



PARISH PROFILE

Granville parishioners work hard, give generously

By **KATIE LEFEBVRE**
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GRANVILLE – For more than 125 years, St. Joseph Parish has been a community that likes to work together and have fun together.

St. Joseph Parish currently has 170 households. The parish is part of the Pilgrim Cluster along with St. Mary's of Alton and St. Anthony's of Hospers.

Father Terry Roder, pastor at St. Joseph's, said the parish is a community of hard workers and "they do great things for the education of kids and the ways of faith and families."

"The parishioners have a lot of pride and they show it by how hard they work," said Father Roder. "They are generous."

Parish ministries

The parish offers many ministries, several of which are for the Pilgrim Cluster. St. Joseph's has its own Catholic Order of Foresters court, Ladies Guild, prayer group, parish council and parish finance board. St. Joseph's is part of the Spalding Catholic School corporation, grades prek-8 and part of the Gehlen Catholic corporation, grades 9-12.

Some of the annual events at St. Joseph's include a parish picnic and auction in August (see adjacent story), a turkey supper the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a Memorial Day Mass in the cemetery and Advent and Lenten services.

"It is great to get together and work as a community," said Connie Christensen, parish secretary.

The cluster ministries include RCIA, religious education (including first Communion and confirmation), Knights of Columbus and Triduum services (rotate between the churches).

"Our three parishes are really intertwined," said Christensen.

Sister Patrice Klein, RSM, who lives in Hospers, has been pastoral minister for the cluster for 13 years. She is in charge of the religious education program which is held at St. Mary's in Alton.

"I love pastoral ministry," said Sister Patrice. "There are lots of good, generous people who are really centered in their parishes. In small towns, that is what your identity is in many ways."

She also visits the nursing homes, hospitals and shut-ins. "I try to follow up on hospital visits and varying ongoing needs," said Sister Patrice. "I learn from people, very much from the elderly. I feel like I should be taking notes. You kind of hope you are learning by watching the limitations and how they handle them."



St. Joseph Church, Granville

History

In 1886, about 70 families resolved to build a church of their own. The new church was a frame building with a wood shingle roof. The church served as a meeting place until March 25, 1888, when Father M. W. McCarthy offered the first Mass.

By 1902, St. Joseph's Parish had grown to 160 families. Plans were begun for a new church and it was completed by

1905. The old church became a school and had an enrollment of 198 students.

From all approaches into Granville, one first sees the 130-foot tower of the church, a semi-gothic structure, 147-foot by 66-feet, built of hydraulic-pressed tan brick, trimmed in stone, at a cost of \$41,000.

The cemetery was established in 1893 one mile north of Granville, but was moved in 1912 to the current site two blocks from the church.

The present two story brick rectory was constructed in 1950 for a cost of \$40,000.

Due to increasing enrollment, a new school building was erected in 1908 at a cost of \$15,000. Students paid 50 cents per month tuition. Over a period of time, a 12-year-course was offered. The first sports program was begun in 1941 by Father Clemens Knobbe.

In 1955, construction of St. Joseph High School and gymnasium was completed at a cost of \$200,000. The high school section accommodated about 100 pupils.

In 1962, St. Joseph's incorporated with St. Mary's, Alton, and St. Anthony's, Hospers, forming Spalding Catholic High School. The Granville St. Joseph's school building and convent were closed in 2013 with the closing of Spalding Catholic High School.

This summer the St. Joseph School building was razed and the land was donated by the church to the city of Granville to be used for a new fire and EMS station and community center.

In 2009, the inside of the church was renovated including new carpeting, painting, statues were recoated, decals were put on the walls and wood floors were exposed in the sanctuary.

Two years ago air conditioning and a new heating system were installed.

"They have done a beautiful job of maintaining and passing on that heritage through the beautiful artwork in the church to challenge, to encourage and to illuminate our minds and hearts with thoughts of God," said Father Roder.

St. Joseph's pastors have been Father Michael W. McCarthy, Father Patrick A. Tierney, Father John J. Anler, Father John H. Stromberg, Father J. A. Gerlemann, Msgr. Joseph J. Dalhoff, Father Nicholas J. Becker, Father John G. Schissel, Father Edward D. Hoffman, Father Francis J. Nemmers, Father Robert A. Gralapp, Father Clem W. Curran, Msgr. Kenneth A. Seifried, Father Richard D. Ball and currently Father Roder, who was assigned as pastor in 2012.

PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor:
Father Terry Roder

Deacon:
Deacon Dan Goebel

Pastoral Minister:
Sister Patrice Klein, RSM

Secretary:
Connie Christensen

Linked with:
Alton St. Mary
Hospers St. Anthony

Mass Times:
Rotate during different seasons, see bulletin.

Confession:
Before Mass

Website:
www.pilgrimcluster.org

Parish picnic brings parishioners of present, past together

By **KATIE LEFEBVRE**
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GRANVILLE – If you ask anyone at St. Joseph Parish what to expect on the third Sunday in August every year, they will answer the parish picnic, which will be held on Aug. 16 this year.

Parish picnics are definitely a tradition at St. Joseph's. There has been a picnic every year since 1976 and before that, there were picnics held as well.

In the history of the parish, it states, "In 1976, our church needed redecorating and funds were short. They had a meeting and decided to start the church picnic."

Each year five couples help as chairs to put on the picnic. Over five years, the couples rotate through different responsibilities. The first year a couple helps but observes how things are run. The second year the couple is the co-chair of the picnic. The third year they are chairmen. The fourth they are treasurer and the fifth year they serve as advisors.

"They do the basic planning of it and the work schedule," said Connie Christensen, parish secretary. "Under the five couples, each stand (at the picnic) has a chair and a co-chair – the lunch stand, the Bingo stand, bake sale and the auction committee. It is very well-organized."

The day begins with 10 a.m. Mass under a tent on the parish grounds. There is room for about 400 people under the tent. There are food stands, games and an auction.

"There are always people coming and going," said Father Terry Roder, pastor. "There are young adults who live elsewhere but come back to help set up for the picnic."

Another highlight of the day is the car show, which lines the streets around the church. Cars and old tractors are on display for attendees to view. Jim Beck, a parishioner, said the show attracts a lot of cars.



The tent is up for the annual parish picnic. (Submitted photo)

"We find families use the picnic for family get-togethers or reunions," said Christensen. "A lot of people come back for the picnic."

The day concludes about 6 p.m. with the final raffle drawing. There are about 40 winners during the raffle with the top prize being \$5,000.

The proceeds from the picnic go to the church and help with sending students to the Catholic school and maintaining the church.

"It has always been successful," said Beck of the picnic. "They set up on Thursday night and a bunch of guys put together about half a dozen stands. On Monday morning, everyone shows up and by noon you can't tell there was a picnic on the grounds."

For the picnic and any general project, Deacon Dan Goebel said, "If something needs to be done, someone always steps up to help out with time or materials. There is always someone willing to help."

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