

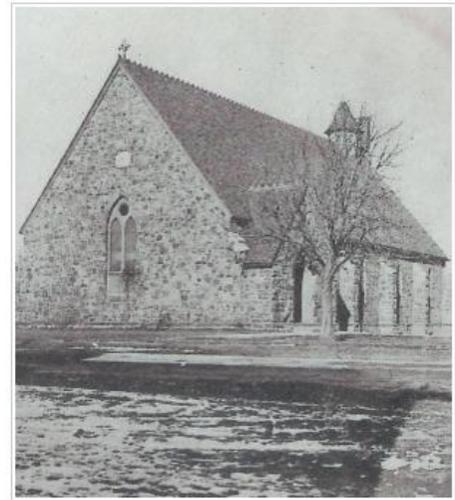
St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece Celebrates 150 Years

By [Admin](#) on March 24, 2015, [GreeceNewsNY.com](#)

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Parish in Greece. The Rev. John Maurice, a missionary priest from France, and 20 German, Dutch, and Irish families formed the original parish in a former tavern in 1865. The congregation built the stone church that still stands on Ridge Road in 1875, and moved to the modern James Johnson-designed church in 1964.

Several special programs are planned for the coming year including a Mass of Celebration and Gala Luncheon on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Rochester's Most Reverend Bishop Salvatore Matano will celebrate the 150th Anniversary Mass at 10 a.m. at St. John's Church, 2400 West Ridge Road. A buffet luncheon will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Plantation Party House, 1875 North Union Street, Spencerport. All current and former members of the parish, as well as members of the Greece and Rochester community are invited to this special celebration.

The luncheon will include the unveiling of the contents of the former St. John the Evangelist School cornerstone, which was saved when the school was demolished last fall. Reservations for the gala luncheon are required and due by April 30. Cost is \$25 per person. Checks can be made payable to: St. John the Evangelist Church, with "Anniversary Gala" in the check memo, and mailed to: St. John the Evangelist, 2400 West Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 14626. Please include the names of those attending and a contact phone number. Reservations can also be placed in the collection basket at Mass or dropped off at the parish office.



Stone Church: Parish grows ... Ten years after its founding, the parish had grown to 55 families. A new church, designed by Andrew Jackson Warner and constructed of Medina sandstone, was dedicated by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, first bishop of Rochester, on September 15, 1875. This church, which still stands on West Ridge Road across from Greece Ridge Mall, served the parish community for nearly 90 years.



Tavern: First place of worship ... In 1865, Rev. John Maurice, who was also responsible for building Our Mother of Sorrows church in Greece and founding Holy Cross parish in Charlotte, purchased the old Rowe Tavern on Ridge Road to be used as the first church for St. John the Evangelist. Twenty families, consisting mostly of German, Dutch, and Irish immigrant farmers and laborers, formed the original parish family. The building was later moved across the road and became the Falls Hotel.

In addition to the Mass of celebration and gala in May, during the month of April, St. John's is planning two free events that are open to the public. Parishioners and friends are welcome to bring their Easter baskets to church on Saturday, April 4 at noon for the Blessing of Easter Foods. In this traditional European custom, food that is blessed on Holy Saturday will be part of the Easter Sunday meal.

The parish is also planning an Afternoon of Sacred Hymns on Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m. in the church. This musical event will feature the heavenly voices of St. John's choir. Other choirs from the area have also been invited to perform hymns of their choice. Refreshments will follow.

Provided Information and Photos



Current Church: Sharing the past, envisioning the future ... Over the years the population of Greece and St. John's parish grew. The original 20 families of 1865 grew to 400 in 1949 and 1500 in 1959. In May 1963, ground breaking ceremonies were held for a new church building, designed by Rochester architect James Johnson. The first mass in the new church was held fifty years ago in November 1964. Photo by Bill Sauers