

THE ROAD TO 125

A Journey Through St Benedict's History 1901-2026

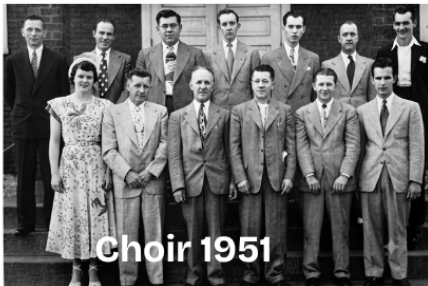
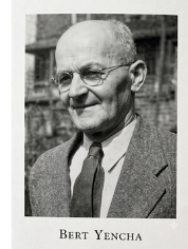
Can you guess the weight of the 1902 Tower Bell? Hint: Begin at over 200lbs.

Making a Joyful Noise - Music and Liturgy

Music Ministry

Over the past 125 years, our choir has been blessed with a dedicated lineage of directors and organists. Historical records from 1951 highlight the leadership of Bert Yencha (1927-1945), followed by Director Simon Kralik and Organist Theresa Forish. By 1976, Albert Magrey took over as Director alongside Organist Dolores Sass. Tim Kuhar, jokingly has said "he filled in" during the 1980's as Organist. Tim has faithfully served our parish for over 40 years and now is joined by Fred Aiello, our Coordinator of Liturgical Music.

While our organists have adapted to instruments of varying quality over the decades, a new chapter began in 2024. Thanks to a generous memorial gift from a parishioner, we were blessed with the installation of a state-of-the-art organ to carry our music ministry into the future.



Tower Bell

On July 15, 1902, St. Vincent Archabbey purchased St. Benedict's Bell from the McShane Bell Foundry for its mission church in Marguerite. Still in operation today, the foundry confirmed the bell's total weight at a formidable 419 pounds—requiring impressive strength from official bell ringer Tim Kuhar with every pull of the rope. As the original bell tower deteriorated over time, necessary repairs were made; the four original arched windows were replaced with more economically stable smaller windows on three sides.



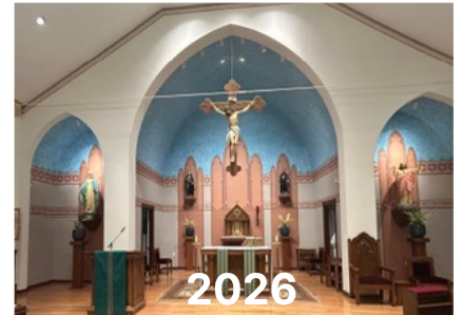
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1901 - 2026

Sanctuary Views at Major Anniversaries

Over the years, the sanctuary and its altar have undergone numerous revisions as times changed and successive pastors sought to revive and restore the space. Although comprehensive documentation of these dates is unavailable, the physical transformations mark key moments in the parish's history. A particularly significant shift occurred in 1969 with the release of the first edition of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. This document encouraged freestanding altars, allowing priests to face the congregation to foster deeper communal participation and ultimately reshaping standard sanctuary layouts.



Sacred Heart Statue

Over the years, St. Benedict Church has been home to two Sacred Heart of Jesus statues. On September 20, 1936, Rt. Rev. Archabbot Koch—a close friend of Fr. Maurus—unveiled and blessed a bronze statue during a service that dedicated the entire parish to the Sacred Heart. Sometime in the 1950s, the original bronze casting was replaced by the stone statue seen today. The reason for the swap remains a mystery, as no official documentation exists, though local tradition suggests the original bronze statue may have been donated to support the war effort.

