

Our Lady of Fatima

ADDRESS: 4550 Washington Street, Florissant

FOUNDED: 1950

NUMBER OF FAMILIES TODAY: 550

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT PEAK:
1,200 in the early 1950s

FAMOUS PARISHIONER: Detective Sgt. Joe Burgoon, who spent 43 years in the St. Louis Police Department before retiring last year.

NICKNAME: “Fatima”

NAMESAKE: A vision of the Virgin Mary that appeared six times to three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. It’s said that Mary told the children that she would work a miracle. In October 1917, about 70,000 people in Fatima gathered at the behest of the children. Witnesses said they saw the sun dance in the sky and fall toward Earth before resuming its normal place.

PASTOR: The Rev. Donald L. Buhr

KNOWN FOR: Annual variety shows — featuring songs, dances and comedy acts — performed at Easter time for the past 29 years.

OF NOTE: The church is on the second floor of a building it shared with the parish school. Until about four years ago, a staircase provided the only access, making it difficult on pallbearers carrying caskets to the sanctuary. About four years ago, an elevator was installed.

THE CONGREGATION: Members are active in Christ Renews His Parish, a retreat movement in which parishioners gather to spend a weekend at the church to discuss their faith. Also, the parish has a chapter of the Legion of Mary, a group that tends to the spiritual welfare of parishioners and evangelizes to bring lapsed or non-Catholics into the church.

When the church closes, parishioners will be assigned to attend the new St. Rose Philippine Duchesne in the old St. Dismas building in Florissant.



SID HASTINGS / POST-DISPATCH

— Emily Dulcan