

## **Original Parish of St. Brigid**

St. Brigid Parish was founded and opened in 1870. It was located in North Memphis at Overton and Third Streets in the "Pinch District." Its opening decade (1870-1880) is largely the story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic, in which St. Brigid's pastors, Father Martin and William Walsh, played heroic roles. Their successor, Father Moening, a Franciscan, was mainly pastor of St. Mary's and was therefore a German Franciscan, an odd choice for an Irish at St. Brigid's. But how Irish was the congregation? Among the first communicants were such names Smiddy and Zape, in a list of Foleys, Griffins, and the like. In 1917, when Father James P. Whitfield became pastor, the old church was remodeled. The Parish operated a grade school throughout much of its history. The church and school were finally closed in 1937-1938 when the new Parish of St. Therese, Little Flower, was opened on Jackson Avenue by Msgr. James P. Whitefield. The church records were transferred to St. Mary Church at Third and Market, located just a few blocks south of St. Brigid. The building of St. Brigid became a storage warehouse and was later razed and the site is now a vacant lot

## **New Parish of St. Brigid**

On July 1, 1992, the new parish of St. Brigid was canonically erected by the then Bishop of Memphis, The Most Reverend Daniel Buechlen. The Parish was to serve the Southwest Shelby County with its boundaries being: Winchester Road on the North; Germantown Extended and Crumpler Road on the West; State Line Road on the south; and the Collierville Town Line on the east. The Parish was formed from the South ends of Holy Spirit Parish and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Germantown. Father Michael Stewart was named the first Pastor. Twelve acres of land were purchased on Lowrance Road, west of Hacks Cross for the proposed church, offices, family life center and school with playing fields and parking lot. Also, a home lot was purchased adjacent to the property on Thunderstone Circle West for construction of a rectory. St. Mark United Methodist Church on Winchester Road at Wyndyke offered their sanctuary to St. Brigid Parish as a temporary location for Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mass. The first Mass celebrated in the parish was at St. Mark's on November 22, 1992, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

In January, 1993 construction began on the rectory and Father Stewart moved there on May 15, 1993. The groundbreaking ceremony was held March 21, 1993, for a multipurpose building which included a worship space seating about 170 people. The first Mass was celebrated October 23, 1993 on the property. The dedication of the building by the Most Reverend Bishop J. Terry Steib, S.V.D., D.D., was celebrated Saturday, November 20, 1993, on the Solemnity of Christ the King.

St. Brigid had 44 founding families in 1992, but the growing parish required a larger worship space. In August 2002 the parish broke ground for the new sanctuary. The first Mass celebrated in the new sanctuary was on August 30, 2003. and Bishop J. Terry Steib, S.V.D., D.D., consecrated the sanctuary on September 8, 2003. Fr. Stewart retired in June of 2006 and Fr. Bruce Cinquegrani was appointed as our new pastor. Currently the parish census has reached 475 families and continues to flourish by the grace of Almighty God.

# All the pieces fit, TOGETHER!



The history of St. Brigid Church is almost 22 years long, and these years are filled with life events that have shaped our personality and identity as a parish. We are very excited to announce a new project to illustrate this history by collecting and sharing these memories and events and to build a time-line filled with pictures and stories. Building this time-line and sharing it with each other will increase the unity and strength of our St. Brigid parish family.

We are the St. Brigid family, and it is critical for full participation by asking you to share a picture or a story or both, so we can build a time-line that accurately illustrates our astounding years together.

You can use the space provided below, or use the St. Brigid website, an e-mail, or simply mail the information to the parish office. We plan to develop a PowerPoint show with your stories and pictures to be presented at a special parish event.

- **Submit a picture of you or family in some event related to St. Brigid with the date when this happened.**
- **Tell us a story about this picture**