

CHEYENNE
St. Joseph's Church
1939-1980

The first Baptism at St. Joseph's was on April 7, 1929, administered by Rev. James Hartmann. The child's name was Maxinam Maes, daughter of Gaspere Maes and Viola Archuleta.

Priests serving St. Joseph's Parish in Cheyenne are as follows:

January 19, 1939--Jerome Denk.

January 16, 1944--John Marley.

March 24, 1946--Jerome Denk.

February 5, 1956--Michael Scullion.

June 23, 1957--James Ruddy.

April 1, 1962--James O'Neill.

September 6, 1964--Cyril Hmelovsky.

July 11, 1965--John Corrigan.

June 21, 1975--Daniel Colibraro.

June 1, 1977--Angel Ornelas.

Rt. Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, Bishop of Cheyenne, convened a meeting on April 21, 1939, consisting of himself; John Henry, Vicar General; Rev. Jerome Denk, Pastor of St. Joseph's; John Waters and Elie Robitaille, laymen from St. Joseph's boundaries. Purpose of the meeting was to incorporate St. Joseph's Church in accordance with provisions of laws of the State. Bishop McGovern presided; John Waters was elected secretary.

A Corporation meeting was held on June 8, 1939. Motions passed to construct a Parish residence with the contractor being L. B. Adams for the cost of \$9,132. Plumbing and heating to be done by P. S. Cook for \$1,695. It was not until the November 29, 1943, meeting that Rev. Jerome Denk announced that the parish was out of debt.

An organ was purchased from the Walker Organ Company of Denver, a Lyon and Healy Reed Organ, for \$425. This was announced at the May 29, 1943, meeting.

On July 12, 1944, a special meeting was held to replace Elie Robitaille. Anthony J. Dickman was elected trustee to replace him.

Rev. John Marley announced at the meeting held on July 6, 1945, that one-quarter block of property located directly across 6th Street from St. Joseph's rectory was purchased from George H. Cole for \$1,200.

Anthony J. Dickman moved out of St. Joseph's parish and was replaced by William Stewart as treasurer. This was decided at the August 6, 1945, meeting. At the meeting of May 1, 1948, William Stewart also moved out of the parish and was replaced by Carl Christensen.

On August 1, 1949, a special meeting was called to sign a contract with J. R. Snedaken and Sons for building St. Joseph's Recreation Hall at a cost of \$29,430. The architect was Kellogg.

Plans were discussed on December 28, 1951, for arranging to have Catechist Sisters from Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana, in St. Joseph's Parish. On November 5, 1952, the Corporation met to officially approve the establishment of a Center to be built and equipped (two rooms) for the instructions conducted by the Missionary Sisters of Indiana. Sisters will live at former rectory, 314 East 6th Street. Priests will now reside at 317 East 7th Street.

St. Joseph's Altar and Rosary hosted the first Cheyenne Deanery meeting in 1953. The first meeting of Bishop's Guild was held at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in 1953.

On August 1, 1960, the Corporation approved to spend the sum of \$60,300 for alterations and improvements to St. Joseph's Church. Garton and Garton Construction Company did the assigned work.

On January 4, 1964, Vaughn Ditzler was elected treasurer and Joseph Kishman was elected secretary of the Corporation to replace Carl Christensen and John Waters.

On March 7, 1966, a meeting was called to approve the purchase of property adjacent to the present rectory for \$3,394.76. On September 9, 1966, the Neddeau property, adjacent to Catechetical Center, was purchased for \$6,000. On January 10, 1971, a meeting of the Corporation was held with Vaughn Ditzler and Joseph Kishman, Trustees, and Rev. John J. Corrigan, Pastor. At that meeting, a contract for \$22,400 was agreed upon and signed with Eugene A. Rogers, building contractor in Cheyenne. The contract was to include all work on the rectory for the new addition and alterations. Architect is Kellogg and Kellogg.

On September 15, 1975, a new trustee, Pedro Escobedo, was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Joseph Kishman.

On January 8, 1977, a meeting of the Corporation was called to authorize the expenditure of \$4,000 for the repair of stained glass windows in the Church. This cost also included storm windows.

On August 1, 1977, the Corporation authorized the expenditure of \$13,725 for an Allen Organ to be purchased from Church Organs, Inc., of Denver. September 20, 1977, the Corporation authorized the acceptance of a bid from Reiman-Worth Construction Company for the renovation of St. Joseph's CCD Center for the sum of \$42,200.

A new furnace was put into the Parish Hall for \$1,500, authorized on March 9, 1978, and \$1,479.00 was spent for amplifiers and speakers for the Church, authorized on December 1, 1978.

On January 1, 1980, the former trustees' terms expired and Mrs. Frank Arias and Mr. Bernard Kinsella were elected by a 3-0 vote.

On August 15, 1980, a Corporation Meeting was held to authorize expenditures of \$4,728.77 for Church carpeting and \$2,200 for replacing garage doors for the rectory and convent. The Corporation recommended that the Sanctuary be remodeled.

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