

CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN OF WORLAND
PARISH HISTORY
1940 to 1950

Previous to April 14, 1949, the church of St. Mary Magdalen at Worland was conducted as a Mission of St. Francis church of Thermopolis. On that date it was constituted a separate parish, with the Rev. Cyril Hmelovsky appointed, as its first resident' pastor on June 15, 1949. The installation Ceremony, took place on June 19, 1949, with the Rev. Philip Krass, dean, presiding.

The parish, on June 15, 1949, had a general fund bank balance of \$1180.48, and a building fund account total of \$1443.19.

The League of the Sacred Heart [Society] was organized on July 10, 1949.

In September 1949 improvements and repairs on the inside and outside of the church were made. Total cost was \$1400, with the Catholic Church Extension Society donating \$700 of this total.

A new rectory, on the property adjoining the church, was begun on Nov. 25, 1949, and as completed on Feb. 15, 1950, at a cost of \$9,000, much of the labor being donated by the parishioners.

Furnishings for the new rectory cost \$2,000, with subsequent additions being donated.

On Dec. 31, 1949, six acres of land, within the city limits of Worland, were acquired for the sum of \$7500. All the oil and mineral rights on this land were also acquired.

A new garage, adjoining the rectory, was constructed in the fall of 1950, at a cost of \$400.

Summer Vacation School for the children is held annually in the parish by the Dominican Sisters-of Adrian, Michigan.

Plans are at present under way for acquiring from the government sufficient land for use as a parish cemetery. A Knights of Columbus Council is also being planned.

The Worland parish is new and young, in the sense that most of the 150 families are new in the Worland area, and most of these are in the thirty-year age group.

The Altar and Rosary Society is quite active, and has assisted the parish materially .in many ways.

The parish is at present debt free.

PARISH HISTORY
1950-1960
ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH
WORLAND

Previous to the start of the decade just completed the church at Worland existed as a Mission of the parish at Thermopolis.

Under the direction of the Very Rev. Philip W. Krass Worland was declared having parish status by Bishop McGovern on April 14, 1949 and Rev. Cyril Hmelovsky installed as first resident pastor on June 15 of that year.

A rectory, adjoining the old, small frame church was started a few months later and the parish bought six acres of city property in January, 1950, A garage was also added to this rectory in 1950”

In August of 1953 a Building Fund ‘campaign resulted in over \$80,000 in pledges, and the present new church building was started the following spring. This, the present church was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Newell on March 8, 1955. The building is free of debt and includes a Hall used for instructions, meetings and socials, and is equipped with complete kitchen facilities. All the furnishings of the church proper were donated by the parishioners.

In December, 1954, the old rectory was sold and a new one built shortly after on the site of the new churchy

Extensive landscaping and planting has been done the past few years and an independent, well water pumping and sprinkler system completed in 1959. An ample parking area has also been provided,

Much of the parish building and improvements have been done by volunteer labor, both by members of the Holy Name and Altar and Rosary Societies, the two most active of the parochial groups,

In addition to these two continued growth is evident in the CCD, League of Sacred Heart, Propagation of the Faith, Discussion Clubs, Block Rosary, WCCW, and Choir groups of the parish.

One nun from the parish has been professed, Miss Mary Lou Pisciotta, is now Ven. Sister M, Dominique of the Franciscan Order in Rochester, Minn. A young man of the parish, Lawrence Forsberg, will enter St. Thomas Seminary in Denver this fall as a student for the diocese.

Future plans for a school wing addition have been drawn up and are contingent on the availability of Sisters to staff it.

PARISH HISTORY
1960 – 1970
ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH
WORLAND

Oct. 1, 1960

Acceptance of application by Franciscan Sisters, Glen Riddle, Penna., to staff parochial school in Worland, to be effective in fall term of 1964.

July 15, 1961

Appointment of Rev. John J. Corrigan, pastor of Worland; Rev. Cyril Hmelovsky transferred to St. Joseph Church, Rawlins.

Jan. 15, 1962

Thomas R. Finn and Associates engaged to conduct a fund campaign for a new parish school.

Jan. 14, 1963

Approval for purchase of William Hughes property and home, 508 Grace Ave., as future convent for Sisters to staff school.

June 16, 1963

Parish receives two rental properties (Worland Cafe and Cheerio Building), from the estate of Rev. N.J. Endres.

June 26, 1963

Acceptance of bid of Johnson Brothers Construction Co., total \$87,260.00, for construction of (6) classroom wing to the present church.

June 24, 1964

Purchase of school and convent furnishings, and car for Sisters.

Aug. 31, 1964

Opening date of new parochial school, 69 pupils enrolled.

June 30, 1965

Rev. John J. Corrigan transferred to St. Joseph's Church, Cheyenne; Rev. Cyril Hmelovsky returns to Worland as pastor.

Sept. 10, 1965

Purchase of 100 new desks, at cost of \$1500.00, for the parish school.

Nov. 7, 1966

New convent car purchased, by campaign conducted by Holy Name Society members.

June 24, 1967

Purchase of Thomas B. Williams property and residence, 701 S. 11th St., for the sum of \$15,831.00, as new convent residence.

June 1, 1968

Construction of convent addition, to include a chapel, community room, and office, at cost of \$4269.94.

May 8, 1969

Death of Charles F. Reilly, parish trustee continuously since Sept. 21, 1936.

Nov. 26, 1969

Completion of new church roof, at cost of \$3308.00.

Worland 1970-1980

St. Mary Magdalen

January 1970: Noted was completion of a new church roof by Harlan Patchen, at a cost of \$3,308.

March 24, 1970: Commissioned as parish Eucharistic Ministers were Messrs. A.A. Engelman, Fred Faure, Eugene Kelley, Raymond Kelley, Gerald Rillahan, Philip E. Schmeltzer, Thomas B. Williams, and Ven. Sister Philomena Rosaire, O.S.F.

January 7, 1971: John J. Clare elected parish trustee to succeed Thomas B. Williams, who moved to Colorado.

June 1, 1971: Old convent residence, 508 Grace Ave., sold to Ed Lange for \$14,000. Withdrawal of Sisters of St. Francis from our parochial school with the present 3 sisters leaving Worland as of June 7, 1971. Payment of existing church loans on school and convent to Church of St. Francis, Thermopolis--\$6,000, and to Sacred Heart Church, Greybull--\$8,000. Transfer of pastor's residence, 999 Charles Ave., to former convent residence, 701 S. 11th St., effective June 15. Old rectory was rented. Sale of the convent car, Chevrolet, to Gerald Rillahan, for \$1,400.

Sept. 13, 1971: Final F.H.A. payment on old rectory at 999 Charles Ave., made to Stockgrowers State Bank.

Sept. 27, 1973: Complete renovation and refurnishing of St. Mary Magdalen Church at cost of \$17,150. Also included downstairs hall and carpeting and new kitchen for \$7,700.

Feb. 28, 1974: Paving of church parking lot by McGarvin-Moberly Co., for \$5,000.

May 18, 1974: 25th Anniversary of parish establishment observed.

May 26, 1975: Chain link fence around parish property completed by McLellan-McQueen Co. for \$5,280. Church air conditioning by Arps Plumbing for \$1,650. Newly commissioned Eucharistic Ministers were John J. Clare, Randall Hruska, Joseph Metzger, and Philip J. Schmeltzer.

April 7, 1978: Exterior of church and school was painted for \$2,000 by Schmeltzer Painting Co.

May 22, 1978: Newly commissioned Ministers of the Eucharist included Leroy Abbott, Leonard Arps, John Bonham, Edward Lange, John Moorhouse, Donald Munsterteiger, and Joseph Wichman.

May 10, 1979: Congregation elects newly formed parish council for 2 year term, members Leroy Abbott, Jack Bonham, Jerry Rillahan, Ed Schmeltzer, Kathleen Gibbons, Priscilla Moorhouse, Rhonda Schmeltzer, and Rita Wichman.

Jan. 5, 1980: Audit of the parish financial records made by Raymond Chapman, CPA.

Feb. 20, 1980: Resignation of A. A. Engelman, M.D., for health reasons, as parish trustee. Succeeding him was Edward Schmeltzer.

April 30, 1980: Decision made to construct a new rectory east of the present church, at a cost not to exceed \$125,000. Contracts for prime and sub-contractors, at sums of approximately \$85,000 signed May 14, 1980, not including change-orders to come, carpeting, new furnishings, paving and landscaping. Additional parking lot paving completed by Althoff Construction for \$7,050.

Sept. 9, 1980: Election of Eugene Kelley as parish trustee, to succeed John J. Clare, who died Sept. 3, 1980. Succeeding him as Eucharistic Minister was Ronald Sopko.

**St. Mary Magdalen, Worland
St. Brigid's Chapel, Tensleep
1990-2000**

**Kathleen Gibbons, Secretary
April 14, 2000**

1. Names of clergy and religious serving during the decade and dates of service.

Rev. Richard MacLellan July 1990 - July 1995

Rev. Ronald Stolcis July 1995 - Mar. 1998

Rev. August Koeune Feb. 1998 - Present

Sister Dorothy Henschied, SCL Nov. 1995 - May 1998

2. Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners. (Give dates.)

Handicapped Lifts installed in church and hall, (1999)

New furnace installed in church (1999)

Purchased new tables/chairs for parish hall to seat 200 (1999)

Parish Prayer garden dedicated (1999)

3. Notable accomplishments by the clergy and religious. (Give dates.)

Bi-Lingual Mass (Spanish/English) Sundays

1998 - present St. Brigid's Chapel, Tensleep; Mass each Sunday and Holydays

1998 to present Rel. Ed. Boards established, 1998 to present Healing Masses and Forgiveness Workshops, 1998 to present

Scripture Classes for adults, 1998 to present

4. Construction - new or remodeling. (Give dates.)

Choir loft converted to cry room 1996

Created a larger reconciliation room 1995

1999. Installed handicapped lifts. Installed new church furnace. Installed new church sound system. Remodeled bathrooms in church to make handicapped accessible.

Replaced church roof and repaved parking lot 1998

Constructed new storage garage 1995

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates.) N/A

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

Ed Schmeltzer 1980 - 1998

Gene Kelley 1980 - 1998

Ron Sopko 1998 - present

Rod Wittkop 1999

Jack Bonham 1999 - present

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

Slow growth in population. Much renovating

Healing Masses well attended. Forgiveness Workshops going over well.

Ongoing education for adults for the parish. Enthusiasm and a deepening spirituality shown by parishioners

8. Significant parish events and programs. (Give dates.)

50th anniversary of parish 1999

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Site 2000