

THE ROAD TO 125

A Journey Through St Benedict's History 1901-2026

Resilience and Renewal

Did you know: Twenty-six pastors have led St. Benedict across its 125-year history. Their *Resilience* and focus on *Renewal* have kept the parish thriving where other parishes have faltered, fostering a faithful, close-knit community sustaining St. Benedict for generations to come.



1902

Changes
thru the
Century



1951



2010

Narthex Addition



1999

By the late 1990s, the church's original front steps were falling into disrepair. In response, Father Stephen initiated the construction of a new narthex and driveway to make the church more accessible. Historically, in the early Church, the narthex was reserved for those who had not yet been baptized. Today, it serves as a transitional space where worshippers can mentally and spiritually prepare to enter the sanctuary, as well as a gathering hub and staging area for liturgical processions. Unlike a standard vestibule—which refers to any general lobby or entrance hall—a narthex is an architectural feature unique to a church. On November 7, 1999, the late Bishop Bosco celebrated a special Mass to bless the new narthex and baptismal font, with Father Stephen participating in the service.

Parish Center



School Demo 2006



Excavation School
Property

Due to declining enrollment, the Parish School closed its doors in 1991, though it continued to serve as a lively gathering place for parish organizations and social events. By 2003, however, the Diocese determined the aging structure was no longer safe for use. Undeterred, the Building Committee worked diligently to map out a vision for a new facility, while the Capital Campaign Committee led by Father Nathan rallied the parish community to raise the funds needed to build our current Parish Center.



Parish Center
Completed 2009

Additionally, the underground electrical service of the festival areas were improved in 2009. The pavilion was constructed in 2010.

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Photographic records from successive Jubilee Years document notable sanctuary transformations, including updated paint schemes, decorative additions, and the relocation of original statues. Beyond Vatican instructions regarding forward-facing altars—such as the 1970 altar constructed to align with liturgical updates—these early architectural shifts remain largely unrecorded. Over time, structural beams and tie-rods were also introduced to safeguard the aging building. Throughout these changes, the historic statues of the Blessed Mother and the Sacred Heart have been preserved, joining St. Benedict and St. Scholastica as enduring figures that proudly flank the central sanctuary to this day.



During Father Stephen's tenure, decorative wooden beams were added along the ceiling to conceal structural tie-rods while supporting sound and lighting equipment. In 2017, Father Dan removed the wooden beams to expose the tie-rods, creating a more open visual feel. A broader renovation by Father Dan in 2019 utilizing the services of Ringler Restoration gave the interior a complete refresh. Replaced carpet and repainted adding decorative accents to the walls. Modernized the sound and lighting systems, while creating a new triptych niche configuration in the sanctuary, a new altar, and added tie-rods near the altar and choir loft to reinforce structural support. The new altar was dedicated June 30, 2019 by former Bishop Malesic.