

SS

Peter & Paul Catholic Church



125th ANNIVERSARY
1893 – 2018

Lord,

*We dedicate this book to you,
knowing there is no better gift than living in Your Grace,
walking in Your Ways, and growing in Your Faith.*

*Thank you for the many blessings and generosities
you have bestowed upon this parish. — AMEN*



G.I.F.T.
growing in faith together

SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church

All art and photos used in this book are of SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Atlantic, Iowa. The book includes the church's parishioners, staff, and past history as well as the restoration of the church in 2017.



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Historical Notes

Preface

There are two histories of any parish and so it is of SS Peter and Paul's in the County of Cass, City of Atlantic. The one history is the story of the visible; the other the story of the invisible. The one covers the facts known by men; the other surmises the facts known by God. Would that the spiritual history in all its greatness and its intermingled human failings could be known now to inspire us for the future.

That invisible history known only to God in its entirety does have some visible manifestations. To become aware of such manifestations one has to arouse consciously an imaginative train of events which have a foundation in reality since similar events in our own experience can lead us to visualize in our minds like events of the past.

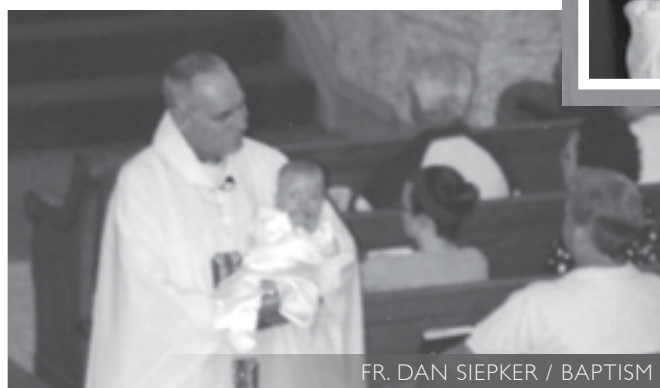
The announcement of the death of a life-long member of our parish awakens echoes of many passings. Behind each of these deaths are the pain, sorrow, and poignant grief of bereaved husbands, wives, children, fathers, and mothers. Each passing has hallowed and sanctified the walls of SS Peter and Paul.

Before the altar of our church, more than 870 young, radiant brides have pledged their lives in the Holy State of Matrimony as they knelt at the side of their stalwart partner in the vocation of matrimony. No words can recapture these events so numerous and yet so all important in the lives of the persons so gathered. Many of these couples have knelt through the years in the midst of their fellow parishioners at the Sunday Masses, the Lenten services, the Forty Hours Devotion and all the spiritual epochs of the devout Catholic family life. Still others have moved to other communities where their faith continues to enrich their lives. With the years, they have seen the First Communion of their children, the conferring of the Sacrament of Confirmation by the Shepherd of the flock, our Bishop. They have seen their sons and daughters grow up and even their grandchildren progress through the steps of spiritual formation and finally one or the other as ordained by God kneels in silent grief at the Funeral Mass for the departed partner.

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Over 3800 baptisms have been conferred in the parish, and many confirmations have been recorded.

If we could multiply these spans of life many times over, and in some ways capture the richness of each life, the splendor of sacrifices, the story of the hearts, then in some fleeting way the story could be written. But just as the cold details and dates of a great battle in secular history cannot even slightly suggest the fear, the suffering, the pain, the ache, the torment of commander and soldier alike, so the data regarding SS Peter and Paul's cannot even so much as whisper of the fears of the penitents, the joy of the absolved, the consolations of the communicants nor even the defections of the weak—God alone knows all this and it is well.



EDWARD & LOUISE DIMIG / 1909



JOE & DOROTHY DIMIG / 1949



ALEX & EMILY FREUND / 2017



The Description of the Church Building

Architecture has, embodied two distinct ideas and purposes, the useful and the aesthetic. Possibly no other school of architecture than the GOTHIC is so easily adapted to this combination of purposes, and certainly no other school represents such beauties of line and association as the Gothic. Father Daly sought an architect who would carry out the design for the new church in Atlantic. Guido Beck of Rock Island, Ill., was given commission and completed the plans for the edifice.

The cornerstone for the church was laid August 27, 1893. The News Telegraph published the event, with a most lengthy description of the ceremony, stating that Father O'Brien, assisted by five priests, who consecrated the cornerstone with holy water and placed a lead box in the stone, inside of which was an announcement which read the following:

"This church of SS Peter and Paul is erected to the greater honor and glory of God by the generosity of Pierce Maher and his wife Bridget."

The papers placed in the box were copies of the New York Journal, The Western Watchman, The Philadelphia Catholic Times. Davenport Catholic Messenger and copies of the Daily and Weekly News Telegraph.

The church has main dimensions of 128 by fifty feet, the old steeple was 132 feet from the sidewalk and is surmounted by a gold cross. The sidewalls are twenty-two feet high. The interior of the church is essentially GOTHIC, the groins are supported by corbels and finished with pendants and supported by pendant-posts. One of the most prominent features, however, is the manner in which the angles of the ceiling are brought together, forming a perfect cross. The gallery across the rear was made the organ/choir loft. The pipe-organ is a wonderful treasure, built by the Carl Barckhoff Organ Co. of Salem, Ohio and is of rare tone and power. The main altar is the gift of James and Mary Blake. The altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the gift of Lawrence and Catherine Dolan and the altar of St. Joseph is presented by Alexander and Margaret Stuart.



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The windows of the church are stained-glass, designed for their present places and are masterpieces in the Glazier's Art. They are inscribed as follows, beginning at the gospel-side and passing directly around to the epistle-side:

- Gift of Edward McConvill in memory of Anna McConvill
- Gipple and McCurdy Families
- Gift of George and Mary Porter in memory of Patrick & Bridget Gorman
- Descendants of John and Frances Kelly
- Gift of T. P., A. P, & M. E. Blake in memory of Patrick & Margaret Blake & Mary O'Brien
- In Memory of Jack Freund
- Gift of Thomas and Catherine Gaffney
- Gift of D. M. Reynolds, in memory of the departed of the Family
- Gift of Letitia Conway in memory of Thomas Conway
- Gift of Edward McConvill in memory of Ellen Coughlin
- Gift of Joseph & Anna Burnea and Family
- Weston Clarke Wernimont
- Gift of Theresa Quinlan in memory of Malachy Quinlan
- Lawrence and Loretta Wedemeyer
- Gift of Margaret McConvill in memory of William McConvill

Four windows in the confessional area, read as follows:

- Gift of A Tharnish; Gift of Abbie and Raymond Tharnish
- Gift of Henry W. Bopp; Gift of Hanna J. Bopp

One of Vestry windows reads: Gift of Matthew and Catherine Hassett

NOTE: The towering steeple on the Church's exterior, as seen in earlier pictures, was modified due to a powerful windstorm in the 1930s. It was changed to the copper-dome, as we see to the present day.

Religious Orders

SS Peter and Paul Parish is proud of its two members who have chosen religious orders:

Monsignor Francis Thomas Zuch, graduated from Atlantic High School and served in the armed services during World War I. After military service, he worked in a local bank six years before entering premedicine at Creighton University. While at Creighton, he decided to study for the priesthood; his seminary work was done at St. Mary's in Baltimore and he was ordained by Bishop Drumm on May 15, 1932 in Atlantic—the first priest from Atlantic to be ordained.

He served as an assistant in St. Augustin's, in Des Moines, Iowa and was appointed by the bishop for additional study in social work at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. After this study, he returned to Des Moines as Director of Catholic Charities, Chaplain of the Christ Child Home, assistant at the Cathedral, Director of St. Vincent De Paul Society, Diocesan Chaplain of Boy Scouts and Moderator for Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. He handled these positions for nearly twenty years.

In 1953, he was appointed pastor of St. John's, in Cumming, Iowa and in 1959 was elevated to the role of Monsignor by Pope John XXIII. In 1964, he was appointed pastor of St. John's Church in Des Moines and in 1972 retired to an apartment in West Des Moines. He referred to himself as a "Pastor at Large," where he "pinch hits" for other priests and renews old acquaintances. Monsignor Zuch died in 1992.

Sister Rita Waters, daughter of Noel Waters', took her vows in June, 1972, as a Sister of Mercy. Rita, fifth of eleven children, she aspired to the sisterhood all her life and went on to teach at St. Joseph's elementary school in Marion, Iowa.



Other Benefactors of SS Peter & Paul

The Burnea's, Joseph Sr. and Jr., were benefactors for years, but much of their giving was to those who had fallen on hard times, only God knows the total. Joseph Burnea, Sr. came to Cass County in 1871 and opened the first brick yard, which he operated for thirty years. Joseph Sr. and his son Joseph Jr. and daughters, opened a general store on Sixth Street, just west of Chestnut, which continued until Joseph Jr. died in June 1945.

James and Honore Breheny came to Atlantic in the 1870's. James was a railroad man and was road master for the Rock Island, when the line from Des Moines to Council Bluffs was updated in 1902–03. James Jr. worked his way up from section hand to vice president in charge of marketing. His brother, Tom, was vice president of the Atlantic State Bank when he died in February, 1945. Neither they, nor their sister married. When Mary died in 1974, their estate went to SS Peter and Paul. Part of the Breheny bequest paid for the new rectory; the balance was invested. In addition, Mary Breheny made a large contribution toward the construction of the parish center in 1968.

Nell Quinlan, last of a pioneer Lincoln Township family, left funds to the parish in 1976. The parish council established it as a scholarship fund, the interest from which would enable parish children to attend Catholic colleges. Many parish students have benefited.

Msgr. Bartholomew Kane, in addition to his priestly dedication, donated monies to the parish. During the thirty years he was here, he also gave \$11,000 to redecorate the church in 1968.

Barbara Herrington left money to the parish in 2004.

Many other parishioners donated monies to our parish in their wills to be used for various projects.



Priests Who Served the Parish

Fr. Edward Gaule	1873–1887	Fr. Charles Kottas	1996–3 months
Fr. Peter Daly	1887–1920	Fr. Howard Kalb S.J.	1996
Msgr. Patrick McDermott (National Chaplain of the American Legion)	1920–1963	Fr. Richard Gubbels	1996–1997
Msgr. Joseph Sondag	1963–1964	Msgr. Lawrence Beeson	1997–2004
Msgr. Bartholomew Kane Emeritus	1965–1977	Fr. Dan Siepker	2004–2013
Msgr. Edward Kelly	1977–1985	Fr. Chori Seraiah	2013–2016
Fr. Thomas Pfeffer	1985–1991	Fr. David Kusi	2016–2017
Fr. Paul Bianchi	1991–1992	Fr. Chinna Devaraj	2017–Present
Fr. Michael Peters	1992–1995		

Others Who Served the Parish	
Fr. Nelo Leto—July 1954–January 1955	Msgr. James Wadsworth
Vacant—January 1955–August 1955	Msgr. John Reynolds
Fr. Ben Kenkel— August–October 1955	Fr. Ray Higgins
Fr. Michael Moriarity—October–Christmas 1955	Fr. Michael Amadeo
Passionist Priests from Des Moines—January–June 1956	Fr. John Harmon
Fr. Peter Lapcheske—June 1956–March 1957	Fr. John Clarke
Fr. Albert Wilwerding—June 1958–June 1959	Fr. Lazarus Kirigia
Fr. Woodrow Elias—June 1959–1960	Fr. Michael Berner
Fr. James Kleffman—June 1960–June 1961	Fr. Trevor Chicoine
Fr. Bernard Hesse—June 1961–1962	Rev. Mr. Francis “Bud” Johnson
Fr. Robert Weis—June 1962–May 1963	
Fr. Allan Prendergast—1964–1965; 1967–1979	
Sister Janice Schimerowski	
Sister Dorothy Hofer—1985–1992	
Rev. Mr. Fred Cornwell—1992–2010	

A group of parishioners met and established a system which would be used to fundraise. Letters were written to all parishioners, including alumni parishioners, to inform them of upcoming dates and events. Save the dates for August 5, 2018 were made and sent. Parishioner pledge packets were designed to help with collections.

A G.I.F.T. Fund Prayer card was placed in the pews and we said the prayer before each Mass.



G.I.F.T.
growing in faith together

Loving God,

At this time in the life of our Parish, we turn to you with grateful hearts for what we have, and with great anticipation for what is yet to be in our future. Bless us with a sense of unity, a spirit of cooperation and a generous, sacrificial heart as we face the responsibilities and challenges of this G.I.F.T. Fund Restoration Project. We know there is much to do. We believe our goals are rooted in Your Word and in Your Work. Please guide us, strengthen us and bless us with Your Presence, now and through the years to come.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

1893-2018

Advocates, which consisted of teams of parishioners, began to contact all parishioners with pledge packets.

RESTORATION / 2017

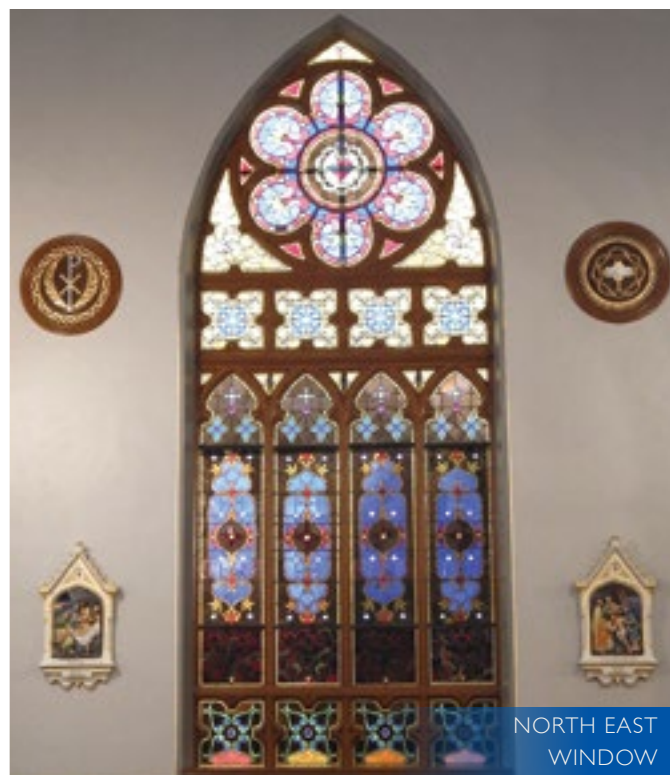


JERRY MARTIN
MARTIN SHEET METAL

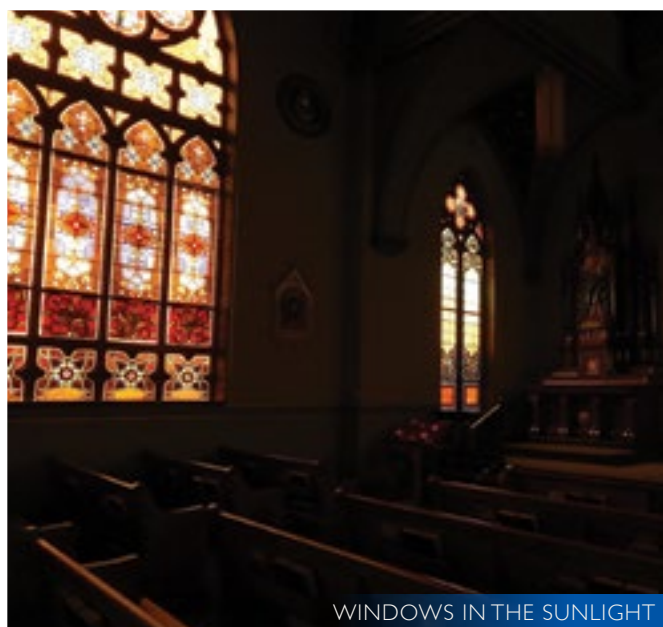




WEST WINDOWS AT NIGHT



NORTH EAST WINDOW



WINDOWS IN THE SUNLIGHT



WINDOWS IN THE SUNLIGHT



NEW GLASS



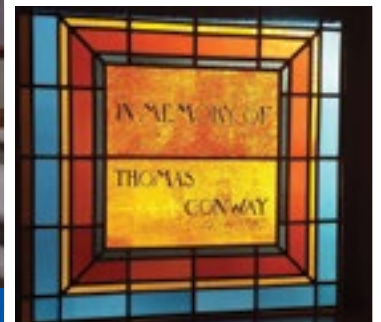
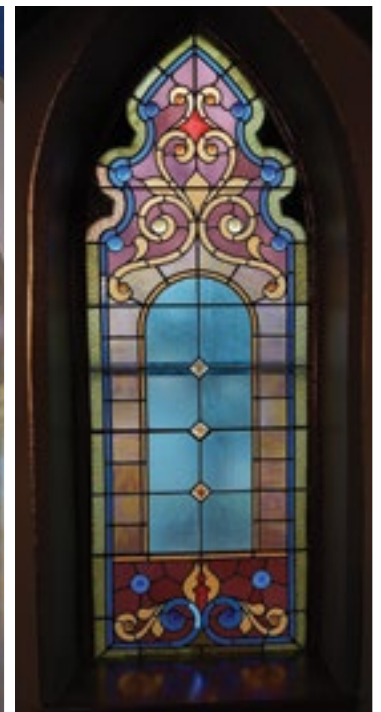
SILENT AUCTION WINDOWS



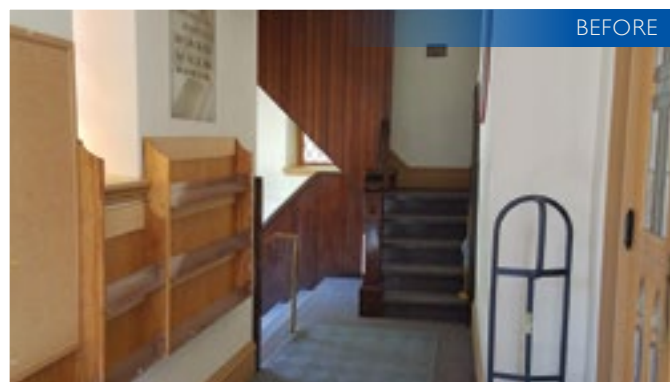
SILENT AUCTION WINDOW



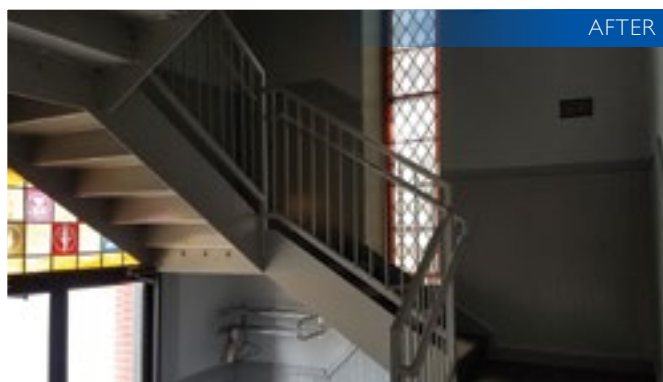
WEST WINDOWS



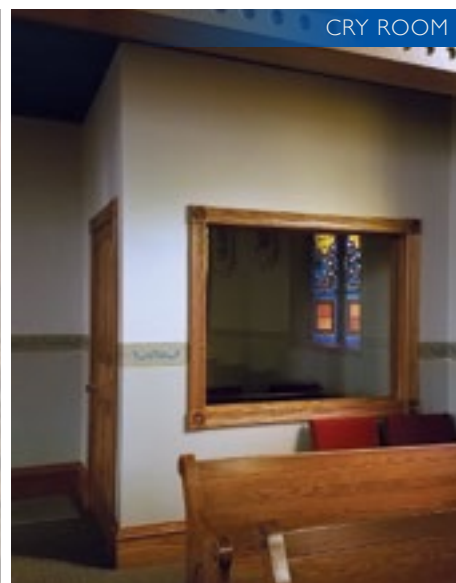
IN MEMORY OF
THOMAS
CONWAY



BEFORE



AFTER

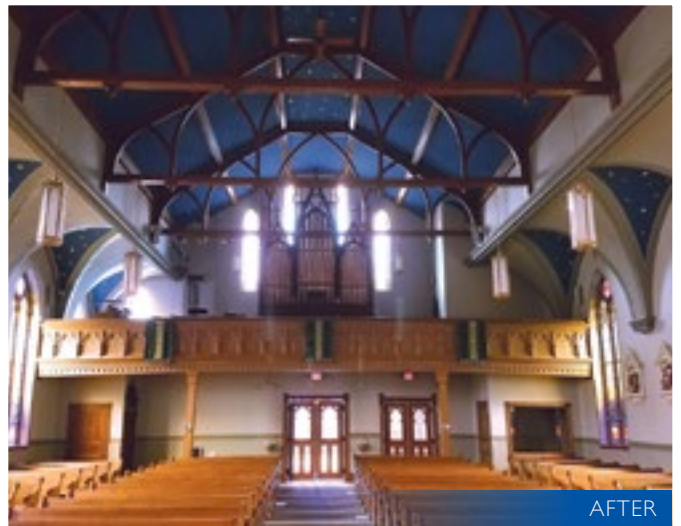
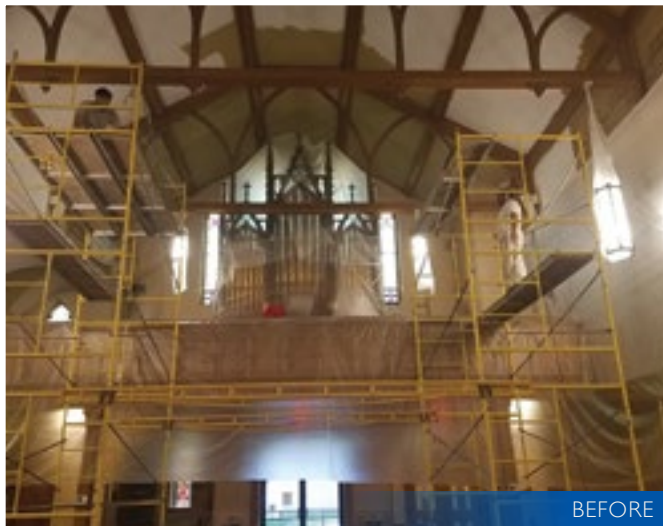


CRY ROOM



CONFESSIONAL







HELPING HANDS



HELPING HANDS



BEFORE



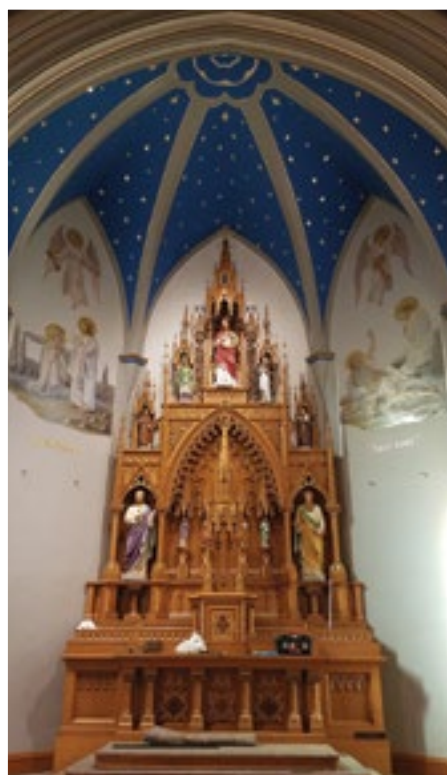
AFTER



YOUTH MASS



EAST WINDOWS



VESPERS TO CELEBRATE
RESTORATION COMPLETION



ST. PAUL BEFORE



ST. PAUL AFTER



JESUS AFTER



ST. JOSEPH AFTER



MOTHER MARY BEFORE



MOTHER MARY AFTER



ST. PETER AFTER



ST. ANTHONY AFTER



STATION BEFORE



STATION AFTER



STATION AFTER



STATION AFTER

Holy Sacraments

Weddings

The first marriage recorded at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church was Fritz William Hansen to Ruby Elizabeth Dimig on April 6th, 1921. There were 871 recorded marriages from 1921 to 2018.

June 1921–2003	776
June 2003–March 2018	105

Baptisms

The first recorded baptism was Thomas Patrick Braniff on February 11, 1872 at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church. There have been 3818 recorded baptisms from 1872 to 2018.

Summary of Baptisms by Ten Year Periods Since the Beginning of the Parish			
1872–1882	854	1947–1957	283
1883–1892	205	1958–1968	445
1893–1902	165	1969–1972	146
1903–1913	153	1972–1992	706
1914–1924	135	1993–2003	199
1925–1935	157	2004–2014	172
1936–1946	168	2015–2017	30
Some records may be incomplete			



List of Parishioners

Ackerman, Cathy	Doherty, Will & Maureen	Hascall, Phillip & Janet	McCauley, Patricia	Power, Rebecca	Stinn, Paul and Donna
Alm, Leonard, Sr.	Duhlberg, Heather	Hayes, Bryan & Diane	McCreedy, Martin & Shelby	Price, Laurine	Stogdill, Sharon
Amdor, Jim & Dee Dee	Ebbinga, Bill & Linda	Hayes, Carroll & Joyce	McCurdy, Patrick	Pross, Richard & Sharon	Stoke, Lawrence & Connie
Andersen, David & Donna	Eblen, Marvin & Diane	Hayes, Jerry & Gwen	McDermott, John & Debbie	Pulido, Dan & Kathy	Stork, Chris & Kay
Andersen, Nicole	Eckles, David & Lynn	Heithoff, Edna	McLaren, Charles & Mary	Rasmussen, Josh & Melanie	Svoboda, Scott & Sheila
Anderson, Carol	Eilts, Dean & Virginia	Hemmingsen, Carol	McLaren, Dan & Arlene	Rasmussen, Benita	Swanson, Jamie & Lisa
Anderson, Jason & Lori	Eilts, Karla & Tim	Hepler, Josh & Kate	McLaren, Darby & Mary	Reilly, Bob & Andrea	Sweeney, Robert & Katherine
Anderson, Jeff & Tarah	Epperson, Laura	Hepler, Nancy	McLaren, Dick & Diann	Reynolds, Robert & Nancy	Swinerton, Jeff & Kathy
Angell, Edmund & Mary	Fager, Sam & Rhonda	Hickman, Brian and Laura	McLaren, Dustin & Ricci	Richardson, Edna	Templeton, Kelli
Antisdel, Barry & Lisa	Faust, Mary	Hoffmann, Pat & Kate	McLaren, Josh & Emily	Richter, Gary	Testa, David & Patte
Argo, Max & Patty	Feilmeyer, Ron & Marlene	Hohenberger, James & Theresa	McMartin, Travis	Richter, Junior & Ruth	Thelen, Florence
Armstrong, Ray & Nancy	Fewson, Andrew & Haley	Holmes, Kelly & Julie	Mendez, Rubin & Jessica	Richter, Mardell	Thielen, Scott & Terri
Babe, Bernard	Fiddelke, Fred and Kathy	Honke, Keith & Regina	Miller, David & Joan	Richter, Phillip & Shawnell	Thomsen, Thomas & Lisa
Baggenstoss, Clara	Fief, Linda	Hood, Phil & Melinda	Miller, David & Karen	Richter, Ruth	Topolewski, Eugene & Juliann
Ball, Jason & Nicole	Field, James & Debbra	Hunolt, Danny & Shelia	Miller, Tony & Michelle	Riesberg, Joe & Karen	Van Cleave, Lisa
Bandow, Zackary	Fletcher, Danny & Shelia	Ingerslev, Kent & Marge	Moorman, Kenneth & Mary Ann	Rink, Brian & Tracy	Victoria, Larry & Sara
Baragary, Mike & Cathy	Foegen, Linda	Johnson, Eileen	Morenz, Jeff & Jo Anne	Robinson, Ted & Mary Jo	Vogl, Dennis & Kathy
Bechtold, Charles	Foegen, Mark	Johnson, Lynn & Connie	Mualia, May	Roecker, Todd & Jolene	Vogl, Kenneth & Mardell
Behrens, Robert	Franken, Greg & Tina	Jones, David & Rosie	Mualia, Peter & Tionisia	Ross, Al and Doty	Vogl, Lorraine
Berger, Cleo M.	Franken, Jordan	Just, Judy	Mualia/Mwarey, Mercy and Sabino	Ross, Nathan and Meagan	Volk, Don
Beschorner, Brad & Kim	Fredericksen, Laena	Just, Kevin & Caryn	Mueller, Anton & Joanne	Rourick, Donna	Wall, Brian & Sherry
Beschorner, Leo	Frederiksen, Mark & Mary	Kanning, Richard and Lora	Mullenix, Jim and Cindy	Rourick, Nancy	Waltz, John & Marcella
Bierbaum, Sue Ann	Freund, Clint & Laura	Keenan, Jerry & Theresa	Mullenix, Matthew & Michelle	Rubel, Shelly	Ward, Cameran
Birge, Bruce	Freund, Douglas & Teri	Kelly, Chad	Muller, Kelly & Maggie	Saeugling, Aaron & Danna	Waterbury, Mike & Deborah
Birge, Julie	Freund, J.P.	Kinen, Colette	Muller, Teresa	Sage, Bill & Linda	Watts, Randy & Marsha
Black, Sandy	Freund, Joe	Kloewer, Andrew & Stephanie	Mullin, Mark & Alice	Saluk, William & Michelle	Weber, Kenneth & Susan
Blake, Bennett & Kirstin	Freund, John & LaNette	Knop, David & Mary	Murphy, Michael & Debra	Sanchez, Agustin & Sondra	Wedemeyer, Mark & Susan
Blake, Randy & Chris	Freund, Kevin & Kylie	Knuth, Chris & Cathy	Nachtman, Kate	Sandbothe, Mary Ann	Welsh, Darren & Tasha
Blum, Steven and Amber	Freund, Marilyn	Koehlmoos, Andrew & Ashton	Nelson, Christine	Sauser, Robert & Kerry	Welter, Bill & Leslie
Book, Robert & Janice	Freund, Matthew & Dawn	Koontz, Randy & Pattiey	Neville, Judy	Schreiner, Dan & Dee Ann	Wenber, Kelvin & Marilyn
Boysen, Mitchell & Cynthia	Freund, Mike & Debbie	Kreifels, Timothy & Jacqueline	Nevins, Connie	Schroeder, Charlotte	Weresh, Mary
Brauer, James & Mandi	Garcia, Alejandro & Anayel	Krogh, Dottie	Newbury, David & Jamie	Schroeder, Taylor & Rebecca	Wernimont, Kris
Bualuay, Mariano & Mariapaz	Gifford, Doug and Val	Kunze, Brad & Joanie	Newman, Cody & Brandi	Schulder, Joshua & Cecilia	Wernimont, Virginia
Buliche, Hudson & Killy	Ginther, David & Beverly	Lappe, Don & Barb	Northwick, James & Kelly	Schwarte, Chad & Beth	Wheatley, David
Cappel/Richter, Tom Cappel II & Wendy Richter	Gipple-McCurdy, Dianne	Larsen, Corey	Pangburn, Jack & Rose	Schwarte, Don & Carol	Wheatley, Donna
Carlson, James & Barb	Gonzalez, Arnulfo and Maria	Lee, Mike	Paulsen, Tracy	Schwarte, Robert & Rhonda	Wiederien, Pat
Casey, Patrick & Elsa	Gonzalez, Jose & Angelina	Legg, Theresa & Ryan	Peerbolte, Bradley	Sieck, Jerry	Wieser, Dean & Joyce
Christensen, Karl & Earlene	Gray, Lee	Leonard, David	Peerbolte, Ronald & Vickie	Sisler, Barb	Will, Chance & Ashley
Christofferson, Paul & Susan	Green, Nell	Leonard, Doug & Jill	Pellet, Bill & Leanne	Skelly, Mike & Gail	Williamson, David & Julie
Coatney, Lana	Greteman, Patricia	Leonard, Jennifer	Pellet, Brad & Kristy	Smith, Carol	Wolf, Wanda
Coder, Loran & Denise	Griffin, Charles & Cathleen	Leonard, Keith	Pellet, Mark & Debra	Smith, Greg & Kathy	Wolford, Sharon
Collins, Judy	Gross, Paul	Lippincott, Bill	Petersen, Abby	Smith, Javen & Kathy	Wonio, Ted & Andrea
Conn, Rae Ome	Gude, Donna	Lyons, Roger	Petersen, Janet	Snyder, Julia	Wood, Paul & Sara
Cullen, Michael & Tamara	Guttenfelder, Douglas & Theresa	Mailander, Pearl	Petersen, Norman & Lori	Sonntag, Austin	Wood, Tim & Sharon
Cullen, Ruth	Halder, Dana & June	Marcisak, Tim & Beth	Petty, Darrin & Melanie	Sonntag, Don & Lois	Yarger, Lois
Culver, Daryl & Ann	Hamilton, Ed & Colleen	Marshall, Phillip & Patricia	Placzek, Betty	Sonntag, Marvin	Zenti, Carlo
Delgado, Ivan & Mary	Hannasch, David & Janice	Mason, Janet	Possumato, Sam & Louise	Staiert, Matt & Danielle	Zimmerman, Robert & Linda
Dimig, Dorothy	Harlan, Rick & Mary		Pottebaum, John & Shelly	Stein, Marilyn	
	Harry, Isaac & Ronda			Stender, Diane	