

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC MISSION 1916 - 1979

Sacred Heart was built by Father William Jan at Minnieville. It was located on Spriggs Road. The land was donated by Joseph Cheslock. Prior to the building of the church, masses were said in the homes of the founders.

The name Sacred Heart was chosen by the original families because of their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Some of the parishioners were of the Byzantine Rite. In 1925 they constructed St. Mary's on Hoadly Road.

The first church was similar in structure to the present one. Two notable differences were the steeple and a choir loft. There is a small cemetery located on Spriggs Road next to where the church was built.

It became increasingly difficult to reach the church because of the terrible road conditions. Spriggs Road was not paved and cars very often became stuck. In 1937 the church was moved to its present location on Hoadly Road. The land was donated by Mary Sholtis. Lumber that had been used in the other church was reused, as well as some of the window frames.

Sacred Heart has always been a mission church. The first priests to administer to the mission came from Woodford, a small hamlet south of Fredericksburg. They arrived by train on Saturday and were met by a parishioner at Woodbridge. They would spend the night at the parishioner's home and offer mass on Sunday morning. For a short time Warrenton administered to Sacred Heart. In 1929, All Saints Church in Manassas had the responsibility for the small mission. When Holy Family parish was formed in 1970, Sacred Heart was transferred to the new parish.

In relating this short account, there is a realization that the people are the primary reason for Sacred Heart. A church is people, anyone who has come in contact with Sacred Heart can confirm this. Several of our community members' parents were the founders. They, as did their parents, fulfill a commitment of caring for this little church. Sacred Heart will be truly blessed if its future is as rich as its past.

People who contributed to building the original Sacred Heart Church, Spriggs Road are as follows:-

Joseph Cheslock and family
land, labor, financial help

Joseph Bensak and family
labor, financial help

John Sholtis and family
labor, financial help

Steve Chapura and family
labor, financial help

Mr. Sunoga and family
labor, financial help

Dan Duritza and family *
labor, financial help

Mr. Maraza and family
labor, financial help

Mrs. Drotar
financial help

Mike Gaba and family
labor, financial help

Joseph Stefko and family
labor, financial help

John Paulovich and family *
labor, financial help

Mrs. Liza Smith
financial help

John Samsky and family
labor, financial help

John Bucko and family *
labor, financial help

Vasil Olear and family
financial help

Mike Olear and family
labor, financial help

George Shutlack *
financial help

* Byzantine Rite Catholics

"Lord, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells."

Psalm 26, 8