

St. Martin in the Fields, Grand Island

What are some significant moments in the history of your church that have shaped its identity today?

1st service—8/1/1948 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoefner on East River Road

Nov 1948 moved services to “chicken coop”

Nov 1950 broke ground for chapel on Baseline Road. (this was eventually moved to another location on Grand Island)

1/5/52 first service at a new building

1953 first vicar hired – Fr. Richard Baker

Sept 1954 broke ground for church that we use today.

May 1956 new building was dedicated.

1965 Rectory built

1970 St. Martin’s went from mission to a parish



What makes your church unique in the region and the diocese?

We are a vibrant and growing community on Grand Island right between Buffalo and Niagara Falls. We worship according to the broad Anglo Catholic tradition welcoming all generations and ages to share in the liturgy with us.

What are the most vibrant ministries or strengths of your parish today?

We have a blessing box food pantry and a pet food pantry that serves a large number of people around the island. We have very active mens and womens groups that do charitable work and fellowship activities throughout the year. We are well known on the island for our annual Chicken BBQ which serves more than 700 people every year.

Describe a moment in your community’s life when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit moving among you. What made that moment possible?

We felt the Holy Spirit active in the community as we gathered together to fulfill the dream of the congregation to build a new fellowship pavilion on the church grounds. We did much of the fundraising and construction work together as a congregation and realized just how much we can achieve together as a parish community.

How does your church engage with the local neighborhood, the civic life of your community, or diocesan and/or Episcopal Church-wide initiatives?

We do ecumenical services with the ELCA and Methodist churches on the island and put on lenten lunches for members of all churches across the island. We also collect supplies and money for our local food bank and for homeless and domestic violence shelters around the buffalo area.

What are the hopes and dreams of your congregation for its next chapter?

We hope to grow in our engagement and ministry with the Grand Island community and to encourage the next generation of leaders within our congregation.