

# Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 141

Name: St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church Cemetery  
(*Handwritten: 1838*)

Alternate name:

Address: <sup>11701</sup> Clopper Rd.

Town: ~~Clopper~~ Gaithersburg

ADC Map Page 18 Grid J-7

**Type**

Religious Catholic  
 Family \_\_\_\_\_  
 Private \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Association**

Free black  
 Enslaved  
 Ethnic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prehistoric \_\_\_\_\_

Setting  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Forested  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate no. of burials ~443 Date range of burials 1837 - present

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

*Oldest - ~~Mr. Laska~~ Thomas Hurley of Philadelphia, 1837. died*  
*Substantial old trees, shrubs*  
*New walks, landscaping, fountain.*  
*African American section back left ~~back~~ corner <sup>of drive-way</sup> from front of church. One stone in front of church*

Surveyor(s) J. Manuel Survey date 5/1/04  
 Photographer A. Brockett Date 5/1/04 Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

Current owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Status  Locational Atlas ID \_\_\_\_\_  National Register  
 Master Plan ID \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

UTM A1

Additional sources of information:

141 St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church  
 11701 Clopper Road  
 Gaithersburg (Clopper)

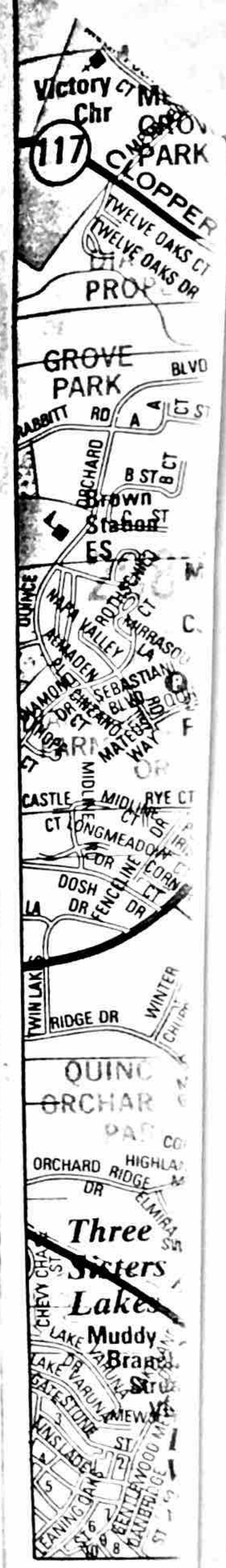
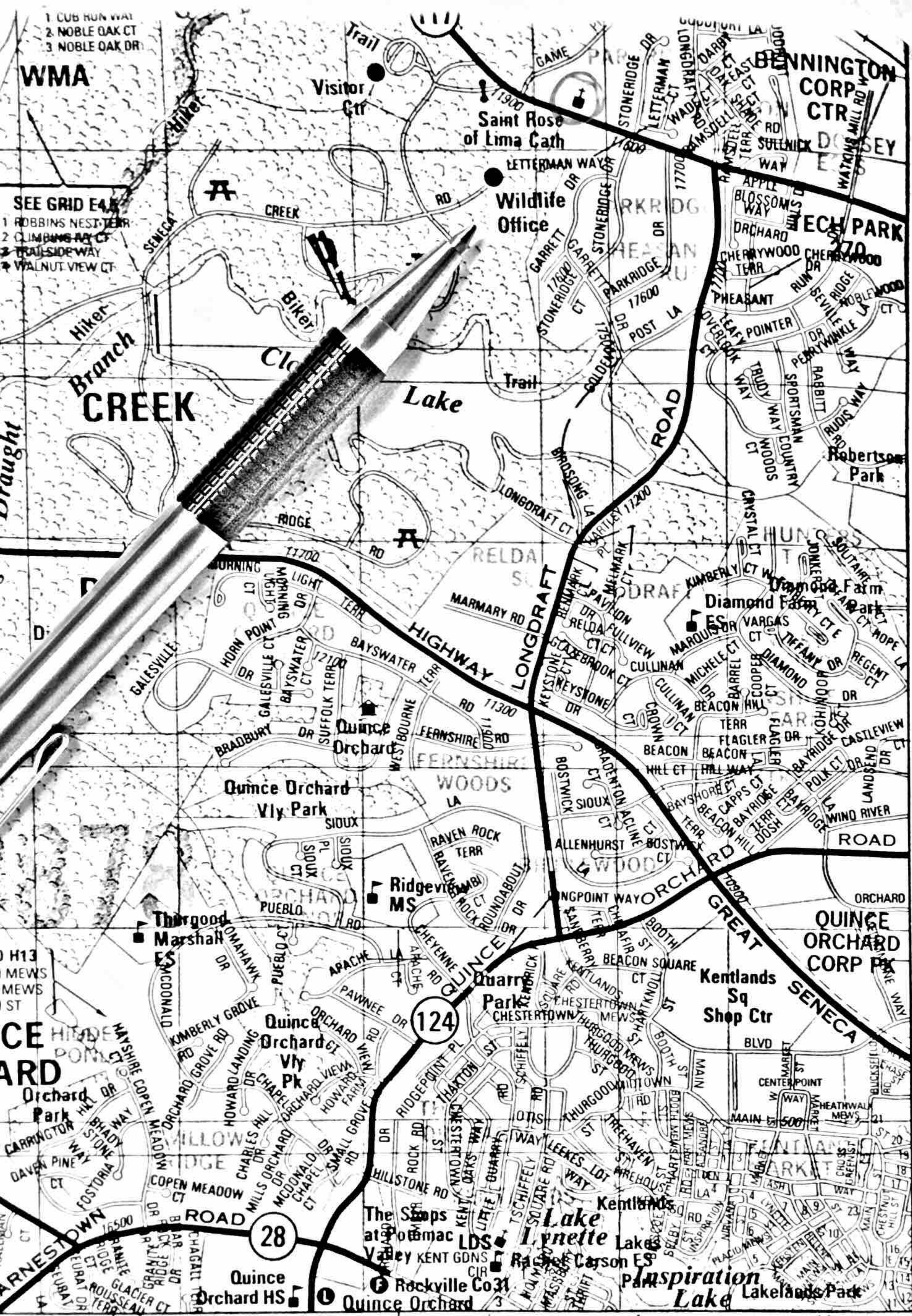
is that of Confederate Soldier. Church built 1838

60 5

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11701 Clopper Road  
Gaithersburg (Clopper)

**OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY AT CLOPPERS**  
s: Route 117 West, Clopper Road, church and cemetery on right.  
D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 22, grid coordinates F-1.] Condition of  
cemetery: Well kept, records 1840-1872, 1895-1937 at St. Martin's in  
Gaithersburg. Active cemetery. Earliest known death: 1837. Most recent  
death: Present. Famous person interred: William Rich Hutton. Veterans  
interred: Civil War and WWI vets. In 1937, records 1814-1835, 1868-1872,  
1872-1895, at Barnesville, 1835-1868 at Forest Glen, see above. Date  
transcribed: 1980. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County  
Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland  
20850. Comments: Over 385 marked graves.



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P 21  
F 1

ST. ROSE CATH.  
CLOPPERS  
(all ✓)

MARYLAND CEMETERY DIRECTORY HEADINGS

County: *Montgomery*

Type of Cemetery: *Church Graveyard*

Name of Cemetery: *St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church Cem.  
or just St. Rose*

Location of Cemetery: *Intersection of Clopper Rd. (117) and Gene  
Preserve Rd, between Gaithersburg + Old Germantown,  
Clopper, Md.*

Contact:

Condition/Description of Cemetery: *well-cared for*

Number of Graves: *marked: 367 - 15 add. from DAR*

Oldest Grave Marker: *1837*

Span of Usage:

Inscriptions Transcribed: *yes*

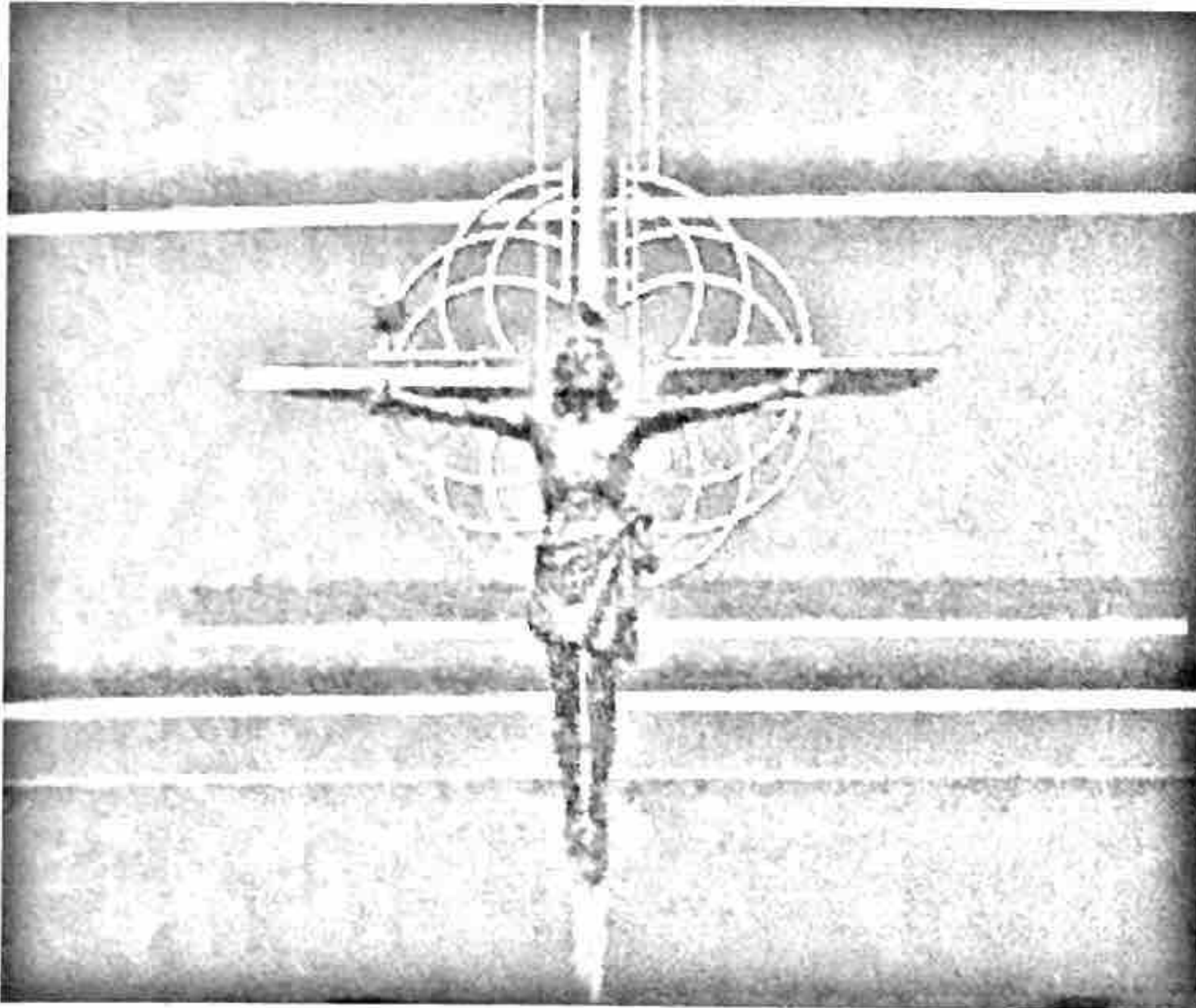
Date Transcribed: *Sep 1980 by Janet Manuel*

Transcribed Records Located: *Mont. Co. Hist. Soc; Janet Manuel*

Transcribed Records Published:

Comments: *Note in church record has cemetery was  
blessed Mar 25, 1847 - "some ten or twelve  
persons were buried in this ground  
before it was blessed."*

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# St. Rose of Lima

TODOS SOMOS BIENVENIDOS ALL ARE WELCOME  
Gaithersburg, MD

-  Opportunity Knocks
-  Liturgy Schedules
-  Parish Calendar
-  Youth Ministry
-  Saint Rose Photo Album

- About Us ▶
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- Sacraments ▶
- Religious Education ▶



## Cemetery

The new section of St. Rose cemetery (Section 2) th opened in June 2000 has 500 gravesites, with about being designated for cremated remains. Sections of cemetery reserved for future expansion (Sections 3 adjacent to Section 2 should accommodate an additi 900-1000 gravesites.

The sale of gravesites in St. Rose cemetery is limited to members of St. Rose of Lima Parish, persons related to those buried in the old section (Section 1) of the cemetery and others who have a particular connection to the Parish.

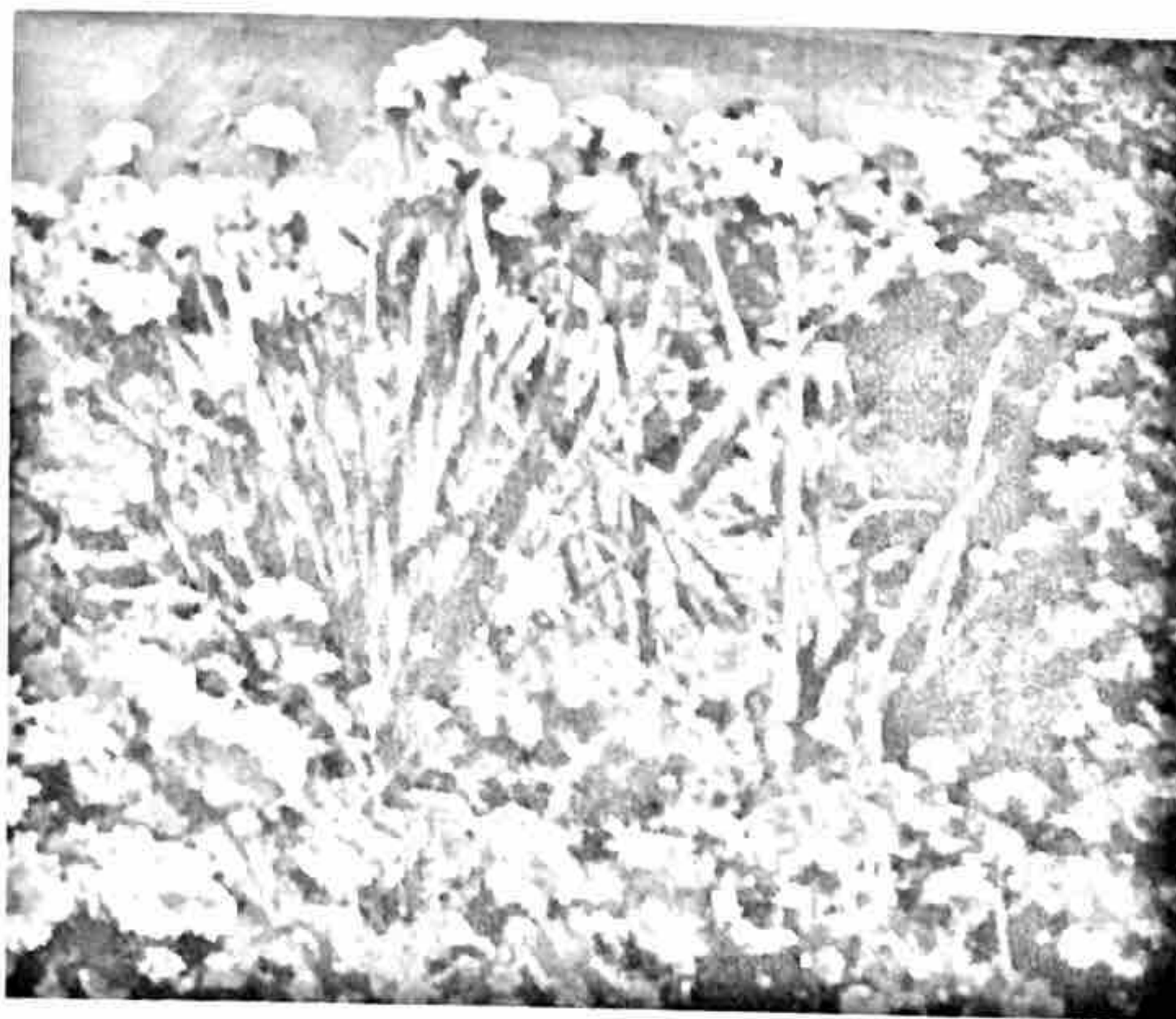
For additional information on the cemetery or to inquire about the purchase of grave sites in the Section 2, please contact the Cemetery Manager at the parish offices.

### Cemetery Manager

Gene Domalski  
PHONE: (301) 948-7545  
FAX: (301) 869-2170  
PARISH E-MAIL: cemetery@strose.com

Have feedback?

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Gaithersburg (Clopper)



# St. Rose of Lima

TODOS SOMOS BIENVENIDOS

ALL ARE WELCOME  
Gaithersburg, MD



Opportunity Knocks



Liturgy Schedules



Parish Calendar



Youth Ministry



Saint Rose Photo Album

Parish Office: 301-948-7545

St. Rose of Lima Parish  
11701 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg  
MD 20878-1024

**About Us** ▶

**Newcomers** ▶

**Getting Involved** ▶

**Sacraments** ▶

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## The History of St. Rose

### Beginnings - 1812

The beginning of St. Rose of Lima Parish goes back 180 years, when a Protestant named Francis Cassatt Clopper and his Catholic wife, Ann Jane Byrne of Philadelphia, bought a plantation overlooking the Seneca River in what is now Seneca Creek State Park. There, in 1812, they built Woodlands, a 24-room mansion which soon became the center of Catholic life for the families in the area. Masses were often celebrated in the large ballroom. The Arc of Baltimore and visiting priests made it their headquarters while in the area.

### First Building - 1836

In order to please his wife and her sister, Mrs. Ellen Francis Clopper donated a portion of the far corner of the Woodlands estate for the building of a church in 1836. John Maher became the major benefactor for the construction of the church, but others also contributed to the project.

Planned to be the most beautiful church in Western Maryland, it was built of brick manufactured on the estate. A brick porch led into a foyer which opened into the main body of the church. A balcony in the rear overlooked 13 rows of pews on each side. (The first two rows on the right side were reserved for the Clopper family.) The five windows on each side and two windows in front of the porch. Mr. Clopper was given the honor of choosing the name for the new church. He chose St. Rose in honor of Rose Landry White, who was then Mother Rose. As Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Emmitsburg, Maryland, Mother Rose had succeeded Mother Saint Elizabeth Seton after having served as her assistant.

The new church became a center for the faithful in the area. Once a month a priest traveled from Rockville to say Mass.

Have feedback?

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Sunday Mass, which was followed by Benediction in afternoon. The priest stayed the night and celebrate again the next day, after which he would visit the fa the area. In summer, the priests moved to The Woo and made their rounds from there. An important sur event was St. Rose's feast day. Not only the residen faithful, but also former pastors and parishioners wh moved away, would return to celebrate. Many of the who were in that community are still remembered: i history, Scott and Taney; in places, Diamond, Clopp; Waring; and in families who still live among us, Gloy Stang, Stewart and Caulfield.

During the Civil War, while Maryland remained in the many of her citizens were sympathetic to the South. was restricted in the southern parts of the state, sou Baltimore. Though there were no battles around St. many soldiers from both sides passed through the ar One, a seriously wounded member of Company D, 1 Virginia Cavalry, found refuge at The Woodlands, wh was baptized and died. William D. Scott was buried i dark in front of St. Rose Church by the Cloppers. His tombstone remains under the large oak in front of th church.

**Destroyed by Fire - 1883**

The original church building, made of brick, stood fo years until destroyed by fire on April 2, 1883. Since t was no water to quell the flames, the building was s ruins; only the vestments and the communion vesse saved. Some of the bricks from this original building preserved in the cross in the brick walk leading to th church entrance.

The exact cause of the fire will never be known. Amc stories told is one suggesting that a mouse upset a l matches, igniting a quantity of linseed oil. Another s that an altar boy did not totally extinguish the incen: putting away the censer.

**Present Church Building - 1883**

The white wooden church which now stands on the s the brick church contains the original cornerstone in northern foundation wall. While the cornerstone give as the date of the original church, it is believed that stone mason misread 1836 on a piece of paper and the wrong date. In 1987-88 a major renovation of th church was undertaken. Structural damage required complete replacement of the roof as well as straight: the walls. The building was completely gutted to inst electrical, heating and cooling systems. Nearly all of furnishings were also replaced at the same time. A r detailed record of the project is contained in the Mer Book placed in the church. The pride we feel in the t the renovated church is an expression of reverence i predecessors in the faith whose efforts made St. Ros possible. In addition, it is an expression of hope in tl future generations to follow us, who will continue to

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there a place of prayer and refreshment. It is our hope that this will enable them to carry on the spirit of St. Rose

**From Mission Church to Parish**

From its inception, St. Rose had been a mission church. The first was part of the parish of St. Mary in Rockville. It then became a mission of St. Mary of Barnesville. In 1921, the parish of St. Martin was founded in Gaithersburg, with St. Rose as a mission church.

St. Rose of Lima became a parish on June 1, 1972, approximately 160 years after Francis Clopper and his wife Ann, came to the area. In 1976, The Parish Centre (The Church) was built, and in 1991 and 1995, additions were made to provide more meeting and office space.

**The Following Priests have Served as Pastor or Administrator:**

- Rev. Joseph Byron, Pastor - June 1972 to June 1983
- Msgr. Robert Lewis, Pastor - June 1983 to Nov. 1983
- Rev. Raymond Fecteau, Administrator - Nov. 1983 to June 1984
- Rev. Francis Murphy, Pastor - Jan. 1984 to June 1985
- Rev. John Vail, Administrator - July 1985 to March 1986
- Rev. Robert Duggan, Pastor - March 1986 to July 2005
- Msgr. Paul Dudziak, Pastor - July 2005 to present

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