Fr. Dion to celebrate silver jubilee as priest

CHESHIRE — The Rev. Frederick G. Dion, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church for the past two years, will celebrate his 25th anniversary as a priest Sunday with a 2 p.m. Mass, followed by a reception at the parish center.

Fr. Dion, a Holyoke native, was ordained May 30, 1953 at St. Michael’s Cathedral, Springfield, by the Most Rev. Christopher J. Weldon, retired bishop of the diocese of Springfield.

Fr. Dion served at St. Thomas Church in Palmer, St. Joseph’s Church, Shelburne Falls, St. Marks Church, Pittsfield, Holy Cross Church, Springfield, and as pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Church in Sheffield before coming to St. Mary’s June 6, 1976.

He is a graduate of St. Anselm’s College and the Grand Seminary and Seminary of Philosophy in Montreal and St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, Md. While in Canada, he became interested in hockey and played goalie at the Grand Seminary. Fr. Dion later earned the nickname “holy goalie” while serving active in youth hockey programs since coming to Cheshire.

Raised by a family of florists, Dr. Dion has received praise from parishioners for his skill in decorating church altars for holidays.