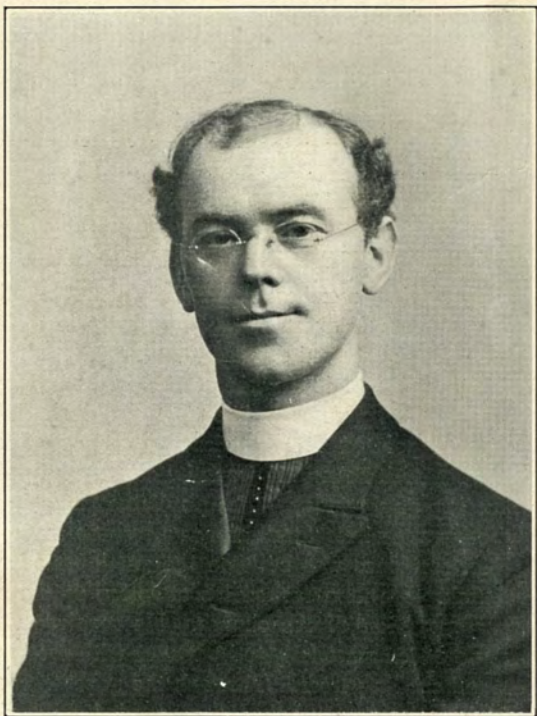
REV. J. M. McCLOSKEY.

attended the mission of Riverton for three months. In 1895 Rev. Simon B. Walsh was transferred from the curacy of St. Mary's Church, Gloucester, to the pastorate of St. Joseph's Church, Beverly, thereby succeeding Father Haggerty in charge of the mission of Riverton. For six years Father Walsh carried on the work of the mission and made great efforts to liquidate the debt. He was transferred from Beverly to St. Joseph's Church, High Bridge.



#### A RESIDENT RECTOR APPOINTED.

The increasing membership of the Riverton mission necessitated such frequent visits here of a priest that the Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul decided to separate it from Beverly and appoint to it a resident pastor. On May 28, 1891, Rev. J. F. Hendrick was transferred from Vine-land and appointed first resident pastor of Riverton. Father Hendrick began his work by collecting funds for the building of a rectory. The people responded generously to his appeal for funds and as a result a magnificent parochial residence was built on the north lot adjoining the church. He then turned his attention to the much-needed renovation of the church. He repaired the exterior and added materially to its beauty with pretty green lawns and shading trees. Through the generosity of the parishioners, who have always responded willingly, he was enabled to adorn the interior of the church with new



REV. J. F. HENDRICK.



and magnificent windows, beautiful stations of the cross, a grand pipe organ, frescoings, paintings and candelabra, making it now one of the most beautiful houses of worship in the Diocese of Trenton.



### CATHOLICS SHOULD REJOICE.

The Catholics and pastor of the Sacred Heart Church have reason on this day, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the parish, to feel justly proud of the work accomplished. Their petitions and prayers should go up to Almighty God that the good work shall grow with time and brighten with the ripening years.

"Not to us O Lord, not to us, but to thy Name give glory."



## PROGRAMME FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

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10.30, Solemn High Mass, . Celebrant, Rev. T. Rudden  
Deacon, Rev. J. W. Murphy.  
Sub Deacon, Rev. P. J. Hart.  
Assistants to Rt. Rev. Bishop,

Rev. J. Powers, Rev. J. A. Caulfield.

Jubilee Sermon, . . . Very Rev. Dean Mulligan  
Master of Ceremonies, Rev. W. J. McConnell.

Solemn Vespers, . . Celebrant, Rev. J. A. Caulfield.  
Deacon, Rev. P. J. Kelly.  
Sub Deacon, Rev. W. J. McConnell.

Sermon, . . . Rev. Joseph A. Egan.

Board of Trustees in this year (1904) are:

President, Rt. Rev. J. A. McFaul, D. D., LL. D.

Vice President, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Fox, V. G.

Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. J. F. Hendrick,

Rector.

Patrick C. Jordan,

John F. McDevitt.

Ushers,

Harry Bradshawe,

James J. Flynn,

Russel Holvick,

John McDevitt.

Sunday School Teachers,

Miss Margaret McCreeley,

Miss Ellen Holvick,

Miss Gertrude Denny,

Miss Alice Graham,

Miss Ann Ford.

Parish Organizations,  
Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
The Rosary Sodality,  
St. Aloysius,  
Holy Angels Sodality.



Donors of the New Stations of the Cross.

Mrs. Catherine Keating,  
Miss Catherine Brennan,  
Miss Sallie McCreeley,  
Mrs. Joseph Shaffer,  
Mr. John Holvick,  
Mrs. Helen Hylton,  
Miss Margaret McCreeley,  
Mrs. Mary McGillen,  
Mrs. James McIlvaine,  
Mr. John McDevitt,  
Mrs. Anne Mullin,  
Mrs. Catherine McLyndon,  
Miss Rose Rafferty,  
Rev. J. F. Hendrick.



### GIFTS.

Paintings of the Blessed Virgin and Saint Anthony.—  
Gift of Mrs. C. A. Haas.

Ornamental Sanctuary Bench.—Gift of Mrs. Joseph  
Shaffer.

Adoring Angels placed on Main Altar.—Gift of Mrs.  
Mary McGillen.

Lace Altar Clothes.—Gift of Mrs. George Strolein.

Roman Missal.—Gift of Miss McCreeley.

Gold Embroidered Benediction Cope, made in France.  
—Gift of Mrs. Helen Hylton.



