100th Anniversary
of
St. John Nepomuc Parish
Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin
1891 1991
Monsignor Anthony P. Wagener was born in Stanley, Wisconsin, on August 13, 1920. He attended St. Anne's Elementary School in Stanley. He received his high school education at Loras Academy, Dubuque, Iowa, and then attended Loras College there. He received his theological training at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.. He was ordained at St. Joseph Cathedral, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on June 7, 1947, by Bishop John P. Treacy. After his ordination he served for one month at St. Paul Parish, Mosinee. On August 27, 1947, he was appointed assistant rector of St. Joseph Cathedral, LaCrosse. He also served as religion instructor at Aquinas High School from 1947 to 1949. On August 8, 1947, he was appointed associate editor of the LaCrosse Register and on June 29, 1948, became the editor of that publication. At the same time he was appointed Chaplain of the LaCrosse Newman Club and Director of the Faith (Mission Office) for the LaCrosse Diocese. On August 29, 1956, he was named a Papal Chamberlain by Pope Pius XII, with the title of Monsignor. He was invested by Bishop John P. Treacy on December 2, 1956. Monsignor Wagener made two mission tours to South America, one in 1954 and another in 1958. He was instrumental in establishing our diocese's mission parish in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He also made one mission tour to East Africa in 1964. He was appointed pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish, Prairie du Chien, on June 22, 1965. He served there until November, 1967. Since that time he has served as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in LaCrosse.
Monsignor Wagener had the church redecorated in accordance with Vatican II changes. A new marble altar faced the people. The risen Christ was painted on the back of the altar. Red carpet was laid in the sanctuary and aisles. The Communion rail was taken out. The walls were painted with grey trim around the windows. The side altar was for the Holy Family.

Rev. James F. Stauber was born on August 28, 1933, in Marshfield, Wisconsin. He attended high school and college at Holy Cross Seminary, LaCrosse. He received his theological training at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, and St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 9, 1959, at Holy Cross Seminary Chapel by Bishop John P. Tracy. Father Stauber reported to his first assignment as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Parish, Colby, On June 3, 1959.

Father Stauber then served at parishes in Marathon and LaCrosse. On June 22, 1965, he was appointed assistant pastor at St. John Nepomucene Parish and part-time instructor at St. Mary's Academy. On June 15, 1967, Father Stauber was appointed assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Nekoosa. He then went on to become principal of St. Patrick's Junior High School in Eau Claire and later instructor at Regis High School. In November of 1985 he left the Diocese of LaCrosse and was incardinated into the Diocese of San Bernardino. He is currently serving at St. Edward Parish, Corona, California.
Rev. Donald J. Walczak was born on June 20, 1935, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He attended St. Peter’s Elementary School and P.J. Jacobs High School in Stevens Point. He attended the Jordan Salvatorian Seminary in Menominee, Michigan, and Holy Cross Seminary, LaCrosse. He received his theology training at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1966, at St. Joseph Cathedral, LaCrosse, by Bishop John P. Treacy. Father Walczak served as assistant pastor at St. John Nepomucene Parish and instructor at St. Mary’s Academy. He served in these positions until June 17, 1969. He went on to serve at parishes in Chippewa Falls, Mosinee, Rock Falls, Lanark and Buena Vista. On July 15, 1981, he was appointed pastor of St. Adalbert Parish, Rosholt, where he is currently serving.

Vatican II changes included the Mass being said in English instead of Latin. The people as a Congregation sang the songs, instead of the choir singing hymns in Latin. We did not use the black missals, but had booklets that were changed each month. People were allowed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist in the hand or on the tongue. Previous to this only the priest could touch the host. People did not have to fast from midnight on as was previously done before receiving Holy Communion.
First Communion was held on February 20, 1966 for forty First Communicants.

Confirmation was held on May 7, 1966 with the Most Reverend Bishop Freeking officiating. There were 232 people confirmed.

First Communion for children attending B.A. Kennedy School and the CCD classes at St. John's was held on May 28, 1966.

Class of 1966

Bottom row, left to right:
Monsignor Anthony Wagener, Paul Stark, Patti Withey, Diane Jelinek, Sister Faith, Donna Kapinus, Terry Heilmann, Father James Stauber

Row 2
Robert Aird, Mark Mezera, Sandra Love, Carla Fishler, Kathy DeVito, Janet Krogman, John Rybarczyk, Michael White

Row 3
William Betzle, Mark McWilliams, Donald Wall, Margaret Sincere, Sandra Jelinek, Peggy Ryan, Stephen Peterson, Jonathan Preston

Row 4
Gerald Stankus, Terry Benish, Gregory Moris, Marsha Gebel, Patricia Mezera, Lawrence Smith, Paul Konichek, Joseph Thomas
Monsignor J. Francis Brady was born on July 20, 1904, in rural Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin. He received his high school education at Campion High School in Prairie du Chien and attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. He received his theological training at Catholic University, Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1930, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. After his ordination he assumed his first assignment as assistant pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Eau Claire. He then served at parishes in LaCrosse, Genoa, DeSoto, Ridgeway and Lyndon Station. On October 23, 1946, he returned to St. Patrick Parish in Eau Claire as administrator, and then as pastor. On August 29, 1956, he was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII and he was named a Prothomotary Apostolic by Pope John XXIII in December, 1962. Monsignor Brady served at St. Patrick's until November, 1967. On November 8, 1967, he was appointed pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish in Prairie du Chien, where he served until the time of his retirement on June 17, 1969. On April 9, 1970, subsequent to his retirement, he was appointed Vicar General. On January 21, 1971, he was appointed Acting Chancellor. He held both positions at the time of his death on April 8, 1972. He was buried at St. Patrick Cemetery in Eau Claire.
First Communion for the second grade children was held on April 16, 1967. The CCD children received First Communion on May 28, 1967.

Theresa Duve had the honor of doing the May Crowning.
Vatican II changes included Baptism of babies; the parents were given more lessons in preparation for the Baptism. They were also asked to have their baby baptised during the mass, so the whole congregation could be part of it. The congregation would then clap to welcome the new infant into the parish family.

People could now eat meat on Friday except on Good Friday. Many people continued not eating meat even though it wasn't required of them. More recently the U.S. Bishops have reinstated abstinence for the Fridays of Lent and strongly recommended it for all the Fridays of the year.
Class of 1968

Bottom row, left to right:
Robert Cejka, Thomas Lochner, Gail Sincere, Sherri Svacina, Judy Rybarczyk, Kathleen Novey, Linda Basting, Bonnie Svacina, Judith Otteson, Mary Sue Wachuta, Michael Cowie, Donald Tichenor, Russell Key

Row 2
Mrs. Lucille Dagnon, Monsignor J. Francis Brady, Dennis Mezera, Jeff Moris, Jeff Bowar, Daniel Stanislawski, James Hogenson, Ross Ritchie, Mark Otteson, Timothy Dickey, David McCoy, Pamela Love, Sister Niva, Father Donald Walczak

Row 3
Mary Ann Koresh, Sheila Garrity, Mary Rabe, Sue Rickleff, Mary Jo Kaber, Mary Coorough, Barbara Novey, Kathleen Hermsen, Ann Deluhery

First Communion was held on April 21st. The CCD children received First Communion on May 12, 1968.

There were 250 students enrolled in St. John's School.

Mary Coorough had the honor of the crowning Mary, Queen of May.
Bottom row, left to right:
Charles Wachuta, Susan Buening, Gail Boxrucker, David Bowar, Jeffery Welter, Patrick Lechnir
Row 2
Sister Faith, Steve Sutton, Gail Jelinek, Mary Wainwright, Karen Moris, Jane Coorough, Diane Paulus, Monsignor J. Francis Brady
Row 3
Stephen Polodna, Mary McCoy, Janice Mezera, Mary Dickey, Debra Tichenor, Barbara Mezera, Linda Delury
Row 4
Father Donald Walczak, John Betzle, William Obmascher, Don Peterson, Gary Welter, Michael Speck, Mr. Ott
Row 5
Mark Mayer, Thomas Smith, Thomas Halpin, Kenneth Wall, Timothy Godden. Maura Garrity is not shown on the picture.

First Communion was held on May 4, 1967.

Richard Nixon was elected and served as president from 1969 to 1974.
Vatican II changes included the Sacrament of Extreme Unction for the deceased person. It is now called the Sacrament of the Living, for those who are very seriously ill. It can be given more than once if a person recovers, and then gets very ill again.

Previous to this the person received Extreme Unction as a Sacrament as they were dying.

Rev. John P. Trant was born January 16, 1919, in Chicago, Illinois. He obtained his education at Quigley Preparatory Seminary, Chicago. He received his theological training at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Grove, Missouri. On September 23, 1944, he was ordained to the priesthood at Kenrick Seminary Chapel by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Donnelly. Father Trant's first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. James Parish in Wausau. Subsequently he served at parishes in Stevens Point, LaCrosse, Bangor and Arcadia. On June 17, 1969, he was appointed pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish, where he served for three months until being granted a leave of absence from the Diocese of LaCrosse for personal reasons. Father Trant is currently retired and residing in Chicago, Illinois.
Rev. LaVern H. Timmerman was born May 8, 1909, in Jefferson Township, Grant County, Wisconsin. He received his elementary education at Holy Guardian Angels School, Sinsinawa. He attended high school at Columbia Academy, Dubuque, Iowa, and then went to Loras College, also in Dubuque. He received his theological training at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Grove, Missouri. On June 10, 1934, he was ordained to the priesthood at Kenrick Seminary Chapel by Most Reverend John Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis. Father Timmerman’s first assignment was as chaplain at St. Michael’s Orphanage in LaCrosse. Subsequently he served in parishes in LaCrosse, Genoa, DeSoto, Cashton, St. Mary’s Ridge, Waumandee, Nekoosa, Marshfield, Eau Claire, Fall Creek and Augusta. On October 1, 1969, he was appointed pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish, Prairie du Chien, where he served until June, 1975. He was then appointed associate pastor at St. Patrick Parish and chaplain at St. Mary Hospital, both in Sparta. He retired on October 31, 1979. Subsequent to his retirement he served as temporary administrator of St. Patrick Parish, Seneca, in 1982. Father Timmerman currently resides in Dubuque, Iowa.
Rev. Roy L. Mish was born August 10, 1934, in Independence, Wisconsin. He received his elementary education at SS. Peter and Paul Elementary School, Independence, and St. Michael's Elementary School, North Creek. He attended high school and college at Holy Cross Seminary, LaCrosse. He received his theological training at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained on May 14, 1960, at Holy Cross Seminary Chapel by Bishop John P. Treacy. His first assignment was assistant pastor at St. Peter Parish, Stevens Point. He then served at Thorp and Arcadia. On June 17, 1969, he was appointed assistant pastor at St. John Nepomucene Parish, Prairie du Chien, where he served until July 1, 1970. Father Mish then went to serve at parishes in Bloomer, Galloway, Fancher, Edson, Wilson and Czestochowa. He is currently serving as pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Black River Falls.

Rev. R. John Swing was born April 26, 1944, in Tacoma, Washington. He attended St. Thomas More Elementary School, Aquinas High School and Holy Cross Seminary, all in LaCrosse. He received his theological training at St. John's Seminary, Collegeville, Minnesota. He was ordained on May 30, 1970, at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, LaCrosse, by Bishop Frederick W. Freking. On June 24, 1970, he reported to his first assignment as assistant pastor at St. John Nepomucene Parish, where he served until June 15, 1973. Father Swing's next appointment was in Chippewa Falls. From June, 1975, until July, 1981, Father Swing served as assistant pastor at the mission church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Currently he is serving as pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Lanark, and St. Martin Parish, Buena Vista.
First Communion was held on February 15, 1970

Class of 1970

Bottom row, left to right:
Steven Otteson, Duane Mayer, Brian Buening, Kerry White, Kevin Cecka, Steve Basting, John Peterson

Row 2
Cathy Adamski, Todd McWilliams, Janis Sebastian, Mary Halpin, Michael Geisler, Mary Mezera

Row 3
Edward Mohoney, Kathi Carroll, Lenoir Lochner, Thomas Rybarczyk

Row 4
Rita Konichek, Thomas Cejka, Sarah Peterson, Father LaVern Timmerman, Carol Weber, Peter Smith, Mary Tiller

Row 5
John Roach, Mary Jane Valley, Jon Kaber, Margaret Dickey, Thomas Duve, Barbara Voth, Paul Boxrucker
Class of 1971

Bottom row, left to right:
Denise Svacina, Douglas Heilmann, Sandra Buening, Michael E. Mezera, Janice Bowar, Richard Weber, Mary Mara
Row 2
Anne Oehler, Philip Mezera, Kevin Withey, Lisa Love
Row 3
Michael C. Mezera, Cindy Aird, Vicki Rickleff, Raymond Melvin
Row 4
Luann Paulus, Stephen Wisnefsky, Father John Swing, Father Lavern Timmerman, Paul Delury, Ellen Otteson
Row 5
Mark Novak, Vicki Schmitt, Randy Konichek, Pamella Balk, Mark Gilberts, Carolyn Hermsen, Gregory Novey

First Communion was held on February 21st for the First Communicants.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered on May 6th at 8:00 P.M. by the Most Reverend Bishop W. Freking.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Sisters</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade Taught</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Kryshak</td>
<td>1972-1974</td>
<td>Religion 6; Music 5–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niva Langreck</td>
<td>1971-1978</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Straub</td>
<td>1975-1979</td>
<td>Religious Ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Clark</td>
<td>1975-1979</td>
<td>Spell., Rel., Rdg. – Gr. 5–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Schnitzler</td>
<td>1978-1982</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornelia Lange</td>
<td>1980-1982</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Mary Depies</td>
<td>1979-1983</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Vatican II changes in regard to the Sacrament of Penance. Penance as a sacrament may be received in a communal setting. We may also receive the sacrament face to face with the priest in the confessional, or in the traditional form with a curtain in the confessional.

Vatican II changes gave the parishioners a much more active part in the governing of their church. We now have a Liturgical Committee, Parish Council, Finance Committee, Maintenance Committee, and an Education Committee. We also have Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Choir, Acolytes, and Ushers.
In 1972 there were 209 students enrolled in the school.

First Communion was held on February 27, 1972.

Class of 1972

Bottom row, left to right:
Margaret Fishler, Steven Pellock, Elizabeth Lochner, Todd Graap, Patricia Coorough, Stephen Mayer, Beth Wisnefsky

Row 2
Randall Kieser, Teresa Dickey, John Rabe, Lori Smith

Row 3
Kathleen Deluhery, Mark Check, Julie Mara, Sister Niva, Thomas Farahay, Belinda Finney, Joseph Finney

Row 4
Michael Polodna, Jenni Peterson, Christopher Kaber, Steven Schauf, Connie Mohoney, Gregory Rickleff, Sheila Cecka
Class of 1973

Bottom row, left to right:
Benton Shipley, Laura Novak, Brian O'Brien, Kathleen Halpin, Scott Otteson, Mary Murphy

Row 2
Marsha Roach, Mark Tiller, Shelly Kramer, Edward White, Deanna Pellock, David Weber

Row 3
Richard Bowar, Father John Swing, Father LaVern Timmerman, Jeanne LaPointe

Row 4
Carol Rabe, David Mezera, Yvonne Lechnir, Kent Boxrucker, Susan Mezera, Brian White

Vatican II changes for the Sacrament of Holy Communion included many. Now we do not have to fast from midnight. We may receive the Eucharist under the Bread (Body) and Wine (Blood) of Our Lord. Many women and men became Eucharistic Ministers. Previously only the Priest gave out Communion.

Many people were allowed to take Communion to the ill and shutin.

Women were allowed around the altar during the mass to also be a lector. Many men also became lectors. Previously women were only allowed around the altar to be married.
First Communion was held on March 31, 1974.

Confirmation for the 7th and 8th Grade was held on May 7th, with the Very Reverend J. Floyd Dwyer, Delegate of the Most Reverend Bishop Frederick W. Freking.

Gerald R. Ford served as President from 1974 to 1977.

Class of 1974

Bottom row, left to right: Colleen Balk, Chris DesRocher, Jane Roach, Michelle Tiller, Maria Gilberts, Cindy Jelinek, Kathleen Delury
Row 2 Cynthia Polodna, Janet Ritchie, Lori Pitzer, Judy Kozelka, Arnold Klema, Judy Lechnir, Jean Dobner, Patty Halpin
Row 4 Carole Muelbauer, Michael Garrity, Father LaVern Timmerman, Sister Niva, Patrick Check, Jennifer Kieser
Row 5 Steve Lechnir, Christi Forst, Aaron Mayer, Roxanne Shipley, Mark Bowar, Shelly Mergen, Bryan O'Connell

President Gerald Ford was elected in 1974.
First Communion was held on April 13, 1975.

The enrollment of the school totaled 168 students.

Bottom row, left to right:
Kathleen Rabe, Gregory Sawa, Jana Koresh, Dennis Delury, Jean Duve, David Burlingame, Brenda Bebow
Row 2
Richard Jelinek, Juli Kramer, Ann Wisnfsky, Peter Kennebeck
Row 3
Margaret Lechnir, William Fischer, Randy Stark, Angela Pitzer
Row 4
Bruce White, Mary Polodna, Father Lavern Timmerman, Sister Niva, Megan Campbell
Row 5
Denise Schauf, Camille Shipley, Jean Murphy, Bernard Hurda, Luanne Obmascher, Brian Lessard, Christine Weber.
Rev. Edwin J. Thome was born February 22, 1926, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He attended St. Brigid's Catholic Grade School, Catholic Central High School and Sacred Heart Seminary, all in Detroit. He received his theological training at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 1951, at St. Joseph Cathedral, LaCrosse, by Bishop John P. Treacy. Father Thome reported to his first assignment as assistant pastor at St. John Parish, LaCrosse. Subsequently he served at parishes in Callon and Stratford. In July, 1968, he returned to LaCrosse and served as pastor of St. Thomas More Parish. From October, 1974, until January, 1975, he attended the Pastoral Institute at the North American College in Rome. On January 27, 1975, he was appointed associate chaplain of the Roncalli Newman Center, LaCrosse. On June 18, 1975, he was appointed pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish, Prairie du Chien, where he served until July of 1982. On July 1, 1982, he was appointed pastor of Holy Ghost Parish, Chippewa Falls, and administrator of St. Bridget's Mission, Springfield. On May 16, 1989, he was appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Plum City, where he is currently serving.
In 1976 there were 172 students enrolled at St. John's School.

On March 28, Confirmation was held with The Most Reverend Frederick W. Freking D. D. officiating.

First Communion was held on May 2.

Class of 1976

Bottom row, left to right:
Sharon Buening, Roger Konichek, Donna Lessard, Jeffery Bebow, Christine Gremore, Donald Novey, Karen Ann Delury

Row 2
Bradley White, Maureen Garrity, Jeffery Panka, Renee Lochner, Keith Forst, Victoria Mezera, Daniel Rickleff

Row 3
Madonna Klema, Jill Murphy

Row 4
Timothy Deluhery, Sister Niva, Father Edwin Thome, Sister Susan, David Kieser

Row 5
Elizabeth Godden, Kevin Finney, Paula Murphy, David Polodna, Martha Mezera, Christopher Walz, Kim White
Class of 1977

Bottom row, left to right:
Mark Polodna, Dawn O'Connell, Michael Mara, Robert Novak, Cindy Forst, William Buening

Row 2
Gregory Panka, David Novey, Shawn Kramer, Michael Adamski, Elizabeth Yoth, Michael Krieg, Jeffery Mezera

Row 3
Lisa Kennebeck, Marchell Klema

Row 4
Matthew Walz, Sister Susan, Father Edwin Thome, Sister Niva, Gary Kozelka

Row 5
Jean Polodna, Maureen Campbell, Ronald Stark, Scott Pellock, Mary Ann Lechnir

First Communion was held on April 24, 1977.

Jimmy Carter served as President from 1977 to 1981.
First Holy Communion was held on April 23, 1978.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was given by The Most Reverend Bishop John Paul D. D., on April 30, 1978.

Class of 1978

Bottom row, left to right:
Richard Polodna, Michael Mezera, Andrew Klema, Kathleen Campbell, Michael Delury, Douglas Rickleff

Row 2
Mary deRantz, Richard Ambrose, Peggy Halpin, James Bowar, Mary Sue Esser, John Boxrucker, Rebecca Jung

Row 3
Paul Mezera, Janet Fischer, Ann Weber, David Dobner

Row 4
Karen Coorough, Thomas Garrity, Sister Niva, Father Edwin Thome, Mr. Ott, David Panka, Diane Lessard

Row 5
John Lochner, Patricia Schauf, Kevin O'Brien, Kristine Draka, Joseph Lochner, Maxine Becwar, Jay Bebow
Bottom row, left to right:
Connie Delury, Todd Koresh, Greg Mezera, Thomas deRanitz, Chris O'Connell, Charlene O'Connell
Row 2
Doug Kieser, Rita Mezera, Terry Mezera, Paul Panka, Lisa Kozelka, Phillip Polodna
Row 3
Bridget Campbell, Sherri Bauer
Row 4
Thomas Fischer, Sister Carol, Father Edwin Thome, Mr. Joseph Cronick, Michael Hogenson
Row 5
Paul Fischer, Shirley Sheckler, Doug Pielock, Sheryl Godden, John Bowar, Linda Mergen, Mark Mara

The First Communicants received their First Communion on April 29, 1979.
Class of 1980

Bottom row, left to right:
Joseph Lechtrin, Jan Halpin, David Flansky, Krista Beneker, Peter Jung
Row 2
Marlene Klimek, Jennifer Johnsrude
Row 3
Damei Bauer, Sister Carol, Father Edwin Thome, Mr. Joseph Cronick, Thomas Maria
Row 4
Lisa Drake, Thomas Novey, Amy Aschom, Todd O'Connell, Cindy Albee

First Communion was held on December 7, 1980, and the CCD First Communion was on April 26, 1981.