

St. Lawrence history

1862-1863, an unusual occurrence took place, which seems to have hastened the building of the church. Three Irishmen were felling a large tree while six Bohemians stood by watching. Suddenly the tree veered in its fall intended direction and fell on the six Czechs. Not one of the men were injured, only one man had his hat knocked off his head and his ax handle wrenched from his hand and completely smashed.

1863- June Mathias Nemetz donated three acres of land where the present buildings and cemetery are on.

1864- April 11-It is assumed Father Joseph Maly offered the first mass

1864 – Sept 23, Fr. Augustine Lang was appointed the first Pastor of St. Lawrence Church.

1865- First baptism was Mary Anderle, born December 8, 1865, baptized by Fr.Lang.

1871- First marriage was Francis Stodola and Anna Schrall April 10, 1871 performed by Fr. Maly.

1871- First funeral was Anna Nemeec, wife of Mathias, the man who donated land for the church.

1871- John Hallada, the grandfather of Rev. Rudolph Hodik, the first priest to be ordained from the parish, donated the first bell. The bell is the same we have today.

1875 Fr. Adalbert Cipin carved the main altar and two side altars which took him five weeks of labor. The small side altar and tabernacle is still in use in the chapel, while the main altar was moved to the church in Slovan over 70 years ago. A sacristy was also added.

1876- The first rectory was started and finished in 1882.

1882- April 12, Fr. Lang returned and became the first resident pastor. His stay lasted only a few years and once again the parish became a mission under the leadership of Fr. Brunner.

1892-Fr. Vaclav Kozelka returned and started building a new church, this magnificent church took two years to build. The altar was donated by Fr. Kozelka and is still in use.

1900- Confessional was added.

1921- Fr. Kozelka resigned due to illness. December 8 Fr. Chudach filled the vacancy, but stayed only 1 year.

1922- December 8, Rev. John Vorlichek was appointed to take over pastoral duties. After eleven years at Stangelville he transferred to St. Joseph's in Pilsen.

1933- Fr. William Koutnik was pastor for 15 years, he transferred to Holy Rosary in Kewaunee.

1940- Fr. Frank Svatek took his place for a nine-month period.

1941- Fr. Shimek was pastor for nine months until his death.

1946- July 9- Bishop Bona appointed Fr. Rudolph Kerch, the eleventh resident pastor of St. Lawrence Church.

1984- Fr. Rudolph Kerch passed away after 38 years of serving St. Lawrence Parish. Fr. John Blaha served for a few months until Msgr. Donald Rose was appointed to serve as parish priest.

1988- Fr. Rose acquired a 1910 Kimball pipe organ, which was removed from a church in Sturgeon Bay and installed here.

1989, The church, rectory and cemetery were accepted for their ethnic value and listed in the National Registry of Historic places.

1991- Fr. Rose left and Fr. Alex Lukasik named administrator. Fr. Alex retired in 1996 and we were linked with St. Joseph -St. John of Pilsen. Fr. Mike Ingold was named administrator. Fr. Ingold left in June of 1998.

1998- June- Fr. C. Terry LaCombe was named administrator. He also serves as administrator of St. Joseph St. John, Pilsen and St. Hedwig, West Kewaunee.

2000- July 1st - St. Hedwigs, St. Joseph-St. John and St. Lawrence merged to become St Therese De Lisieux Parish.

2005- May 14-Deacon Bob Pribek was ordained. Deacon Bob is the first Deacon for the parishes and only the second Deacon in Kewaunee County.

2006- Reverend Dennis Drury named administrator of St. Therese Parish.