

Written By: Mary Piekunka

The annual Christmas party was held December 7. Ham, potatoes, and dessert were provided, and guests brought a dish to pass. After supper, a special time was shared with Santa giving out presents to the children.¹⁴²

January 7, 1997, was the starting date for weekly bible studies. Thirty people attended the first meeting. Study guides were provided, and after reading the bible, a discussion followed.¹⁴³

New blue vestments were donated to the Church of the Epiphany by Margaret Cinelli in memory of her late husband Frank.¹⁴⁴

A special evening for married couples was planned for Valentine's Day by Father Faraone, Shari List, Betty Dildine, and Helen Hillis. A romantic evening dinner catered in the parish hall was served, followed by an evening Mass and Renewal of Vows.¹⁴⁵ After dinner couples shared viewing their wedding albums.

The Parish Activities Society held a breakfast in January and also one in February. New lectors and Eucharistic ministers were commissioned in February. New lectors are Sue Clark, Betty Dildine, Chris Ganier, Pamela Rogers and Joan Workmaster, and the new Eucharistic ministers are Fred and Judy Burkhard, Carol Monsees, Andrew Secore, John Williams, and Joan Workmaster.¹⁴⁶

Our guest speaker during Lent, 1997, was Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, who gave the homily at each of our liturgies Palm Sunday weekend and lead our faith community in an "Evening of Recollection on Palm Sunday evening. It was a powerful way to begin Holy Week.¹⁴⁷

Twenty-one parishioners received their First Eucharist and twenty-four parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The First Eucharist class each received a suncatcher, and each one in the Confirmation class received a Holy Bible, all gifts from the Parish Activities Society. Each celebration was also followed by a reception given by the Parish Activities Society.¹⁴⁸

The summer Mass schedule was changed in order to allow enough time between Masses to prepare for the next one. The 8 a.m. Sunday morning Mass at St. Rose of

Lima was changed to 7:30 a.m. The other Mass at St. Rose of Lima is held Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m., and Sunday Masses for the summer at the Church of the Epiphany are at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and the Spanish Mass at 2:00 p.m.¹⁴⁹

A special Marian devotion was held May 20, 1997. A "Living Rosary" was held as each parishioner prayed a decade on the Rosary.¹⁵⁰

In June, literature was passed out explaining the different activities in our parish, and a survey was taken of the parishioners as to what they would like to participate in.¹⁵¹ Father Faraone held the second annual blessing of the Fishing Fleet and Pleasure Boats, which took place at Sodus Point the last Sunday in June, 1997.¹⁵²

The parish welcomed another seminarian. Patrick VanDurme from Dansville came in July to spend thirteen weeks with us as part of an internship.¹⁵³ Father Faraone held his annual "thank you" night for volunteers by holding a "Night on the Bay" on Monday evening, July 14, at the Sodus Bay Yacht Club. Marty Vaars from Holland and Andre Schlemper from Brazil, foreign students who had been staying with Father Faraone for the school year 1996-1997, showed a video of parish activities, which they had taped the last few weeks they were here. It was enjoyed by all.¹⁵⁴

The Church of the Epiphany/Mission of St. Rose were featured in the "Catholic Courier," July, 1997. The article gave a parish profile and carried a picture of Father Faraone blessing the boats at Sodus Point.¹⁵⁵

After giving many years of dedicated service, eight members of the Parish Activities Society resigned to provide the opportunity for new and younger members of the parish to give new life and service to their parish. Members resigning included Dorothy DeLyser, Mary and Ernie Piekunka, Dorothy Himes, Peter Beganskas, Barbara Allman, Mae VanDevelde, and Polly Becker. A substantial amount of money was left in the treasury, which they hoped would be used to replace rugs in the parish hall and on the church steps.¹⁵⁶

Bob Hillis headed up another parish breakfast following the Sunday Masses in conjunction with the "Celebrating Sodus" celebration on September 14. Vince and Joanne Myerly did another superb job in organizing the parish picnic, which was held at Forman's Park on September 21, following an open air Mass. This year was a pig roast followed by entertainment for the kids, including a magician.¹⁵⁷

Another Marian devotion was held October 7, 1997. A living rosary was held with each volunteer leading one Hail Mary.¹⁵⁸

Our second annual Mass of Remembrance was held November 1. It was a time for family and friends to get together to remember their loved ones who passed away during the past year. Following Mass, a reception was held in the parish hall.¹⁵⁹

Father Faraone escorted a group of people to Italy November 10-20. They visited Venice, Padua, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, and Rome. Josephine Carlotta and her daughter Pauline Baker from our parish accompanied him.¹⁶⁰

Forty people gathered December 8 to listen to an update on our pastoral planning for the new millennium. The Church of the Epiphany/Mission of St. Rose parish is in the Western Wayne Planning Team, which also includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, Macedon; St. Anne, Palmyra; St. Gregory, Marion; St. Mary, Ontario; and St. Michael, Newark.¹⁶¹ The Church of the Epiphany/Mission of St. Rose priority issues included addressing the needs of people living in poverty in the forms of outreach and spirituality. Also included were faith formation for our youth, faith formation for our young adults, ministering to the migrant population, and the presence of a minister for hospitals, tourists, and the Hispanic community.¹⁶²

The new Parish Life Committee, which replaced the Parish Activities Society, held a Euchre Tournament in the parish center December 12.¹⁶³ A fun time was had by all.

A crowd of approximately 85 people gathered in the parish hall for a Christmas party. Ham, scalloped potatoes, and desserts were provided and guests brought a dish to pass. After dinner Christmas carols were sung, and the children enjoyed the piñata and Santa Claus. The Chinese grab bag was also a big hit.¹⁶⁴

The third annual Lock-In for Teens was held Sunday night, January 18, 1998, in the parish center. The all-night affair was attended by 113 teenagers and 15-20 adults. Greg Gunn, a youth leader from Florida, lead a seminar on peer pressure, and Mike Donohue, a disc jockey, provided music from 3 until 6 a.m.¹⁶⁵

The Children's Liturgy of the Word program is held during the 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Mass. Mary Ange, Suzanne Putman, Ginger Knapp, Ed Kohlmeier, and Rita Wlodarczyk take our young members over to the Parish Center to teach them about the gospel while the priest reads the Gospel and gives his homily to the congregation.¹⁶⁶

The Parish Life Committee started out the New Year of 1998 with a bowling party in January, a Valentine's Dinner and Dance in February, and a Euchre Tournament in March.¹⁶⁷

Bible studies, Stations of the Cross, Masses, Communal Penance Service, and our annual Soup Supper for the poor were all held to give parishioners the opportunity to prepare for Lent. On Holy Thursday, the washing of the feet took place during the Mass of the Lord's Supper at a banquet table similar to the Last Supper, the Passion and Death of the Lord service was held on Good Friday, and on Saturday an Easter Vigil Mass was held at the Church of the Epiphany.¹⁶⁸ Reverend John A. Colacino homolized at each of our Palm Sunday services and during the Triduum.¹⁶⁹ During the Easter Vigil Mass, Jerry Lalone, Josh Ginett, Paul Ginett, Marjorie DeGelleke, Susan Casserino, Gregory Symes, Debra Secore, and Cheryl Aman were fully initiated and received into the Church.¹⁷⁰ Also, through the Council of Churches, men's breakfasts were all held at our Parish Center and the women's Lenten luncheons were held at various churches. These events all had inspirational speakers. Under the co-chairpersons of Dorothy DeLyser and Mary Piekunka, our parish was host for the Lenten Luncheon on March II.¹⁷¹

May, 1998, was a busy month. In accordance with the Synod Goal "Life-Long Faith Formation", Father Faraone, Deacon Ed Sergeant, and Ann Wilkin presented three adult learning sessions.¹⁷² The Sacrament of the First Eucharist was received by thirty children, and twenty adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Matthew Clark.¹⁷³ On the last weekend of May, a reception was held after each Mass for Father Nathaniel Kuguta who was leaving us. Father Nathaniel ministered among us for almost three years while attending college in Rochester. He returned in June to his home diocese of Mombasa in Kenya.¹⁷⁴ As in the past, Father Dave urged everyone to wear red for Pentecost Sunday and to bring bells to ring during Mass.¹⁷⁵ Also, on the last Sunday of the month, parishioners are urged to bring food for the poor. This practice continues all year long.¹⁷⁶

From June 1 to August 30, Phil Yawman served as a summer intern. He is studying to be a permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Rochester, and assisted with

hospital visits, homilizing, baptismal preparation class and attending to the Hispanic ministry on Sunday afternoons.¹⁷⁷

The Parish Life Committee planned a baked food sale at St. Rose of Lima in July chaired by Bob Hillis and Bernie Taft. The fourth parish picnic, chaired again by Vince and JoAnne Myerly, was held in August. Also in August, a trip to the Renaissance Faire, and another Euchre Party were planned.¹⁷⁸ Charlie and Elaine Costello and their crew hosted a successful hot dog roast at St. Rose on the Fourth of July.¹⁷⁹ Another hot dog roast was held there in August with the Steger family in charge.¹⁸⁰ Pat and Al Miller also chaired a hot dog roast at St. Rose. The three events raised \$1,428 for our parish.¹⁸¹

Joe Brogan and Al Miller co-chaired our first combination golf tournament and pig roast on August 22. After enjoying a game of golf at the Port Bay Golf Club, people gathered at the American Legion Post in Wolcott to enjoy a pig roast.¹⁸² Prizes were given out, and a good time was had by all.

The new parish pastoral council officers are Georgette Taft, chairperson; Dave Colway, vice-chair; and Pam Rogers, secretary. New members of the council are John List and Diane Murphy.¹⁸³

In September, 1998, our parish participated in the "Celebrating Sodus" days by putting on a breakfast, chaired by Bob Hillis.¹⁸⁴ Father Faraone and Father Brian C. Cool led a pilgrimage to Ireland October 15-27. Dave and Marie Colway and Jean Clark from our parish accompanied them.¹⁸⁵ On the first weekend of November, Bob and Joanne Bacher were in charge of our retreat "People Encounter Christ."¹⁸⁶

Our parish was honored in a couple of ways this year. Father David Faraone was appointed by Bishop Matthew Clark to a three-year term as chairperson of the priests' convocation committee.¹⁸⁷ One of our high school seniors, Scott Flynn, church cantor and choir member, received the "Hands of Christ" award from Bishop Clark. This award is given to seniors who are active, involved Christian role models in parish, school, or community.¹⁸⁸

On the first Sunday of Advent, Father Faraone began to use the new and approved lectionary consisting of two books for Mass in all the Dioceses of the United States. Also, the missalettes were abandoned in favor of a more permanent worship

book called "Ritual Song." The hymns contained in this book are both traditional and contemporary. This book does not include the readings from Scripture nor does it include Eucharistic prayers like the missalettes. The idea behind this concept is that we are to give our undivided attention to the Mass. No doubt there will be a period of adjustment for everyone to focus on the spoken Word and not the written Word.¹⁸⁹

A "New to You Sale," along with a raffle and sale of a new TV, was held in the parish center November 13 and 14. Under the supervision of Ann Wilkin with special helpers Sandy Peterson and Bob Wilkin, \$865 was raised from all the donations that the parishioners brought in for the benefit of the Church Youth Program.¹⁹⁰ On the Feast of All Souls day at evening prayer, 35 deceased people were remembered in prayer. A candle was lit in each one's memory.¹⁹¹ Also, in November a teen Mass and ice cream social was held by the Youth Group.¹⁹² There was so much information to be shared that the bulletin had to be increased in size.¹⁹³ The larger format was started on Sunday, November 29.

A Christmas party was held early in December, as well as a Euchre Tournament planned by the Parish Life Committee for December 11. The Christmas basket project was chaired by Jackie Pulsifer, and her committee worked many hours to accomplish this social ministry.¹⁹⁴ Our church is involved in many social ministries including the Clothes Closet, Martha Ministry, soup supper, daffodil sale, and participation in the CROP walk. We also have volunteers who run errands and transport our parishioners for health care needs.¹⁹⁵

In celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, a program was held on January 3, 1999. Lessons and Carols celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany were presented, with parishioners and Father Faraone doing readings and the choir singing hymns.¹⁹⁶

On January 19 parishioners met to discuss the 75th anniversary celebration and the possibility of building renovations and property enhancements. They also gave their views on how they see themselves as a Faith Community and reflected on years past. Priority issues concerning the Catholic Community of Western Wayne County were also discussed. Parishioners then signed up as to what committees they would like to serve.¹⁹⁷

A parish mission was held February 14-17 on "The Theology and Spirituality of Relationships." Father Simeon Gallagher of St. Louis, Missouri, preached the

mission. He is a member of the Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin, and has an international reputation for conducting retreats. He kept the congregation's attention during his program and was well received.¹⁹⁸

There was ample opportunity to prepare for Lent, 1999. Besides the mission, the men of the parish were invited to attend the annual retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. The focus was "Two Great Commandments of Love." Bible studies continue to be held weekly, Stations of the Cross are prayed every Wednesday night, and almsgiving to Operation Rice Bowl, a program to raise money for the poor, continues during Lent.¹⁹⁹

A group of interested parishioners met on February 8 to form the 75th Anniversary Committee. Tina Spano and Bernie Taft were appointed co-chairpersons. Six committees were formed, with chairpersons as follows:²⁰⁰

Historical (quilt & church history): Mary Piekunka

Musical: Diane Murphy, Lorraine Kucmierowski

Prayer: Diane Murphy, Lorraine Kucmierowski, Pat Miller

Public Relations: Rosanne Surridge

Social: Pat Miller

The Youth Group continues to hold fundraisers to pay for a trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in November. They have had a bottle drive, "A New to You Sale," and sold scented candles and flowers for Easter.²⁰¹

The third parish bowling party was organized by Corey Ginett and Pam Rogers. It was held March 7 and was well attended by families and friends.²⁰²

A church expansion committee was formed to look into the possibility of expanding our facilities. Members of the committee were asked to consider expanding our gathering space and to include a baptismal font, reconciliation room, and Eucharistic area or "chapel." This would all have to be done in compliance with the diocesan guidelines.²⁰³

Our parish hosted a Lenten luncheon for the churches in our area. Betty Dildine was chairperson and also was the speaker.²⁰⁴ She spoke on her work on the Martha Ministry committee.

Appreciation was extended to the new altar servers for volunteering their time and to Charlie and Elaine Costello for preparing the new altar servers: Nina Barber, Nick Cuvelier, Ryan Quinn, Shawn Quinn, Susan Snyder, Smantha Spade, Stephanie Thurston, and Chris Thurston.²⁰⁵ Acknowledgements were made to Bill Lee for the beautiful wood framing on the photograph of our seven catechumens and candidates with Bishop Clark taken by Pat Miller, also thanks to Bob Bacher for the new paten being used at weekday Mass and to Barbara Mathis for donating two beautiful trees to our parish.²⁰⁶ Thank you's went to all the Faith Formation Catechists who have completed another year of service teaching our children: Karen Capacci, Patricia Genesky, Patricia Georgetti, Susan Johnson, Kate Johnson, Pamela Lergner, Carol Monsees, Jessica Monsees, Sandra Petersen, Christine Spano, Erin Putnam, and especially to Nancy Gadsby who retired after six years of service.²⁰⁷

We have an active and vibrant church community. Since coming in June, 1994, Father David Faraone has implemented many activities that bring us together as a church family. We now have retreats, adult education courses, bible studies, socials for newcomers, and Martha Ministry. We've had Blessing of the Boats ceremonies, open air Masses at our annual picnics, and trips to see plays and foreign countries. Father Dave plans liturgical celebrations that are creative and moving, such as wearing of red garments and ringing bells on Pentecost Sunday and setting up a banquet table like the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. For the religious ceremonies, Father Dave started the Liturgy Committee to assist him in coordinating these and other events, such as the Living Rosary and the Mass of Remembrance. Father Dave also hired our first choir director, Sheila S. Buck, to provide music to enhance our weekly and special Liturgies. Our homilies are very moving as Father David Faraone and Deacon Ed Sergeant are both gifted homilists. Father Dave encouraged the formation of the Social Ministry Committee, which was formed out of the needs of the community, especially for the poor and migrant. The Befrienders Ministry was started to meet the health care needs of parishioners, and Soup and Bread suppers were started to help support Operations Rice Bowl. Father Dave encourages his staff to work as a team, appreciates the advice and insights of the Parish Council, encourages the talents and abilities of committee members, and works to empower all parishioners to use their God-given talents to serve the Lord and spread the Good News. He is actively involved in all phases of parish life, and his enthusiasm has inspired our community.



Volunteers teaching

religious education classes and serving many hours on the various committees of the church are an important aspect of the spiritual life of the parish. Also, we now have many lay people participating at Masses in capacities as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, cantors, altar servers, and ushers. With all working toward a goal of a parish financially secure with a church and parish hall, we have come a long way from that struggling congregation with no church or money. We are indeed indebted to God for his guidance throughout the years and thank Him for all his blessings.

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- I56. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/10/1997.
- I57. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 10/26/1997.
- I58. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 09/28/1997.

- I59. Mass of Remembrance Program, 11/1/1997.
- I60. Italy Flyer, 11/10-20/1997.
- I61. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 12/14/1997.
- I62. Flyer-Catholic Parishes Planning for the New Millennium.
- I63. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/16/1997.
- I64. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 12/14/1997.
- I65. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 01/25/1998.
- I66. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 02/1/1998.
- I67. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin & Flyer, 02/8/1998.
- I68. Catholic Lenten Calendar, 1998.
- I69. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 03/29/1998.
- I70. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 04/12/1998.
- I71. Lenten Luncheon Program, 03/11/1998.
- I72. Life Long Faith Formation Flyer.
- I73. Programs for First Eucharist & Sacrament of Confirmation, 1998.
- I74. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 05/17/1998.
- I75. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 05/24/1998.
- I76. Ibid.
- I77. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 05/31/1998.
- I78. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 06/14/1998.
- I79. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/02/1998.
- I80. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/09/1998.
- I81. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 09/13/1998.
- I82. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/02/1998.
- I83. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/09/1998.
- I84. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 09/27/1998.
- I85. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 07/19/1998.
- I86. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 10/25/1998.
- I87. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 06/28/1998.
- I88. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 10/25/1998.
- I89. Rev. David Faraone's Letter, 11/7-8/1998.
- I90. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/29/1998.
- I91. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/08/1998.
- I92. Ibid.
- I93. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/29/1998.
- I94. Euchre Tournament Flyer, 12/11/1998.
- I95. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/08/1998.

196. Lessons & Carols Program, 01/3/1999.
197. Meeting Agenda, 01/19/1999.
198. Program and Flyer for Parish Mission, 02/14-17/1999.
199. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 02/07/1999.
200. Minutes of 75th Anniversary Committee, 02/08/1999.
201. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 02/14/1999.
202. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 02/21/1999.
203. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 03/07/1999.
204. Lenten Luncheon Program, 03/17/1999.
205. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 03/21/1999.
206. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 03/28/1999.
207. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 04/04/1999.

PASTORS

Of

The Church of the Epiphany, Sodus, New York
 St. Rose of Lima, Sodus Point, New York
 St. Gregory's Church, Marion, New York
 St. Mary Magdalen, Wolcott, New York
 St. John Fisher, East Bay, New York

1. **Rev. Charles F. Shay**, pastor of Sodus, mission at Marion, and chapel* at Sodus Point, July 1, 1922, to January 12, 1923.
2. **Rev. John M. Sellinger**, pastor of Sodus, mission at Marion, and chapel at Sodus Point, January 12, 1923, to August 12, 1925.
3. **Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke**, pastor of Sodus, mission at Marion, and chapel at Sodus Point, August 12, 1925, to October 31, 1929.

4. **Rev. Daniel R. Sullivan**, pastor of Sodus, mission at Marion, and chapel at Sodus Point, October 31, 1929, to July, 1934.
5. **Rev. Thomas H. Lochren**, non-resident pastor of missions at Sodus and Marion and chapel at Sodus Point, 1934 to 1942.

Because of the Great Depression, Sodus was made a mission of St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario, in 1934, under Reverend Thomas H. Lochren. Mission priests under Father Lochren were Reverend Edward R. Dempsey, assistant pastor at Ontario, and Reverend George C. Vogt.

6. **Rev. Ralph J. Meyer**, pastor of Sodus, mission at Wolcott, and chapels at Sodus Point and East Bay, June 18, 1942, to February 4, 1953.
7. **Rev. James F. O'Connell**, pastor of Sodus, mission at Wolcott, and chapels at Sodus Point and East Bay, February 4, 1953, to June 29, 1954. Pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point, June 29, 1954, to July 2, 1956.
8. **Rev. William F. Lammers**, pastor of Sodus and chapel at Sodus Point, July 2, 1956, to June 23, 1964.
9. **Rev. Thomas F. McVeigh**, pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point, June 23, 1964, to February 14, 1968.
10. **Rev. John F. Cavanaugh**, pastor of Sodus, February 14, 1968, until his death on February 5, 1984. Mission of St. Rose, February 14, 1968, until October 1, 1978. Chapel of St. Rose, 1979 until 1984.

After Father Cavanaugh's death, Deacon Edward R. Sergeant helped with many of the details of running the parish. Reverend John Hempel, our interim priest, arrived on March 1, 1984, and stayed until June 26, 1984.

He was replaced on that date by Reverend John D. Dillon, who served as administrator until the following June. Father Hempel re-opened St. Rose for the summer months on May 27, 1984. Father Dillon continued to keep St. Rose open during the winter months.

11. **Rev. John D. Dillon**, pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point,
June 25, 1985 to May 1, 1991.
12. **Rev. George P. Heyman**, pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point
May 1, 1991 to June 28, 1994.
13. **Rev. David J. Faraone**, pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point
June 28, 1994 to 1999
14. **Rev. Lance Gonyo**, pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point
1999 – 2005
15. **Rev. Symon Peter Ntaiyia**, pastor of Sodus and mission at Sodus Point
2006 to Present

*Chapel in this context is used to distinguish when Mass was only offered during the summer months.

Reference for above list: Archives of the Diocese of Rochester

APPENDIX: THE CHURCH OF ST. ROSE, SODUS POINT



The history of St. Rose goes back to the Civil War Days (1861-1865) when Mass was celebrated in Lummis Hall in Sodus Point.²⁰⁸ In a sense, the predecessor of St. Rose Church of Sodus Point was St. Anne's in the village of Lummisville. St. Anne's congregation was incorporated on April 20, 1869, by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, Vicar General James M. Early, Reverend John P. Stewart, pastor of St. Anne's Church, and William Lummis and J. Maxwell Lummis, lay trustees. Father Stewart, who was then pastor of St. John's church in Clyde, founded this society, which was the first Catholic denomination to be organized in the Town of Port Bay, now known as the Town of Huron. St. Anne's never acquired its own edifice for worship but used the hall at Lummisville for services. Even this ceased in 1874.²⁰⁹

Beginning in 1876, Sodus Point was a mission station out of St. Michael's in Lyons.²¹⁰ On February 24, 1885, Rose Lummis and her sister Georgette deeded Lummis Hall to the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.²¹¹ Bishop McQuaid of Rochester blessed it as St. Rose Church in 1886. St. Rose continued under Lyons, though now as a mission since it had acquired its own building.²¹²

Looking into the future for possible expansion of the church building or the addition of a rectory, the Lummis sisters bought land adjacent to the chapel and deeded it to the church on October 21, 1887.²¹³ St. Rose Church of Sodus Point was incorporated under that name on December 5, 1887. The incorporating trustees were Right Reverend Bernard J. McQuaid, Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, Reverend James I. McManus, Vicar General of said Diocese, Reverend John J. Hickey, pastor of St. Rose Church, Sodus Point, and lay trustees Anthony Ryan and Thomas Doyle.²¹⁴

Few if any churches in the diocese of Rochester have had a more interesting origin. Here is the story as reprinted in the parish bulletin of the Church of the Epiphany, Sodus:

"St. Rose of Lima was the gift of Rose Lummis, 1844-1900, a convert and member of the prominent Lummis family of Philadelphia, a major land owner in the Sodus District. After becoming a Catholic, she became noted for her many benefactions to the Church in the U.S. and Canada. Rose Lummis gave to Bishop McQuaid the Town Hall at Sodus Bay for a chapel. It never became a parish but remained small except during the vacation period. By 1906, some enlargement was necessary. Over a period of two years this enlargement was done. The main part of the building retained its original lines, those of a town hall. In structure the building has not changed much since then."²¹⁵ When the remodeling was finished, Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester rededicated the chapel in the name of St. Rose of Lima on August 9, 1908.²¹⁶

From the start, the little church at Sodus Point had been named after the patron saint St. Rose, as its founder was Rose Lummis. This was especially appropriate, for not only had she given the property, it was apparently while she was attending Mass there in the early 1860's that this charitable Episcopalian woman felt her first inclination to become Catholic. Her co-benefactor and half-sister Georgette also later joined the Church. So did the Reverend William Salt, the Episcopal pastor at Sodus. He had at first been upset when Rose entered the Catholic Church, but he then started the investigation that led to his own becoming a Catholic in 1867. He eventually became the highly respected vicar general of the diocese of Newark, New Jersey.²¹⁷

St. Rose of Lima was designated a chapel of the Church of the Epiphany in Sodus, when that parish was established in 1922. During the Depression, when the Sodus parish itself was made a mission of St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario, St. Rose was also assigned as a chapel to St. Mary's of the Lake.²¹⁸

Miss Agnes Foley, a summer resident of Sodus Point, donated a statue of St. Rose of Lima, patroness of our church in 1954. Reverend James F. O'Connell, pastor, blessed the statue.²¹⁹

In 1985, St. Rose of Lima reached its one hundredth birthday. Father John D. Dillon arranged for a religious observance in the form of a triduum of prayer, August 21-23. After the devotions on August 22, those in attendance were treated to refreshments. The feature of the party was a beautifully decorated cake portraying a picture of the historic little chapel.²²⁰

Several repairs have been made to St. Rose of Lima. In 1986, a new roof was installed.²²¹ To highlight the attractive exterior of St. Rose, the ceiling of the bell tower

was painted, and lights controlled by a timer were installed in the year 1987.²²² A ramp was built during the summer of 1988 to make the church more accessible to the handicapped.²²³ During this same year, an illuminated sign and air conditioning were installed, and the old cement steps were replaced by new ones.²²⁴ During the summer of 1989, storm windows were installed on all windows of St. Rose except the large west window. This improvement was necessary to protect the stained glass and to save the windowsills.²²⁵ In May, 1992, a sink was installed in the sacristy. There was never any running water in the church itself in all the years that St. Rose has been used as a church. Up until now, the priest always had to go outside and then enter the basement to obtain water.²²⁶ These improvements were financed in part from the proceeds of rummage sales that were held in the basement of St. Rose during the summer. For several years, Minerva DeMarco, Cora Helfer, and their helpers organized rummage sales at St. Rose, and these sales were considered one of the best rummage sales in the area.²²⁷

A Holy Hour was held at St. Rose of Lima August 23, 1992, in honor of our patron saint, St. Rose of Lima. Rose was born Isabel de Flores y del Oliva in Lima, Peru, sometime in 1586. At age 20 she entered the convent and became a Dominican sister, dedicating her life to prayer and the Eucharist. Her most heroic work was among the poor people of Peru. She is credited with being the first person to begin any kind of outreach to the poor in South America. She died at age 31 and was the first native born person in the Americas to be canonized a saint by the Holy Father.²²⁸

Through the generosity of Cora Helfer, new gold vessels were bought in her memory.²²⁹ Also, a Schulmerich Novabell II Carillon System was installed in September, 1992, and dedicated in her memory during ceremonies held in November.²³⁰ Since the Church of the Epiphany received a new organ in memory of Esther Sprong, the former organ at the Church of the Epiphany was installed at St. Rose of Lima in 1992.

Since neither the Church of the Epiphany nor St. Rose of Lima was filled to capacity for the Saturday evening Mass, it was decided by a vote by the parishioners in 1992 to hold the Saturday evening Mass at the Church of the Epiphany. St. Rose would not have a Saturday evening Mass, but would continue to have the 8 a.m. Sunday morning Mass. This would be during the winter months from the first Sunday in Advent until Easter.²³¹ This schedule continued until Reverend David J. Faraone arrived. In October, 1994, the parish staff decided money spent for snowplowing would be saved if the Saturday evening Mass would be held at Sodus Point at 5:30 p.m. and no Masses held at St. Rose of Lima on Sundays during the winter schedule. St. Rose's 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass was moved to the Church of the Epiphany on Sunday

mornings.²³²

More repairs needed to be done in 1994. This time the floor of the sanctuary area needed to be replaced. It was a large reconstruction project undertaken completely by volunteers Bob Bacher, Kevin Forrest, Dick Haensch, Bill Lee, Peter Beganskas, Dennis Grandjean, and Ken Thebert.²³³

On December 3, 1994, Father John Dillon returned to St. Rose of Lima to dedicate and bless a new stained glass window made for St. Rose. The new window incorporated stained glass panels, which Father Dillon brought back to the parish when he was pastor. The glass panels originally came from St. Patrick's Cathedral in Rochester and up to this time hung individually in squares at St. Rose. Now they are all incorporated into a beautiful stained glass window depicting the countryside around St. Rose.²³⁴ The new window was made possible through a donation from the estate of Michael and Helen Gerhard.

The summer of 1996 saw a lot of activity at Sodus Point. A big banner on the side of St. Rose of Lima announced a Blessing of the Boats ceremony. Bishop Matthew Clark came to help Father Faraone with his first Blessing of the Boats ceremony.²³⁵

The Wednesday morning discussion group held another hot dog roast in July at St. Rose of Lima after Saturday evening Mass.²³⁶ They donated the proceeds to the church.

In July, 1996, St. Rose of Lima received an organ. The organ came from St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario.²³⁷

Another generous donation was received in January, 1997. Gene and Mickey Steger and Marcia and Don Roder gave St. Rose of Lima the gift of beautiful candlestick holders.²³⁸

Sherry Brandt has the gift of sewing and has made many articles for both churches. She made the colorful fish stoles for the Blessing of the Boats ceremony and made the green altar cloth for St. Rose of Lima.²³⁹

The teens of the parish wanted a place of their own so in the fall of 1987, they cleaned up the basement of St. Rose of Lima for their own teen room. Now they can have their parties, show movies, and other entertainment in a place they fixed up²⁴⁰.

During the summer of 1998, several fundraisers were held at St. Rose of Lima. Bernie Taft and Bob Hillis organized a baked food sale in July.²⁴¹ Three successful hot dog roasts were held in July and August and chaired by Elaine and Charlie Costello, Mickey and Joe Steger, and Pat and Al Miller.²⁴²

Among other woodworking projects he's done for the parish, Bill Lee made the beautiful bulletin holders for St. Rose of Lima.²⁴³ Richard and Louise Lamb donated a framed photograph of our 1996 Blessing of the Boats, and it hangs in St. Rose.²⁴⁴ We

are indeed grateful to the many volunteers and generous parishioners that we have.

NOTES TO APPENDIX: THE CHURCH OF ST. ROSE, SODUS POINT

1. Rochester Diocese Archives, WPA Records, c 1939, Form 195.
2. Rochester Diocese Archives, WPA Records, Form 126.
3. Rev. Robert F. McNamara letter to Mary Piekunka dated 03/06/1989.
4. Wayne County Deeds, Book 147, page 57.
5. Rev. Robert F. McNamara letter to Mary Piekunka, dated 10/25/1988.
6. Wayne County Deeds, Book 152, page 569.
7. Wayne County Miscellaneous Docket No. 3, page 569.
8. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 09/13/1981.
9. Catholic Journal, (Rochester, NY), 08/14/1908.
10. Delia Gleeson, Madame Rose Lummis (London and New York, 1907): regarding Father Salt see: Joseph M. Flynn, The Catholic Church in New

- Jersey (Morristown, NJ, 1904), pages 610-613.
11. Official Catholic Directory, 1934, 1936, under Rochester Diocese.
 12. Newspaper picture, 09/08/1954.
 13. The Record, (Sodus, NY), 08/15/1985, page 1.
 14. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 06/18/1986.
 15. Church of the Epiphany Parish Council Minutes, 12/15/1987.
 16. Church of the Epiphany Parish Council Minutes, 06/21/1988.
 17. Church of the Epiphany Parish Council Minutes, 11/15/1988.
 18. Church of the Epiphany Parish Council Minutes, 04/25/1989.
 19. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 05/31/1992.
 20. Sodus-Williamson Pennysaver Ad, 07/19/1988.
 21. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 07/05/1992.
 22. Organ/Carillon Dedication Program, 11/29/1992.
 23. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/23/1992.
 24. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/15/1992.
 25. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 10/30/1994.
 26. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 02/06/1994.
 27. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 11/27/1994.
 28. Catholic Courier, (Rochester, NY), 07/4/1996.
 29. Wayne County Star, (Lyons, NY), 07/24/1996.
 30. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 07/28/1996.
 31. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 01/19/1997.
 32. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 07/07/1996 & 07/13/1997.
 33. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 10/19/1997.
 34. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/02/1998.
 35. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 09/13/1998.
 36. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/02/1998.
 37. Church of the Epiphany Parish Bulletin, 08/30/1998.

ST. ROSE CHURCH OF SODUS POINT

Year	Under Care	Pastor
1876-1878	Mission Station - Lyons	Rev. Charles B. Rimmels
1878-1884	Mission Station - Lyons	Rev. John J. Hickey
1885-1888	Mission - Lyons	Rev. John J. Hickey
12-23-1890	First Baptism	
1888-1903	Mission - Lyons	Rev. Daniel W. Kavanaugh
1903-1915	Mission - Lyons	Rev. Bernard W. Gommenginger
11-14-1910	First Marriage	
1915-1917	Mission - Ontario	Rev. Michael J. Krieg

1917-1922	Mission - Ontario	Rev. William Byrne
04-27-1922	First Burial (Mrs. Mary Doyle)	
1922-1923	chapel* - Sodus	Rev. Charles F. Shay
1923-1925	chapel - Sodus	Rev. John M. Sellinger
1925-1929	chapel - Sodus	Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke
1929-1934	chapel - Sodus	Rev. Daniel R. Sullivan
1934-1942	chapel - Ontario	Rev. Thomas H. Lochren
1942-1953	chapel - Sodus	Rev. Ralph J. Meyer
1953-1954	chapel - Sodus	Rev. James F. O'Connell
1954-1956	mission - Sodus	Rev. James F. O'Connell
1956-1964	chapel - Sodus	Rev. William F. Lammers
1964-1968	mission - Sodus	Rev. Thomas F. McVeigh
1968-1978	mission - Sodus	Rev. John F. Cavanaugh
1979-1984	chapel - Sodus	Rev. John F. Cavanaugh
1984-1991	mission - Sodus	Rev. John D. Dillon
1991-1992	mission - Sodus	Rev. George P. Heyman
1992-1993	mission - Sodus	Rev. George P. Heyman
	(No Sat. evening Mass , 8 a.m. Mass Sunday Advent to Easter)	
1993-1994	mission - Sodus	Rev. George P. Heyman
1994-1999	mission - Sodus	Rev. David J. Faraone
1999-2005	mission - Sodus	Rev. Lance Gonyo
2006 – Present	mission – Sodus	Rev. Symon Peter Natiyia

(5:30 p.m. Mass Sat. No Sunday Masses during fall-winter schedule)

*Chapel in this context is used to distinguish when Mass was only offered during the summer months.

Reference for above list: Archives of the Diocese of Rochester.

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