

Parish History

June 26, 1985, Bishop Robert E. Mulvee appointed Father Richard Gardiner as the founding Pastor of the parish, assigning both Saint Luke's Church and Saint Andrew's Church as the second Catholic Parish in Ocean City. Previously both Churches were part of Saint Mary Star of the Sea/Holy Savior Parish. Father Gardiner became Pastor of 558 families until his death in 1989.

Father Leonard Blakely was assigned to assist Father Gardiner and was administrator until the appointment of Father Byrolly. During this time plans were refined and began to take shape for needed expansion. Father Blakely remained as Associate Pastor until 1994.

Father Bruce Byrolly succeeded Father Gardiner becoming the second Pastor serving until June 1991. During this period, the number of families had increased by 96% to a total of 1,044 families. The increase had been seen by Father Gardiner before his death and so seeds were planted early on the construction of a third church in the Ocean Pines area.

In June 1991, Bishop Mulvee appointed Father William J. Porter as Pastor. Father Porter remained as Pastor until June 2003. During Father Porter's time he was assisted by Father Patrick O'Neill (1995-1999) and Father Joseph Piekarski (1998-2001). Following Father Porter's arrival plans for the construction of administrative offices, a fully equipped kitchen facility, and a Religious Education Center on the property of Saint Andrew's as well as the new Saint John Neumann Church and Religious Education Center in Ocean Pines began. On October 17, 1993, the Saint Andrew's segment of construction was Blessed by Bishop Mulvee.

On January 5, 1995, Bishop Mulvee returned for the dedication Mass of Saint John Neumann Church and Religious Education Center.

In June 2000, Bishop Saltarelli appointed Father Edward J. Fahey, Jr. as Associate Pastor. He remained Associate Pastor until June 2007.

In June 2002, Bishop Saltarelli appointed Father Raymond F. Weisman as associate pastor. In June 2003 Father Raymond F. Weisman was appointed Pastor and Father Thomas J. Protack as associate pastor.

In November of 2005, Bishop Saltarelli, appointed Father Thomas J. Protack as administrator of our parish. In December the same year, Father John Kavanaugh was assigned as associate pastor. Father Kavanaugh has officially retired, but still assists when needed. In June of 2006, Father Richard Smith was appointed as associate pastor. On October 1, 2006 Bishop Saltarelli appointed Father Thomas J. Protack as the fifth pastor of Saint Luke - Saint Andrew and Saint John Neumann Parish.

On October 7, 2007, Bishop Saltarelli appointed Father Christopher LaBarge as the sixth Pastor of St. Luke- St. Andrew. St. John Neumann in Berlin officially became its own parish.

Saint Luke's is open year-round while Saint Andrew's is open as a Church for the summer season. During the winter months Saint Andrew's serves as our social center for various events including dinners, socials, holiday parties, meetings, and rentals. These events are all part of our parish social activities.

During the summer season, we are able to offer 10 Masses each weekend between St. Luke and St. Andrew to help accommodate the spiritual needs of the parishioners and those who visit with our community while on vacation.

Presently our parish of St. Luke is home to 983 families.

Father Chris La Barge, Pastor, assisted by a dedicated staff and many, many volunteers shepherd the flock of Christ here in Ocean City and lower Delaware.