

Ann Saluga's Story

...the priest who made decorations and things (that he and his mother made) to hand out.

...the retired school teacher at 8 a.m. Mass who would tell me "Have a good one," as in a good day.

St. Clement people are welcoming and friendly, down-to-earth people. The essentials are there: the focus on the work of the church, the community, and caring: All the same thing I guess. Caring is the work; caring creates community and sustains it.

A friendly face, a hello, or someone you see at a particular Mass is part of that feeling that it's your "church home" or "spiritual home". Fathers, Deacon, and the church staff: The work is who they are, and it is done without fanfare.

I'm so very grateful, since some people can't get to church for health or other reasons. I try not to take attending Mass for granted, for to attend Mass is a blessing.

Cecelia Mohar Brown's Story

I went to St. Clement grade school from 1st to 8th. I graduated in 1959. All my memories are all wonderful. Beautiful and capable nuns, the Sisters of St. Joseph order, taught here. They were kind, but tough when needed to be.

I remember Msgr. Schmidt's funeral. We all came from school into the rectory to pass by his coffin.

My husband Ron and I were married here by Fr. Waldren in 1966. Aside from some years at St. Mark's, we have been home here at St. Clement: A wonderful place to end our time on earth. God bless St. Clement Parish!

Major Milestones

On April 27, 1922, the official announcement of the foundation of St. Clement Parish was made by the appointment of our first pastor, the Reverend Joseph J. Schmit. This date is known as our Establishment Date.

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On June 30, 1922, property was purchased at the corner of Madison and Lincoln Avenues. Included in the purchase was a six-room brick residence on Lincoln Avenue, which was at once remodeled and enlarged to serve as pastoral headquarters. The purchase price of the entire property, including the residence, was \$40,000.

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On August 17, 1922, ground was broken for construction of the church. The general contract, exclusive of plumbing, heating, and lighting, was given to the lowest bidder, the Schrader Construction Company, for \$68,000.

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On September 17, 1922, the Rt. Reverend Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland, assisted by three monsignors and 50 priests, laid the cornerstone, and preached the sermon from the front porch of the rectory.

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On December 25, 1922, marked the beginning of uninterrupted services and the continued presence of our Lord in the Tabernacle. The work of the last few days transformed an ordinary basement into an inviting chapel.

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On May 27, 1923, the first class of children received their First Holy Communion in the new church. There were 57 children in the class.

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On September 16, 1923, St. Clement Church officially was dedicated by Bishop Schrembs.

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In June 1925, 36 students became the first graduating class of St. Clement School.

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In November 1925, marked the first Confirmation class.

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During 1927, the parish had outgrown the school, and construction of an addition to St. Clement School was begun. The design more than doubled the building's original size. Eight more rooms and a large gymnasium were added, resulting in a school that could meet the educational needs of all the children. The contract for the new building, including furnishings, changes in the heating plant, and showers for the gymnasium added another \$100,000 in the value of the St. Clement Church property.

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Also in 1927, the rectory was again expanded to accommodate a second assistant and provide offices and living quarters. The total cost was \$23,000.

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In 1931, the dream came true to enlarge the church, replace the wooden front and side porches and window frames with stone, and add a new Sanctuary. Seating capacity increased from 600 to 750, and a beautiful new main altar, communion rail, and pulpit — all of marble — were installed.

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On January 17, 1932, Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Schrembs consecrated the main altar and formally dedicated St. Clement Church to honor God in His saints and to sanctify the lives of all who came to worship and pray.

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On April 20, 1932, saw the formation of an official Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Clement.

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From September 22 through 26, 1935, Most Rev. Bishop Schrembs hosted the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress. Members of the St. Clement Altar and Rosary Societies bought the linen and made every altar cloth, amice, purificator, and corporal used by hundreds of visiting clergies during the days of the Congress.

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On August 1, 1938, a third addition was made to the rectory, providing rooms for a third assistant and enlarging the garage.

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On June 29, 1941, Rev. Adelbert Williams, a graduate of St. Clement School and a member of the Boys' Choir, celebrated his first Mass.

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On June 30, 1941, a house and lot adjoining the parish property on Marlowe Avenue were purchased to house the janitor.

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On December 14, 1941, Bishop Schrembs wrote an important letter on "Prayers for Our Country at War": "Our country was forced at last into the global war by the treacherous attack of Japan on the Hawaiian Islands ... how the folks on the home front helped the boys on the war-front in the epic struggle of democracy against totalitarianism."

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In March 1942, the church organ, which originally was a second-hand purchase from a Masonic auditorium in Milwaukee, WI, was rebuilt and enlarged.

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On June 27, 1943, Rev. Regis Watts, O.F.M., a graduate of St. Clement School, celebrated his first Mass.

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In June 1943, the last item needed to finish St. Clement Church was added: Stained glass windows were installed in the clerestory walls. Rambusch Decorating Company of New York created and executed the original designs for the windows.

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In July 1947, work began on the new Sisters of Joseph convent next to the school. The contract was let to the C. T. Regan Construction Company at a cost of \$90,000.

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On December 20, 1956, Reverend Leo A. Warth was appointed the second pastor of St. Clement Parish.

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In September 1958, six classrooms were added to the school, comprising the junior high school section of St. Clement School.

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On March 28, 1963, Reverend Edward J. Seward was installed as third pastor of St. Clement Parish.

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In November 1968, renovation of the church Sanctuary commenced with removal of the marble communion railings, installation of a new marble altar at the edge of the predella (rather than fixed against the back wall of the Sanctuary) and the mosaic of the Resurrection was executed.

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On January 11, 1972, Reverend Joseph A. Sweeney was installed as the fourth pastor of St. Clement Parish.

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In August 1972, the Sanctuary carpet and new lighting were installed in the church and the interior was repainted to comply with Vatican II-mandated changes to the liturgy.

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On November 23, 1972, St. Clement Parish celebrated its Golden Anniversary.

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On July 26, 1982, the Perpetual Adoration Chapel was established in the space separating the rectory and garage.

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On April 10, 1986, Reverend Alfred H. Winters was appointed fifth pastor of St. Clement Parish.

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By the 1990s, lay teachers had replaced the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Clement School, and in June 1992, Sr. Mary Ann Lavelle retired as the school's principal. Three years later, the convent was leased to Freedom House.

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In April 1996, the parish Restoration and Development Campaign kicked off a fundraising campaign to replace the gutters and drains, repair windows, install a new phone system, repair the air conditioning system, paint the church and rectory, and update the school's computer lab.

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In June 2005, St. Clement School closed its doors and merged with the schools of St. Luke and St. James to form Lakewood Catholic Academy.

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On April 27, 2009, the historic St. Clement cookbook was published.

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On October 30, 2009, Reverend David A. Novak was appointed sixth pastor of St. Clement Parish.

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On January 1, 2010, Reverend Joseph G. Workman was appointed seventh pastor St. Clement Parish.

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Between 2010 and 2012, upgrades to the church included improvements to the electrical system and accommodation for those with disabilities, landscaping, and renovation of the Adoration Chapel.

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On April 9, 2021, the Fatima shrine, which formerly occupied the Madison Avenue side of St. Clement School, was reinstalled on the Marlowe Avenue side of the church.

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On June 6, 2021, Fr. Workman blessed the Fatima statues.

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