

ST. LUKE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
7001 GEORGETOWN PIKE
MCLEAN, VA 22101

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. LUKE'S PARISH

St. Luke's Parish, was founded in 1960, with approximately 200 families from McLean and Great Falls in what had been the northeast sector of St. John's Parish. In 1961 the parish quarters consisted of a split level house on Congress Lane in Broyhill Langley Estates, adjacent to the Church property. The house served as a rectory, with chapel and offices in the basement. Furnishings for the residence and for religious use were provided by parishioners through the newly formed Women's Club and Men's Club. Mass was held at local public schools--first Franklin Sherman and later at Churchill Road.

The school, built through a tithing program and with the expectation that a new church would soon follow, was opened in September 1962 with a staff of teachers, the Felician Sisters from Lodi, New Jersey, and four grades with a capacity of 50 students each. The sisters were housed in the former rectory and the priests moved into what is now the school office. A staff of mothers and fathers provided regular CCD instruction for some 250 students and 1963 marked the first Parish Confirmation and First Communion celebrations.

Over the years, the school grew from four grades to eight, plus a kindergarten. A Convent was built and eventually became the Parish Center. The house on Congress Lane was sold and another purchased on Dead Run Drive; this served as a Rectory and later a Convent. When the Felician Sisters were no longer able to furnish teachers, the staff was supplemented and later fully staffed by lay teachers.

In June 1979 the Parish was divided and the Great Falls area became the Parish of St. Catherine of Sienna. In 1982, when the new church was built, replacing what had become known as "Our Lady of the Gymnasium," St. Luke's Parish census listed 950 families. Today, it has grown to 1,350 families.

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED ST. LUKE'S ARE:

1. MOST. REV. LOUIS FLAHERTY, 1961-1963
(DECEASED)
2. REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOSEPH L. WINGLER
1963-1965 (DECEASED)
3. REVEREND ALBERT F. PEREIRA, 1965-1973
4. REVEREND JOHN J. HUGHES, 1973-1986
5. REVEREND J. STEWART CULKIN, 1986-