

## St. Patrick's Church celebrates 25th anniversary



(L-R) Monsignor Raymond Beard, Father Gerry Condon and Father Francis Hebert prepare to cut the cake during the 25th anniversary celebration of St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Sunday, Nov. 24, St. Patrick's Parish is Heppner celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of their church.

Father Gerry Condon conducted the Mass with Monsignor Raymond Beard and Father Francis Hebert. Despite the icy road conditions many well-wishers and parishioners attended the service.

The following people chaired committees for the service and the reception which followed in the parish hall: Shanny Miller, publicity and invitations; Gayle Arbogast, invitations; Judie Laughlin and Doris Brosnan, brochure; Dan Van Schoiack and Larry Lindsay, Heppner church history; Bev Doherty, lone church history; Irish Sweeney, decorations; Kim Armato, banners; Ray Grace, hall posters; Martha Doherty and Janelle Lacey, photography; Mark Huddleston, greeting; Janet Greenup; Bill Kuhn and Kathy Britt, children's choir; and Father Gerry Condon and Jean Strange, Young Patricians. Folk group members were Laurie Straley, Debbie Wren, Ann Murray, Val Campbell and Jean Strange. The cake was made by Fran Barnett.

Bill Kenny sang the Lord's Prayer.

The current church of the St. Patrick's Parish was built in 1971 because of the rising maintenance costs of the old church, which was built in 1941, and an increasing need for space. Workers began dismantling the old church on April 19, 1971.

The new church was designed by Jerry Mossman and constructed by contractor AidenVixie of Walla Walla. Countless hours of hammering, sawing and assistance were provided by Father Raymond Beard and parishioners.

With the old church down and a new one in the making, Mass was held in the parish hall until the new church was

ready for service. Bishop Thomas J. Connolly and former Bishop Francis P. Leipzig were invited to dedicate the new church on November 10, 1971. A banquet was held after the congregation celebrated Mass with Father Beard and former pastors.

The first infant baptized in the new church was Michael Scott Lovgren in December 1971. Also in December of that year, John and Jill O'Donnell became the first couple married in the new church.

Father Beard was transferred to Milton-Freewater early in 1974 after serving the St. Patrick parish since 1959. Father John O'Brien, a native of Ireland, came to Heppner that year. He was assisted by "Deacon Joe", who became Father Joseph Kelbel at his ordination held at St. Patrick Church in 1980.

Father O'Brien died in 1982 while on leave to visit family in Ireland. Father David Hazen was appointed to the church from Dec. 1982 until January 1983. Monsignor Raymond Beard then returned for a brief period until Father Brian J. McGovern became pastor in March of that year.

Father McGovern celebrated 25 years in the priesthood while serving at St. Patrick's and Father Hebert celebrated 25 years in 1985. Father Hebert, who is retired, fills in as priest on many occasions. Monsignor George Murphy as filled in as priest until his death in 1984.

Father McGovern left Heppner in 1986 and was replaced by Father Edward Receconi. St. Patrick's Parish celebrated its 100th anniversary in conjunction with Heppner's St. Patrick's Day celebration in 1987.

Father Receconi served until Father Dominic Hahn arrived in April 1987. After his departure in 1990, Father Ben Lobo, a native of India, served very briefly.

In August 1990 Father Gerry Condon arrived, serving until

Nov. 1993, when he left for a six-month sabbatical to visit Ireland, his homeland. Father Thomas Scanlan served until early 1991. Father Remi Mollaneda served the parish through the Lenten season that year.

Father Condon was reassigned to St. Patrick's after his sabbatical. He celebrated his 40th anniversary in 1995.



Father Condon blesses a series of paintings at the 25th anniversary celebration at St. Patrick's Church

## School kids collect food for holidays



The Heppner Middle School Student Council has been busy collecting food for the Neighborhood Center food pantry.

The council collected food from Heppner Elementary and Middle School students for the past two weeks and presented

it to Jan Skaggs of the Neighborhood Center last week.

Pictured, along with Jannie Allen, student council advisor, and Skaggs were Brian Smith, Jesse Kempas, Luke Murray, Sheena Shank, Donald Adams, Marcy Miller, Blake Allstott, Brad Adams, Chelsea

Bredemeier, Brooke Rust, Aleshia Geer, Matt young, Lacey Matteson, Josh Winters and Conor Kilkenny.

The food will be used for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and, if any is left, to help restock the pantry after the holidays.

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