

St. Lawrence Parish

Information Booklet



Established 1846

4886 Highway 175, Hartford, WI 53027

St. Matthias Chapel History

The church is located in Nabob, about 6 miles north of St. Lawrence. The parish of St. Matthias was established in 1848 by a group of German immigrants from the Trier area. The cemetery dates back to 1854. It was an active parish until it was closed by the Archdiocese in 1998.

St. Matthias was a parish that never had a resident priest. It was always a mission parish, having been affiliated with six different area parishes at different periods of time. St. Matthias was a mission of St. Lawrence at its inception in 1848 until 1857, 1863-1865, 1881-1889 and 1992-1998. It merged with St. Lawrence in 1998. Other parishes that served St. Matthias include Holy Angels, in West Bend, Sacred Heart in Allenton, and St. Peter in Slinger. St. Matthias was a closely knit, loyal parish. Many of its members were descendants of those early families and their social life encompassed both church and family.

There are no records of a school prior to 1879, but some written accounts tell that there was a combined public parochial school as early as 1869. The first known schoolhouse was built in 1879. It contained living quarters for the nuns and classrooms.

The original brick school was taken down during the Easter break in 1920. Following Easter break to the end of the school year, students reported to church each morning. They attended Mass on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The rosary was prayed on Tuesday and Thursday. It is told that students had to wear shoes on Mass days, but could be barefoot other days. Following services, the nuns walked the students to the nearby public school for classes. The new school opened in the fall of 1920. The red brick building had a full basement, two classrooms, living accommodations for the nuns and a room for the priest to use when at St. Matthias. The school closed in 1969.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of St. Lawrence Parish,
believe that we truly become disciples of the Lord when:

His words become our words
His caring becomes our caring
His healing becomes our touch
His life makes us alive

We provide opportunities and education
for lifelong spiritual growth for all our members.

PARISH STAFF:

Very Rev. Richard J. Stoffel, Shared Pastor

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Rev. Kevin Kowalske, Shared Associate Pastor

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PARISH WEBSITE:

www.stlawrence-parish.com

PARISH FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/stlawrencecatholicparish

PARISH OFFICE:

The Parish Office is located in the Rectory--the two-story brick building south of the church. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM

Tuesday 8:00 AM followed by Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

Thursday 5:00 PM

HOLY DAY MASS:

Please refer to the bulletin or Parish website for Mass times.

main church service Sunday mornings and on Church Holidays. For every infringement, we obligate and promise to pay \$10 to the Congregation.”

In the 1930's a church hall and kitchen were added under the church. Ground had to be removed with picks and shovels until space allowed teams of horses and mules to take over.

Records show the first school opened in 1849. In 1886, Michael and Clara Hook donated land north of the church, now the parking lot, for construction of a brick building to be used as the school and nuns' residence. It was completed at a cost of \$5,000 and consisted of three departments for the school and an area for the nuns' residence. Forty years after fourteen families built the first church, the Parish community numbered 152 families, 800–900 souls. There were approximately 155 students in the school—50 students per room with one teaching nun in each room. The Sisters of St. Agnes and the School Sisters of St. Francis were the orders of nuns who taught at St. Lawrence.

When remodeling the school became too expensive, a decision was made to build another school. In January 1963, 163 students, grades one thru eight moved into their new school. The class of 1968, eighteen students, was the last class to graduate from St. Lawrence. Classes for grades one thru six were held in the 1968-69 school year. The school closed in 1969 after 82 years of providing parochial education.

In January 1973, the brick school/nuns' residence was demolished and the area became the church parking lot. The Slinger School District rented the school until 2003. Today, the Parish uses the school for Religious Education classes. The Parish rectory, built in 1874, is used for the Parish offices.

Information from: CENTENNIAL JUBILEE 1846-1946
& GENERATIONS OF FAITH 1846-1996

St. Lawrence Parish History

It was the year 1846 when fourteen families, all recent immigrants from Germany, erected the first Catholic Church in St. Lawrence. This log church was built mainly at night by the light of bonfires, as the men worked on their land during the day. The church stood on what is now the southeast corner of the cemetery. The church was blessed by Bishop Henni in October of 1846.

The following year a rectory and school house were built. Rev. C. Schraunbach, the first resident pastor, also served the parishes of St. Matthias at Nabob and SS Peter and Paul at Nenno. In 1849, Johann and Margaretha Schuetz donated 8.1 acres of land and in 1852 a large frame church was built east of today's rectory. In 1861, an addition was built and an organ and two bells were purchased. On Christmas Eve 1861, the lonely settlers heard the chords of an organ and the sound of bells for the first time since leaving their homeland.

The present Gothic style brick church was completed in 1881 at a cost of \$40,000 and was free of debt when it was consecrated. Archbishop M. Heiss of Milwaukee consecrated the church on October 4, 1882. The main altar, still a beautiful part of the sanctuary, was purchased from Goyers Brothers in Louvain, Belgium in February, 1883, for \$2,346.00. The altar is hand carved wood. The statues are also hand carved wood. The statue at the top center is St. Lawrence, patron saint of the Parish. On his right side is the Centurion who was converted to Catholicism because of the manner in which St. Lawrence accepted his martyrdom. On the left is the Centurion governor. St. Lawrence is holding a grill because he was grilled by his enemies. The pictures on the side of the altar tell the story of his martyrdom. St. Aloysius, is on the left side of the altar and the Saint on the right is unknown. At the bottom of the altar are the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew is pictured with a Lion, Mark with wings, Luke with an ox and John with an eagle. Enclosed in the altar table are special containers holding the relics of the apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul as well as of St. Fidelis Sigmaringen. The Stations of the Cross on the walls were added in 1907.

St. Lawrence was and still is a small community with several taverns. In 1910, a new pastor arrived at St. Lawrence. He had the tavern keepers sign the following agreement: "We hereby promise and obligate ourselves not to sell or give out any drinks Sunday mornings during time of church services and will keep saloon closed during the

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Church Commitment

Your financial offering is your personal way of returning to the Lord some of the many blessings He has bestowed on you. Suggested minimum annual contribution:

Family \$650.00 per year
Single \$325.00 per year
Student/Nursing Home \$25.00

You may elect to setup your contributions on automatic payment. Please see the form enclosed in this packet. Contribution envelopes are located in the church and may be placed in the collection basket, mailed or dropped off at the Parish Office. An annual statement of your contributions will be provided in January.

NO PARISHIONER OF ST. LAWRENCE WILL BE TURNED AWAY FROM THE SERVICES OF THE PARISH IF THE CONTRIBUTION SCALE CANNOT BE MET.

Stipends/Stole Fees for members of St. Lawrence Parish:

Mass \$20.00
Baptism \$10.00
Marriage \$75.00
Funeral \$75.00

Mass, Baptism, Marriage and Funeral Stipend Fees are established by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Those seeking the sacraments at St. Lawrence are members of the Parish who actively participate in the Parish life of the Church by offering their time, talent and treasure and actively participating in liturgical celebrations.

Baptism

Please contact the Pastor or Associate Pastor to complete the paperwork and schedule the Baptism.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) is celebrated on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM and other times by appointment. Please refer to the bulletin or Parish website for reconciliation times at Christmas and Easter.

First Reconciliation for Children

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an on-going process which continues throughout the time the child is in the Parish faith formation program. Parents are very much a part of the preparation. The formal reception of this sacrament takes place, when the child is in second grade. Contact Child & Family Ministry for further information.

Communal Penance Service

Dates and times of services held at St. Lawrence and other area parishes will be listed in the bulletin.

Eucharist

Participation in St. Lawrence's faith formation classes in the first and second grade is required to receive First Communion. This sacrament is ordinarily received in the second grade. Parents are asked to participate in the program to help prepare their child for First Communion. Contact Child & Family Ministry for further information.

Confirmation

Confirmation is celebrated during the junior year of high school. Contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry for further information.

FINANCE COUNCIL

It is the responsibility of the Finance Council to familiarize itself with the corporate structure of the Parish. It works in the administration of the Parish resources of contributions, personnel, fund raising, properties, investments, cemetery and insurance programs. It is responsible for preparing an annual budget and evaluating its implementation. The Finance Council is responsible for the physical condition of the Parish properties. It recommends repairs, proper upkeep and improvements and implements those recommendations.

The Finance Council is comprised of the Pastor, Trustees, two (2) representatives from the Pastoral Council and two (2) at-large members appointed by the Pastor. The Finance Council meets a minimum of six (6) times per year.

The Finance Council has three (3) committees to assist with coordination and implementation of the Parish programs:

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee makes recommendations regarding all maintenance and upkeep of the St. Lawrence and St. Matthias properties.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Committee makes recommendations concerning all cemetery operational matters.

Budget

The Budget Committee makes recommendations concerning the Parish budget.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council is a consultative body of the Parish community and establishes the mission and goals, priorities, policies and programs of the Parish. The Pastoral Council consists of six (6) elected at-large members and two (2) elected trustees. The Pastor is an ex-officio member. The Pastoral Council meets a minimum of six (6) times per year. Parishioners are welcome at all meetings.

The Pastoral Council has four (4) commissions to assist with coordination and implementation of the Parish programs:

Worship

The Worship Commission with the Pastor shares the responsibility of providing good liturgical celebrations. It does this by establishing, developing and implementing programs aimed at meeting the spiritual needs of the Parish and includes the Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, mass servers and the decorating committee.

Human Concerns

The Human Concerns Commission involves various kinds of social outreach including Christmas Giving Tree, food collections, as well as other forms of Christian outreach.

Formation

The Formation Commission is responsible for the educational needs of the children and adults of the Parish.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Commission collaborates with the Pastor to develop strategies and practices which invite all Parishioners to share time, talent, and treasure.

Marriage

Please contact the Pastor at least nine (9) months prior to the wedding date. A Parish marriage program and participation in an Archdiocesan pre-marriage workshop are required.

Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament is for anyone who is suffering emotional, mental, or physical illness, or facing serious surgery. It is great support for the sick person to have his/her family and friends present for the sacrament. Contact the Pastor or Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.

Any adult who is not Catholic, but wishes to become Catholic, can participate in the R.C.I.A. process (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Please contact the Parish Office.

Funeral

Please contact the Pastor before finalizing details.

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Disciple Maker Formation

The Disciple Maker Formation Program (5K-High School) is offered in our Cluster Parishes of St. Lawrence (Hartford) Resurrection (Allenton) and St. Peter (Slinger).

Child Ministry (Grades 5K-5)

Our Child Ministry program is a dynamic and engaging beginning to your child's faith formation years. We offer sections of each grade level to meet your child's needs.

This comprehensive program provides sound doctrine, scripture, tradition, and prayer through experiential activities that make these essential lessons part of a lifelong practice of faith.

Youth Ministry (MS / HS)

We have a dynamic youth ministry program that not only teaches our youth the fundamentals of our faith, but also teaches them how to apply it to everyday life.

Disciple Maker Formation Team

The Disciple Maker Formation team serves all three cluster parishes: Resurrection Allenton, St. Lawrence Hartford and St. Peter Slinger

Please contact the Formation Secretary for the fee schedule. Fees are due at the time of registration. Sacramental fees are due when the individual sacrament preparation begins.

PARISH LIFE

Communion to the Sick

If anyone is unable to attend Mass and would like the Eucharist brought to him or her, please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion is held every Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Prayer Chain

Parishioners volunteer to be part of the Prayer Chain. To volunteer your services or to have an intention included, please contact the Parish Office.

Christian Women Society

The Christian Women Society fosters new ideas to do God's work in our community and provides needed services to the Parish. Fund raisers to support numerous projects include bake sales, annual card party and quilt raffle. The Society meets monthly, September through May. All women of the Parish are invited to become members.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is an international society of Catholic men who have dedicated themselves to the ideals of Columbianism: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Meetings are held monthly, at St. Lawrence. Membership is open to practical Catholic men in union with the Holy See who are 18 years of age.

Work Groups

Each family of the Parish is assigned to a Work Group. Work Groups are responsible for helping at funerals and various Parish social activities.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Music

The group is open to all enthusiastic singers and instrumentalists who want to praise God through music. Accompanists and cantors are welcome to share their talents with the Parish as well.

Mass Servers

Mass servers assist the priest at Mass. Men, women and youth are invited to this ministry.

Lectors

Lectors are men and women who proclaim the Word of God at Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

These ministers help distribute the Eucharist at Mass.

Ushers/Greeters

Ushers welcome and assist in seating the congregation, gather the collection and assist at communion time. Men, women and high school students are invited to this ministry.

Please contact the Parish Office if interested in participating in any of the ministries.

MISCELLANEOUS

BURIAL PLOT/COLUMBARIUM:

To purchase a burial plot in St. Lawrence Cemetery or St. Matthias Cemetery a person must be a member in good standing with St. Lawrence Parish for at least five (5) years unless an immediate need occurs as determined by the Pastor.

CHURCH HALL RENTAL:

As a member of the Parish, you may rent the church hall at St. Lawrence for your function. Contact the Parish Office at (262) 644-5701, Ext. 2 for more information.