

HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

1863-First Czech settlers arrived in the town of Montpelier from the area of Pilzen in Bohemia. They named this place Pilsen and met for prayers at the Lawrence Kadletz farm. Settlers attended masses when held at Stangelville.

1874-St. Wenceslaus Church built 1.5 miles north of Pilsen on land deeded by Mathias Mleziva and Joseph Wessely.

1876-St. Mary Church built in Pilsen on present site on land given by Andrew Mahlik.

1892-St. Anna Church built 1.5 miles south of Pilsen on the land of Thomas Cherney. All mission churches served by priests that resided in neighboring parishes such as Kewaunee, Stangelville, Norman, West Kewaunee and Eaton.

1900-On August 15, Sister Mary Francis (Mary Cisler) and Sister Mary Rose (Ann Wavrunek) received the Benedictine Habit.

1910-Father John Rous sent to Pilsen to unite St. Wenceslaus, St. Mary, and St. Anna. On January 1, 1911 voted to unite into 1 parish under the patronage of St. Joseph. By October 1911 the rectory was finished.

Father Rous was the pastor until 1917.

1917-Father James Decker became pastor on December 9 until 1920.

1920-Father William Koutnik became pastor until 1922.

1922-Father B. Chudacek became pastor until June 1923.

1923-Father Joseph Kalishek became pastor until February 1928.

1925-In June, Sister Hermana (Mary Paider) was received into the Sisters of St. Francis.

1928-Father James Decker became pastor until 1933.

1930-Father Edward Radey was administrator from November 1930 until September 1931, during a leave of absence for Father Decker.

1932-In June, Sister Germaine (Agnes Paider) was received into the Sisters of St. Francis.

1933-Father John Vorlicek became pastor on July 1 until his retirement in March 1946.

1939-On August 12, Father Roger (Wencil) Paider was ordained at St. Norbert Abbey and served the Norbertine Community.

1946-Father John Johaneck was appointed pastor on March 28.

1958-A front and side entrance was added and the church hall was fixed with lavatories and a kitchen to better serve the parish.

1962-On May 6, Norbertine Fathers from St. Norbert College began helping with Sunday masses at both St. Joseph and St. John, Krok, until May 1991. A 50th anniversary was celebrated with Bishop S. V. Bona presiding and Father Roger Paider, O. Praem, a priest son of the parish as the celebrant.

1963-On June 1, Father Milton Sues was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop S Bona. Said his first mass at St. Joseph on June 2.

1987-A 75th anniversary of St. Joseph parish was celebrated with Bishop Adam Maida as the celebrant. A monument dedicated to the priests that served the parish, donated in memory of Eva Schleis Mleziva, was blessed by Bishop Maida.

1995-On July 8 Father Joseph E. Dorner was ordained by Bishop Robert Banks and said his first mass at St. Joseph on July 9. On August 30, Father John Johaneck retired after 49 years of dedicated service. Father Mike Ingold becomes administrator until 1998.

1996-Total renovation of rectory at St. Joseph. Merger of St. Joseph and St. John into St. Joseph-St. John Parish on July 1. Linked with St. Lawrence, Stangelville on September 14.

1997-Renovation of Father John Johaneck Hall, Pilsen. Linked with St. Hedwig, West Kewaunee.

1998-Father Terry LaCombe becomes administrator on June 15. In addition he also serves as administrator of St. Hedwig, West Kewaunee and St. Lawrence, Stangelville.

2000- July 1st - St. Hedwigs, St. Josephs-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 .