

ST. LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE

West Terre Haute

Named after a missionary born in 1676 in Imperia, Italy, this parish was founded by immigrants of 14 nationalities. Prior to its founding, parishioners traveled to St. Joseph Parish in Terre Haute or St. Mary-of-the-Woods Village Parish to the northwest.

Before the original church/school was erected in 1911, several families hosted Mass in their homes. John and Mary Gropp welcomed Father Thomas Hoffman and a community of 60 families in their four-room house.

John and Elizabeth Foradori opened their home to the Sisters of Providence, who taught religion to children in the Whitcomb Heights area, where Mass was also offered.

Today a modernistic red brick and Bedford stone one-story structure, dedicated in 1959, offers all parishioners easy access to worship. The interior has a green mosaic altar area depicting various scenes from both New and Old Testaments.



In spite of its small size, St. Leonard has a parish council, steering committee, ladies club and monthly parish meeting that all are invited to attend, and pitch-in dinners that serve as social and fund-raising events. Parishioners have a devotion to the church community and devote many hours to caring for it. New committees address liturgical, social and maintenance matters; financial and educational groups have developed.

One parishioner said, "It's easy to belong here because there's always something to do." Parishioners feel that joyful and sorrowful occasions should be shared. They make special efforts during times of bereavement to provide a grieving family support.



ST. ANN

Indianapolis

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Founded near Stout Field in 1917 at the close of World War I, St. Ann Parish originally used a Quonset hut as a church. A second church, a frame structure, replaced the hut in 1927, and in 1969 a third one, a contemporary round building, followed. In this church everyone is close to the altar. Friendliness characterizes the congregation.



St. Ann is located in the former town of Mars Hill. Father John Patterson, its founding pastor, stayed 20 years, and was followed by four other priests in quick succession. In 1947 Father Carl Wilberding began a 27-year pastorate that ended with his death in 1974.

St. Ann School began in 1919 under the care of a lay teacher. Sisters of Providence arrived in 1925. The school closed in June 1989.

Father John Beitans arrived in 1983 and remarked, "It's an energetic parish where everyone gets a chance to work and do." Father Beitans met with parishioners in their homes to hear their needs. According to Katherine Stich, then coordinator of religious education, "If someone felt a particular need wasn't being addressed, they could bring it up at that time."

In recent years, Father Glenn O'Connor has served both St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes.

St. Ann Parish celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1992 and published a 75th anniversary book. At the time of its 90th anniversary in 2007, Father O'Connor reported, "We are planning to relocate Saint Ann Parish to Decatur Township in Indianapolis. Our 'field of dreams' is located at the corner of Mills Road and Mooresville Road. The parish remembers, 'With you, God, nothing is impossible.'"

