

## HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH -- MEADOWLANDS

The church was built in 1910 by the Rev. Fr. Raymond (Basel) O.S.B., who was pastor and who attended it until the Mission House took over. (From Diocesan Archives)

(The following information was provided by the Diocese of Duluth and was written by Fr. James F. Golden, not written here in its entirety.)

Fr. Raymond Basal, O.S.B. of St. Clement's Parish in Duluth, first ministered to the spiritual needs of the settlers around the Meadowlands area. From 1914-1923 the Benedictine fathers of St. Clement's church made the journey by rail to the new settlement for Mass once a month, not on a Sunday.

The church was incorporated as "St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church of Meadowlands, Minnesota" on October 20, 1916, under Bishop James McGolorick; Joseph F. Buh, vicar general; Fr. Raymond Basel, pastor; J.L. McCarthy and Henry T. Agnew, trustees.

In 1923, a collection was made for the bell which still summons people to Mass. Fr. Rudolph Hildebrand, was appointed the first resident pastor to St. Mary's parish in September of 1928. At this time, St. Joseph became a mission of St. Mary's. A little two-room building on the corner across from the church served as a parish rectory. In 1929, a rectory was built according to the accepted diocesan plans for rectories drawn up at that time. This was a donation by an unnamed woman from Duluth.

During those early years the church was enlarged, more than doubling its capacity. Many changes have been made over the years, including converting the unused rectory into a handicapped accessible social hall for all to enjoy.

A little information on St. Joseph's Parish, Elmer

The same priests served both of these two churches since they were so close together. Fr. Raymond Basel and Fr. Francis Hufnagel oversaw the building of St. Joseph's. In 1919, Bishop John McNicholas indicated his desire to have Sunday Masses at these two churches and it has been that way since. Services started in St. Joseph's in 1913 and they were incorporated on November 13, 1916.

St. Joseph's cemetery serves both parishes.