

Rev. James Pellentz, S.J.

Pastor: 1768-1800



Rev. James Pellentz, S.J. was one of the unfaltering band of missionaries. Arriving at Conewago in 1758, he became pastor ten years later and died here in 1800. A man of vision and ability, he merited the close friendship of the Rt. Rev. John Carroll, America's first Prefect Apostolic and Bishop, becoming America's first Vicar General in 1791. By 1784 the Conewago congregation had grown to over a thousand members, and a new church was a necessity. With the active help of the parishioners, the largest church within the new nation was started in 1785 and completed in 1787. The spacious rectory was built at the same time.
