

Holy Cross Parish Timeline

1918 - 2022

1918 A delegation met with Archbishop Arthur Béliveau, looking towards the establishment of an English-speaking parish in the city of St. Boniface. Monsignor Wilfred Jubinville was placed in charge of the newly formed congregation, and arrangements were made for a mass, with sermon in English, to be celebrated each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel within the St. Boniface Cathedral. The first Mass is held on Christmas Day.

1921 Father Alex Lambert is appointed parish priest. The mass is moved from the chapel to the cathedral proper on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. In July, a site for the new parish church is purchased. The selected name of *Holy Cross Church* is approved.

1922 The new Holy Cross Church is built on the corner of Dubuc and Traverse streets in Norwood, with a cost to not exceed \$40,000. The cornerstone is laid on July 30th by Archbishop Béliveau. The first mass is celebrated in the new church on Sunday, December 10th.

1924 On May 11th, the *Holy Name Society* is inaugurated in the church.

1927 Father Rosario Brodeur is appointed parish priest. He found that the number of children was increasing rapidly and decided that a parochial school should be started. Classes were held in the church basement.

1928 A loan for \$24,000 was obtained in May to build a proper school, and property lots were purchased. The Holy Cross School, consisting of two stories and five classrooms, was erected on Dubuc street. Four Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary order arrive as teachers.

1938 After seven years of drought, it was found that the walls of the church had shifted, and underpinning became necessary.

1939 Underpinning of the church was completed.

1940 A mural was added to the walls above the altar. The mural depicted the Crucifixion of Christ along with scroll work of wheat and grapes, representing the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

1941 Father Brodeur is raised to auxiliary bishop in Alexandria, Ontario, and Father Arthur Benoit is appointed our parish priest.

1942 The parish convent opens, and *Holy Cross Credit Union* was formed.

1947 marks the investiture of Right Reverend Monsignor Benoit as Domestic Prelate and his appointment as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. The parish debt is paid off and a burning of the mortgage celebration is held. Holy Cross School grows from five to eight classrooms with an auditorium. On Sunday, November 23rd, the parish celebrates its 25th anniversary with a mass and dinner. The monthly edition of *The Holy Cross Parishioner* is first published.

1948 Monsignor Benoit suffers a stroke in February and in March, Father Charles Empson is named Vicar Administrator of Holy Cross. The annex addition to the church opens in December, accommodating an additional 175 people.

1949 Monsignor Benoit passes away on May 12th.

1950 In April, the communities of St. Boniface, Norwood and St. Vital are threatened with the worst flood in their history. The church and school facilities are used by weary flood fighters. Father Robert Baxter, a Holy Cross parishioner and future pastor of Holy Cross, is ordained on June 3rd.

1952 Father Charles Empson is appointed pastor of Holy Cross Parish on January 27th. A house at the corner of Dubuc and Braemar is purchased by the parish for use as a convent for the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The *Knights of Columbus – Norwood Council 3538* is formed.

1953 St. John Fisher becomes a chaplaincy of Holy Cross Parish, using the chapel facilities of Maison Chapelle.

1954 In this year, the second addition to the school is built. On May 25th, a reception is held in the parish hall to honour Father Charles Empson on the 10th anniversary of his

ordination to the priesthood. On September 11th, mass is celebrated for the first time in St. Thomas More Chapel, with the official opening and blessing of the chapel by Archbishop Maurice Baudoux held on December 4th.

1956 The *Dubuc Social Club* is organized and holds their first public bingo in November.

1960 On April 24th, Father Remi De Roo is installed as pastor of Holy Cross. A farewell reception is held in honour of Father Charles Empson. The old convent next to the church is demolished to make way for the new parish centre which is officially opened and blessed on June 23rd.

1961 The church is renovated to make it more suitable for the *new* liturgy.

1962 Archbishop Baudoux officially opens and blesses the new *St. Thomas More Chapel Auditorium* on April 8th. The *Holy Cross Gymnasium* is officially opened and blessed on Saturday, June 22nd. The *Holy Cross High School Bursary* was established. On October 31st, Father Remi De Roo is named Bishop-Elect of Victoria, B.C. by His Holiness, Pope John XXII and consecrated at St. Boniface Basilica on December 14th. Father Raymond Roy is named to succeed him as pastor of Holy Cross and is officially installed on Sunday, December 9th at the 11:00 a.m. mass by His Excellency Most Reverend Remi De Roo.

1965 The Liturgical Ceremony and Blessing of the Cornerstone of the new *St. Boniface Diocesan High School* took place on Sunday, May 23rd. St. Thomas More school closes due to small enrollment and students are transferred to Holy Cross School.

1966 Father Raymond Roy is appointed superior of the St. Boniface Minor Seminary. Father Walter Szumski is named as pastor of Holy Cross Parish.

1967 Father Szumski is appointed diocesan bursar on January 16th and is succeeded as pastor by Father Robert Baxter.

1969 On October 10th, the Holy Cross Gymnasium indebtedness is liquidated.

1970 At the annual parish meeting held on February 1st, a committee is formed to look into the possibility of constructing a Holy Cross Senior Citizens Residence. On May 22nd, a banquet and social is held at the Holy Cross Gym in honour of Monsignor

Charles Empson on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. (Official date is May 20th). In September, a full-time catechist is added to the staff of the Holy Cross Centre.

1971 Due to the shortage of priests, laymen are appointed to act as deacons to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. On September 29th, the first meeting of the 50th anniversary *steering* committee is held. On Friday, December 31st, a *50th Jubilee Banquet & Ball* is held in the Holy Cross Gym to inaugurate Holy Cross Parish's JOYBILEE year.

1972 On May 3rd, Father Raymond Roy is named Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of St. Paul, Alberta by His Holiness Pope Paul VI and consecrated in the new St. Boniface Basilica on July 18th. On July 4th at 12:15 p.m., the *Sod Turning* took place for the Holy Cross Senior Citizen's Home. The 'JOYBILEE' calendar of events is published. On Oct. 8th, a thanksgiving mass for 50 years of parish life was held at Holy Cross Gym with Archbishop Baudoux as chief celebrant.

1973 A farewell to Father Baxter was held in the church hall on June 21st. In September, a new pastor Father Firmin Michiels is named. The first Saturday evening mass is held on October 6th.

1974 Fred Olds is welcomed to Holy Cross as deacon in September. Archbishop Hacault made his first pastoral visitation to Holy Cross on November 3rd. On April 25th, Father Fred Olds is ordained to the priesthood in our parish. Former pastor Father Baxter celebrates the 25th anniversary of his entry into priesthood on June 6th.

1976 A new series of family masses are highlighted with the 10:30 a.m. Sunday mass in November. Acolytes are installed to assist the priests at mass beginning November 27th.

1977 The parish introduces the new penitential rites for the sacrament of penance in March. Evening weekday masses are instituted in the parish September 12th.

1978 All services are transferred to Holy Cross Gym during the month of May while the church undergoes interior refurbishing. Holy Cross Elementary School celebrates its 50th anniversary on the weekend of October 6th-8th.

1981 St. Thomas More Chaplaincy celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 11th. The parish welcomed back former pastor Monsignor Charles Empson. A *Wine & Cheese* farewell is held to honor former pastor Father Firmin Michiels.

1982 Holy Cross Parish celebrates its 60th year. An anniversary celebration is held on the weekend of October 23rd-24th.

1984 On March 13th, Monsignor Empson passes away. Father James Gray becomes pastor.

1985 The convent next to Holy Cross School is renovated to add new classrooms and an office.

1986 Rheel Forest is ordained to the Deaconate.

1988 In December the *Christmas Hamper Program* is established at Holy Cross and St. John Fisher Chaplaincy closes.

1989 Holy Cross Parish establishes a *Food Depot\Soup Kitchen* every Wednesday morning. The parish purchases a house at 268 Dubuc Street. A fire at the gym causes over one million dollars in damages.

1990 Fire causes \$570,000 in damages to the church. We are forced to hold masses and events in the gym.

1991 The Dubuc Social Club celebrates its 35th anniversary.

1992 Our Holy Cross Parish 10:00 a.m. mass choir is awarded the honour of representing Manitoba in the National Music Festival in Halifax. An *Elevator* committee is formed.

1993 The 266 and 268 Dubuc Street houses are sold to the Diocesan High School. Cafeteria for the canteen in gym implemented. People who attend the food depot must now register with Winnipeg Harvest rather than Holy Cross parish. The house at 254 Dubuc street is torn down.

1995 Our Sunday 10:00 a.m. mass choir wins the Lord Tweedsmuir Trophy award for most outstanding adult choir in the annual Winnipeg Music Festival.

1996 The Knights of Columbus purchase the Traverse Club. Preparation begins for 75th anniversary celebrations. Ted Wood is appointed Deacon to Holy Cross and the *Good Shepherd* Catechetics Program begins with Nancy Wood.

1997 Father Gray celebrates his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. St. Boniface Diocese celebrates its 150th anniversary. In July, ground is broken for construction of our elevator. Father John Nguyen is appointed assistant at Holy Cross. Year-long events are held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Holy Cross Parish.

2000 Father Lucien Roy is appointed pastor. Archbishop Hacault passes away.

2001 Archbishop Émilius Goulet is appointed to the diocese.

2002 The Knights of Columbus celebrate their 50th anniversary.

2003 Building foundation leaking issues cause problems and new weeping tile / drains are installed around the perimeter of the church and office buildings in the courtyard area. Holy Cross welcomes the Korean Community. Deacon Ted and Nancy Wood leave Holy Cross for *Chemin Neuf*.

2006 The parish celebrates the *Feast of the Holy Cross* with our entire congregation for the first time at one mass held in the school Gym. A small fire damages St. Thomas More Chapel. Sr. Bibiana Ikwun becomes our new catechist and continues the sacramental preparation and Atrium programs for the children of the parish.

2007 Renovations of the annex are done, including the removal of pews to be replaced by chairs and the installation of new windows. The church has new roof and 75,000 sq. ft. of insulation installed.

2008 The Korean community is transferred to St. Thomas More Chapel and leaves Holy Cross Parish. Father Roy leaves Holy Cross and Father Martin Bradbury is appointed pastor. A 24-hour Adoration Chapel is opened in part of the original rectory.

2009 Father Martin celebrates his 15th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Archbishop Hacault retires, and Most Reverend Albert LeGatt becomes Archbishop of St. Boniface.

2010 Holy Cross Church undergoes major renovations: new carpeting, pews were replaced with refurbished ones, new flooring and rod iron railings installed in the sanctuary. A new baptismal font for babies and an adult sized baptismal tub are created at the front of the church.

2011 Deacon Gilles Urquhart is appointed to Holy Cross.

2012 *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* program starts up with Deacon Gilles.

2013 Renovations are done to the top floor of the parish centre building to convert the Atrium area into a new rectory. Atrium classes are moved to the top floor of the old rectory. The first RCIA participants are baptised into the Church. The *Catholic Women's League* at Holy Cross celebrates their 65th anniversary. Father Peter Genger is appointed to Holy Cross as assistant to help out an ailing Father Martin.

2015 Father Bradbury passes away on April 7th. Three memorial masses are held. Fundraising for our church kitchen renovation is named the '*Father Martin Bradbury fund*' in honor of our pastor who was instrumental in getting the renovation process started. On May 1st, Father Peter Krasuski is appointed pastor.

2017 Father Krasuski is relieved of his duties as pastor for health reasons. Various priests handle the day-to-day masses including Father Udoka Chris Nwosu. John Scatliff and Sheila Cornick are appointed co-Parish Life Directors.

2018 The front staircase of the church is torn down and replaced. Father John McKenzie is appointed priest moderator for a one-year term beginning August 2018. Holy Cross celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Adoration Chapel and makes some improvements to the Chapel.

2019 Father John McKenzie is appointed pastor.

2020 The Corona virus pandemic strikes, government mandates close churches. Masses are cancelled for many months. Father McKenzie retires for health reasons. Easter masses are cancelled due to the pandemic. Archbishop LeGatt livestreams English language masses from Holy Cross until masses can resume in late summer with limited capacity. Bradbury's - an extension of the food bank and named in honor of our beloved

former pastor – opens, providing a hot meal every Monday evening to anyone in need, within Covid restriction mandates. There are no *in person* Christmas masses allowed.

2021 Sister Bibiana retires as catechist and Dominique Gougeon-Gagnon is hired. Renovations finally begin in the kitchen of the church basement, funded by monies received from many fundraisers over the years, and from many generous bequeaths and donations. The foodbank, which has operated in conjunction with Winnipeg Harvest for many years, temporarily moves to the Précieux-Sang parish hall for the months that the kitchen renovation takes place. After the complete remodel of the Kitchen, the hall is painted and given a temporary facelift. Father Ani Xavier Antony Mutha is finally allowed to enter Canada when the border reopens and is installed as Pastor of Holy Cross.

2022 Corona virus restrictions, mandates and lockdowns are removed, and masses return to pre-pandemic capacities. Centenary celebrations are planned, with Archbishop LeGatt presiding at a 100th anniversary mass on December 10th, followed by a potluck supper held in the basement hall after the mass.