

St. Ambrose Church, Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD

St Ambrose on Park Heights Avenue was the parish church of **William M. Mannion's** family from the time they moved into the neighborhood in the 1930s.



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| <p>1937 – Requiem Mass Annie (Lawless) Gullivan-Killien, mother of Agnes Gullivan Mannion</p> |
| <p>1957 – Requiem Mass Agnes (Gullivan) Mannion, daughter of Annie Gullivan-Killien</p> |
| <p>1965 – Requiem Mass William M. Mannion, husband of Agnes (Gullivan) Mannion</p> |

A tragedy occurred in December 1944, when a deadly fire broke out in the St. Ambrose Parish Hall during a social event. Six people were killed and many injured. One of the six killed was **Erma Sacks**. She was the wife of **Melvin J. Sacks**, a first cousin to William M. Mannion. Melvin was the son of **Mary Ann (Mannion) Sacks**. At least two of William Mannion's children were present at the time of the fire, but they escaped, unharmed.



St. Ambrose's hall at the height of the fire

E  **SUN** News From Home
 EVENING SUNDAY

1944, Md., Sunday, December 10, 1944

Six Die In Parish Hall Fire

Six persons died, three were seriously burned and about 50 suffered minor injuries when fire broke out in the ceiling of St. Ambrose's Catholic parish hall at Park Heights and Wylie avenues Wednesday night and spread with almost lightning rapidity.

The dead: Mrs. Erma Sacks, 40, 2507 Edmondson avenue; Mrs. Rose Poessnacker, 63, 5412 Park Heights avenue; Mrs. Ada Nixon, 53, 3734 Fleet street; John C. Sullivan, 62, 3310 Virginia avenue; Miss Laura Woodward, 45, 1702 St. Paul street, and John H. Meyer, 66, 1600 Light street. Seriously burned were: Mrs. Anna H. Steckmeyer, 62, 3033 Fernside avenue; Mrs. Stella Lachwood, 28, 3604 Park Heights ave-

nue, and Miss Bessie K. Ford, 4509 Park Heights avenue.

An overheated chimney or defective wiring was believed to have caused the blaze. The hall is a one-story frame structure, formerly used by the parish church.

Used Main Door

Most of the 200 in the building, attending a card party, jammed the main front doorway, resulting in many more minor injuries than if other exits had been used, it was stated. The fire was extinguished within an hour after it was discovered. The 60 who had minor injuries were treated at hospitals, by physicians at their offices or at a neighborhood drugstore.

Early Tuesday an elite family was wiped out in a fire, believed to have begun from an oil heater, at 1205 Dwyer street. The victims