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**LANDMARK SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL OPENING OF GATES AT ST. JOSEPH’S PARK IN ROCHESTER**

ROCHESTER, NY, May 23, 2016 —Today The Landmark Society of Western New York held the official annual re-opening of the gates at St. Joseph’s Park, North Clinton at Pleasant Street, just behind Liberty Pole Way in Rochester. The park is now available for the community to enjoy again.

“The Landmark Society spearheaded refurbishing of the beautiful park several years ago so the community could enjoy this treasured space,” said Landmark Society Executive Director Wayne Goodman. “We are pleased to open the gates for another season.”

New benches created by Staach and Weld Works, two Rochester-based companies, were recently added to the park. Nick Carleton, Owner, Weld Works; Seth Eshelman, Principal & Founder, Staach and Brandon Colaprete, Senior Project Designer, Staach took part in the re-opening ceremony.

“Unique spaces like St. Joseph’s Park are reinvigorating downtown Rochester,” said Joseph Eddy, vice president, WinnDevelopment, developers of the nearby Sibley Building. “As the Sibley Building fills with residential tenants, retail, and tech companies, we know the park will be a popular and relaxing destination that will further enhance the Innovation Zone.”

St. Joseph's Park began as a Catholic church, built in 1843 by German immigrants. After it burned down in 1974, the facade was preserved and the interior was made into a public park.

Generous funding from the Rochester Area Community Foundation and the Davenport-Hatch Foundation has allowed The Landmark Society to make some needed repairs to the structure so the public can again enjoy this serene space. Ted Collins Tree & Landscape also donated services and materials to spruce up the plantings inside the park.

“This little park is a jewel,” said Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, President, Rochester Downtown Development Corporation, who also spoke at the event. “The Landmark Society turned



the tragic loss of the church into something beautiful and cherished by the community. It is a prime example of a very urban space, and the feeling when you stand inside it is remarkable. People want authentic and unique urban places, and this one is very special. The addition this year of the new, locally designed and fabricated benches was brilliant.”

The Landmark Society is renting out the urban park for photo shoots, weddings and other celebrations. In addition, a free concert will be featured there later in the summer. For more information, visit the Landmark Society web site at [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org)

***About The Landmark Society:*** *The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc. is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America, serving nine Western New York counties. Formed in 1937, The Landmark Society continues to protect the unique architectural heritage of our region and promote preservation and planning principles that foster healthy and sustainable communities. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org). The Landmark Society is supported in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*