

Sts. John and James

ADDRESS: 140 North Elizabeth Avenue **OPENED:** 1882

AVERAGE NUMBER OF FAMILIES: 640

AVERAGE PARISHIONERS AT PEAK: 6,000 in 1960

WELL-KNOWN PARISHIONER: Dick Renna, musician

NICKNAMES: “John and James,” “Church on the Hill,” “Church on the Corner”

NAMESAKE: John and James, sons of Zebedee, were apostles of Jesus. It’s said that John and James witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus on a mountain as he spoke with Moses and Elijah. Also, the brothers are known for asking Jesus if, when he came into glory, they could sit at his right and left. In the Bible, they were the only apostles to receive a special name, “Sons of Thunder,” from Jesus.

PASTOR: The Rev. Robert T. Rosebrough

KNOWN FOR: Its stained-glass windows and its location at a prominent intersection in Ferguson, the corner of Chambers Road and North Elizabeth Avenue

OF NOTE: The new windows, which were added when the church building was expanded in the early 1960s, have a three-dimensional effect.



SAM LEONE / POST-DISPATCH

THE CONGREGATION: As one of the oldest parishes in north county, Sts. John and James has served as a model for the region for more than a century. The church building, made of red granite, is a well-known landmark in Ferguson. After an addition was completed in 1961, a design flaw was found in the new roof. Masses had to be held in the school cafeteria and gym for a year while the problem was repaired.

In the late 1970s, the parish began a Sunday children’s liturgy. Families would come from outside the parish to bring their children to the special service. The children’s liturgy continues today at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, the new church to which members have been assigned. Sunday services for the new church are held at the former Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 921 Smith Avenue. Masses are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the former Sts. John and James.

The members of Sts. John and James have been active in Churches United for Community Action, organizing around issues important to the church and surrounding community.

—Emily Dulcan