

Holy Redeemer marks 50 years in Greensburg

By JESSICA ABLE
THE RECORD NEWSPAPER

High upon a hillside — green with the signs of spring — sits Holy Redeemer Church, a small close-knit parish located near the Green River in Green County.

Holy Redeemer celebrated its 50th anniversary April 6 with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz. The Mass was followed by a reception in the adjacent hospitality room. About 40 people attended the anniversary Mass.

The parish — which is located in the south central part of the state about 40 miles southeast of Elizabethtown — began as a mission church in the 1960s. It was established by Father George Bowling with the assistance of the Louisville Archdiocese Mission Promoters (LAMP). LAMP's aim was to spread the faith in rural areas of the archdiocese.

Though the parish is small — the enrollment totals about 35 people — the parishioners possess a love of the church and a deep hunger for the Catholic faith.

Maryann and Ed Matheny began attending Holy Redeemer about a dozen years ago following a move from the East Coast.

"It's just a nice, small quiet church," Ed Matheny said in a recent interview at the parish.

Maryann Matheny agreed and said parishioners are friendly and



Photo courtesy of The Record

Three large crosses sit in the foreground of Holy Redeemer Church in Greensburg. The parish in Green County celebrated its 50th anniversary April 6 with a Mass and reception.

welcoming.

"We all get on. We pull together and get things done," she said.

Joe Dunn, who has attended Holy Redeemer since he was a small child, fondly remembers the humble origins of the parish.

Dunn recalled attending Mass in a rear storage area of the local Kentucky Utilities building before the congregation had a

worship space.

About 20 people from eight families would set up the altar, chairs and kneeling pads each Sunday morning before the late Father Bowling arrived to celebrate Mass, he said.

As the community found a permanent home and began construction on a church, Dunn had a birds-eye view of the process

from his home that sat uphill from the church. "I lived across the street in a red-brick house and watched it being built. My brother and I helped haul cement blocks and bricks when they were constructing here," he said.

Holy Redeemer is clustered with Good Shepherd Church in Columbia, Ky., and Holy Spirit Church in

Jamestown, Ky. The three share an administrator, Father Joseph Thomas, a priest of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate order from India.

Linda Fitzpatrick, business manager for the three parishes, said parishioners have experienced a great deal of transition in the last decade, at times more than they would like.

"Just in the last 10 years, we've had six priests. It's a lot of transition. It makes a difference," said Fitzpatrick, who has been a parishioner of Good Shepherd since 1976.

As new pastors and administrators come and go, programs and offerings are inevitably lost, Fitzpatrick said.

See Holy, page 7A

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