

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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June 29: Sts. Peter and Paul

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### ST. PETER STATION, MISSION, AND PARISH MARYSVILLE, OHIO 1854-1881

Since Marysville was not part of the Diocese of Columbus until 1945, the history of its Catholic parish does not appear in Bishop Hartley's 1918 The History of Fifty Years or in that work's 1943 update. Unfortunately, alternative, detailed sources of compiled history are also lacking. The compiler of the 1883 History of Union County apparently solicited a sketch and one was promised but never provided. Lamott's History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati contains only the following:

There is one county, that of Union, in this northeastern section of the archdiocese, which does not owe the genesis of its parish churches directly to Springfield or Cincinnati, but only indirectly to Cincinnati through Columbus and Delaware. The county seat, Marysville, was organized as a parish in 1865 by Father Fehlings, the pastor of Delaware, and dedicated under the title of St. Peter, though it is known now as Our Lady of Lourdes. Being a great agricultural center, the villages have not grown much in population and six or seven mission churches only resulted....(1)

An outline of the parish's story appeared in 1955 in the four-page brochure that commemorated the erection of the present church. Here is the first portion of that history:

Before the year, 1854, Missionary Priests attended the spiritual needs of the Catholic people of this vicinity. A few scattered members frequently walked to Delaware to hear mass at St. Mary's Church. From time to time priests came from Columbus, Delaware and Urbana, who held services in private homes, especially at Lawrence Martins and Denis McGraw's homes. Amongst the first priests who offered mass at Marysville were Rev. P. Meagher, resident priest of Columbus. Rev. H. Leis of Delaware, Rev. Casper Borgess, Rev. D. G. Grogen of Urbana, Rev. J. S. Kearney of Springfield.

In 1867 a lot was purchased on Chestnut Street near the Old School, which was later sold and the present location on Oak St. was acquired. In 1868 Rev. H. Fehlings erected a small frame building and in the fall of 1869, the church was dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. The Church was Blessed by Most Rev. Sylvester Rosecrans. During this time Rev. M. McGrath from Plain City was in charge of the parish. A short time later by Rev. Engbers, D.D., professor at St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati was pastor.

In 1872 Rev. H. Heffinmeyer was appointed pastor and he was succeeded by Rev. H. Paul in 1874. He remained pastor until 1875, when Rev. H. Mange was given charge of the parish. In 1876 Rev. P. P. Mazuret then pastor built the first rectory. He was followed by Rev. M. L. Murphy, Rev. J. H. Brummer. In 1881 to 1889 Rev. Alfred Dexter was appointed pastor and during his pastorate St. John's Cemetery was greatly improved. He was succeeded by Rev. John Hickey and remained until 1891, when Rev. John C. Nenneman took charge. He served as pastor for 12 years, during his pastorate the church was remodeled in 1900. In the same year Fe. Venneman had charge of the Sacred Heart Church in Milford Center.

Although the 1955 sketch is correct in general outline, it is unsatisfactory in many of the details. The present article will present a few records to fill in some of the history of St. Peter's, from its earliest mission days in 1854 until the 1870s.

### The Railroad and the Early Catholics

The few Catholics of Delaware were first regularly visited by priests in the 1830s, but it was not until 1854 when "a large number of railroad workmen, nearly all Irish Catholics, made Delaware and the surrounding country their residence, [that] a Church became a matter of absolute necessity." Chiefly through the initiative and efforts of Adam Mueller, a little, wooden church was built and dedicated to Our Lady on Hill St. in south Delaware. For over two years, it was a mission of the Columbus parishes of St. Patrick and Holy Cross. (2) This was the mother church of Marysville, and the origin of Catholicity in Marysville was similar to Delaware's: the arrival of Irish Catholics with the railroad.

A charter was granted to the Springfield & Mansfield Railroad Company in March of 1850, but it was several years before the line was constructed. In August of 1852 its name was changed to the Springfield, Mt. Vernon, and Pittsburgh Railroad Company. The road from Delaware through New Dover, Marysville, and Milford Center was completed in the spring of 1854 and the first train reached Delaware on March 29. (3) At Delaware the railroad connected to lines to Columbus and the northern part of the state; to the west, Marysville was connected to Springfield, Dayton, Cincinnati, and other population centers. (The story, often repeated, that Marysville's early Catholics often walked to Delaware to Mass must be questioned on two fronts: we know of no Catholics in Marysville prior to 1854; and, of more importance, Delaware St. Mary Church was not completed until after the railroad was already providing transportation between the two towns.)

The year 1854 was remembered as the first in which Mass was offered in Marysville, and that by Rev. James Meagher, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Parish. The year was probably well remembered locally, for it was that spring that the railroad arrived and also that Father Meagher solemnized the marriage of William McGough with Ellen "Schalen". The marriage license was issued in Union County and Father Meagher no doubt provided the ceremony in a house there. Father Meagher often solemnized marriages in homes in Columbus, before St. Patrick Church was built, even though Holy Cross was available to him, so he would have had no reservations about such arrangements in Marysville, far distant from any church or altar. (4) The McGough or McGraw house was one of the early Mass houses of Marysville. The 1955 history (above) mentions the house of Denis McGraw, whereas Monsignor Joseph's Hakel's account (5),

assembled for a projected 1968 history of the diocese, mentions M. McGraw. The other name mentioned in the 1955 account is Lawrence Martin, whereas Monsignor Hakel mentions instead Michael Martin. It would appear that the 1955 sketch relied on some local tradition that preserved the names of the second generation, for Denis was a son of William and Ellen McGraw and Lawrence was a son of Michael Martin. (How Monsignor Hakel came upon the names of the older generation, long before the U.S. census records were available, is now unknown.)

The 1860 census (6) provides the information that Michael Martin was a day laborer, aged 47 years, living with a daughter and a son; all were natives of Ireland. (7) William McGrath, aged 35, was also day laborer; he and his wife Ellen were both natives of Ireland and by then they had three children. Patrick O'Daniel and David McGaw, natives of Ireland, were boarding with them. Matthew and Annie "Canady" or Kennedy, aged 25 and 24, both born in Ireland, were living nearby; Matthew also was a day laborer. Other Irish living nearby were James & Julia Minga; John Fougarty & family; and Peter Naughten & family, the last of whom came to Ohio from New York about 1853.

The Union County marriage register provides a few records of the pastors of the small Catholic community in Marysville. As mentioned above, Father James Meagher of Columbus was the first mentioned, in March of 1854. On August 14, 1854, Rev. A. Grogan solemnized the marriage of Henry Hanrahan and Mary Kennedy. Father Grogan was pastor of the Urbana parish. From February 2, 1858 through Feb. 10, 1860 the Catholic marriages recorded in Marysville were solemnized by Rev. Caspar Wiese, pastor of Delaware St. Mary's. Father Wiese kept one of the best marriage registers in the present Diocese of Columbus, the only one of that era in which the names of the parents of bride and groom were recorded. Those of his records that relate to Marysville are presented below. On Feb. 7, 1861 and May 26, 1863, marriages were solemnized by Rev. James F. Kearney, who had succeeded Father Grogan at Urbana and included in his parish, besides Marysville, missions or stations at Mechanicsburg, Woodstock, Milford Center, West Liberty, Mac-a-cheek, and St. Paris. (8)

#### The First Church

In September of 1863 Father Henry Fehlings was sent as pastor to Delaware St. Mary's and Marysville was re-attached to that parish. It was during his pastorate that the first Catholic church was built in Marysville. It was located on the west side of Water Street (later Oak Street), very appropriately just three or four lots north of the railroad depot. Father Fehlings purchased inlot 196 from Harrison and Rebecca Ann Campbell for \$200 on May 24, 1866 (9), and on the north half of this lot the church was soon under construction. On September 19, 1866 he purchased the next lot north, lot 197 (at the intersection), from the same couple for \$300. (10) The latter he sold to Martin Miller of Delaware for \$1,600 in 1869. (11)

This account of the dedication of the church appeared in the Catholic Telegraph of September 26, 1866:

On Tuesday 18th last, the new church of St. Aloysius, at Lewis Centre, in Delaware Co., was blessed amid torrents of rain. The clergy present were the Right Rev. Bishop Rosecrans, Rev. Messrs. Hahne, of Dayton, Specht, of Columbus, Daly, of Newark, Weisenberg, of Springfield, and Fehlings of Delaware. The Rev. Father

Weisenberg celebrated Mass. Rev. Messrs. Specht and Daly being Deacon and Subdeacon. The choir was from Delaware. The Right Rev. Bishop performed the dedication ceremonies and preached. All the clergy were entertained after the service by Mr. Potter, who is well know in connection with the Columbus & Cleveland R. R. On Wednesday, the Right Rev. Bishop and the Rev. Messrs. Fehlings, Specht, Daly, Thisse and Blake went from Delaware to Cardington, in Morrow Co., to inspect and bless (if proper) a church bought by the Catholics from the Methodists in that place. It was decided that the building was not fit to be offered to Almighty God. The roof was bad and the ceiling broken and falling. So there was a sermon and the rosary, but no dedication.

On Thursday (the rain still continuing) all the clergymen above mentioned proceeded by train to Marysville in Union County to dedicate the new church of St. Peter, built by the generous and self-sacrificing Catholics of that place. It is a handsome frame structure about fifty-two by thirty-five. It was dedicated with the usual ceremonies by the Right Rev. Bishop. The Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Francis Specht, Rev. Thos. Blake being Deacon, and the Rev. Mr. Daly, Subdeacon. The choir, as before, was from Delaware. The generous hospitality of Mr. Richter will long be remembered by the clergy and choir.

All these new churches are in the missions of the Rev. Wm. Fehlings, of Delaware.

Father Fehlings transferred the church to Bishop Purcell on October 2, 1870, nominally for the sum of \$800. (12) By this time, the Diocese of Columbus had been erected and the boundary between the dioceses of Cincinnati and Columbus separated Marysville from Father Fehlings' parish in Delaware.

#### The First Resident Pastors

From October of 1869 until late 1870, Father Matthew F. McGrath lived at Pleasant Valley (now Plain City) and had charge of Marysville, among many other missions. The baptismal and marriage records of that parish list the following family names at Marysville: Cody, Galt, Healy, St. John, Walsh, Cary, Powers, Melcher, Kennedy, Ryan, Doolen, Fogarty, Cuddity, McGrath, Martin, and Lovell. (13) Father McGrath died on December 15, 1870 and was succeeded by a series of German priests, who made their home in Marysville. None of them stayed long and it may be that Archbishop Purcell simply had too many German priests and not enough Irish or English, and so sent the German priests to Marysville temporarily, until positions opened up in German parishes. These priests who lived in Marysville in the 1870s were:

o Rev. Bernard Heinrich Engbers (1845-1895), a native of Dalem, Hanover (Diocese of Osnabrück), had immigrated to America in 1866 and was ordained in 1868 for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He served at Marysville beginning in the fall of 1871. He was a Doctor of Philosophy and later was a professor at St. Gregory minor seminary in Cincinnati. (14)

o Rev. Heinrich Kiffmeyer (1844-1905) was ordained for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 1868. He was pastor at Marysville in 1872 and 1873 and later at Vera Cruz in Brown County. (15)

o Rev. George Henry Paul (1848-1884) was ordained for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in February of 1874 and was sent at once to Marysville. He was a native of Germany. (16)

o Rev. Johann Heinrich Menke (1852-1897) was a native of Cincinnati, ordained in 1875. Marysville was his first priestly assignment. He later served in Greenville (Darke County) and in Price Hill, Cincinnati. He died in St. Louis, Missouri. (17)

o Rev. Peter Patrick Mazuret (1834-1904) was the first resident pastor of Marysville who was not German. He was a native of Rouse's Point, New York and was ordained in 1863. He came to Cincinnati in 1876 and was sent at once to Marysville. (18) During his pastorate, it is said, Marysville's first rectory was built. If true, the four previous pastors may have lived in a rented house or rooms. This rectory apparently was on the north side of the church, where half of the adjoining lot was purchased by Archbishop Purcell in 1879 for \$300. Father Mazuret stayed until 1880.

It is not clear when the name of the parish was changed from St. Peter's to Our Lady of Lourdes. The annual Catholic Directories seem to indicate that the officials in Cincinnati did not know the name of the church, for the 1870 edition listed "Marysville, Union Co., St. \_\_\_\_\_." No name is listed in subsequent years, until in 1881 "Our Lady of Lourdes" appears. The change of name was in accord with the spreading knowledge of the apparitions and assurance of their authenticity. In 1862 the local bishop in France had declared the faithful "justified in believing the reality of the apparitions" of Our Lady. French national pilgrimages were begun in 1873, and Pope Leo XIII, elected on February 20, 1878, authorized a special office and a Mass in commemoration of the apparition.

The little church of St. Peter was remodeled in 1900 and continued to serve the parish until 1955, when the present church was constructed. The old building was sold to the Marysville Friends Church in July of 1955.

#### NOTES

- 1) Lamott, John H. (Rev.), History of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 1821-1921; N.Y. & Cincinnati: Frederick Pustet Co. Inc., 1921; pp 164-165
- 2) Steyle, Philip (Rev.), Memorial Record of St. Mary's Parish, 1911, pp 12-13
- 3) History of Union County, Ohio; Chicago: W. H. Beers & Co., 1883; I/417.
- 4) See "The Rocks on Which He Split" in the Bulletin, Vol. XIII, no. 3, March, 1988.
- 5) Typescript on file at the Catholic Record Society.
- 6) Federal Census, 1860, Union County, pages 96 and 99.
- 7) Lawrence's tombstone at St. John Cemetery provides the additional detail that he was a native of County Meath.
- 8) Annual Catholic Directory, 1854 through 1868.
- 9) Union County Deed Record, 29/327
- 10) Ibid., 31/360
- 11) Ibid., 33/99
- 12) Ibid., 34/386
- 13) See the Bulletin, vol. XIV nos. 5 and 7 (May and July, 1989).
- 14) Schematismus der katholischen Geistlichkeit deutscher Zunge..., 1892 edition by Johannes Nep. Enzberger, Milwaukee: Hofmann Brothers Co., page 60; 1882 edition by Rev. W. Bonenkamp, St. Louis: B. Heder.
- 15) Schematismus, 1882; Lamott page 361.
- 16) Lamott, page 364
- 17) Schematismus, 1882 and 1892 page 59; Lamott, page 362
- 18) Lamott, page 362

MARYSVILLE ST. PETER  
MARRIAGES IN THE UNION COUNTY RECORDS  
1854-1865

March 3, 1854, William McGaw to Ellen Schalen, by Rev. J. Meagher  
Aug. 14, 1854, Henry Hanrahan to Mary Kennedy, by Rev. A. Grogan  
Feb. 2, 1858, Matthew Kennedy to Anna St. John, by Rev. C. Wiese  
May 6, 1858, John Kirby to Catharine Odey, by Rev. C. Wiese  
July 30, 1858, Bryan Maloney to Margaret Dean, by Rev. C. Wiese  
Feb. 19, 1859, Michael Cody to Ann Powers, by Rev. C. Wiese  
Feb. 10, 1860, Daniel Doolin to Joanna Kelly, by Rev. C. Wiese  
Feb. 7, 1861, George Lovell to Roseanna Martin, by Rev. J. Kearney  
May 26, 1863, William Kain to Anna Cody, by Rev. J. Kearney  
Jan. 21, 1864, Edward Cody to Mary McGraw, by Rev. Henry Fehlings

MARRIAGES OF MARYSVILLE CATHOLICS  
IN DELAWARE ST. MARY'S RECORDS

Matthew Kennedy, son of Patrick Kennedy and Honora Collins, born in Ireland, aged 23 years; to Anna St. John, daughter of John St. John and Anna Ryan, born in Ireland, aged 22 years; witnesses Bernard Hynes and Mary Daly; at (Marysville, erased) Delaware, 2 Feb., 1858. C. Wiese

Bryan Molony, son of John Molony and Mary Fahan, born in Ireland, aged 23 years; to Margaret Dean, daughter of John Dean and Johanna Greany, born in Ireland, aged 18 years; witnesses James Ross and Julia Molony; 30 July, 1858 at Delaware. C. Wiese

John Kily, son of Patrick Kily and Bridget Quirk, born in Ireland, aged 25 years; to Catherine O'Day, daughter of James O'Day and Honora Fenell, born in Ireland, aged 22 years; witnesses Michael Cody and Mary O'Day; at Delaware, Ohio in the Church of St. Mary, 6 May, 1858. C. Wiese

Michael Cody, son of John Cody and Margaret Croak, born in Ireland in 1834; to Anna Powers, daughter of John Powers and Catherine Connor, born in Ireland, 14 years old; witnesses Thomas Croak and Joanna Connors, wife of Thomas Gull; at Delaware in the Church of St. Mary, 19 Feb., 1859. C. Wiese

Daniel Doolin, son of Patrick Doolin and Anna Whalen, born in Ireland, aged 26 years; to Joanna Kelly, daughter of Daniel Kelly and Mary Donovan, born in Ireland, aged 16 years; witnesses David M'Grath and Catherine Kelly; in the Church of St. Mary, Delaware, 11 Feb., 1860. C. Wiese

Jan. 21, 1864, Edward Cody to Mary McGough, both born in Ireland; witnesses Will. McGough and Mary his wife. H. Fehlings

CHILLICOTHE ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
BAPTISMAL REGISTER, 1835-1846  
(Continued from Vol. XIX, No. 5)

- page 51 1843, continued
- July 23 Helen, daughter of Andrew Leister and Eva Dorothea Schlerret(?);  
spons. Joseph Leisler [sic] and Helen Barbon. H. D. Juncker
- July 31 Anna Maria, daughter of Sebastian Litter and Catherine Bauer; spons.  
Franz Eid and wife Anna Maria. HDJ
- Aug. 3 William, aged 18 months, and Thomas, aged 4 months, children of  
Patrick Halvay(?) and Nancy Hammon; spons. James O'hirn. HDJ
- Aug. 6 Genevieve, born July 30, daughter of Philip Edschleger and Kunigunda  
Dressel; spons. Basil Boggenschitz and Genevieve End.
- same day Franz Anton, born July 26, son of Philip Gerdeisser and Josephine  
Sporr; spons. Laurence Hird and Catherine Hird.
- same day Joseph, born July 21, son of Valentin Hemmerlie and Theresa Oberer;  
spons. Peter Kern and Rosa Oberer. HDJ
- Aug. 13 Margaret Salome, 4 months old, daughter of John Zimmerman and  
Christina Kaiser; spons. Jacob Zimmerman and Seb. Bear. HDJ
- Aug. 19 Julius, born April 11, son of William Emerick and Magdalena Schmitt;  
spons. William Hartlaub and wife. HDJ
- page 52
- Aug. 20 Caroline, born Aug. 12, daughter of Carl Boggenschitz and Juliana  
Eichmann; spons. Alexander Santo and Anna Maria Spetnagel.
- Aug. 20 Elizabeth, born the same day, daughter of Gallus Schurhammer and  
Elizabeth Wild; spons. Xavier Hanks and Ursula Leising. HDJ
- Aug. 27 Mary, born Aug. 22, daughter of Peter Schmitt and Margaret Dippel;  
spons. Michael Saveris Kirsch and Mary Hechinger.
- same day John Baptist, born Aug. 6, son of John Basseler and Regina Oberer;  
spons. Daniel Oberer and Carolina Federer. HDJ
- Sept. 3 Henry, born July 12, son of Vendelin Seile and Friderica Herman;  
spons. Ciril Frech and Gertrude Hermann.
- same day Simon, born May 8, son of Ciril Frech and Euphinia Hermann; spons.  
Coelistine Hermann and Friderica Seile.
- same day George Anthony, seven weeks old, son of George Meyer and Catherine  
Hiller; spons. Anton Müller and Eva Eichenlaub. HDJ
- Sept. 23 In Circleville,  
John, born June 4, son of Walder McKell and Margaret McKann; spons.  
Patrick Morn and Theresa Schweany [Sweeney?].
- same day Francis James, born July 15, son of Francis Robinson and Margaret  
McCallion; spons. Adam Doll and Veronica Heiller. HDJ
- page 53
- Sept. 29 Catherine, born Sept. 9, daughter of William Schenkings [Jenkins?]  
and Catherine Bready; spons. Mrs. Healy. HDJ
- Oct. 2 Henry, born July 2, 1836; John, born Jan. 21, 1838; Catherine, born  
Jan. 18, 1840; and Susan, born July 9, 1842, children of Laurence  
Laury and Priscilla Thomer; spons. Bartholomew Reilly and Ursula his  
wife.
- same day Ellen, born Sept. 6, 1841; and Amalia, born Aug. 7, 1843, daughters  
of John W. Wild and Ephrosina Reilly; spons. Bartholomew Reilly and  
Ursula his wife.
- same day Mary, born March 5, 1840, daughter of Bartholomew Reilly and Ursula  
Burkerd; spons. Jacob Vunderle and Maria Josepha his wife. HDJ
- (To be continued)

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

We are always grateful for gifts of books, photographs, and other memorabilia that expand our knowledge of the Church. Parishes are especially encouraged to send in a copy of any new parish history or photo-directory that may be published. These items were received recently:

Callaghan, Emily A., Memoirs and Writings of The V. Rev. James F. Callaghan, D.D.; Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company, 1903. (Msgr. Callaghan was editor of the Cincinnati Telegraph, etc.) and

Father Healy's Christmas Poems, a collection of Christmas Poems by Rev. Msgr. Edward F. Healy (1994) - gifts of Patrick Mooney

Woltz, Rev. George T., moderator, A Catholic Comments on Dr. Roy A. Burkhardt's Sermon; Notre Dame Information Program, 1946 and

Snapshot of Rev. Peter Grabaskas (died 1983) - gifts of Rev. Homer Blubaugh

Photos of the exterior of the first St. Elizabeth Church, Roswell and the interior of the former Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia - copied from originals provided by Msgr. George Schlegel

Brown, Francis F. (Rev.), A History of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, Volume I, the Mussio Years (1945-1977); Lewiston (N.Y.): The Edwin Mellen Press, 1994 - purchased

A complete fifteen-volume set of the 1913 edition of The Catholic Encyclopedia (New York, The Encyclopedia Press, Inc.) - gift of Mary DiPietro, librarian at DeSales High School

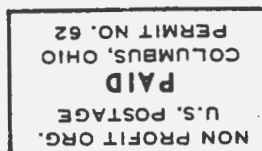
Profile of Youth, Diocese of Columbus, by the Catholic Youth Council, 1960 - gift of Fr. William Maroon

Elwell, Rev. Clarence E., and others, Through Christ Our Lord, Book 2 of Our Quest for Happiness Textbook Series; Chicago: Mentzer, Bush & Co., 1945 and

L'Evêque D'Orleans, Méthode Générale De Catéchisme..., vols. 1-3; Paris: Charles Douniol, 1862.

- These had belonged to Bishop Elwell and were recently given to Bishop Griffin, who thought they should be in our library.

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