



Most Reverend William J. Hafey, Bishop of Scranton, presided over the dedication and ribbon cutting at the Gate of Heaven Church on November 18, 1951.



Thomas Cesarini, deacon on staff, Fran Wallo, church secretary, and Father Jack Lambert pause for a moment from making plans for the anniversary celebration.

## Gate of Heaven -

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1,017 weddings and 776 funerals during the past 50 years." The original intent for the Gate of Heaven building was to house only the school. But by the time it opened, it had taken on the life of a church as well. The school offers preschool through the eighth grade. The church, started by only 20 families, now offers a place of worship for more than 1,000 families.

"The original plan was to have the cafeteria in the room where we hold church services," said Father Jack Lambert, who has served at the church for the last four years. "For the last 50 years we have been saying that we'll build a church some day. We are looking at plans now to build a church at a nearby location because we are bulging at the seams.

The school also has grown with the community.

"We opened the school offering only six grades. Then we built the new school wing in 1957. We have needed more room for a long time," he said. "We are committed to offering Catholic education to our students, and we need more space to do that. We believe in this faith component that gives our students spiritual guidance to help develop their morals and core values."

Father Jack, as his parishioners fondly call him, presides over a mass every day at 7 a.m. "It sets the tone and starts my day," he said. "A number come faithfully every morning. We have a strong faith life here at Gate of Heaven. We have a real sense of hospitality, camaraderie, and lay involvement by the parents of our young people and others. Our parish has thrived because of the giving nature and support of our people as they worship and seek God in their lives. They have responded to many outreach projects to help make their town and our



Students line up for lunch during the dedication of the new cafeteria in 1958. Father Francis Kane is on the far right. Sister Carol Makaravitz is the second girl scout from the left. She is still a part of the parish today.

*"For the last 50 years we have been saying that we'll build a church some day."*

Fr. Jack Lambert  
Gate of Heaven Church

world a better place."

Gate of Heaven has had four pastors during its 50 year history. Father Francis Kane served from 1951 to 1970, Father Thomas Jordan from 1970 to 1978, Father William Cusick from 1978 to 1997, and Father Lambert since 1997.

Throughout the years, there have been many assistant pas-

tors: Richard Frank, Michael Rafferty, John Bergamo, Thomas Banick, Steve McGough, P. Lawrence Homer, Thomas Flynn, Gerald Saffo, Michael Sullivan, David Cappelloni, William Langan, Leo Cummings, Joseph Ferraro and Lotis Garbacik.

While many have come and gone, church secretary, Fran Wallo, has served the parish since 1967. She has worked with all four priests. "I have loved and admired all of them," she said, "for their dedication and service to God and this church and school. I feel so privileged to work here. I realize that every day as I walk these halls. I feel so close to God here. I've enjoyed my years of service and the opportunity to offer up prayers every day in this sacred place. Not everyone gets to do

that."

A light luncheon will follow after the mass on November 18. Those wishing to attend the luncheon should call the church office for reservations.

## Dallas

(continued from page 1)

In other business:

• Paul Deglilio, Foreman Burkavage, informed board members that as in all construction, an unforeseen expense has presented itself in the renovation phase of the Dallas Middle School project.

In redesigning the locker rooms, workers discovered the floor slab concrete varies from 8 to 18 inches in the thickened reinforced slab. The removal of the slab is necessary to install the new plumbing for the locker rooms. "The conditions are drastically different than the drawings," Deglilio said.

After testing the soil below the slab and finding it suitable for construction, Deglilio said he doesn't know why the elevations are different throughout the floor slab. Deglilio said a number of different firms will be solicited for prices on the unexpected work and presented to

*"The website is to be a communication device between teachers, parents and the community."*

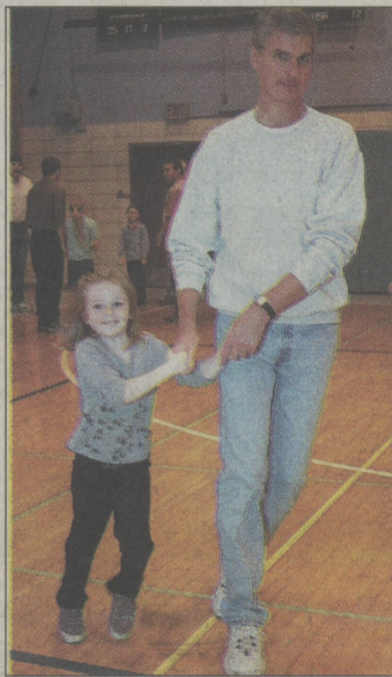
Laura Matechak  
Technologist  
Dallas School District

the school board for approval.

• Dr. Gibert Griffiths, superintendent, presented Ernest Ashbridge, school board presents with a plaque from the Pennsylvania School Board Association recognizing his 30 years of service to the public education. The plaque cited Ashbridge's "outstanding effort, loyalty, dedication and perseverance as a school board director on behalf of public education in the Commonwealth."

## Dancin' queens

Below, Al Zobel, Dallas, promenades with his daughter, 6-year-old Kate during the Girl Scout father-daughter dance Friday. At right, Kalyin Russell, Trucksville, shows off some of her moves before the dance begins.



POST PHOTOS/STEPHANIE BOMBAY

## Dallas Post Thanksgiving deadlines

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, The Dallas Post will be published Wednesday, Nov. 21, so that local subscribers may have their copies for the holiday. This will require that display ad deadlines be moved back to Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. for that issue only. Classified advertising will be accepted until 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19. News items for the Nov. 21 issue should arrive at the office by Friday, Nov. 16 at noon.

The office of The Dallas Post will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23. It will re-open Monday, Nov. 26 at 8:30 a.m.

## Brink completes basic

Marine Corps Pvt. Justin G. Brink, son of Teresa J. Brink of Dallas, and Glenn B. Brink, Jr. of Hunlock Creek, completed basic training at Parris Island, S. C.

Brink successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge recruits physically and mentally.

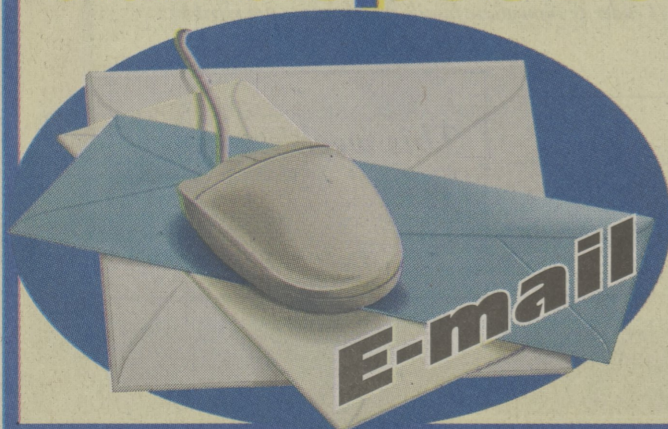
He is a 2000 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School.

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