

**Brief History of  
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and Missions  
Rock Springs, Wyo.  
1925-1938  
Rev. S. A. Welsh**

[1] Year 1925

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. John Marley

Baptisms: Rock Springs 32, Superior 15, Winton 1

Marriages: Rock Springs 8, Superior 1, Winton 0

Financial condition: (at end of 1925) Loaned \$1000.00 to St. Patrick's Church at Kemmerer, Wyo.

Cash in bank \$1622.29

Cash on hand \$63.15

Items of interest: Fr. John Marley appointed assistant about Febr.15th. Special improvements on rectory, because of the appointment of an assistant, \$1244.19.

Fr. Antone [sic] Schiffrer urges pastor to start mission at Winton, fourteen miles North of town, where there are some twenty careless Catholic families. Pastor makes three trips to Winton during Sept., Oct., and Nov. of last year. Mass celebrated in a hall. About thirty people attended Mass. Pastor or assistant attending Winton every month. Attendance at Winton is improving. Celebrating mass still in hall but U.P. Coal Co. will soon have a renovated house for pastor to use as a church.

Year 1926

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. John Marley; Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan (Father O'Sullivan came in late fall of 1926)

Baptisms: Rock Springs 62, Superior 13, Winton 3  
Marriages: Rock Springs 18, Superior 3, Winton 0  
Financial condition: parish placed \$6155.72 on interest during year.  
Cash in bank (at end of year) \$915.22  
Cash on hand (at end of year) \$194.67

Items of interest: Pastor has all interested families and working people sign pledge cards for the building of a brick church within five or six years. Fr. Molloy of the Holy Cross Fathers of Notre Dame U. conducted a successful mission during the first week of June.

Year 1927

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan

Baptisms: Rock Springs 50, Superior 8, Winton 1  
Marriages: Rock Springs 11, Superior 6, Winton 0  
Financial condition: placed \$3786.17 on interest  
Cash in bank (at end of year) \$1522.78

Year 1928

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan

Confirmations: Rock Springs 101, Superior 21, Winton 5  
Baptisms: Rock Springs 62, Superior 13, Winton 2  
Marriages: Rock Springs 6, Superior 4, Winton 0  
Financial condition (at end of year): placed on interest \$7418.48  
Cash in bank \$993.05  
Cash on hand \$465.50

Items of Interest: Rev. Wm. Stanton of the Oblate Fathers of Colorado Springs conducted a most successful mission during the second week of June.

[2] Year 1929

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Daniel O'Doherty

Baptisms: Rock Springs 35, Superior 14, Winton 7

Marriages: Rock Springs 10, Superior 2, Winton 0

Financial condition:

Balance on hand at end of year \$188.22

Placed on interest \$6096.00

Items of interest: Rev. Fr. Achille Sommaruga of St. Patrick's Church of Denver conducted a mission for the Italians of the parish. Fr. Sommaruga started his mission on Sunday, February 17th. Monsignor D. Hunt of Salt Lake City conducted a mission for non-Catholics. Monsignor's mission started on Sunday May 19th. Some forty non-Catholics attended every night, and of course a great many Catholics.

Year 1930

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan; Rev. N. Missana

Baptisms: Rock Springs 44, Superior 14, Winton 6

Marriages: Rock Springs 11, Superior 3, Winton 2

Financial condition: placed on interest \$9713.11

Cash in bank (at end of year) \$1038.80

Items of interest: Monsignor Alfred Giovannoni of Salt Lake City conducted a mission for the Italians. Monsignor started his mission on June 9th Father Napoleon Missana arrived to be an assistant in early fall, so that Italians in the parish may obtain more attention. Father Missana spoke no English for six months. Father O'Doherty left shortly before Fr. Missana's arrival.

Year 1931

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Napoleon Missana; Rev. Martin Kennedy

Confirmations: Rock Springs 57, Superior 28, Winton 14, reliance 7

Baptisms: Rock Springs 39, Superior 13, Winton 5

Marriages: Rock Springs 12, Superior 3, Winton 0

Financial condition: Amount saved for building fund on Jan. 14  
\$27990.32

Cash in bank (at end of year) \$252.06

Items of interest: Pastor taught catechism every Sunday during the year at Reliance, a small mining town seven miles from Rock Springs. Pastor hopes to start a mission at Reliance next year, as some twenty families of Catholics at Reliance. Fr. Missana leaves for Utica, New York in early fall. Fr. Missana a great disappointment. Fr. Kennedy comes to the parish as an assistant in Sept.

Year 1932

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Martin Kennedy; Rev. John F. Sullivan

Baptisms: Rock Springs 38, Superior 14, Winton 6

Marriages: Rock Springs 9, Superior 3, Winton 0

Financial condition: trustees found that \$37,352.00 saved for new church building of which was approved by Bishop. Paid contractors \$46,649.16 (1932).

Cash in bank at end of year \$4862.95. Money borrowed \$18,400.00

Items of interest: Rev. Martin Kennedy sent to Cheyenne as an assistant in Sept. Rev. John F. Sullivan, former assistant at Cheyenne, arrives in Sept. to become assistant. Fr. Kennedy was a splendid assistant.

Pastor secured McGinnis and Walsh of Boston to draw plans for new church. McGinnis and Walsh considered the best church architects in country. Corner stone of new church laid in June.

[3] The Style of the new brick church is Italian Romanesque. This style of church building is noted for its simple beauty, neatness and comparative inexpensiveness. Kellogg Lumber Co. of Rock Springs were the contractors. The new church was dedicated on Sunday morning, Dec.11, 1932. The entire dedication ceremonies were under the direction of our Most Rev. Bishop Patrick A. McGovern, D.D.

The officers of the solemn high mass for the dedication of the church were as follows: Rev. S. A. Welsh celebrant. Rev. Henry Schellinger of Green River deacon. Rev. John F. Sullivan of Rock Springs sub-deacon. Rev. Albin Gnidovec of Rock Springs and Thomas Cullen also of Rock Springs were deacons of honor to the Most Rev. Bishop. The altar boys, who served at the mass, were William Delaney, Paul Yedinak, Narciso Zancanella and Joseph Popp. A masterful sermon was preached by our Most Rev. Bishop on "Divine Plan of the Church." The guard of honor to the Most Rev. Bishop consisted of members of the local Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus. The Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights held a banquet at Howard's Cafe at 5:00 p.m. in honor of the Most Rev. Bishop.

James Libby of the Union Pacific Coal Co. was the supervising architect and Engineer of the construction of the new church. He did his work splendidly. The total cost of new church was \$65,049.51. Permission was obtained from the Most Rev, Bishop to borrow \$ 25,000.00, but pastor hoped that debt on church would not exceed \$22,000.00. Pastor felt that nearly a thousand dollars more would have to be spent in building lawns and getting soil for church grounds next year, and renovating old church for a suitable hall. He hoped to have parishioners donate some of their labor and to donate trucks with which to cart soil from the mountains twenty miles south of town.

Year 1933

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. John F. Sullivan

Baptisms: Rock Springs 30, Superior 15, Winton 5

Marriages: Rock Springs 10, Superior 1, Winton 0

Financial condition: Church debt \$22,264.00

Cash in bank (at end of year) \$4,862.95

(including extras) Paid balance on new church \$19,144.83

\$65,793.99 (including additional work) paid for new church

\$670.00 spent on old church to make it suitable for hall

Items of interest: Rev. J. J. Fitzgerald C.S.S.R. of Denver, Colo. preached a fine mission in parish during the fourth week of September.

Year 1934

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. John F. Sullivan

Confirmations: Rock Springs 69, Superior 43, Winton 12

Baptisms: Rock Springs 43, Superior 8, Winton 12 (many grown children)

Marriages: Rock Springs 15, Superior 4, Winton 1

Financial condition: Amount on hand at end of year \$879.98

Interest paid during year \$1134.76

Notes (loans) paid Off \$3264.00 (some notes exchanged)

Items of interest: Splendid attendance at Sunday masses. Father John F. Sullivan leaves parish in early fall.

Year 1935

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Charles Gormly

Baptisms: Rock Springs 31, Superior 11, Winton 3

Marriages: Rock Springs 12, Superior 7, Winton 3

Financial condition (at end of year):

Cash in bank \$995.29

Cash on hand \$100.00

Paid off debt \$1000.00 (bad year financially)

Items of Interest: Fr. C. Gormly came in Sept.

[4] Year 1936

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Chas, Gormly

Baptisms: Rock Springs 26, Superior 9, Winton 2

Marriages: Rock Springs 13, Superior 4, Winton 2

Financial condition at the end of the year:

Cash in bank \$2,545.81

(bad year financially) Paid off debt \$1,000.00

Items of Interest: Fr. Welsh has a serious break-down in health. Father Philip G.O'Connor C.SS.R. conducted a very successful mission during the second week of Nov. Best attended mission that was held in the parish. Fr. O'Connor is from Denver, Colo.

Year 1937

Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Chas Gormly

Baptisms: Rock Springs 40, Superior 9, Winton 2

Marriages: Rock Springs 13, Superior 6, Winton 1

Financial condition:

Cash on hand at end of year \$5.50

Cash in bank at end of year \$2,463.73

Amount paid off debt \$2,500.00

Items of interest: Pastor held meetings for children every week since his second year as pastor. Because of ill health these meetings have been discontinued by pastor. Many parents, especially Italians, brought back to church through the children.

Year 1938

Rev. Chas Gormly; Rev. S. A. Welsh; Rev. Adolph Pate

Confirmations: Rock Springs 94, Superior 28, Winton 12

Baptisms: Rock Springs 44, Superior 14, Winton 4

Marriages: Rock Springs 12, Superior 5, Winton 0

Financial condition:

Cash on hand at end of year \$1,242.85

Cash in bank at end of year \$537.60

Amount of debt paid \$4,000.00

TOTAL DEBTS OF PARISH \$11,000.00

(N.B. \$1,000.00 more paid off parish debts on Jan. 21, 1939)

Items of Interest: Rev. Philip G. O'Connor C.S.S.R. of Denver conducted a mission in the parish during the second week of November. Pastor resumed children's meetings in the fall.

Father Chas Gormly sent as pastor to Pine Bluffs, Wyo., on Dec.14.

Father Adolph Pate came to the parish as assistant on Dec. 17.

Pastor hopes to have new church free of debt within less than three years. God willing pastor will have new brick rectory built within four years.

Sincerely,