

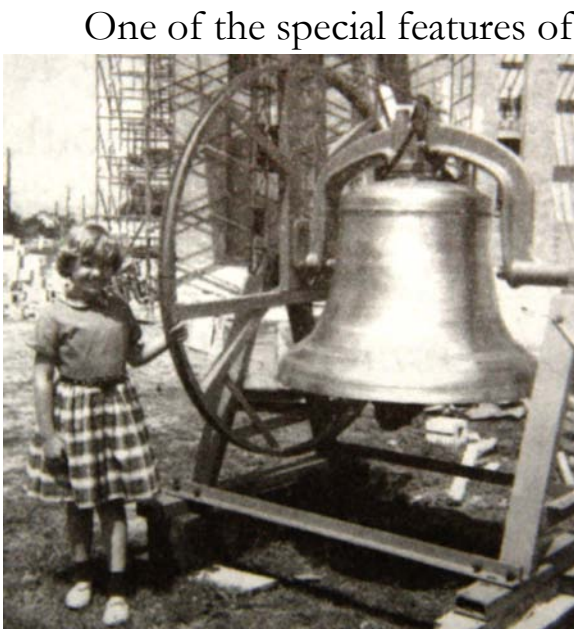
History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

Building Continues



More than 100 men of the parish were soon organized to conduct a parish-wide appeal for the building of the new church. The New Church Appeal set a goal of \$140,000.00, encouraging parishioners to “give not your mite, but your mightiest,” for a church that would accommodate 1,000 worshipers. Robert V. Huff was General Chairman; Joseph W. Higgins was Vice-Chairman and Gerald J. Emry was Advance Gift Chairman with Paul D. Wells and Frank Goodman, Sr. serving as Advisory Committeemen. September 18, 1960 was the occasion of formal groundbreaking for the new church. City and county officials, as well as many parishioners, were in attendance. The Appeal had exceeded the goal by more than \$25,000.



Barbara, the Bell

One of the special features of the new church is the 80-foot bell tower. The tower is topped with a 12-foot high stone cross. The bell itself, named Barbara for Father Anderson’s mother, rings automatically every day at 12 pm and 6 pm. to remind people to say the Angelus. Bishop Hurley sprinkled “Barbara” which was cast in Germany, with holy water before she was lifted into the tower.

When the church was completed in 1961, Father Anderson said much of the beauty of the church could be credited to Gerald Emry, contractor and son of Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Emry, early pioneers in the church. Mary Louise Shriver describes the church: “The exterior is pinkish-buff Tennessee brick with cast stone trim... A statue of St. Joseph is placed above the main entrance, which also has a stained glass window ten feet in diameter. A terrazzo floor in the interior is enhanced by a marble wainscot and base. The three altars are light marble.”

Monsignor Patrick J. Nolan, who had served the parish from 1928 to 1934 and was now working in the Chancery, blessed the church.

By this time, Lyceum Hall was no longer usable, so the old church became the church hall.



Church interior, 1981

The old church was eventually named Fr. Anderson Hall after he was assigned to Haines City to Transfiguration Church, which is now St. Ann Church. When he retired in 1978, he retired in Lake Alfred and continued to say Mass at both St. Joseph and St. Ann whenever he was needed until he died in 1994. Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey, Bishop of the Orlando Diocese, was the main celebrant at the mass of Christian Burial. Father Anderson had been ordained in Hartford, Connecticut and was buried in Assumption Cemetery in Westport Connecticut.