

Holy Eucharist History

In **1965** the Very Rev. Bishop Harry Clinch decided there should be an additional parish in the Pajaro Valley. Bishop Clinch chose the Corralitos area and appointed Rev. James Kelly as our missionary Administrator. Father Kelly was the pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Church. He gathered a group of people together in the area and began to celebrate mass at the Padres Hall on Browns Valley Rd, then in the Grange Hall. Mass was celebrated by volunteer priests.



Bishop Clinch and Father Kelly found a piece of property approximately 10.5 acres with a residence on it to purchase with the help of the diocese from local Apple farmer Ray L. Travers.



In **1969** Rev. Harry Friermuth was appointed our **first** pastor. With the help of a well picked committee, the beginning of building a church began. They found that the quickest and least expensive way was to buy a pre-engineered steel building.

In **1971** a young marathon runner Rev.

Michael O'Sullivan who had competed in the famous Boston Marathon became our **2nd** pastor. Fr. Michael and the committee began the construction on the new church. To raise money for the building of the church Fr. Michael proposed running 12.5 on the roads of Corralitos. He sold tickets to guess his exact finishing time. The winner would win a prize and all the money would go back to the parish. This proved so successful it became a yearly event with parishioners joining in the run.



In 1974 the church was completed. Most of the plumbing, electrical, and heating was done by volunteers. The first mass and quite a few later were celebrated in this bare steel building that was nicknamed "Saint Appleshed".

Also in **1974** a very energetic priest Rev. Joe Watt became our **3rd** pastor. Fr. Joe set out to finish the interior of the building. With the help of a loan from the diocese and some unique fundraisers the "mile of dimes" and the "dime a dip" potlucks, many projects were completed.



In **1984** Rev. Ron Shirley became our **4th** pastor. The improvements continued under Father Ron. Those included paving the parking lot, drainage improvements, and finishing touches to the offices.

In **1989** Rev. John Griffin became our **5th** pastor. Father John was greeted by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The earthquake severely damaged the interior of the building, and the ceiling. Father John made the interior improvements to the church that we enjoy today. Father John initiated the first parish directory, and was responsible for the organ, grand piano, and the development of our liturgical music.



In **2001** an Irish priest Rev. Paul Murphy became our **6th** pastor. Some of the many things Father Paul was able to provide for our church were to design and install the three beautiful stained glass windows in the north wall of the church, provide a new Baptismal Font, and erect a flag pole with light for the front of the church. He planned a replacement tower for the bell to remove our deteriorating bell-tower as well as a plan to repair the roof. Father Paul started the St. Patrick's Day Shindig which has been one of our main fundraisers for many years.

In **2008** Rev. Joseph Grimaldi became our **7th** pastor. He was previously the Chaplain at Dominican Hospital and also a Canon Lawyer for the Vatican. Like Fr. John he also was greeted by a disaster. These were the Trabing and Loma Prieta fires. The CDF (California Department of Forestry) used our parking lot and the rectory for a staging area to fight the fire. Fr. Joe had been appointed as our pastor but had not moved in yet. When he came over from Santa Cruz to see if everything was OK, someone met him at the entrance of the parking lot and told him that the CDF had taken over the parking lot and the rectory. You may not know, but at the Vatican CDF has a totally different meaning (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). An outcrop of the inquisition this in itself indicates a great deal of concern. When Fr. Joe heard that the CDF had taken over the parish his immediate reaction was "Dear God what have I done wrong."

Fr. Joe was able to follow up on the things that Fr. Paul had started. He had the bell tower erected and the roof replaced.

He appointed a facilities committee, and had the kitchen remodeled. Our kitchen is the center of our ministry to feed the homeless every Monday night at the Salvation Army and also to cook for our social events and fundraisers.

With the blessings of our Bishop, Very Rev. Richard Garcia, Fr. Joe invited our Hispanic Community to the parish and established a 12:00 mass in Spanish. This mass has quickly filled with many young families and is helping to grow our parish. Our Parish Deacon Rev. Mr. Camerino Padilla helps with our Spanish mass and does a wonderful job.

In **2011** Rev. Derek Hughes became our **8th** pastor. Fr. Derek has done many things for our parish including new outside drainage, landscaping and benches, and a beautiful outside stations of the cross has been started. An array of solar panels to help save money will be installed this year- which makes us the first parish in our diocese with solar panels. The bathrooms are being renovated and Fr. Derek has made an effort to get the youth of the church more involved.



The people of this parish are the most ambitious, generous, kind and loving people you would want to know and like the energizer bunny, they will keep going and going, because we have a long way to go. In the words of a famous comedian Jimmy Durante, and I quote **"You ain't seen nothing yet."**