



Key Moments in St. Peter's History

A series of historical highlights from the first 200 years of St. Peter – Libertytown.

Did You Know?

Welcome to the first of a series of bicentennial features that will run through the September 2023 celebration of the bicentennial of the completion of the first church building for St. Peter the Apostle – Libertytown. Much has happened in our parish since September 1823, and we plan to share with you stories about the events and people that have shaped the parish community that we enjoy today.

- ❖ Did you know that the first known memorial to victims of the sinking of the Titanic is on our parish grounds?
- ❖ Do you know why there is a year-round nativity scene in front of our church, and why it is topped by Joan of Arc?
- ❖ Would you guess that Sappington Hall was once known in Libertytown as the Opera House, the site of plays, theatre productions and movies?
- ❖ Did you know that two priests who formerly served St. Peter's later became military chaplains; as one of the first officially commissioned Catholic chaplains in the Army and the other, as chaplain of the Navy, serving under Admiral Dewey.
- ❖ Did you know that Catholic churches traditionally have the relic of a saint within the altar stone of the main altar, and whose relic is at St. Peter's?
- ❖ Do you know what elements of the previous two church buildings are incorporated in the present church?
- ❖ For that matter, did you know that this is our parish's third church building, and that the first Masses in Libertytown were celebrated in a private home?
- ❖ Did you know that jousting was a highlight of the annual carnival held at St. Peter's, and that a previous pastor was so adept at riding horses that he could lean over from his galloping mount and pick up a handkerchief from the ground? Don't miss the jousting demonstration at this month's Bicentennial Festival.

We invite you to follow this series prepared by members of the St. Peter's Bicentennial Historical Committee throughout the coming year to learn the answers to these questions and more as St. Peter's commemorates its first two centuries!