



JOSEPH M. SORG
FOUNDATION

Who Was Father Sorg?



Father Joseph Maria Sorg was born on August 8, 1838 in Lancaster, NY. He was baptized at St. Louis Church (then known as the Lamb of God). In a little Church in Lancaster, the future Father Sorg was taught his first lesson in catechism, and in the district school learned the first rudiments of secular knowledge.

Father Sorg was sent to St. Mary College in Montreal to study classics and prepare for the Church. He completed his ecclesiastical studies at St. Bonaventure University, then in Allegany. After his ordination by Bishop John Timon, Father Sorg was stationed at St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo, NY where he was occupied with various duties, among others, accompanying Bishop Timon on episcopal visitations and arduous journeys.

In 1862, Father Sorg was appointed pastor of St. Louis Church and undertook the task of enlarging the parish school building, the present rectory, and after the disastrous fire of March 25, 1885, began planning for the construction of the present Church.

Beloved by his parishioners, esteemed by his fellow clergy, Father Sorg died suddenly on September 15, 1888, just a few days after his 25th Anniversary of ordination. The crowning glory of his last days was the grand temple which was all but completed when he died. Not surviving to see the completion of the present Church in 1889, he was buried in a handsome tomb with marble plaque in the Church Hall.