



Saint Jude Parish
40 Maxim Drive
Hopatcong, NJ 07843
www.stjudehopatcong.org

Quick Fact Sheet - *St. Jude Parish History*

- ✚ The heritage of St Jude parish lies in the mission churches that grew up around Lake Hopatcong in the early 20th century to serve the needs of the large summer populations of the resort community (original mission churches: Our Lady of the Lake, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Joseph (Hopatcong), and St Joseph Northwood).
- ✚ The church was constructed to replace the summer-only mission church St. Joseph (at River Styx Rd) in Hopatcong, whose roof collapsed in February 1948 under the weight of a heavy snow. The 1924-era St. Joseph church (River Styx) was located on the site of the Hudson Maxim School playground and was never rebuilt due in part to the physical limitations of the site.
- ✚ Construction began on St Jude church in the Fall of 1958, with the first Mass being celebrated Easter Sunday 1959
- ✚ Constructed with a seating capacity of 460 to accommodate the large summer populations that were six times that of the year-round church residents (fewer than 100 year-round catholic families during the 1950s.)
- ✚ The church was formally dedicated by Bishop James McNulty on August 16, 1959, the same day as its sister church, [Our Lady Star of the Sea](#), Lake Hopatcong.
- ✚ St Jude church was a mission church of Our Lady of the Lake parish for its first seven years of existence
- ✚ Promoted to Parish status in September 1966, with Fr. Joseph W. Molloy as its first Pastor
- ✚ Acquired responsibility for the summer-only mission church, St Joseph, in the Northwood section of Hopatcong in 1966.
- ✚ Has grown from 90 year-around families in 1958 to well over 1000 registered families today
- ✚ Began the tradition of the Hopatcong Days summer celebration in 1975 in cooperation with the Holy Name Society.
- ✚ The church is the steward of a 1924 Griffith-Beach theater organ, rescued from the Elliot Street School in Newark in 1985. The organ was originally purchase by the school to memorialize 15 former students who lost their lives in WW-I
- ✚ Today's active parish organizations include the Rosary Altar Society, Knights of Columbus (Council 9914), Men's Prayer Group,
- ✚ The parish has supported the community both spiritually and socially for over 50 years, including caring for the needs of disadvantaged families (e.g., food drives and holiday gifts), supporting community organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, AA, ALANON, and community activities such as blood drives and Hopatcong Health Department clinics, and hosting carnivals, circuses, dances, card parties, variety shows, BINGO, and school events (e.g., annual Senior Citizen Prom).
- ✚ Active member of the [Lakeland Association of Churches](#) of Lake Hopatcong.