

THE ROAD TO 125

A Journey Through St. Benedict's History

1901 - 2026

The Foundation Era

Did you know? The Continental Coke Company donated land to St. Vincent for a church and a future school that became St Benedict.

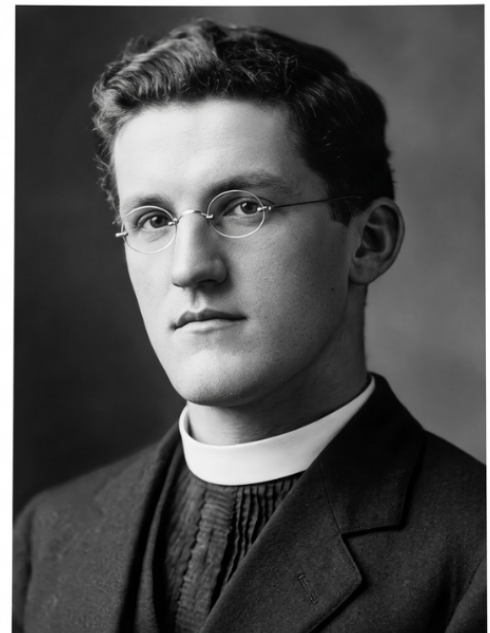
In early 1901, the Continental Coke Company donated land to St. Vincent for a church and future school. After an initial parish census and community fundraising, a Johnstown builder Mr. Christ Hornick and Sons was hired. Construction became a collaborative effort: parishioners volunteered labor, and local farmers hauled materials from Latrobe. By **fall 1901, the basement was finished and the cornerstone was laid.** At the suggestion of **Father Wenceslaus, the parish was named St. Benedict in honor of the Benedictine fathers serving it.**



1901 Corner Stone

The church structure was completed the following year, 1902. On September 14, 1908, Archabbot Leander Schnerr dedicated the building in a grand ceremony featuring a sermon in Slovak and Magyar by Father Adalbert Kasinzy. Although the interior initially lacked pews, forcing parishioners to kneel on the floor, St. Vincent provided vital support—including a beautiful main altar hand-carved by Brother Cosmas Wolf, O.S.B. With its dedication, St. Benedict officially became a mission church of St. Vincent Parish, securing a lasting foundation of regular worship.

The Coke Company deeded the property to the church shortly after, alongside an adjacent acre given to the Unity Township School Board, which the parish later purchased in 1907 for a Catholic school.



FATHER WENCESLAUS SHOLAR, O.S.B.
Founder and First Pastor
1901-1904