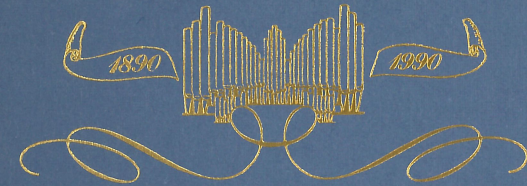




ST. BRIGID 100



*Celebrating 100 Years at
Baxter and Hepburn*

With prayerful gratitude to the priests, sisters, teachers and parishioners of St. Brigid Church for their loving service during the past 117 years, this revised history of the parish is joyfully dedicated.

The Author



*A history of
St. Brigid Church,
from 1873 to 1990,
was written by
Sister Marita Riede,
S.C.N.-M.A.*

St. Bridget's Parish was established by Most Rev. Wm. G. McCloskey in September, 1873. Rev. James B. Ryan was the first pastor. He was assisted by Rev. Wm. Bourke. The original site of the church was on the East side of Baxter Avenue between Payne and Roger Streets. The small frame building was blessed and ready for use on Sunday, October 19, 1873. Research at the Jefferson County Courthouse led to the original deed transferring the property on Baxter Avenue from Bishop McCloskey to a Mr. Joseph Siemer. It is thought that the original St. Brigid Church is the structure at what is now 604 Bishop Street, but there is no mention of the building on the deed.

In November, 1874, Reverend John Creary was appointed pastor to replace Father Ryan who resigned his pastorate to join the Paulist Fathers in New York. It was under Fr. Creary that a school was started in the church building. The sanctuary was separated from the school by a green curtain with kneelers and pews serving as desks. Two Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Sr. Blanche Traynor and Sr. Alma Carron were assigned as teachers. They resided at St. Vincent's Asylum on Jefferson Street. These two Sisters taught from 1874-75. In 1875 the Sisters of Charity were withdrawn and were succeeded by the Sisters of Loretto. These Sisters taught until 1886. Dominican Sisters from St. Catharine's near Springfield replaced the Sisters of Loretto and taught in the school 1886-87 when they also left.

In August, 1887, Rev. Henry Connelly replaced Fr. Creary as pastor. It was he who changed the spelling of "St. Bridget" to the present spelling of "St. Brigid". Fr. Connelly also succeeded in again procuring the services of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth to teach in the school. These Sisters continued to teach in the school until 1969. Sr. Josetta Hough was Superior and Principal of the school. She was assisted by Srs. Austina Brown, Kostka Stafford and Mary Flaget Shannon. These Sisters resided in the parish at first but later moved to St. Vincent's Asylum (Orphanage). They remained living at the orphanage until St. Helena's Convent was opened in 1895 when they moved there. In 1926 a convent was opened at the rear of the school and the Sisters took up residence there. In February, 1928, a larger convent was opened on Hepburn Avenue beside the new school.

Architect:

Cornelius A. Curtin

Date Erected:

1912-13

Design: *French*

*Renaissance of
mid-19th Century*

The Sisters of Charity continued to live there until 1974 when they moved to 938 Eastern Parkway. The former convent building was sold and is no longer part of the parish plant.

It was during the pastorate of Fr. Connelly that the site of the parish was changed to its present location at the corner of Baxter and Hepburn Avenues. The "new" St. Brigid Church was dedicated on Sunday, November 30, 1890, by Rt. Rev. Wm. G. McCloskey. It was a two story red brick building facing Baxter Avenue. It stood where the parking lot is today. The church was on the first floor and the school was on the second floor. It was not until 1895 that Fr. Connelly was able to state that he had a home consisting of six rooms "to the rear of the church".

On February 22, 1901, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference was established at St. Brigid's with an enrollment of 22 members. The Conference is still in existence at St. Brigid today.

On June 20, 1909, Rev. Emmet B. Kennedy offered his First Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid. He was a native of Louisville and formerly belonged to St. Brigid parish.

In May, 1909, Rev. Herman Jansen of St. Francis de Sales Church in Paducah was transferred to St. Brigid as pastor, and Fr. Connelly was sent to Paducah. It was during the pastorate of Fr. Jansen that the present church and rectory were built. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on Sunday, July 28, 1912, with Rt. Rev. Denis O'Donoghue, D.D. officiating. The sermon on that occasion was preached by Rev. George Schuhmann, pastor of St. John Church. The church was dedicated on October 5, 1913, by the Vicar General, Very Rev. James P. Cronin (in the absence of the Bishop who was administering Confirmation in Paducah). The sermon was preached by Rev. George P. Raffo. Fr. Jansen was celebrant of the First Mass offered in the new church. He was assisted by Fr. Crassey of St. Cecilia's Church and Father Emmet Kennedy, son of the parish.



Dimensions:

Exterior 69' x 125'

Interior Nave

38' x 123'

Aisles 13'6" x 103'

It was also in 1909 that Sister Mary Leander Eiting began her fourteen years as Principal of St. Brigid School. Sister was a far-sighted educator who exerted a strong influence on the lives of her students and their families. One thing for which Sister is especially remembered is that she was the guiding force in having the Parent Teacher Association established in Louisville. This she did by having the first P.T.A. Unit in the city established at St. Brigid in October, 1917. She later saw the need of uniting school units into a Central League in 1926. In 1923, Sister Mary Leander was made Superior at St. Helena's Commercial College. Sister Leontia Wilson was named Principal of St. Brigid School. In 1926, when the Sisters took up residence in the convent, Sr. Leontia was named first Superior.

On July 2, 1914, the school commencement was held in Church after the ten o'clock Mass. The enrollment in the school had grown from 45 pupils in 1912 to 175 pupils in 1914, so a fourth teacher was added to the faculty.

An inaugural organ recital was given on the new Pilcher organ on August 26, 1917, by Mr. Arthur C. Becker, organist at St. Brigid.

The Record for May 2, 1918, carried an article stating that a new residence for the pastor was in the process of being erected and that the Men's Society will host a social entertainment to help defray the expenses.



The Record for February 28, 1920, gave an account of the activity of the Boy Scouts Troop 55 in the parish. A total of 45 scouts were present for the meeting.

On May 30, 1920, Rev. Maurus Ohligschlager, O.S.B. offered his First Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Ohligschlager.

Rev. Anthony Maloney, C.P. offered his First Solemn High Mass on December 25, 1923. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maloney. (Father Maloney labored as a missionary in China for many years.)

Father Jansen died on August 6, 1924, after serving as pastor at St. Brigid for fifteen years. Rev. James H. Willett was administrator of the parish until the appointment of Rev. John S. Henry as pastor on April 9, 1925. It was while Fr. Willett was at St. Brigid that the Holy Name Society was inaugurated in the parish. Fr. Willett went to Hopkinsville, Ky. when Fr. Henry came as pastor.

Rev. Herbert Tillman, C.P. was ordained to the holy priesthood on February 1, 1925. He celebrated his First Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid Church on February 8, 1925. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Tillman.

In the Record of April 23, 1925, and June 25, 1925, accounts are given of the spelling prowess of Frank Neuhauser, age 11, Grade 7, who brought fame and renown to St. Brigid by winning the State and National Spelling Championships. In Washington, he defeated eight district champions representing two million school children. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Neuhauser on Christy Avenue. When Frank returned to Louisville, he was honored by a parade from the railroad station to his home. He was also given a reception at the K. of C. Auditorium and a scholarship to St. Xavier High School.

On January 8, 1928, Rev. Joseph Bean, O.S.B. offered his second Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid. He had offered his first Solemn High Mass in Paducah where he lived before his parents moved to Louisville six years ago.

Seating
Capacity:
(Including Gallery)
920 Leaving
Space for Choir

On February 1, 1928, the Sisters moved to a new residence at 1514 Hepburn Avenue, next to the new school. The new school was blessed by Archbishop Floersh on Sunday, February 9, 1928. Interestingly enough, the sermon on that occasion was given by Rev. Richard Maloney of Owensboro who was destined to replace Father Henry as pastor after his death.

Due to increased enrollment in the school, in 1929 Miss Rosetta Lutkemeier was employed as a lay teacher in the school which had been totally staffed by Sisters. She continued teaching at St. Brigid for four years, when she returned to teaching in the Public School System.

On May 17, 1931, Rev. A. Gerard Lutkemeier, C.P.P.S. offered his first Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid. His family moved to Louisville from Frankfort several years ago. He has two older brothers who are also priests belonging to the Society of the Most Precious Blood. They are Rev. Joseph and Camillus Lutkemeier.

Rev. Joseph Egan was appointed the first assistant priest at St. Brigid in June, 1931. The Sabrid Club for young people was started under his direction. One of their activities was a play entitled "It Happened in Hollywood" given in the school auditorium on February 13 and 14, 1934.

In March of 1932 the boys of St. Brigid Basketball Team won the championship of the city for the parochial schools by defeating the team from St. Benedict School by a score of 23 to 11. At the annual track meet St. Brigid's team lost first place by only five-eighths of a point.

Father Henry died on September 22, 1934 after serving nine years as pastor. Fr. Egan was



Architectural

Description:
Typical basilican plan. Nave leads to apex with main altar. Large pillars line sides of church between magnificent, arched stained glass windows.

administrator of the parish until the appointment of his successor. Rev. Richard Hommrich was appointed as assistant on October 22, 1934. Reverend Richard Maloney came as pastor in May, 1935.

Rev. William Griesbaum offered his first Solemn High Mass on Sunday, June 7, 1936. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Griesbaum and had attended St. Brigid School.

During the Flood of 1937 victims were housed in the church and school. Hot meals were served to these people and others being housed in the neighborhood. Food supplies were distributed to as many as 1,600 persons a day as reported in the Record for Feb. 11, 1937. There was also a Red Cross Clinic with two doctors, nurses and a dentist in attendance. Inoculations were given against typhoid.

In April of 1938 Ann LaFollette, an 11-year-old student at St. Brigid won the Spelling Contest for Parochial Schools of Louisville. She spelled for two and a half hours and was the runner-up for the State Championship.

A parish mission was given by two Paulist priests, Rev. James Cunningham and Rev. McMahon, in November, 1939.

During the summer vacation of 1940, Father Maloney and Father Hommrich lived in the school basement while the rectory was being remodeled. Several more rooms were added to the Rectory at this time.

In October of 1940 the weekly novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was begun at St. Brigid. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the entrance of the United States into World War II, the popularity and attendance at these novena devotions increased. The U.S. flag was prominently displayed beside the altar dedicated to Mary, Patroness of the U.S. In subsequent years, attendance at these devotions declined and the novena was finally discontinued.

Rev. Bernard Boone was appointed assistant pastor in September, 1941.

Side aisles have rib vaults. Semi-circular windows are in upper nave.

Five young men of the parish were ordained priests as members of the Franciscan order within a five year period. Three of these belonged to the same family. They are: Rev. Juvenal Pfalzer ordained in June, 1942; Rev. Miles Pfalzer and Rev. Roman Pfalzer in June, 1947; Rev. Mark Sandford, June, 1943; and Rev. Caron Justus Vollmer, June, 1947. All of these men had attended St. Brigid School and offered their First Solemn High Masses at St. Brigid except Fr. Vollmer whose family had moved to Holy Family parish and he had his first Mass there.

In November 1943, trees in the playground were uprooted and the ground was leveled in connection with asphaltting the area.

The Assistant Pastor at St. Brigid was asked to serve as Chaplain at the Highlands Baptist Hospital on Barret Avenue on December 3, 1949. This service was maintained until the hospital was closed.

In October, 1950, Fr. Boone was appointed Assistant at Mother of Sorrows Church. Rev. Chester Bowling, professor at Bellarmine College, replaced him at St. Brigid.

On December 23, 1950, Rev. Cletus Dollinger was ordained at the Trappist Monastery in Utah. He had attended St. Brigid School.

In July, 1951, Rev. Norbert Deddens was appointed Assistant to replace Fr. Bowling.

On June 8, 1952, Rev. Clifford Riede offered his First Solemn Mass at St. Brigid. On May 9, 1954, Rev. Robert Dollinger offered his First Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid. Both of these priests had graduated from St. Brigid School.

*Basilican:
like a basilica or
large oblong
building,
expecially a
church with a
nave higher than
its aisles.*

On November 8, 1955, WHAS presented a television program entitled "Inside Our Schools" St. Brigid was selected to represent the Catholic schools. The Sisters and students did well and were a credit to the Catholic school system.

During the week of May 7, 1957, Msgr. Richard Maloney and the parish joined in celebrating the joyful occasion of his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

A new boiler was installed in the church on September 16, 1958. This replaced the original boiler of 1913.

An interesting ceremony at St. Brigid on October 18, 1958, was the wedding of two deaf mutes, Shirley Thompson and Richard Chrisman. The words were "signed" by Rev. Gerald Timmel.

Beginning in the late "fifties" there was something of an exodus to the suburbs with a consequent dwindling of families in the neighborhood around St. Brigid Church. Membership in the parish declined. It has only been in the last ten or fifteen years that the population trend has shifted and there are now new and young families moving back into the area.

*Completed:
At a cost of
\$50,000.*



On March 7, 1964, the Sisters of Charity changed their headdress from the white bonnet modelled on the Kentucky sunbonnet to a simple starched white crescent and a short black veil. This made ironing much easier but many were sorry to see the simple white caps become an item of the past.

Msgr. Richard Maloney died on December 5, 1965, after a pastorate which spanned a period of over thirty years. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Brigid by Most Rev. John A. Floersh.

Rev. Thomas Medley was administrator until the appointment of Rev. C. Vincent Tompkins as pastor in 1966.

On June 23, 1966, Rev. Dan Driscoll was ordained a Maryknoll priest. He offered his First Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid on June 26, 1966. Rev. Donald Springman was ordained to the priesthood on May 20, 1967. He offered his First Solemn High Mass at St. Brigid on May 21, 1967. Both of these priests had graduated from St. Brigid School.

Rev. Alex Kotheimer succeeded Fr. Tompkins as pastor in 1968.

The church bells were automated in September, 1968. At that time there was some renovation of the church, including the floor, pews and kneelers.

Msgr. Joseph Wheatley succeeded Father Kotheimer in 1969. Rev. Bernard Boone replaced Msgr. Wheatley as pastor in 1971. Father Medley was replaced as an Assistant by Fr. George P. Craycroft who remained at St. Brigid from 1970-1980.

For many years St. Brigid was the model school for young teachers studying at Nazareth (Spalding) College. Many beginning teachers observed and taught in the school under the tutelage of experienced and degreed teachers who made up the faculty. This was true also of the singing classes. Sister Cecilia Howley, S.C.N. Community Music Supervisor, used St. Brigid students to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Justine Ward Singing Method of teaching students to sing.

The Sisters of Charity discontinued teaching at St. Brigid in 1969. It was the first time since 1873 that the school was staffed by an all lay faculty, including the



Principal. The school continued in operation until 1973 when it was closed. After the closing of the school, the children of grade school age were sent to neighboring St. Therese School.

The school building was vacant 1973-74.

In 1974, it was rented and remodeled for use by the DePaul School for children with dyslexia. The DePaul School moved to a larger school on Duker Avenue in 1977. Again the building was vacant for a year 1977-78. In August, 1978, the Catholic School Athletic Association, formerly at St. John's School, moved to the school basement. The Catholic School Office moved to the upper floors of the school building in 1978 and is still using the facility. In September, 1987, the Catholic School Athletic Office moved to the Austin Building on Goldsmith Lane since the Catholic School Office needed more space in the building.

In February, 1976, Sr. Marita Riede, S.C.N. became part of the parish staff on a part-time basis to assist in the ministry to the sick and elderly as well as to provide religious instruction for young people not attending Catholic schools.

In June, 1981, Father Boone celebrated the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. A reception in his honor was held in the lower level of the church.

In December, 1982, Fr. Boone became ill and underwent surgery. During his convalescence, Rev. Wm. Griesbaum who was retired and living in the parish replaced Fr. Boone. He was assisted by Rev. Joseph Lutkemeier who is also retired and living in the parish. Due to his illness, Fr. Boone resigned his pastorate in 1983. He was succeeded by Rev. Clifford Riede in June, 1983. Fr. Riede is a native of St. Brigid parish since he was baptized, confirmed and graduated from St. Brigid School. He had also offered his First Mass here in 1952.

The first Flea Market at St. Brigid was held on September 17, 1983. This has become an annual event serving as a parish and neighborhood activity.

An updating of the census of the parish was begun in October, 1983.

**Cornerstone:
Laid July 28, 1912**

Fr. Boone died on October 10, 1983, at Highlands Baptist Hospital. His funeral was held at St. Brigid on October 14, 1983. Fr. Griesbaum suffered a heart attack and died on his way to Fr. Boone's funeral. A Mass was offered for him at St. Brigid before his remains were taken to St. Matthias Church, which parish he had founded, for the funeral.

Msgr. Anthony Gerst was Senior-Associate from September, 1983 until September, 1987. At that time he had to go to Nazareth Home for nursing care. He died there on January 10, 1989. He was buried from Our Lady of Lourdes Church, which parish he had founded.

After the departure of Msgr. Gerst, Fr. Riede arranged for the services of the Passionist Fathers at Sacred Heart Retreat to assist with daily and Sunday Masses. This plan is still in effect.

A parish mission was given at St. Brigid December 3-8, 1983. This was conducted by Rev. William Browning, C.P. This is continuing many years of parish association with the Passionist Fathers. The preceding parish renewal had been given by Rev. J.J. Jurasko, O.P. in March, 1981.

On Sunday, June 3, 1984, Mr. Harry J. Gelthaus was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Thomas Kelly at the 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Brigid. He was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Assumption on May 25, 1985.

Permission for needed repairs on the church, rectory, and school buildings was received from the Chancery Office in November 1984. This included construction of a Reconciliation Room and lavatories in the rear of the church as well as an emergency exit from the lower level of the church. Work was begun immediately.

In June, 1985, the St. Brigid Choir was reinstated under the capable leadership of Mr. Joseph Emrich. The first anniversary of its "renewed life" was observed on Saturday, April 26, 1986, with a concert by the Master-piece Brass Quintet before the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

In October, 1985, the parish sponsored an all-day bus trip to Brown County, Indiana, to view and enjoy the Fall foliage. This has become an annual event.



Beginning in the Fall of 1986, the parish participated in the Renew Program for spiritual renewal which continued through the Fall of 1988. This was a period of growth in the knowledge of the Catholic Faith with special emphasis on Scripture study.

Beginning in January, 1987, the restoration of the interior of the church by the Conrad Schmitt Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, began. During this period daily Masses were offered in the lower level of the church. Sunday Masses were offered in church, despite the scaffolding. Most funerals during the restoration were held at St. Aloysius Church on Payne Street. As a historical note, St. Aloysius parish was founded in 1890 by those parishioners who chose to remain in that area when the majority of St. Brigid parishioners moved to Baxter and Hepburn.

In January, 1987, a Friendship Club was formed to meet in the lower level of the church on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This group continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month.

Dedication:

October 5, 1913

Assembly Room:

Lower Level -

85' long x 31' wide

On Sunday, May 3, 1987, the parish celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the present restored church. Archbishop Kelly celebrated Mass at 11:00 a.m. After Mass a reception was held in the lower level of the church.

On Saturday, November 14, 1987, Mr. Larry Gelthaus, the twin brother of Fr. Harry Gelthaus, was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Kelly at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Deacon Larry was ordained a priest at the Cathedral on May 28, 1988. He celebrated his First Mass at St. Brigid on Sunday, May 29, 1988. A reception in the lower level of the Church was held immediately after Mass.

The World Day of Prayer sponsored by Church Women United was held at St. Brigid on Friday, March 4, 1988. Representatives of various Christian Churches in the area participated in this service.

In March, 1988, air-conditioning was installed in the Church, the lower level and the rectory. The concrete plaza and steps in the front of the church were replaced at this time.

Fr. Joseph Lutkemeier, C.P.P.S. celebrated his 65th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood on Friday, May 13, 1988, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Family and friends joined in the celebration. Fr. Joseph retired to Carthagen, Ohio, in October, 1988, following the death of Rosetta Lutkemeier, his sister.

As of January 17, 1989, the young people of St. Brigid (those between 20 and 50) reactivated the Sabrid Club which had flourished in the parish in the 1930's. The purpose of the organization is to encourage younger members to greater participation and service as well as providing a social dimension. They plan to hold monthly meetings.

The Holy Name Band celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Brigid on Saturday, April 15, 1989. Most Reverend Charles G. Maloney was the main celebrant. Concelebrating with him were former band members Rev. Vincent P. Dentinger and Rev. James L. Schlich, as well as Rev. Clifford Riede, pastor.

This account of St. Brigid Parish History extends to June 1, 1990.

Subsequent events will be part of an addendum.

Beginning on June 5, 1989, the Parking lot was graded and repaved to help a drainage problem. At this time a new fence of brick and wrought iron replaced the old chain link divide in back of the school.

The Eucharistic Day, formerly known as Forty Hours Devotion, has been celebrated at St. Brigid on the Third Sunday of Advent for many years. This practice continues with a large number of priests, deacons and brothers participating.

A series of lectures on the New Testament were offered during Lent, 1990. These talks were given by Mrs. Patricia Wathen of Sacred Heart Academy Religion Department. Ms. Wathen is in the Master's Program in Religious Studies at Spalding University. These lectures were given in the lower level of the Church on Tuesday evenings. Those who participated found the program informative as well as spiritually enriching.

Restoration and rebuilding the original Pilcher organ began on November 13, 1989. This work has been made possible through the generous bequest of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Yates (Edith Klapheke) to St. Brigid Church for this specific purpose.

During the 117 years of the existence of the parish, many societies have been organized, been extremely active and then eventually, in some cases, disbanded. The ones that have maintained to the present are the Parish Council, the Altar Society, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Sabrid Club. Rather than trying to single out individuals for outstanding service, suffice to say that their name is legion and known to God alone.



Pastors at St. Brigid

- Rev. James B. Ryan -----Sept. 1873-1874
- Rev. John A. Creary -----Nov. 1874-1887
- Rev. Henry Connelly -----Aug. 1987-May 9, 1909
- Rev. Herman Jansen May 9, 1909-Aug. 6, 1924
- Rev. James Willett (Admin.) -----1924-1925
- Rev. John S. Henry -----Apr. 1925-Sept. 24, 1934
- Rev. Joseph J. Egan (Admin) -----1934-1935
- Rev. Richard Maloney -----May 1935-Dec. 5, 1965
- Rev. Thomas Medley (Admin) -----1965-1966
- Rev. C. Vincent Tompkins -----1966-1968
- Rev. Alex Kotheimer -----1968-1969
- Msgr. Joseph Wheatley -----1969-1971
- Rev. Bernard Boone -----1971-1983
- Rev. Clifford Riede -----June 1983

Associates

- Rev. Joseph J. Egan -----1931-1934
- Rev. Richard Hommrich -----1934-1941
- Rev. Bernard Boone -----1941-1950
- Rev. Chester Bowling -----1950-1951
- Rev. Norbert Deddens -----1951-1965
- Rev. Robert Birkel -----1960-1961
- Rev. Thomas Medley -----1965-1970
- Rev. George Craycroft -----1970-1980

Senior Associates

- Msgr. Anthony G. Gerst -----1983-1987

Principals/ Superiors

- Sister Eustatia Coughlan -----1892-1909
- Sister Mary Leander Eiting -----1909-1923
- Sister Leontia Wilson -----1924-1927
- Sister Albertine O'Leary -----1927-1928
- Sister Rose Adelaide O'Connor -----1928-1931
- Sister Mary Isidore Nagel -----1931-1937
- Sister Etienne McCarthy -----1937-1943
- Sister Joseph Eileen Koenig -----1943-1947
- Sister Estelle Grimes -----1947-1953
- Sister Joseph Bernard Finneran -----1953-1959
- Sister Michaelina Murphy -----1959-1962
- Sister Alice Marita Kern -----1962-1965
- Sister Joseph Virginia Bourdelais -----1965-1967
- Sister Mary Bernard Dougherty -----1967-1969

Women from St. Brigid Parish who entered Religious Life

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

- Sister Mary Sienna Kirn ----- 1889-1954 dec.
- Sister Devota Flynn ----- 1890- dec.
- Sister Mary Herman Hoban ----- 1910-1983 dec.
- Sister Mary Cassilda Stey ----- 1911-1964 dec.
- Sister Isabel Lutkemeier ----- 1929-1975 dec.
- Sister Mary Antonia Klapheke ----- 1930-1980- dec.
- Sister Julia Raymond Barrett ----- 1939-
- Sister Marita Riede ----- 1940-
- Sister Margaret Rose Griesbaum ----- 1940-
- Sister Alice Louise Hofmann ----- 1940-
- Sister Mary Imelda Yurt ----- 1944-
- Sister Patricia Marie Hill ----- 1949-
- Sister Jovita Smith ----- 1952- dec.
- Sister Clara Ann Sabel ----- 1954-
- Sister Julie Driscoll ----- 1957-
- Sister Mark Schuler ----- 1956 (left 1971)

Sisters of Charity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Sister Francile Luking

Sisters of Loretto

Sister Williamette Secor ----- 1913-

*Appreciation:
The St. Brigid
Church Centennial
Committee would
like to express its
appreciation and
gratitude to the
many persons who
have contributed
their memorabilia
and time to the
beautiful Centen-
nial Celebration.*

Sisters of Mercy

Sister Mary Capistran Mattingly

Sister Mary Georgeann Mattingly

Sister Mary Rosella Fitzmayer

Sister Michelle Smith ----- dec.

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

Sister Mary Kevin Hayden ----- dec.

Sister Margaretta Kennedy ----- dec.

Sister Yvonne Moran

Sister Mercedes O'Connell ----- dec.

Sister Ursula O'Connell

Ursuline Sisters of Mt. St. Joseph

Sister Mary Clarentia Hutchins

Sister Joseph Adrian Russell

Sister Mary Henry Russell

Man from St. Brigid Parish who entered Religious Life

Brother Randal Riede, C.F.X. ----- 1937-

*Through our many
hours of hard work,
the committee en-
joyed meeting this
challenge, with
your enthusiastic
response. Please
join us in thanks-
giving to God for
all the many gifts
and our faith
throughout these
100 years.*

Walking Tour of St. Brigid Church Erected 1912-13

One enters the French Renaissance Romanesque church through oak doors with beveled glass insets. To the left is the Reconciliation Room with stained glass windows depicting St. Brigid, patron of the church; the anchor and cross, symbols of hope and salvation; crossed keys, recalling Christ's words about binding and loosing from sin; and St. John Vianney, patron of confessors. Crossed keys are also carved on front panels of the room.

There is a picture of the restored interior of the church on the south wall.

The first statue is that of St. Therese of Lisieux, patroness of the missions, also known as the Little Flower of Jesus.

The first window depicts St. Stephen, Deacon and martyr — chosen because of the name of the donor. There is a certain artist's license shown in making St. Stephen, the first martyr, as a deacon of the early 20th Century Church. He carries a palm in his hand, indicating martyrdom.

Next is one of the fourteen Stations of the Cross which are depicted on both sides of the church.

The second window shows the Guardian Angel watching over a little girl in a possibly hazardous setting.

The third window represents St. Cornelius, the third Pope, who was chosen because of the name of the donor.

The fourth window portrays Jesus as the Sacred Heart.

The fifth and last window depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Lourdes.

There is no sixth window on this side because of the belfry.

The side altar of Our Lady was donated by the Young Ladies Sodality. A portion of the original Communion rail is retained for private devotion. This altar was of special importance during the Miraculous Medal Novena which was held at St. Brigid for many years.

The statue of the Sacred Heart is next to this side altar.

The symbol on the upper left (south) wall is of the Paschal Lamb, representing Christ, standing on the book, representing the Scriptures or Word of God.

The stained glass window on the left (south) side depicts Christ suffering the Agony in the Garden before His crucifixion.

The statue of St. Elizabeth of Hungary is next to the altar. She is represented as a queen with roses in her cloak. According to legend, this is what happened to the bread she was taking to the poor when she was questioned by her husband, the king.

The large painting above the main altar is of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. Christ, accompanied by two adoring angels, dominates the scene. The bewildered disciples and the outline of the city of Jerusalem are in the lower portion of the picture. (This was put in during the 1928 restoration.)

The main altar is a large, tiered, wooden structure painted white with gold-leaf trim. It culminates in a small cupola surmounted by a cross. This same basic pattern is carried out on a modified scale on the two side altars. The statue of St. Brigid, patroness of Ireland and of this parish, is at the center. She is shown with a crook indicating her position as a shepherdess and an Abbess. She carries a book in her left hand suggesting that she was also a scholar and possibly the author of a rule of life for the nuns in the monastery of which she was also the abbess. The presence of the ox at her feet gives credence to the fact of her being a shepherdess. St. Peter, the first Pope, is shown on the left. He is represented with a large key recalling Christ's words to him about being given the key to the kingdom of heaven. He also has a scroll indicating letters or epistles he wrote. St. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, is on the right. He carries a sword indicating that he was beheaded. He also holds a scroll suggesting the many epistles or letters which he wrote. The same Paschal Lamb symbol as on the south wall is above the arch enclosing the crucifix. Adoring angels are on either side of the crucifix. The golden tabernacle doors protect the Sacred Species or Blessed Sacrament which is retained on the altar after Mass is celebrated. The table of the altar is where Mass was celebrated when the priest offered Mass with his back to the congregation. There is a carving of the Last Supper under the altar table. The sanctuary lamp indicating the presence of the Blessed Sacrament stands to the left of the altar.

The large window to the right of the altar depicts Christ's triumphant Resurrection on Easter morning.

The statue of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the Jesuit saint who is a patron of youth, is below the Resurrection window.

The symbol on the upper right (north) wall is of the pelican feeding her young by scratching her own breast. This is a traditional symbol of the Blessed Sacrament in which Christ feeds His people with His own Body and Blood.

The Paschal Candle, a reminder of the Paschal Mystery, stands to the right of the altar.

The statue of St. Anthony of Padua, a very popular Franciscan saint, stands next to the altar of St. Joseph. St. Anthony is shown holding the Child Jesus on his open prayer book because, according to popular legend, the Child Jesus appeared to him while he was at prayer.

St. Joseph, the Foster-Father of Jesus, is shown on the side altar on the right (north) side of the church. This altar was donated by the St. Joseph Sodality for young boys. St. Joseph is depicted holding the Christ Child in his arm. He also carries a lily, the symbol of purity.

The first window on the north side of the church shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd seeking the lost sheep.

The second window is entitled "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament" because it shows the Blessed Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus in her arms. The Child has a ciborium and Host in His hand.

The third window is of St. Anne with her daughter, the Virgin Mary.

The fourth window is of St. Edward the Confessor, an English king who confessed or defended his Catholic faith while he ruled his country. He is the patron of the donor.

The fifth window shows St. Anthony of Padua, the same as the statue next to the St. Joseph altar.

The last window is of St. Joseph the Worker shown in his carpenter shop.

Portions of the former Communion rail form an enclosure where the marble baptismal font, showing Jesus being baptized by His precursor, John the Baptist, and a container for Holy Water are kept.

A large picture of the exterior of the church is on the wall near the side door. Stairs leading to the choir loft are located on each side of the church just inside the outside doors.

Necessary rest rooms are located in the rear of the church.

Going down the center aisle one approaches the altar of sacrifice, the most important part of the church, the reason for its being. Here is where the Eucharistic Liturgy or Mass is offered. The altar is made from parts of the original Communion rail. In fact, the plaque stating that it was donated by the Altar Society is at the lower left corner.

The lectern or stand from which the Word of God is read or proclaimed stands to the left. A similar stand for directing congregational singing is to the right. Both of these are fashioned from parts of the Communion rail.

The Presidential chair for the presiding priest is in the center of the sanctuary. Seating for other ministers is at either side. The tile floor of the sanctuary is the original tile. Two ornate brass chandeliers complement the sanctuary area.

(Please turn to face the choir.) The gallery or choir loft has a ballustrade of carved oak with appropriate light fixtures. The newly rebuilt and restored Pilcher organ dominates the choir.

Above the organ is a large Rose Window. At the top of the window is Jesus as "Ecce Homo" ("Behold the Man") and Mary the Sorrowful Mother. Next are two angels (one on either side) holding musical instruments. The four Evangelists (those who wrote the Gospels) are at the bottom. Matthew and Mark are on the left; John and Luke are on the right.

Above the Rose Window is a mural of St. Cecilia, the patroness of music. She is shown playing the organ as the accompaniment to the angelic choir.

Twelve scagliola Roman Doric columns support the seven arches on each side of the church. Large brass chandeliers hang in the center of each arch. Suspended from the first column on the right (south) side is a large life-sized crucifix.

In the upper part of the nave are half-moon shaped windows in subdued greens, yellows and blues. Near the ceiling are circular paintings of fourteen people. Three of these near the altar can be identified as Sts. Peter, John and Andrew, apostles. The other eleven are not clearly identified, but are presumed to be apostles or disciples including Mark and Luke who were Evangelists not apostles. One could possibly be St. Paul, the same as on the main altar.

All the oak pews in the body of the church are the original ones from 1913 when the church was dedicated.

(Please exit by the sacristy door to the left. Thank you!)

St. Brigid School

St. Brigid School was blessed by Bishop (later Archbishop) John A. Floersch at dedication ceremonies at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, 1928. The sermon on that occasion was preached by Rev. Richard Maloney, pastor of St. Stephen Church, Owensboro, Ky. Eventually, Msgr. Maloney succeeded Rev. John S. Henry who was then pastor at St. Brigid Church.

The architects of the fire-proof, reinforced concrete and steel building were D.X. and J.C. Murphy. The builders were J.H. and A.J. Ohligschlager. The exterior is buff brick to match the other church buildings. Over the entrance is an imported Carrara marble statue of Jesus teaching children, with the inscription "*Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me*". The interior of the school has large and well-ventilated halls and classrooms. Since the building is presently being used by the Office of Catholic Schools, the classrooms have been divided into sections for offices. The outside walls are nearly all glass, with the windows being of the projected type. Instead of having one large cloakroom for each room, the entire space along the inside wall was used for a number of small cubicles, each equipped with an umbrella pan, hooks and shelves serving five or six pupils. Each closet has two

doors hung on hangers, sliding back into the wardrobe when it is open. When all the closet doors are closed, the appearance is that of a paneled wall with small cut-outs for ventilation.

In each room is a private bookcase and closet for the teacher. The blackboards are genuine slate with a cork panel above to display posters or works of the children. The floors are maple. Wire-glass is used in the doors to the classrooms. A bell in each corridor was connected with the clock system, with another bell on the outside of the building. The original clock is still in use. The corridors and steps are of terrazzo. Stair rails are of plaster with small bronze pyramids, to prevent children from sliding down the bannisters. These pyramids are there no longer.

Eight classrooms on the two upper floors could accommodate 360 students. Grades 1-4 were on the first floor. Grades 5-8 were on the second. A room for the Library is on the second floor. Floor plan for grades on:

1st floor

NORTH
(Hepburn Ave.)

Grade 3
Grade 1

Grade 4
Grade 2

WEST
(Former Convent Side)

EAST
(Rectory Side)

2nd floor

Grade 8
Grade 6

Grade 7
Grade 5

SOUTH

On the lower level is the auditorium which formerly had a seating capacity of 400 persons. The west side has now been walled and made into offices. The front of the stage has been blocked. The former stage area is used for storage. A service area and rest rooms adjoin the main body of the auditorium. As of the present, September 20, 1990, the only room in the school that remains largely as it was ... though without desks ... is the 7th grade classroom.