St. Margaret Mary entertainment programs
2004.13

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Biographical / Historical

St. Margaret Mary Parish was established in the fall of 1961 and the Reverend Thomas C. O'Neil was appointed as pastor. Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, the "mother parish" purchased a 16 acre parcel of land and a ranch house at 80 Hayes Road which was to be used as a temporary rectory while the new church and rectory were being built. The first Masses in the parish were celebrated at the Wapping School and at the Ellsworth Memorial High School on Main Street. The Reverend Edward McLean became the first weekend assistant to help Father O'Neil with the Sunday Mass schedule.

On October 4, 1961, Saint Margaret Mary Parish was incorporated with the appointment of John Nachyly, Jr. and Francis Coleman as trustees of the parish. During the week of October 21, 1961, an addition to the rectory at 80 Hayes Road was begun. When completed, that chapel was used for daily Mass, baptisms and confession.
The groundbreaking ceremony for the new buildings took place on Sunday, September 23, 1962 after a very successful fund drive which soon reached its minimum goal of $250,000. During the year 1962, Father William Crane, M.S. replaced Father McLean as weekend assistant.

By 1962, a Ladies Guild had been formed with Mrs. James Rafferty as president; the Holy Name Society was formed with Mr. Charles Maurer serving as president; religious instructions had begun under the guidance of Mrs. Julia Durig.

In 1963, Father Joseph Schick was appointed Assistant Pastor. Fathers O'Neil and Schick served the parish until spring 1972 when Father O'Neil was appointed Pastor of Saint Therese Church in North Haven. In June 1972, a team ministry comprised of Father Schick and Father William McGrath was appointed by Archbishop Wheeler to serve.

In June 1978, following the completion of their first six year term as a team, Fathers Schick and McGrath left the parish for different assignments and Father John Quinn was appointed pastor. At that time, Father Joseph Keating was appointed as Father Quinn's assistant. In August 1981, Father Mark Flynn replaced Father Keating as assistant.

In 1984, after completion of his six year term as Pastor, Father Quinn left to become Catholic Chaplain at Saint Francis Hospital. Father Flynn was appointed Co-Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Southbury. On June 7, 1984, Father Daniel Sullivan and Father Peter Zizka were appointed co-pastors and began their team ministry in our parish with Father William R. Crochetiere as Parochial Vicar. In 1986, Father Shellman was appointed Parochial Vicar. In 1995, Father Francis "Frank" Krukowski was appointed Parochial Vicar. Father Sullivan retired on September 5, 2013. Father Michael J. Dolan took over as Pastor in September 2013.

As of March 31st, 2017, Saint Francis of Assisi Church and Saint Margaret Mary Church were merged by the Archdiocese of Hartford to become Saint Junípero Serra Parish. In September 2020, Father Jorge Castro became administrator. (Source: https://www.saintjuniperserra.org/st-junipero-serra-detailed-history/)

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**Scope and Contents**


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