

THE BEE

Sellwood's St. Agatha Catholic Church starts celebrating a century of service

PARISH TURNS 100

BY DAVID F. ASHTON

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The first of several planned events to commemorate the founding of Sellwood's St. Agatha Parish just one century ago took place on Sunday, January 2nd.

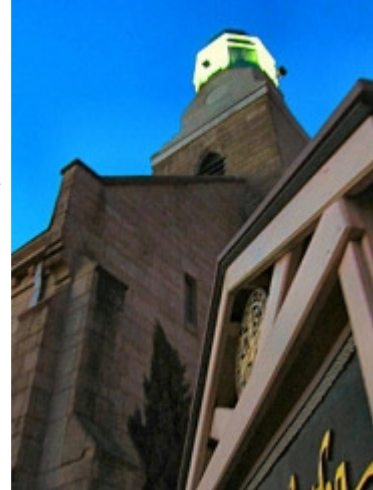
At the door was parishioner Genevieve Hainley, who told *THE BEE*, "I've been a member here for 83 years — all my life. In October, we'll be celebrating 100 years as a parish. We'll be doing something about every month; tonight, we're lighting the steeple."

The idea of illuminating the church's steeple, Hainley said, was that of Fr. Slider Steuernol, who passed away unexpectedly in 2010. He had been the church's leader since 2001. (See *THE BEE's* obituary online: [HERE](#))

At the beginning of the January 2nd evening service, Fr. Nathan Zodrow led the congregation out the front doors of the venerated church, down onto the sidewalk to watch the church's tower be lit up for the first time.

Fr. Zodrow explained, "The lighting the tower is also significant for the Feast of the Epiphany; the manifestation of Christ's words. Our illuminated tower will hopefully help people in the community, and our parishioners, to be reminded that is Christ's love that sustains us, and that the Gospel is for everyone."

Then, the congregation escaped the icy winter wind by returning into the church as the first Sunday evening service, under their illuminated steeple, began.



Sellwood's historic St. Agatha Catholic Church, this year celebrating a century of service, now features an illuminated steeple — lit at the top, for the first time.

DAVID F. ASHTON / THE BEE