



PARISH PROFILE

St. Mary Parish serves Catholics in Lake City

By **KATIE LEFEBVRE**
Globe staff reporter

LAKE CITY – The history of St. Mary Church in Lake City began in 1894, when a few Catholic families of the community purchased property from the Church of Christ for \$800.

On March 26, 1912, St. Mary's Mission was legally incorporated into the Diocese of Sioux City under Bishop Phillip Garrigan. Father George Costello, resident pastor of St. Joseph's in Lohrville, was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Mission.

In 1929, St. Mary's became a mission of St. Mary's of Sac City under Father Daniel Tewell. Father Tewell was replaced by Father Otto Dentlinger.

Under Father Dentlinger's pastorate, the original church was raised, turned to the east and a basement with a furnace, kitchen and restroom were added. The sanctuary and sacristy were added to the west. In 1935, through the determined efforts of Father Dentlinger, the mission, which numbered about 37 families, was given the status of a parish.

A rectory was purchased on July 13, 1935, and Father Leo Berger (1935-1939) was appointed to serve as the first resident pastor.

Current site

St. Mary's purchased two blocks of land in the Westview area of Lake City in 1956 for a total cost of \$5,000. The land was designated as the new site for the future St. Mary's Parish and specifically purchased to build a new church and rectory.

The dedication of the current church and parish house took place on Feb. 5, 1963. The interior was designed to seat approximately 400 people. Total cost for the new church and rectory was \$140,284.

With the continued growth of St. Mary's, facilities for parish activities and a catechetical educational center were needed. A combined parish hall and educational center was completed and dedicated by Bishop Greteman in 1970. The newly completed building consisted of a large general meeting room and dining area, a fully equipped kitchen, seven classrooms, a priest's office and two bathrooms.

On May 30, 1998, a major hail storm hit the area and replacement of the roofs and windows were necessary for all three buildings. The parish center parking lot was paved in August of 2001.

Current pastor

Father Timothy Boekelman is the current pastor at



St. Mary Church, Lake City

St. Mary's. He was appointed pastor at Lake City and St. Joseph's in Lohrville in July 2003. The two parishes are clustered.

According to the pastor, there are 155 families who belong to St. Mary's. This number has not fluctuated much since he became pastor.

"St. Mary's parishioners are very community oriented," said Father Boekelman.

The parish offers several programs and ministries to the parishioners including RCIA, Knights of Columbus, men's group, women's group, religious education and a faith sharing group that meets once a week.

"The faith sharing group is a group of people that meet after Wednesday morning Mass," said Father Boekelman. "We take a look at the following Sunday's readings."

Religious education

There are about 150 students in the religious education program at St. Mary's. The pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students attend class on

Wednesday afternoons. The evening classes are for sixth grade through twelfth grade students from Lake City and Lohrville.

John Smith, one of the coordinators of the religious education program at St. Mary's, takes charge of the registration during late summer, early fall before classes begin. He has been a teacher in the program since the late 1970s and switches off teaching seventh grade and the students preparing for confirmation.

"We are trying to incorporate the message that this isn't just a one hour a week thing, it is your life," he said. "If you are through the catechism courses, then you continue on as adults."

He noted that a few of the religious education teachers have students in the program, but the others no longer have children in the program. Past teachers continue to come back and help. In some cases, Smith mentioned, it is hard for them to find teachers.

"We work together to coordinate our classes," said Smith. "If we have special events, we work on them together."

Lake City parish reaches out to community

By **KATIE LEFEBVRE**
Globe staff reporter

LAKE CITY – St. Mary Parish in Lake City gives back to the community through a project that collects items for families in need at Christmas time.

The whole community is involved in this effort and contributes by donating items as well as through monetary donations. Last year the project helped 27 families in the community.

"It really has become a project that encompasses southern Calhoun County," said Father Timothy Boekelman, pastor at St. Mary's in Lake City.

Nancy Macke, a St. Mary's parishioner, along with a team of about five

others coordinate the project.

The names of the families in need are acquired by the city administrator, noted Macke. The only people who know the names of the families are the city administrator and the three people who deliver the items.

When collecting items for the families, Macke said, the only information they know about the families are that they have, for example, a mom, a dad and five kids. The volunteers do not know the names of the families they are helping.

The families receive a food pack along with gifts for their children.

The food packs contain several items including milk, bread, eggs, fruits, veg-

etables, meat, etc. According to Macke, if someone walked down the aisles of the grocery store, most of those items would be in the boxes taken to the families in need.

She added that the Pepsi Company in Carroll makes a donation to the food packs.

The high school students from the school and St. Mary Parish go to the local dime store where Mustang, the school mascot, attire is sold such as stocking caps and gloves.

"Some of the monies collected on the Sundays of Advent are divided up and some of the senior CCD students do a Christmas shopping trip to buy presents for the kids," said Father Boekelman.

The school system includes students from Lake City, Lohrville, Lanesboro, close to Lytton and a few other communities.

Once all of the items are collected they are put into boxes in the St. Mary's parish hall/educational building.

"Some of these kids wouldn't have Christmas presents or a good meal at Christmas without this," said Macke. "It is overwhelming to see all of the items that leave the educational building to be delivered to families."

She said this is a good project and a great way to "give back to the community." She hopes the project will continue.

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PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor:
Father Timothy
Boekelman

**Coordinator of
religious education:**
John Smith

Mass times:
Saturday – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday – 10 a.m.
Wed. and Thurs. – 8 a.m.

Confessions:
Saturday – 5 to 5:15
p.m.