

Celebrating 140 Years

History of St. Nicholas Church

December 6, 1868. After only 2 months planning and construction, Father Magnus Mayr and over 200 pioneer members dedicated Carver's first documented Catholic Church, St. Nicholas. In 1876, school moved from a downtown house to the newly constructed St. Nicholas Catholic School adjacent to the Church. Three sisters of St. Benedict taught up to 150 pupils until lay teachers took over six years later. Around 1880, the current bell tower was erected. The early 1900s marked the first in various church renovations, namely the










addition of stained windows, Stations of the Cross, two side altars, a sanctuary arch and cement steps from Fourth Street. Remarkably, despite all the renovations, the original church structure remains largely the same today. In 1917, the school closed. It became home to offices and on-site grounds keepers and their families, and later, on-site priests.

In the 1930s, the donated evergreens, which flank the Church today, were planted. Later, a second cemetery, dubbed the "new" cemetery, was

prepared adjacent to the Church. During the mid-1940s, aesthetic and practical renovations continued including the installation of a new oil-burning furnace, new wallpaper, floor tiles and oak pews. In 1952, Father Bertrand Kock became the first on-site priest. During the Great Flood of 1965, St. Nicholas became a refuge and symbolized hope for many. In 1970, St. Nicholas celebrated the first Steamboat Days Jubilee with food and festivities. From 1971-73, the church received a face lift. Oscar "Butch" Reed also led a 20-man crew

in constructing the Parish Center, a new religious instruction and gathering space. In 1991-92, church renovations that replicate the original décor were made and remain today. St. Nicholas also joined two area churches for the first ecumenical mass. In 2000, an addition to the rectory made priest living quarters more comfortable. In 2008, St. Nicholas celebrated 140 years with months of celebration and reflection.

Please go to www.stnicholascarver.org for full history of St. Nicholas Church

Main Church Structure Built	St. Nicholas Catholic School Opens	Steeple Added	Interior Enhancements Made	School Closes	New Cemetery Proposed	WWII Servicemen Honored	Interior Renovations Made	Church Celebrates 1st Steamboat Days	Parish Center Built, More Renovations Made	Church Renovated, 1st Ecumenical Mass Celebrated	Rectory Addition Constructed	Church Celebrates 140th Anniversary
												
1868	1876	1880	1905-12	1917	1936	1943	1945	1970	1971-73	1991-92	2000	2008
Founding Members- Gottlieb Baer Louis Bueche Jacob Bueche Mrs. Freukes Martin Freischle John Gestach George Guettler Joseph Hagerle Mathias Jacobs Anton Knoblauch Sebastian Ohnsorg John Riesgraf Mrs. Simon Siegle Martin Steger Henry Zanger	Teachers are Sisters of St. Benedictine — Sister Augustine Sister Hyacinth Sister Anatolia	Funds Donated by Mrs. Genoveva Kimmel	Funds Donated by Parish Families	School now houses offices and grounds-keepers' families, and later, on-site priests	New cemetery adjacent to church proposed and evergreens planted	St. Nicholas honors parishioners serving in WWII- Clayton Koelfgen Kenneth Koelfgen Calvin Schue John Wherley Bernard Riesgraf Clarence Gerold Charles Dauwaller Merrill Haase Gerals Jacobs Kenneth Dols Leo Dietz Anthony Bueche Raymond Schmidt Jerome Dauwaller Leon Dauwaller George Dietz	New wallpaper, floor tiles, oak pews and oil-burning furnace were installed. Herman Terwedo Roger Riesgraf Robert Riesgraf Leo Scherkenbach Marian Riesgraph Joseph Riesgraf Francis Strobel Joseph Poppler James Hron	St. Nicholas proudly celebrates 1st Steamboat Jubilee and town revival after Great Flood of 1965	Parish Center was Constructed by Oscar "Butch" Reed and 20 man crew	Church renovations replicate original décor. St. Nicks joins area churches in first ecumenical mass	Built by Terry Wickenhouser, Tom Diethelm, Leon Jeurissen, Chuck Tuma and many other volunteers	St. Nicholas celebrates 140 years with months of celebration, reflection
 Fr. Magnus Mayr												
Priests 1868 - 1916												
Fr. Magnus Mayr 1869-1872 Fr. William Lette 1872-1876 Fr. Wendelin Graute 1876-1880 Fr. Clementine Lohblacher 1880-1882 Fr. Fulgence Eich 1882-1887 Fr. Marianus Glahn 1887-1888 Fr. Florence Kurzer 1888-1894 Fr. Pius Niermann 1894-1895 Fr. Suitbert Albersmann 1895-1896 Fr. Raymond Holte 1896-1899												
			Priests 1916 - 2008									
			Fr. Valentine Dorenkempfer 1899-1900 Fr. Zachary Ehlen 1900-1902 Fr. Philibert Hasse 1902-1903 Fr. Thomas Willenvesch 1903-1904 Fr. Elgelhardt Troesken 1904-1906 Fr. Marcellus Buehlmann 1906-1909 Fr. John Curry 1909-1912 Fr. Urban Habig 1912-1914 Fr. Lambert Brinkmoeller 1914-1916									
			Fr. Simeon Freitag 1916-1917 Fr. Francis X. Habig 1917-1930 Fr. Innocent Schluetter 1921-1930 Fr. Lambert Brinkmoeller 1930-1931 Fr. Benedict Pfeifer 1931-1943 Fr. Valentine Scherrer 1943-1952 Fr. Bertrand Kock 1952-1968 Fr. Charles Struckoff 1968-1969									
			Fr. Evan Eckhoff 1969-1976 Fr. Michael Windolph 1976-1983 Fr. Valeius Messerich 1983-1987 Fr. Gerard Rowan 1987-1998 Fr. William Paron 1998-2008 Fr. Thomas Joseph 2008-present									

Fr. Thomas Joseph

