

History of St. Joseph Catholic Church Holloway, MN

In 1879 a group of Polish people, mostly from St. Paul and Hastings, settled here in New Posen (now E Township). All were strong Catholics but as they had no church, a priest would come from St. Paul or Lake. When a priest was called for a sick person, all babies in the parish would be baptized and children the age of ten to fourteen years would make their first communion.

Services were held in the family homes of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Blahosky and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brulski. They were also sometimes held in a new granary on the Leon Szieperski farm.

By 1887 the little colony had grown to nineteen families and they decided to build a church. Mr. and Joseph Blahosky, Sr. donated five acres of land to be used for the future site of St. Joseph's Church and ceme

On the Blahosky farm there were many rocks. In one corner of a pasture was a big pile of rocks from w a neighbor, Fred Henseline, built the foundation for the church, free of charge. The work on the building began with Andrew Rudnick as chief carpenter. Every man in the parish helped. And so began the paris St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Mary Kashmark was the first baby to be baptized in the new church in 18

The altars and pews were all handmade out of rough lumber by Andrew Rudnick. A statue of St. Joseph st on the big altar and a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the side altar. The statue of the Blessed Mother stands on a side altar in the church, now located in Holloway.

Steve Turner and Robert Zinda built a steeple in 1896.

In 1904 some new altars were ordered, giving rise to the need for more space. Again work began with , drew Rudnick as chief carpenter. A new front was added onto the church making room for a confessional sacristy, and an arch for the big altar. The big, beautiful altar, still the main attraction in the church, was donat by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brukwinski. Two side altars were donated by Mike Zinda and Mike Rudnick. The n altar was gotten from Grenville, South Dakota.

In 1918, St. Joseph's parish and St. John's Parish of Appleton were linked together to share a pastor, w was to make his home in Appleton. The first pastor to be shared was Father John A. Sullivan.

In 1925 another addition was added. A vestibule and a tower for the bell enlarged the church considerabl Work was done by George Konieczny and Andrew Rudnick. By then there were about twenty-five families the parish. They purchased an organ and established a choir, with Mrs. Frank Glisky as the organist and cho director.

In 1947 the choir was taken over by Mrs. Simon Zinda, who played the organ and led the choir until 196 when poor health forced her to resign. She assisted several young organists in their service to the parish.

In 1944, under the direction of Father Russell Doerrer, the church was moved into Holloway. Oscar Olso was hired to do the work this time.

In 1959 the church was again remodeled under the supervision of Father Szymanski, with Virgil Schliep hire to do the carpenter work. At this time an indoor entrance to the basement was built, two classrooms and bathroom.

In December of 1971, St. Joseph's parish became linked with the Catholic Church of Visitation in Danvers Both parishes were served by Father Berry. In May of 1973 they once again became affiliated with St. John's