

in DeKalb County until 1853

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

To Which is Attached the Parish Register of Baptisms, Births and Marriages, 1846 Through 1871

By STEPHENS MITCHELL

1927

The earliest records of the parish are contained in an old battered book in which appear the register of confirmations, baptisms and marriages.

In the front of the book appears the following request:

"I hereby beg Mr. Terence Doonan of Atlanta, Ga., to keep this Register under lock until a resident Priest shall take charge of it. He will be so good as to present it to every Priest who having jurisdiction shall have administered the Holy Sacraments in order to make record. John Barry, V. G. (Vicar General)."

The first persons baptised were George Washington Shipley and Sarah Lavinia Shipley, children of G. W. Shipley and his wife Susannah Barnes Shipley, on August 9th, 1846, the Reverend John Barry performing the ceremony and Terence Doonan and Elizabeth Barry acting as sponsors, and Mary Divers, daughter of John and Susannah McCauley Divers, for whom Daniel Dougherty and Mary Dougherty acted as sponsors.

The names most frequently occurring in these early records are Doonan, Lynch, O'Brien, McCaffery, Fitzgibbons, Dougherty, Cassidy, O'Keefe, Connolly, Riordan, Killips, Creed, McCown, Gilchrist, Tyrrell, Divers, Fitzgerald, McCaffery, Dowling, Cavanah, McGinley, Mann, Connon, Dobbinger, Faulkner.

During these early days many counties were attached to this parish and there are frequent heads of "Cass Iron Works Cass County" (now Bartow County); "Hightower, Forsyth County;" "Dogwood Valley, Walker County," Dalton, etc.

On May 27th, 1849, there is the first entry under the name of Thomas Francis Shanahan, the new pastor, the baptism of Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob Sieglar and Ann Bona Sieglar.

In 1851 the name of Reverend J. F. O'Neill appears as pastor. New names appear, such as Holliday, Gavan, Lyman, Keenan, Lynes, an occasional slave was baptised, as on August 13th, 1851, Frederick Gabriel Fitzgerald, slave of Ellen Fitzgerald was baptised.

In 1851 the following note appears:

"The Catholics of Atlanta have been hitherto under the charge of the Pastor of Macon, and occasionally visited by other clergymen of the Diocese.

On the 13th of February of the present year I was appointed Pastor of Atlanta, by Rt. Revd. F. X. Gartland, Bishop of Savannah.

J. F. O'Neill, Jr."

In 1852 the Bishop of Savannah made his first visitation and made the following entries:

"May 2, 1852. On this day I made the visitation of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Atlanta, Ga.—and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to the following, viz: Patrick John Rice, William Kay, Daniel Joseph Green, James Aloysius Doonan, William Joseph Masseling, Peter Andrew Cannon, Patrick Alphonsus Garvey, Mary Catharine Masseling, Johanna Magdalene Masseling, Wilhelmina Marguerita Masseling, Catharine Ursula Masseling, Eveline Mary M. Smitt, Margaret Kay, Catharine Theresa Dougherty, Mary Agnes Cannon and Rosa Eiseman.

FRANCIS XAVIER, Bishop of Savannah.

Occasionally, among the long lists of Irish and German names, appears a French one, probably a Haitien refugee, such as "baptised at Kingston July 31, 1852, Eugene Marie Victor Raphael, son of Victor Petet and Marie Terese Henrietta Van Marbrecht, sponsors Camille Le Hardy De Beau lieu and B. E. Petet."

On March 10th, 1857, is the first record of the Reverend James Hasson who on that date baptised Joseph Roberts, daughter of J. J. Roberts and his wife Valentine Dubois Roberts.

Father O'Neill continued as pastor during 1858 and the following record of confirmations appears on January 10th:

Timothy Lynes, John King, James Patrick Cannon, William Rogan, John Josef Garvey, Michael Thomas Enright, John Bartholomew O'Sullivan, William Knowles, Mrs. Elizabeth McGrath, Sarah Carlton, Catherine Haverty, Catherine Lynes, Mary Ann Crozier, Ann Elizabeth Doonan and Margaret Doogan.

In 1859, Reverend James Hasson was pastor and evidently continued as such until 1861 when the names of the Reverend Thomas Reilly and J. Kirby appear on the records. During this period the names of Haverty, Stephens, Gatins, Lagomarsino, appear. One of the founders of the "Atlanta HERALD," St. Clair Abrams is noted as a sponsor during this era.

On November 7th, 1871, the name of Reverend J. B. Duggan appears as pastor, he having on that date baptised Edward, son of John and Mary Lagomarsino.

The first record of a marriage in the city of Atlanta is that of Michael Bloomfield and Elizabeth Malone, performed January 20th, 1851 by Rev. J. F. O'Neill, although it was preceded by several marriages performed in other counties which were parts of the parish such as that of Owen Lynch in Cass County and Bartholomy O'Brien and Adeline Kirk-

patrick at the same place on August 11th, 1846, that of Oliver Wright and Ellen Riordan in Murray County in 1848, Patrick Mansfield and Nancey Watson in Allatoona on June 1st, 1848, Bernard McGinley and Susannah Fitzgibbons in Cass County in December, 1847, Michael McCord and Miranda Turner and Pat Sullivan and Miss Turner in Fayette County in 1848, Robert Holliday and Mary Ann Fitzgerald in Fayette County on June 16th, 1848.

The first official record of the parish of the Immaculate Conception is found on the Deed Records of DeKalb County (Atlanta was formerly in DeKalb County). On June 23rd, 1847, Terence Doonan conveyed by Warranty Deed to Ignatius A. Reynolds, Bishop of Charleston, Lot 4 in Block 17 in the City of Atlanta containing 1 acre for the purpose of erecting thereon a Catholic Church. On February 23rd, 1848, Daniel McShaffery deeded Lot 4 in Block 12 of Land Lot 77 of the 14th District containing one acre on the southeast corner of Loyd Street (now Central Avenue) and East Hunter Streets to I. A. Reynolds, as Bishop of Charleston, and his successors in office, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a Catholic Church on it.

In 1848, Georgia was still a part of the bishopric of Charleston and the spiritual needs of the widely scattered Catholic population were attended to by its Bishop. But in Atlanta Catholics were beginning to be found in sufficient numbers to warrant the establishment of a church.

The first parish record is dated 1846 as was noted above.

The original Catholic population of Atlanta was largely Irish with an admixture of Germans and some French. The names that are most often found on the early parish registers are those of the hardy pioneers who built and operated our first railroads.

The first mission priest was the Reverend John Barry, who offered up the first mass in the city in the home of either Patrick Lynch or *** McCullouch about 1845. He was suc-

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ceeded by the Reverend Thos. F. Shanahan in 1849. The first resident priest came in 1850. He was Father J. F. O'Neill, Jr., and was pastor until April, 1859, succeeded by Father James Hasson who served from 1859 to May, 1861. White's Historical Collections (1854) gives the Catholic population of the town as being 250.

During the late Civil War the priest was the Reverend Thomas O'Reilly who is known most favorably as the person who persuaded General Sherman to spare the churches of the town when he burned the rest of the buildings in 1864. (See Pioneer History of Atlanta, pages 155-6.) Father O'Reilly built the Church of the Immaculate Conception as it now stands and built the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy on Central Avenue. He established the first Catholic School in the town.

In 1850, Georgia became a Bishopric, with its head at Savannah, and the allegiance of the new parish was transferred to that city. The progress of the parish until the Civil War was apparently satisfactory, though its growth was slow. At that time American Catholicism relied almost entirely for its growth on foreign immigration, and except for Irish and German immigrants there were few in the South. During the Civil War there was a great growth of population in the city of Atlanta, and though almost all of the male members were enrolled in some branch of the service the parish continued to exist and hold its own under the charge of Fathers Hasson and O'Reilly.

After the Civil War was over there was a long period during which the church did well to hold its own. No new people came South. The native population furnished no field for conversions. The people were poor and unable to give very great assistance to the church authorities.

During this period, stretching from 1865 to 1900 the parish consolidated its population. It was no longer an experiment, but a fixture. It had found who were the true

and loyal Catholics in its midst. It had added some names to its roster, chief of which was that of the Spaldings, probably the oldest and most distinguished English Catholic family in the South. It had drawn to itself many of the Catholics scattered through the surrounding territory and who had been in danger of losing the faith through lack of attention.

Around 1880 the new parish of the St. Peter and Paul, now Sacred Heart Parish was detached from the parish of the Immaculate Conception.

Despite the loss of so much of its territory and population the parish has held its own. It now (1927) supports three priests and maintains its own school. Its pastor, the Reverend Emmett Walsh has recently been raised to the Bishopric of Charleston, an honor which is most unusual for a priest of his age. Under Father Walsh the church's charitable and intellectual sides were stressed and in addition to this there was a great increase of devotion.

The following are the names of early Catholics in order of their appearance on the baptismal register:

1846: G. W. Shipley, Sarah L. Shipley, Mary Divers, Richard Cullinan, John Lynch, J. A. Harvey, Elizabeth Carlin, Mary O'Brien, Elizabeth Connor, Mary Creid, Archibald O'Brien, James Lynch, John Carrol, Mrs. E. Mann, Ellen Connolly, Mary Jane Glynn, Elizabeth Smith.

1847: Elizabeth Lynch, Bridget O'Brien, Mary E. McCaffery, William Doonan, Catherine Fitzgibbon, James Gilchrist, Mary Lynch, Mary Fitzgibbon, C. Cassidy, E. Dougherty, Daniel Dougherty, Owen O'Keefe, Anne M. Connolly.

1848: John T. Riordan, P. H. Newman, John Newman, Mary Lewis Bridget Cannon, Henry Killips, Anne McCowen, J. T. McCowen, Will Creed, E. Gilchrist, Mary Tyrell, W. H. Tyrell, Ellen E. Divers, Catharine Dowling, Mary E. Murphy, Will McCaffery, Margaret A. O'Brien, W. T. Heffernan, M. Lynch, Sarah Fitzgerald, John and Cherry, slaves of M. A. Cooper, Charles G. Maner, Charles McGinley, James Cavanah,

Mary A. Carrol, John O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Will O'Connor, Elizabeth O'Connor.

1849: Ann Elizabeth Roonan, Mary Elizabeth Siegler, Catharine Immell, Daniel McCullough, Patrick Lynch, Mary Anne Ray, John Gould.

1850: Ann Mann, Mary Mann, Susan Creed, Charles Beruff, Carl Dubler, Joseph Flynn, Robert, slave of Phillip Fitzgerald, Christopher Mansfield, Patrick McMahon, Margaret Gould, Savannah Murphy, Thomas Garrett.

1851: Elizabeth Dowling, Ann Eliza Divers, Catharine Cannon, Sarah E. Kay, Mary R. Tyrrell, Lucy Jeanne Cassidy, Mary McMahon, John Ryan, Mary Gavin, Mrs. Elizabeth Kunan, Anna Kreinger, James Garvey, Isabella Fitzgerald, Robert Holliday, Anton Kontz, Jeremiah Callaghan, Patrick Wheelan, Sarah Cody.

1852: Catharine Furlong, James O'Brien, James M. Carroll, John P. Roneche, Hilary E. Floersch, Laura O'Brien, Emily Glynn, W. D. Glynn, Sarah Susan O'Connor, John Thomas O'Connor, Susan Kirby, Mary Speiran, Susan Fitzgerald, John Faulkner, James Faulkner, Joseph Faulkner, Thomas McMahon, Frances Lynch, E. M. V. R. Petit, Nicholas Petit, Eliza Tierney, James Carroll, James Fury, Arthur Connally, Martha O'Connor, Mary Bloomfield, Patrick Creed, Margaret Kincaid, William Kearney, Robert T. Murphy, Ellen Lynan, Catharine Healey, Louis Gray, Mary Ann Gray.

1853: Agnes Sullivan, Elizabeth A. Moran, Mary A. Lynch, James Murphy, Mary M. McGinley, Jacob E. Gilchreast, Mary E. Mansfield, John Tyrell, Sarah Anne Seymore, Michael Riordan, Robert McDonough, Mary James Schiken, John Nicholas Haynes, Barbara Haynes, William Haynes, Lucy Haynes, Laurence Haynes, Caroline Deubler, Richard Whelan, Julia Frances Fitzgerald, James and John, slaves of Philip Fitzgerald, John T. Wallis, Niceta Wallis, Mary Sullivan, James Sullivan, John Young, John Broly.

Margaret Broly, John Clinton, Caroline Jacobs, Patrick Blunt.

1854: Mary E. Kay, John Callaghan, Hannah Lynch, J. P. Divers, Marye K. Smith, Julia O'Connor, Maris Butler, Windsor J. Smith, Mary E. Cannon, George O'Connor, Mrs. Jane Sullivan, Mary Crozier, Mary Considine, William McDonough, Mary A. O'Neille, Martin Kennedy, Frances Lynch, Mary Murphy, James Tucker, Romi Robert, Julia Robert, Anna Robert, Magdalene Dobinger, Gabriel D. Peel, Pat W. Lynch, Mary M. Johnson, Ann Murphy, Julia A. Valentino, John F. Connolly, Michael O'Brien, James Brawley (?), James F. Kennedy.

1855: Wilhelmina L. Hubers, Joseph McGettigan, Mary Ann McDonald, Bridget E. Bloomfield, Jeremiah F. Murphy, Mary Ann Sheehan, J. H. Flynn, Thomas L. Flynn, Catherine Fitzgerald, John P. Weil, Mary McMahon, John Owen McMahon, Maria O'Brien, Jno. McNamara, Catharine Quinn, Rosanna Blunt, M. H. Kearney, John Dugan, Mary Elizabeth Garaughty, Patrick Jas. Cronin, Peter J. Schikan, John T. Savage, Georgianna Kay, Sarah O'Connor, William Fitzgibbon, Edward Keelly, Mary J. Farley, John Mansfield, Catharine Agricola, Thomas Lawler.

1856: Patrick J. O'Callaghan, Catharine Honoria Tucker, John Harrison, James Garvey, Nicholas Devereux, John Donougho, John Lewis Peel, Joel T. Ferrall, Michael Butler, Catharine Lynch, Mary Blunt, Catharine McDonough, Mary Ellen Connolly, Michael Murphy, Margaret Adeline Cassidy, John Oscar O'Brien, Josephine Teresa and Julia Margaret Young, Mary Ann Kelly, Michael E. Valentino, Hannah M. Fitzgibbon, Elizabeth Lynch, Mary Ann Hand, Elizabeth Parks, Johanna Kennedy, Ellen O'Connor, Mary Eliza Lynan, Margaret Adeline O'Connor, Augusta Cleveland, Mary Ann Cleveland, Martha Tyrrell, Joseph Gatins.

1857: John Sullivan, Ann Elizabeth Sullivan, Joseph Robert, Virginia McKenney, Thomas M. Donahue, Martha

Donohue, Mary Margaret Myers, Frances Antoinette Monaghan, Mary S. Masselling, Elizabeth Glynn, Lucretia Glynn, Honoria J. Ryan, Charlotte P. Savage, Antony W. Jacobs, John Henry Roach, Margaret Edelman, Ann F. Bloomfield, Mary Ellen Kearney, Dorothy Devereux, Mary Ellen Kay, Margaret E. McDonald, Alice Carroll, Catherine M. Cannon, Edward Gleason, Patrick W. Lynch, Mary Jane Kennedy, Cornelius McAll, Francis M. McAll, Thomas McAll, Marie Adele Fitzgerald, James H. Wallace, Sarah Elizabeth Wallace, Mary Sarah Smith, Margaret Cannon.

1858: Elizabeth McGrath, Sarah Carlton, Catherine B. Strain, Mary Frances Lynch, Mary Ann Coyan, Margaret Blunt, William Gray, Stephen A. Ryan, James T. Sullivan, Clara T. Malone, Catherine Divers, Mary Harrison, James P. Tucker, Gustavus Jagers, Henry Schaffer, Charles Jager, William Connolly, Joseph Corrigan, Mary Ann Riley, John W. Gilcrest, Peter Lynch, Josephine M. Bohmer, Martha O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, Felix Harrison, Henry Mansfield, Richard Keely, Ellen Fitzgibbon, Mary Ann Lawler, Susan Faulkner, Stephen Faulkner, Charles Faulkner, Thomas Faulkner, Jane Dunphy, Richard Dunphy, Timothy Kavanaugh, Catharine Myers, Eugene Lynch, Mary Fitzgibbon, Isabella E. Cook, Bridget Enright, James Lynch, John Maher, James Lynan, Catharine A. Gatins, Gyaberto Uters, Elizabeth L. Driscoll, Daniel J. O'Sullivan, Thomas W. Seclby, Sylvester Merrion, John W. Morris, Evelina A. Campbell, Adelaide DeBray, Emile DeBray, Joseph DeBray, Mary Ellen Scanton, Alice Kane, Mary Jane Hayden, Mary Ann Quinn, Thomas Hand, Ellen Danaher, Mary Ellen O'Gallagher.

1859: James D. Ryan, Margaret Ann Savage, Catharine Ann McIntire, Adelaide Valentino, Elizabeth Lynch, Luke Gray, Eliza Miller, Mary Ann Sheehan, Josephine Ahtstrom, Grace Alice Price, John Emmett Gleeson, James H. P. Golden, Timothy Sullivan, James Kelly, Bartholomew Wall, Joseph Harford, Sarah Margaret Coyne, Mary Feline McCarroll, Catharine A. Bloomfield, Christopher Sullivan, John

McGrath, Mary Margaret Flynn, Catharine C. Holliday, Hannah Murphy, Anne J. Brawley, Henry Brawley, Anne Brawley, Luke W. Lennon, Margaret Anne Roach, Morand Elizabeth Flynn, Jane Turner, Catherine Sullivan, Margaret Holeman, Cecilia Ellen Cannon, Francis Antony Daniel, John Mahoney, William Kay, James William Devereux, William Dunphy, Mary T. O'Halloran.

1860: Ellen Murphy, Patrick Butler, Felix Butler, Robert E. Scanton, Bridget A. Gleeson, Elizabeth Murphy, James Connolly, Bridget Ennis, Michael Lynch, Margaret Kennedy, Paul Louis Lawrence DeGive, James E. Gatins, Anna M. Sullivan, Jane Celina Gardner, John F. Ryan, Bridget Lynch, Lucinda Fishback, Richard Fitzgibbon, Catherine Corrigan, Mary Anne Fitzgibbon, Rose Mary Marian, Junius E. Nash, Anne J. Golden, Susan Mansfield, Allebella Smyth, John E. Ellis, Catharine O. McGuire, Bridget Heggarty, James Lynch, Jacob Schikane, Emma V. Smyth, Mary M. Fleck, Margaret E. Jennings, Ellen L. Jennings, Bridget Connor, John Driscoll, Catherine M. Hagerty, Bridget Dunning, Thomas M. Daly, Henry Shaw, Anne Kelly, James Lynch.

1861: T. R. Malone, Bridget Murphy, James F. O'Neill, Mary Bridget Wall, David Fitzgibbon, Joanna Ellen Sheehan, Mary Elizabeth McIntyre, Catherine Clancey, Daniel Conside, Francis Kane, Jeanne Fereter, James Keely, John Smyth, James H. Beecker, Patrick Enright, Mary Elizabeth Pelter, Emma C. Pelter, Mary T. Gatins, Mary F. Monaghan, Sarah C. Morrissy, Joseph B. Batist, Elizabeth O'Connor, Margaret E. Fitzgibbon, Martha Gilchrist, Maria E. Burke, James Gray, Mary B. Green, William J. O'Halloran, Mary Hereford, James F. Coyne, John Guinn, Agnes V. Morris, Walter J. Bartley, Daniel T. Bartley, James Dunn, Margaret Cavaney, Anne E. Lynch, Mary Helena Lynes, Anne T. Mason, Eliza T. Glinch, Michael Dolan, Ellen Dumphy, Deborah Fitzgibbons, Isabella Bloomfield, Thomas F. Flynn, Mary Doyle, Cassandra Thompson, George J. Cowley, Elizabeth Farrelly, Thomas Wustifold, Margaret Callaghan,

42 O'Mulligan, Charles E. LeBelle, Mary Lewis, Mary Isabelle Stephens, Louis M. Gerbie, Joseph Winters, Joseph Gamewell, Margaret Mary Anderson, Gertrude Mahoney, Eugene Jenks, Mary Brady, Mary A. Loyd, William Desmond, Elizabeth Gwinn, Henry E. Ransford, Catharine H. Poulter. Eleanor M. Gatins, Francis Glynn, Julia M. Riordan, Florence Stokes, Louise Rosetti, Helen A. Andoe, Robert E. Andoe, Julia A. Andoe, Mary M. Andoe, Francis C. Andoe, Martha Burns, Madeline L. Keenan, Mary M. Fenlon, John T. Timmons, Julia O'Leary, James McCaffery, Mary J. Porun, Thomas M. Havery, Charles G. Shumaker, Mary M. Cannon, John Power, Mary Louise Lambert, Helen Flynn, Edward Lagomarsino, Patrick Breen, John P. Mann, Mary R. Hess, Margaret Sheehan, Mary J. McDevitt, Edwin Kelly, Andrew Gold.

The following is a list of the marriages performed in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in the years from 1846 to 1871:

<i>Groom</i>	<i>Bride</i>
Owen Lynch	Elizabeth
Bartholomy O'Brien	Adeline Kirkpatrick
Bernard McGinley	Susannah Fitzgibbon
Oliver Wright	Mary Ellen Riordan
Patrick Mansfield	Nancy Watson
Michael McConnell	Miranda Turner
Patrick Sullivan	Turner
Robert Holliday	Mary Anne Fitzgerald
Michael Bloomfield	Elizabeth Malone
James G. Wilson	Catherine Fitzgibbon

<i>Groom</i>	<i>Bride</i>
James Lynan	Maria Connolly
John Schikan	Anna Catherine Masselling

Matthew Blunt	Catherine McGinnis
Thomas McDonald	Sarah Ann Seymore
John Daly	Mary Kelly
Thomas Flynn	Elizabeth Taylor
James Bailey	Mrs. Ann McDowell
Arthur Connolly	Susan Sherdian

Charles Savage	Julia Malone
Francois Ferdinand	Catherine Brouillet
Hyppolyte DeBray	Wilhelmina Masselling
Peter Aldrich	Catherine Killen
James Doyle	Pheraby Harp
Michael McCullough	

John Von Dahlen	Wilhelmina Jacobs
Dennis F. O'Sullivan	Catherine Malone
Ambrose	Amanda

James Herren (Harrison)	Bridget Gallagher
Thomas Malone	Maria Gavin

(Slaves of Philip Fitzgerald)

Dennis Ryan	Elizabeth Buckley
Thomas Riley	Mary Ann Cleveland