



+++ Faith +++

*St. Jerome Church
Scottville, Mich.
1912-1988*

HISTORY OF ST. JEROME PARISH

The Gospel, which has come to you has borne fruit,
and has continued to grow in your midst...

By the Lord has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

Colossians 1:15

Psalm 119:23

Seventy-five years span a molding and formation of courage, wisdom and loyalty of a few pioneer Catholics in Scottville and vicinity. Upon arriving in Scottville, they found their nearest place of worship to be in Ludington, although in 1887 an opportunity was offered to attend Mass occasionally in Custer when St. Mary's Church was built under the direction of Fr. Paquin, then pastor of St. Simon's Church in Ludington.

The faithful of Scottville and Custer were under the pastoral care of St. Simon until August 1910 when Fr. Joseph Pietrasick, pastor of St. Stanislaus in Ludington, received charge of them. It was this devoted priest who suggested to the Catholics of Scottville the noble idea of building and forming their own parish for Divine worship.

In response to this suggestion, a meeting of the Catholic families of Scottville was held at the D.S. Betka home on W. State Street. They decided to start a fund for the building of a church and establishing a parish in Scottville.

This group consisted of the following charter members:

Mr. & Mrs. William Wagar	Mr. & Mrs. D.S. Betka
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Eastman	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Poirier
Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Quirk	Mr. & Mrs. Eli LaPointe
Mr. & Mrs. Antoine LaPointe	Mr. & Mrs. George Geil
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Coole	Mrs. Martin Christensen
Mrs. B.A. Schulte	Mr. Henry Gass

One acre of land was purchased in 1910 for \$1100, having 165' frontage on W. State Street and 264' on Reinberg Avenue. The building of the church was then entrusted to the priests of St. Simon Parish with Fr. Dennis Malone, Pastor and Fr. Felix Voght, Assistant Pastor. The cornerstone was blessed by Most Rev. Henry J. Richter, Bishop of Grand Rapids, on October 3, 1912. The front half of the church was blessed by Bishop Richter and for the first time Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Fr. Felix Voght. The church bell was rung for the first time at midnight on Christmas 1913, to which one of our longest serving members, Mrs. Ardath (Hiple) MacArthur, can attest.

The cost of the building was approximately \$3500. Furniture and sacramental furnishings were purchased for about \$1000 and the property was improved at an expense of nearly \$400, making a total cost of \$6000. These funds were raised quickly by the voluntary contributions of the faithful and their friends.

The first census showed 20 families enrolled for whom the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass began to be offered in the church once a month on Sunday and once or twice a week on weekdays. Sunday school, Vespers and Benediction were held every Sunday.

Fr. William Simon was appointed pastor June 26, 1920. During the time he served as pastor, the rectory was built. Preceding him, Fr. Joseph Broegger served for several months. Priests serving the parish faithful were as follows:

Fr. Raymond Darke	1925-1927
Fr. Joseph Karas	1928-1930
Fr. Aloysius Tomaszewski	1930-1933
Fr. William Viesnoraitus	1933
Fr. S. L. Betka	1933-1936
Fr. Gordon Grant	1936-1940
Fr. Edward O'Hara	1940-1950
Fr. Wm. J. Hoogterp	1950-1952
Fr. Earl Denay	1952-1953
Fr. Edward Kubiak	1953-1956

Fr. Robert Gillespie*	1956-1973
Fr. Joseph Battersby	1973-1977
Fr. Thomas Hack*	1077-1982
Fr. Norbert Leyrita*	1982-1988
Fr. Thomas Bolster*	Assuming pastorate 6/29/88

*Living priests

The formation of the women's society under the patronage of St. Helena was a driving force and model for the building of the church. The first organizational meeting was held October 23, 1910, with a charter membership of 14 members. They committed themselves to the work of raising money to build the new church and to foster the spiritual development of its parishioners. Mrs. William Wagar was president; Mrs. D. S. Betka, secretary; and Mrs. E. L. Cole, treasurer. In addition to these women, other charter members were Mrs. Martin Christensen, Mrs. Peter Eastman, Mrs. Henry Gass, Mrs. Joe Poirier, Mrs. Edward J. Quirk, Miss Agnes Wagar, Miss Cecelia Geil. Mrs. Robert (Mary) Nelson, mother of present member Robert Nelson, became a member in January 1912. Under the direction of Fr. William Hoogterp the St. Jerome Guild was established. The purpose of this group was to bond the young single and married women of the parish for the purpose of a Catholic Child Study Club. The guild functioned from 1953 to 1973. To this day, the St. Helena Society maintains the same loyal and loving standards of their predecessors. In the formative years of the parish, a young girl's organization called Children of Mary was formed to foster devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Men's Club was originally organized during the 1950's under the direction of Fr. Edward Kubiak, and following an inactive period was established again by Fr. Joseph Battersby. They continue to serve the parish faithfully wherever needed through fund raising events, including the furthering of vocations to the priesthood through assistance and encouragement. Anthony J. McClure, our first seminarian, has benefitted from the Vocation Fund initiated by the Men's Club.

Riverton Township faithful joined the ranks at St. Jerome when their beloved mission church St. Peter's located on S. Stiles Road burned in 1940. The families of Scanlon, Murphy, Sellner, Adrianson, Wagner, Horacek, Hess, Wicklund, Weiber spearheaded the building of the church, where Mass was held once a month by Fr. Emerick, St. Joseph's. Weare, pastor. When St. Peter's later became a mission of St. Jerome, Mass was held twice a month. The country church had no electricity and on dark, winter mornings when Mass was held at 8 a.m., altar server George Wagner, Jr. recalls holding the kerosene lamp with reflector so the priests could read from the lectionary. A pump organ was in the sloped-floor balcony and played by Maxine (Wagner) Lathrop. Heated by a basement furnace, the congregation huddled around the center register in the building for warmth. One severely cold, winter morning, Fr. O'Hara, upon arriving for 8 a.m. Mass, and driving South on Stiles Road thought how cold the church would be. Upon arriving and opening the doors, the church burst into flames from an overheated furnace.

During 1940 and 1950 while Fr. O'Hara was pastor, extensive remodeling was done on the physical phase of St. Jerome church. The basement, which is now used as classrooms, was dug, a new heating system installed, renovation and redecorating of the interior, and a parking lot added in the rear of the church grounds. Further remodeling during Fr. Gillespie's pastorate added the social room to the south end of the church and kitchen facilities to the west. These rooms have all been updated through funds furnished by the St. Helena Society and the more recently formed Men's Club, plus the dedicated contributions of all parishioners.

Music has always been an integral part of St. Jerome's faithful. The first choir consisted of charter members and developed through the years. Three known long-time organists have served the parish. Mrs. Davis (Nellie) Betka, Mrs. Loretta (Wagar) Berg, Mrs. Ronald (Vera Wagner) VanDyke and the present organist since 1947, Mrs. Eugene (Maxine Wagner) Lathrop. During the pastorate of Fr. Hoogterp a Men's Choir was formed and was active from 1950 through 1965. Charter members were Melbert (Ollie) Dumas, George Wagner, Don Sanders, George Wilson, Raymond Schulte, Robert O'Hearn, Cyril Hemmer, and Hathan Graham. Other choir members were Ardath MacArthur, Bertelle (Schulte)

Dodge, Muriel (Schulte) Gable, Geraldine Hipley, Betka children, Spitner children, Bertram Schulte, Thomas and Beatrice O'Hearn and Anne Zagars. Since 1986 John Marek has given his musical talents to St. Jerome serving as organist on Saturday evenings.

A prayer in preparation for our celebration written by a parishioner sums up the emotions of our faithful.....Heavenly Father, as members of St. Jerome Parish Family, we enter the 75th anniversary of the founding of our faith community. We offer our gratitude to you for the founding fathers who were inspired through the Holy Spirit with gifts of courage and wisdom to form our parish. We remember them with fondness and tenderness, together with all the priests who served our parish diligently and dedicated their talents and gifts to continue our growth. Especially at this time, we ask you to send your favors and blessings on our parish family so that we may continue to grow and work together to preserve our Christian faith, and implement the decrees of Holy Mother Church set forth by the Second Vatican Council. We seek the return to our parish family of faithful, former members and ask you to help us heal wounds and rifts in order for us to maintain our spiritual influence in our religious and civic community. May our blessed Mother Mary and our patron St. Jerome watch over us and intercede for us. We ask this in your Son Jesus' name. Amen!

As written in old church history records...."God grant that the fervor of the founders of this little congregation may never be diminished and that it may be imitated by all succeeding generations."





EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

June 26, 1988
4:00 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Robert Gillespie

Principal
Concelebrants: Living pastors of St. Jerome
Fr. Edward Kubiak, Fr. Earl Denay
Fr. Thomas Hack, Fr. Norbert Leyrita
and visiting priests

Homolist: Fr. John A. Najdowski,
Moderator of the Curia

Altar Servers: Joseph Luce, Chris Bennette, Kevin Graham

Eucharistic Ministers: Gerald Orleskie, Dee Bennett

Music: Maxine Lathrop, Organist
Jeanine Petersen, Charlotte Betka
Wayne Graham, Anthony McClure
Children of St. Jerome

Greeters:
Robert and Kaye Nelson
Edward and Bonnie Malkowski
Wayne and Verginia Schneider
Henry and Clara Malburg
George and Mary Wilson
Carl and Kathy Andersen
C.G. and Bonnie Luce
James and Frances Schulte
Donald and Dorothy Sanders

Organ and Trumpet Prelude: Maxine Lathrop
Robert Nelson
Sherry Dolson

Entrance Rite:
Gathering Song "This is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Sprinkling Rite "Come to the Water"
Glory and Praise 92

Gloria Mass of Creation by Marty Haugen

Response: Glory to God in the Highest and peace to his people on earth.

*** Cantor intones verses ***

All sing response

Liturgy of the Word:
Blessing of Ambo

First Reading Wisdom I/13-15; 2/23-24

Responsorial Psalm Lord, send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading I Peter 2:4-9

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia (sung)

Gospel Mark 5/21-43

Homily Fr. John A. Najdowski
Creed We Believe Glory & Praise 166
General Intercessions Response: Lord make us one
Reader: Frances Mathews
Blessing of Altar Fr. John A. Najdowski
Presentation of Gifts Marguerite Murphy, Ardath MacArthur
George Greiner, John VandeVoorde

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Preparation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Preface Acclamation Holy, Holy, Holy (See back page)

Memorial Acclamation Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Great Amen

Communion Rite:

The Lord's Prayer

Rite of Peace

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn Earthen Vessels Glory & Praise 13

Meditation Instrumental Monica VanDyke, flute

Thanksgiving Hymn In Him We Live Glory & Praise 27

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy (repeated by children)
Lord God of power and might (repeated by children)
Heaven, heaven and earth (repeated by children)
are full of your glory (repeated by children)
Sing Hosanna (repeated by children)
Sing Hosanna (repeated by children)
Sing Hosanna (repeated by children)
Sing Alleluia (repeated by children)
Blessed, blessed is he (repeated by children)
who comes in the name of the Lord (repeated by children)
return to "Sing Hosanna"

DEDICATED TO THE PAST AND PRESENT
PARISHIONERS OF ST. JEROME PARISH



"Let St. Jerome shine again!"



