

Saint John Nepomuk Church's Parish History:

The parish of St. John Nepomuk had its beginning during the year of 1900. A town named Granite City was destroyed by an Indian uprising and never was rebuilt. About 80 families living in the area were part of the Pierz Church territory established by Fr. Pierz, a pioneer missionary. In 1898 a post office was established and this was the beginning of the town of Lastrup. The families petitioned the Bishop and he established the boundaries for the new parish. The ecclesiastical corporation was signed on November 21, 1900. Fr. John Meyer became the first pastor. Fr. Ignatius Lager supervised the building of the frame church which was left uncompleted because of lack of time and funds. The first year, and until the church's completion, Mass was held in the post office building. On Christmas Eve, 1901, a solemn procession carried the Blessed Sacrament up the hill to the present church. The bare-walled structure had no steeple, bell tower, pews, or communion railing.

In 1907, a steeple was completed. Communion railings and pews were also added. In 1910, the building was veneered with brick which is still intact. Under the leadership of Fr. Felix Reiners in 1936, the addition of the sanctuary and sacristies was completed. New pews, Stations of the Cross, stained glass windows, light fixtures, and side alters followed.

The first rectory was built in 1902. In later years this became the convent of the Sisters of St. Benedict who came to teach in the parochial school. In 1955 a new rectory was built.

A new school was built in 1951. It consisted of 5 classrooms, along with a cafeteria, kitchen, and library. The school was closed in 1991 when area parochial schools combined to become Holy Trinity School in Pierz. The building is now used as a parish center.

Major redecoration of the church took place in 1977 when the walls were replastered, new light fixtures were installed, and paneling was done to the lower portion of the walls. Carpeting was done later. Also over the past years, bathrooms have been added in the church, and new sidewalks put in around the outside. In

2009, a steeple project was completed with tuckpointing of the steeple and other places that needed this.

At present, St. John's parish has an enrollment of 197 households and a membership of 510.