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### Dedication, 1966-05-01

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

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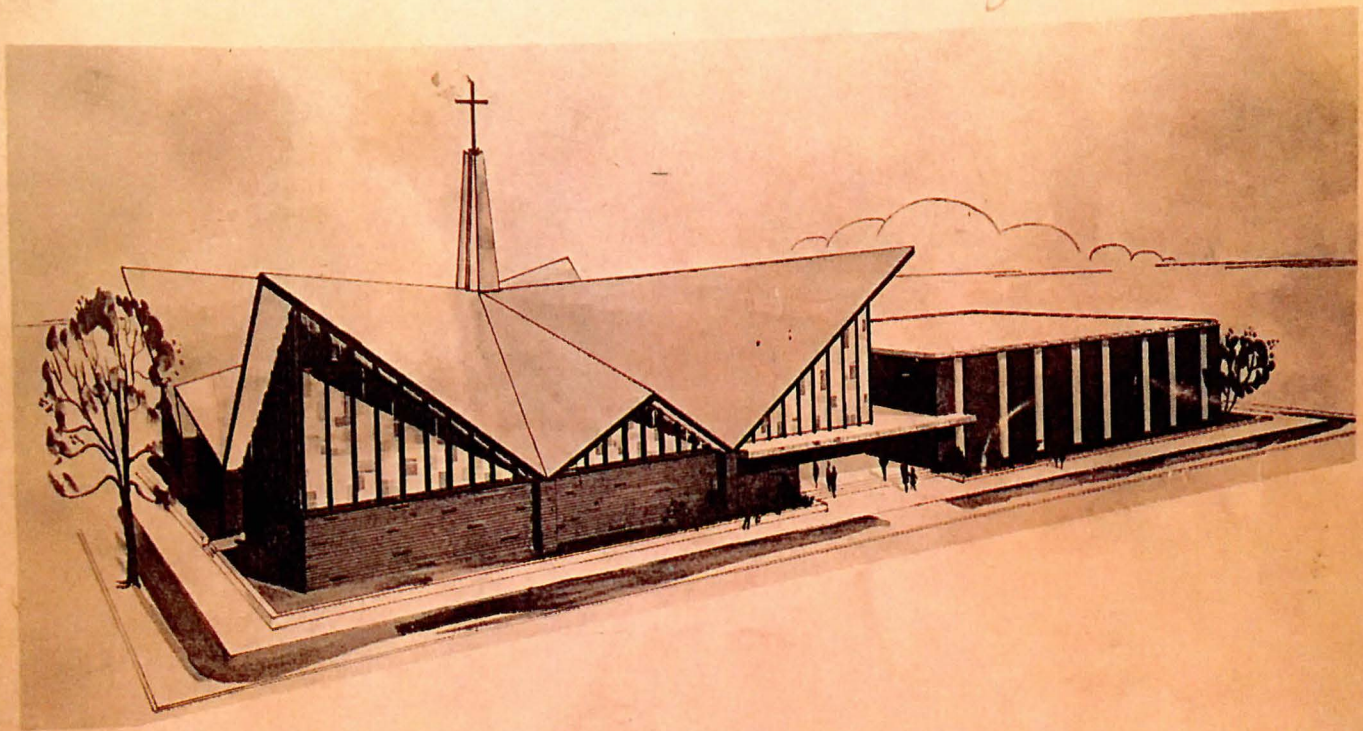
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# Dedicatorial Services of St. John Baptist Church



184 GOODELL STREET  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14204

**SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1966**

3:00 P.M.

REV. B. C. McCARLEY, Pastor

## ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT

The site on which the new St. John Baptist Church is constructed is one of few buildings that will remain when the entire area will be cleared for redevelopment and the completion of the cloverleaf system of the Expressway. It is this type of a setting that the completed building of St. John was envisioned by the congregation and the architect.

In order to functionally plan a church within the scope of the existing land that was owned and available, it was necessary to construct a square Sanctuary permitting a common main entrance relationship between Sanctuary and educational building. This land restriction, together with the program which demanded a 160-member choir behind the pulpit area, suggested a Sanctuary of worship "in the round". Since the program demanded a total seating capacity in the Sanctuary of 1,000, a balcony was developed that would not eliminate the esthetic qualities of a relatively high type ceiling which is necessary for audio resonance for a singing type church.

Once the functional space of the Sanctuary had been developed, it was a simple matter to develop a new structure that departs from the stereotyped structures so often seen by the development of a folded plate or vaulted type interior ceiling. The Sanctuary roof and spire can be construed as a flower when viewing from the exterior. The spire with the cross at the top being the central theme, namely that of the cross of Christ.

Upon entering the Sanctuary from the Narthex we see a dominant jewelled cross suspended directly over the pulpit which symbolizes the simple faith of St. John Baptist members in the belief that Jesus Christ died upon the cross for sinners.

A baptismal pool is centered as a focal point in the church whenever its use is programmed as a part of the service, however, it is designed so that it will not detract from the central pulpit during regular services.

Upon entering the Educational Building from the main entrance there is centrally located an office suite for Pastor and Secretary with an office work room, a Working Sacristy, Library and a Medical Room. The adjoining classrooms are flexible in size due to the folding door arrangement. The Educational Building was designed for the addition of two additional classroom floors totaling a four story building. The multi purpose lower floor Educational Room can seat approximately 400 people for dining.

The Architect enjoyed the fine cooperation of the Pastor and the Building Committee in the development of plans to fruition. The building that is being dedicated to the Glory of God this day is, therefore, an expression of love toward God by this Congregation. The very intimate working relationship with the Building Committee Chairman has been somewhat unusual in this particular project due to the devotion of time to details that had the attention of the Building Committee Chairman and which required amplification to the Building Committee and the Congregation. It has been a real joy to work with fine, Christian people who love their Lord and who have given so much of themselves to the Lord's House of Worship.

Wallace V. Moll, P. E.

Architect and Engineer