

The History of St. Barbara's



It was the opening of the iron ore mines that brought an influx of settlers to Vulcan. The pioneers, mostly Catholic, were of diverse nationalities. The miners and their families were obliged to attend Mass at St. Mary's in Norway.

In 1882, a Tyrolese group banded together for the purpose of having a church built in the Vulcan location. The Penn Mining Company leased them a lot, 124 x 116, as the site for the new church. Their earnest endeavors soon gained the favor of the public and a small church, under the patronage of St. Barbara, was the result.

The pastors of Norway came to say Mass on Sundays until October 8, 1887, when Father Dominic Vento became the first resident pastor. The first baptism was Aloysius Joseph Stanchina, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stanchina. The first marriage was that of Frank Sala and Catherine Bertolo. The first burial was that of Valentine Wegher.

The first church stood on its original site until the spring of 1925, when on Holy Thursday, a fire occurred which completely destroyed the church. Following the fire, Father Simon Borkowski arranged to have Masses at the Vulcan Town Hall. Plans were immediately made for the erection of the present church and rectory at the current site in Vulcan. The new church was completed in 1930.

Many men of the parish helped with the construction of the new church. The women of the St. Anne's Altar Society held many fund-raisers.



We have since taken into our parish family the families of St. Stephen's in Loretto after a disastrous fire completely destroyed their church, and the families of St. Mary's in Faithorn after the closure of their church.

St. Barbara's has been served by thirty-eight pastors and associate pastors. St. Barbara's is currently served by Father Timothy Ekaitis and associate pastor, Father Binu Joseph.



Today's Liturgy

DECEMBER 3, 2017

Celebrant - Bishop John F. Doerfler

OPENING HYMN

The Advent of Our King (#57)

READING I

IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and
we shall be saved.

READING II

1 COR 1:3-9

GOSPEL

MK 13:33-37

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord, hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Allelluia! Hurry, the Lord Is Near (#52)

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light (#596)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

In the Day of the Lord (#575)

† Feast day is December 4

† Born in the mid 13th century

† Patron saint of architects,
artillerymen, firemen, miners,

mathematicians and

chemical engineers

† Daughter of a rich pagan

named Dioscorus, who kept

her locked up in a tower

† Secretly became Christian

and rejected an offer of

marriage that she

received through him

† Condemned to death

by beheading

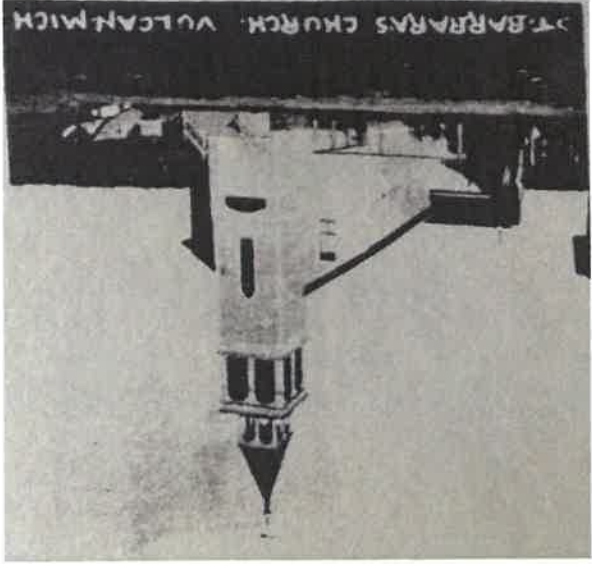
† Virgin, Martyr, Saint



St. Elizabeth

*The 135th Anniversary of the
Church of St. Elizabeth*

Vulcan, MI



1882-2017