

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN
GILDED AGE, 1865-1898.

HISTORY OF ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, GILLETTE, WYO.

The first priest known to have said Mass in Gillette was Fr. Cassidy, from Hot Springs, S. D. Mass was said in the Section House, City Hall, and at the Morgan and Laly homes. Two persons were baptized on the first visit, one of whom was a convert. There were about four families and some railroad men, and the congregation consisted of about twelve persons.

The two lots on which the church stands were purchased for \$175.00, collected principally by Madeline Morgan and Laly.

The church was built under the direction of Rev. P. J. Lynch of Newcastle. The largest subscriptions were \$100.00 each by Messrs. Morgan and Laly.

The Mission has been attended by the following clergymen:

Rev. Father Cassidy,	Hot Springs,	Wyoming
" C. F. Dillon,	Sheridan,	"
" Hayes,	Newcastle,	"
" U. P. Souse,	Sheridan,	"
" P. J. Lynch,	Newcastle,	"
" W. J. Keller,	Buffalo,	"
" E. D. Lynch,	"	"
" P. Long,	"	"
" John Duffy,	Sheridan,	"
" Hayes,	Resident Pastor.	"
" J. Delichola,	Newcastle,	"
" Tomiac,	"	"
" Mullen, May to Dec. 15	"	"
" J. T. Nicholson & Assistants 1917-17,	Newcastle,	Wyo.
" J. E. Nicholson, Nov. 1917,	Buffalo,	Wyoming.

Twenty-eight persons were confirmed on June 12, 1917, by St. Rev. Patrick A. McGovern D. D. On that occasion the last installment of the church debt was paid by Mrs. J. Daly.

At the present time a large part of the congregation lives a considerable distance from town, but Mass is celebrated two Sundays each month. When the weather is good the attendance is usually good also.

The chronicle of St. Matthew's Parish, Gillette, Wyo., from the year 1915 to 1928.

This parish in 1928 comprises the Churches of St. Matthew at Gillette, Sacred Heart at Rozet and St. Catherine at Arvada. These churches have been attended variably by the Pastors residing at Newcastle and Buffalo as follows:

From 1915 to 1916 Rozet and Gillette attended by Fathers Boyland and John Mullin, residing at Newcastle, Arvada being attended by the pastors residing at Buffalo until 1928, namely:

From 1917-1921 Gillette was attended by Fr. John Nicholson,
residing at Buffalo.
From 1921-1922 Gillette was attended by Fr. John O'Connor
residing at Buffalo.
From 1922-1923 Gillette was attended by Fr. Edward McEnnell
residing at Buffalo.
From 1923-1926 Gillette was attended by Fr. John Brady
residing at Buffalo.

The Mission at Rozet was attended successively by Fathers
John Nicholson (1916-1917) John Fray (1917-1923) Bernard
Schneiders (1923-1926).

A new parish was created on September 18, 1927, comprising St
Matthew's Church at Gillette, as place of residence, and the
missions of Rozet and Arvada, with Father S. J. Dzywanski as
Pastor.

~~In 1937, the church was completely free from debt and there was a balance of \$16,000, which was revealed in the 1937 tax return.~~

John Joseph, Sr. was born in Alkmaar, Holland, February 10, 1888. He was married July 28, 1906, to the late Miss Jolie E. de Louvain, Belgium. He arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on the 10th day of October, 1906, and assisted at the cathedral until September, 1907. He was pastor of Careyville, Nevada County, where he conducted church. He came to Green River, June 1, 1917.

In 1937 improvements on the church building in the sum of \$14,000.00 were made: the structure was raised a few feet, a basement auditorium was provided, the sacristy was enlarged to serve as a winter chapel, and a modern heating-plant was provided. The expenditure was met from funds on hand.

Saint Matthew's Church

Gillette, Wyoming

Gillette with the missions of Arvada and Rozet was made a Parish on September 18th, 1926, up till then it was a mission of Buffalo. The Rev P.P. Szymanski was appointed the first Pastor, and soon after he was appointed Pastor, he bought a Parochial residence for \$8,000.00. During the year 1927, the parish received a generous donation of \$1,000.00 from the Home Mission Board, to help pay on the debt on the Parochial residence. Fr. Szymanski was transferred to Greybull in November 1928, and was succeeded by Rev John Marley, who was appointed Pastor of Gillette on November 24th, 1928. When Fr. Marley was appointed Pastor there was a debt on the Parochial residence of \$3,000.00, and with the help of special collections and donations, the debt was gradually reduced, till now it \$250.00. Fr Marley was transferred to Lander in October 1930, and was succeeded by Rev James McBride on October 29th, 1930.

During the year 1930 there were 20 Baptisms and 5 marriages. Since the establishment of the parish in September 1926 there were 167 baptisms, 60 marriages, 88 confirmed, and 54 deaths.

There was a Mission here in 1930, and arrangements are already made to have a Mission in September of this year.

Active organizations in the parish are the Altar and Rosary Society with a membership of 26, and the Catholic Youth Organization with a membership of 19.

There are around 90 families in the parish and missions, the average Sunday attendance at mass is about 120, and the average monthly communions around 45.

James McBride