

*Highlights of St. Benignus & St. Michael Parishes*

St. Benignus		St. Michael
	<b>1854</b>	
- Fr. John O'Donoghue celebrates 1 <sup>st</sup> Mass in Greenfield at Owen McCormick's home		
	<b>1855</b>	
		- Mass celebrated in the home of Patrick Toohey by visiting priest from Fayetteville
	<b>1856</b>	
- St. Benignus Parish established by Archdiocese. - Fr. John O'Donoghue named pastor - Ground purchased south of railroad tracks for building new St. Benignus Church		
	<b>1857</b>	
- September 13 - Cornerstone laid for new church by Fr. John O'Donoghue		
	<b>1858</b>	
- December 25 - St. Benignus Church dedicated by Archbishop Purcell		
	<b>1861</b>	
- Fr. Michael O'Donoghue named pastor		
	<b>1874</b>	
		- St. Michael Parish established by Archdiocese. Property purchased for \$500, where old schoolhouse used to stand, for new church building
	<b>1876</b>	
		- St. Michael Church construction begins and cornerstone laid. - Building cost \$1,000. - Church dedicated by Archbishop John B. Purcell - Ten families registered as parishioners for this mission church.
	<b>1880</b>	
		- Fr. Michael Hayes named pastor.
	<b>1883</b>	
- November 27 - Property at 2nd and Spring Streets purchased for \$800.00 and St. Joseph Cemetery established		

	<b>1886</b>	
	- Fr. Lawrence Sullivan named pastor	
	<b>1891</b>	
	- Fr. William Miggeel named pastor	
	<b>1893</b>	
	- Fr. Matthew O'Brien served as pastor for 1 year	
	- Fr. Thomas Walsh named pastor	
	<b>1899</b>	
- St. Benignus designated as a separate parish from St. Mary's in Hillsboro.	- Fr. Bernard Feeney named pastor of St. Benignus and also named pastor of mission parishes of St. Michael, New Vienna, St. Mariae in Waverly, St. Joseph in Frankfort.	
	<b>1900</b>	
	- Fr. Adolf Sourd named Pastor.	
	<b>1901</b>	
	<b>1902</b>	
	<b>1903</b>	
	<b>1904</b>	
- St. Benignus purchases former Methodist Church building at 2nd & Mirabeau Streets for \$5,000 from Mr. Edward Lee McClain - Cottage at 5th & Lyndon purchased for rectory, office for the parish and home of pastor. - December 11 - First Mass offered in new church building by Archbishop Henry Moeller.	- Fr. John Cogan named pastor.	
	<b>1905</b>	
- June 11 - Blessing and dedication of St. Benignus Church by Archbishop Henry Moeller		- Mrs. Ada Pemberton began religious education of children of St. Michael's. (This continued until 1907)
	<b>1906</b>	
		- Higgins family donates ciborium in memory of parents, James and Mary Higgins, to St. Michael's.

	<b>1907</b>	
	- Fr. John Sailer named pastor.	- St. Michael statue purchased, electric lights installed in church. - Mass begins being offered on fourth Sunday of the month - Catechism offered at 7:30 a.m., High Mass 8:30 a.m. - Stations of the Cross framed and carved by Mr. Higgins. - Mass offered second Tuesday each month at 8:00 AM.
	<b>1908</b>	
- Parish Rectory built next to church building on Second St.	- Fr. Joseph Michalowski named pastor.	
	<b>1909</b>	
	<b>1910</b>	
	<b>1911</b>	
	<b>1912</b>	
	<b>1913</b>	
	<b>1914</b>	
	<b>1915</b>	
	<b>1916</b>	
	<b>1917</b>	
	<b>1918</b>	
	- Fr. Francis Sieve named pastor.	
	<b>1919</b>	
	<b>1920</b>	
	<b>1921</b>	
	- Fr. Henry Gramann named pastor.	
	<b>1922</b>	
		- January 31 - Parish boundaries were established for St. Michael's, separating it from St. Columbkille's, Wilmington and St. Mary's in Hillsboro
	<b>1923</b>	
	<b>1924</b>	

	<b>1925</b>	
- New parish rectory built replacing one built in 1908. Cost \$8168.70		
	<b>1926</b>	
	<b>1927</b>	
	<b>1928</b>	
	- Fr. Eugene Gerlach pastor for 8 months - Fr. Urban Koehl named pastor	
	<b>1929</b>	
		- Church wallpapered, sanctuary carpeted, new church roof
	<b>1930</b>	
- October 19 - 25th Anniversary celebration of Church Building dedication		- Last year Christmas Mass celebrated (until 1962)
	<b>1931</b>	
	<b>1932</b>	
	- Fr. Alphonse Schumacher named pastor	
	<b>1933</b>	
	<b>1934</b>	
	<b>1935</b>	
		- Tuesday Masses stop being offered.
	<b>1936</b>	
	<b>1937</b>	
	- Fr. Aloysius Leon named pastor	
	<b>1938</b>	
	<b>1939</b>	
- February 27 - First Ladies Auxiliary meeting		
	<b>1940</b>	
	<b>1941</b>	
		- Children of St. Michael's begin going to St. Mary's in Hillsboro for religion classes
	<b>1942</b>	

	<b>1943</b>	
		- Children of St. Michael's begin going to St. Columbkille in Wilmington for CCD (until Fall 1962)
	<b>1944</b>	
	<b>1945</b>	
	- Fr. Edwin Dittman named pastor - Fr. Leo Herlihy named pastor	
	<b>1946</b>	
		- St. Michael vestibule added by Brother Bertrand Bailey, OP - Celtic cross added to outside of church building - Church renovated, painted, new electric lights, old pot belly stove changed to oil heat
	<b>1947</b>	
		- Statues of Mary & St. Joseph and new tabernacle purchased
	<b>1948</b>	
- Outside of church building painted		
	<b>1949</b>	
- Ladies Auxiliary purchases new organ		
	<b>1950</b>	
	<b>1951</b>	
	<b>1952</b>	
	<b>1953</b>	
	<b>1954</b>	
	- Fr. John Antony named pastor	
	<b>1955</b>	
	<b>1956</b>	
	- Fr. Edward Lawler named pastor	- Fr. Lawler begins offering evening Mass on Holy Days - Parish sign erected
	<b>1957</b>	
		- Outside of church painted and roof repaired

	<b>1958</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St. Benignus interior renovated in anticipation of Centennial celebration. Installed gas furnace, restroom, and public address system</li> <li>- June 15 - Archbishop Karl J. Alter celebrates Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the Centennial of first Mass. Celebration at McClain High School. A Parish dinner followed.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rubber cushions installed on kneelers and at Communion rail</li> <li>- Knights of Columbus donate chalice in memory of Msgr. McNeary</li> </ul>
	<b>1959</b>	
	<b>1960</b>	
	<b>1961</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vestibule painted</li> <li>- Doors installed between vestibule and nave of church by Mr. Anthony Peters</li> </ul>
	<b>1962</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St. Benignus church basement excavated and breezeway between church and rectory built</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fr. Francis Lay named pastor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catechism classes begin being offered by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters</li> <li>- June 7 - St. Michael's begins celebrating Mass each Sunday at 9 a.m.</li> <li>- Fall through Spring 1963 - Church interior remodeled by Mr. Anthony Peters. Mrs. Marjorie Sullivan generously supported this renovation through her contributions</li> <li>- Wall Crucifix donated</li> <li>- Gas furnace installed</li> <li>- December 25 - Christmas Mass begins being offered again.</li> <li>- Christmas Crib donated by Mr. Anthony Peters</li> <li>- Lent, Holy Week, and May devotions begin being offered</li> </ul>
	<b>1963</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- August 6 - St. Michael's parish boundaries further clarified</li> </ul>
	<b>1964</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possible expansion of St. Michael Church building with option taken on Dorothy Lane land</li> </ul>
	<b>1965</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fr. Edwin Francis named pastor</li> </ul>	
	<b>1966</b>	

	<b>1967</b>	
	<b>1968</b>	
		- New Hammond organ purchased. First used at Ed and Alma Chandler's 50th wedding anniversary - Cathy Dean begins taking organ lessons
	<b>1969</b>	
	- Fr. Harold Bernard named pastor	
	<b>1970</b>	
- August 1 - Mirabeau Street property purchased giving the parish a "backyard"		
	<b>1971</b>	
	<b>1972</b>	
	<b>1973</b>	
	<b>1974</b>	
	<b>1975</b>	
	<b>1976</b>	
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	<b>1978</b>	
	<b>1979</b>	
	<b>1980</b>	
	<b>1981</b>	
	<b>1982</b>	
	- Fr. Thomas Gavin named pastor	
	<b>1983</b>	
- November 6 - 125th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving		
	<b>1984</b>	
- December 10 - 1st Parish Council Meeting		- Sister Marie de Mercurio, OSU begins directing CCD program
	<b>1985</b>	
- Communion rail removed	- Fr. John Minic named pastor	
	<b>1986</b>	

	<b>1987</b>	
	- Fr. James Brichetto, SJ named pastor	
	<b>1988</b>	
	<b>1989</b>	
- Archbishop Elko celebrates 50th Anniversary of Ladies Auxiliary with Mass of Thanks- giving. Parish dinner follows.		
	<b>1990</b>	
- St. Benignus Church renovation		
	<b>1991</b>	
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) begins being offered		
	<b>1992</b>	
	<b>1993</b>	
	- Fr. Ronald Cooper named pastor	- St. Michael Feast Day celebrations begin - Communion rail removed - December 25 - Christmas Vigil Mass begins being Celebrated
	<b>1994</b>	
- New electronic keyboard installed		- Church interior painted, new carpet and linoleum laid - September 29 - 120th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving - Dogwood tree and garden around parish sign given as gift from St. Benignus - October 2 - 120th Anniver- sary Parish Dinner at Snow Hill Country Club
	<b>1995</b>	
- June 11 - 90th Anniversary of Dedication of Church celebrated - Outside of church painted	- March 19 - 21 - Parish Mission offered by Fr. Rick Neiberding, CPPS "People Need the Lord"	
	<b>1996</b>	
- March 17 - 140th Anniversary Parish Dinner celebrated at Snow Hill Country Club - June 9 - 140th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Carl Moeddel - St. Benignus Church basement renovated - September - Parish Council Constitution revised and updated		- Tony Minderman for Eagle Scout Project coordinates painting the outside of church and touches up paint job on pews
	<b>1997</b>	

<b>1998</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- June 28 - Ground breaking of St. Benignus Religious Education Center.</li> <li>- St. Michael's donates \$10,000 towards new building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- March 8 - 11 - Parish Mission offered by Fr. Bill Reichel, OFM "We Are Many Parts"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- September 29 -- 125th Anniversary Year begins.</li> <li>- Parish Prayer written and begins being prayed.</li> <li>- Gift from St. Benignus of altar cloth, silver antependium, silver candle holders</li> <li>- November 29 - Silver chalice and paten gift from St. Benignus</li> </ul>
<b>1999</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- January 2 - Blessing and Dedication of Religious Education Center</li> <li>- December 25 - Blessing and Dedication of new altar and use of new candle sticks</li> <li style="padding-left: 40px;">- Jubilee Year 2000 banner begins being used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- March 14 - 17 - Parish Mission offered by Fr. Joe Rayes, OFM "We Have Been Told"</li> <li>- August 22 - Joint parish picnic to celebrate "100 Years of Sharing"</li> <li>- December 25 - The great "Jubilee Year 2000" begins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- February 28 - 125th Anniversary Parish Dinner at Snow Hill Country Club</li> <li>- September 26 - 125th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk as celebrant</li> <li>- September 29 - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year concludes with Evening Prayer and Parish Social</li> <li>- December 25 - Jubilee Year 2000 banner begins being used</li> </ul>

2000

March—both St. M and St. B

Jubilee Year Pictorial Directory distributed

March 18-19—both St. M and St. B

Jubilee Year Weekend of Renewal offered by Fr. Larry Strittmatter

April 20—St. B

Jubilee Year project of new bells system completed. Blessing and Dedication of Verdin Bells Singing Tower Carillon prior to the Mass of the Last Supper.

July—St. B

repair work on interior church walls

August 8—St. B and St. M

Parish Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to St. Patrick Cemetery and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Ottway, St. Mary Church and Holy Redeemer Church in Portsmouth.

September 15—St. M

Jubilee Year Deanery Harvest Mass on the farm of John and Carol Mayer. Bishop Carl Moeddel, celebrant

2001

March 17-both St. B and St. M

Mel Tolle presents one man drama, "A Fisherman's Story"

June 3-St. B

Jessie Spangler honored for over 40 years of service (teaching and coordinating) in the parish Religious Education program

June 24-28-both St. B and St. M

Vacation Bible School offered for the first time and held at St. Benignus Religious Education Center

July 4-St. B

Blessing and Dedication of Marian Shrine and gardens following the 9:00 AM Mass for National Holiday. This shrine and the gardens were donated in memory of Don Flynn (January 8, 1926 – February 27, 2001) by his family.

A separate garden with a flag pole for the USA flag were also landscaped as part of this project.

2002

March 16-17-both St. B and St. M

Weekend of Renewal offered by Fr. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh on “The Person and Spirituality of St. Patrick.”

December 24-both St. B and St. M

In celebration of the Year of the Rosary, St. Michael’s, as the prelude to the Christmas Vigil Mass, and St. Benignus, as the prelude to the Christmas Midnight Mass, began a year long celebration of Rosary Services to mark each of the Feast Days of the Mysteries of the Rosary, including the new Mysteries of Light mysteries, for the current liturgical year. These celebrations of prayer will continue through the Feast of the Holy Rosary on Oct. 7, 2003.