

PIONEER PARISHIONERS

KURT & MARY WALLACE

Kurt & Mary Wallace's older daughter was the first child baptized at the St. Matthias hardware store church. She recollects, "It was a lovely ceremony...even with folding chairs to use as pews."

The Wallaces immigrated to the United States from England when Kurt was offered a job with Ampex. They arrived in time to help build our church.

According to Mary, "A friend who lived across the street from the future church property told me about the new parish being planned. Father Lacey called and asked me to help with the canvassing. I remember talking to lots of neighbors and being chased by a few dogs."

Mary notes, "Our 3 children had their baptism, first communion and confirmation ceremonies at St. Matthias." She reports, "There was a very active Teen Club. When our son was about to be baptized, we heard that some of the teens would like to see the ceremony. So we had family members plus an audience of appreciative teens for the event."

Their son served as an Altar Boy at St. Matthias and St. Pius. She says, "He used to rush back and forth on his bicycle to cover masses for both churches." Mary has a smile in her voice when she recalls, "And of course for many years, Father Lacey used to travel to his home visits and other activities on his motorcycle."

Mary reports, "Our Parish was planned for more parishioners. But there was a building moratorium in the area because of the water shortage. So the number of new parishioners they were anticipating didn't happen until years later when the moratorium was lifted."

In spite of that, it was a very busy parish in the early years with lots of masses and three priests. She notes, "There was a big curtain separating the church from the hall. If a mass was crowded, the curtains could be opened to accommodate more people."

Mary continues, "My husband helped with the installation of pews in the newly completed church. I served on the Altar Society and helped with lots of Bingo events and Donut Sundays." She stresses, "And, I really cherish my continued participation in Marilyn Donnelly's Renew Group."

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She adds, “A few years later, my husband and other volunteers spent a weekend putting new pews in our recently built church.”

Fathers Lacey and Casella lived in the house that was already on the property purchased for the Church). Fr. Casella’s aunt served as housekeeper/cook for the priests.”

A few years ago, Kurt retired and they did a lot of traveling all over the world.

England, Ampex

She real estate firm

Altar society

Lots of bingos

Donut Sundays

Renew group –cherishes it

3 priests

Fr lacey and Fr C (fathr c’s aunt servef a cook/housekeeper

Folding chairs in hardware store

Husband an other volunteers set up all of the pews in the original cnurch

Lots of masses in the early days

Retired to trvel the world

Active in renew group

Church has a curtain at the back separating the church from the hall. It could be opened to accommodate overflow crowds.

Mary Donnelly’s renew greoup

Quite a bust parish in early days

Almost all of the young assistants in the early days left to get married

Mary also did door-to-door canvassing “as chased by lots of dogs.”

She adds, “That’s why the church building was actually built as a gym/church hall.”