

St. James Catholic Church & Cemetery

Cemetery Location: 43048 Hwy 8 between Kippen Rd and Hensall Rd

Year begun: 1874

Church Location: 22 Victoria Street, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1869

EARLY SETTLERS of the Roman Catholic faith gathered for their first religious services at St. Columban. The first Mass was said in Arthur McCann's tavern, and later, in Dennis Downey's home. As early as November 1835, Rev. Father J.B. Werrie, a German priest from Waterloo, made missionary trips through to Goderich. From 1837 until 1842, Rev. Thomas Gibney of Guelph visited the mission periodically. Later, Rev. Peter Schneider made the journey on a white horse and was nicknamed "The Apostle of the Huron Tract."



In 1869 the spacious and dignified white-brick St. James Church was built on Victoria Street, Seaforth, on a lot bought from T.T. Coleman. From 1870 to 1880, the parish was tended by Rev. Dean Murphy. The front addition to the Church was made in 1990.

Members of the parish of St. James Catholic Church were buried in the St. Columban cemetery from 1880 to 1893. In August of 1893 the Church bought 2¼ acres of land east of Seaforth from Edward

Devereaux for \$600. The first to be interred here was John Duncan who died in 1893.

