

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

St. Joseph Named a Parish Church



St. Joseph remained a mission church served by the Tampa Jesuits until December 1920. At that time, Bishop Curley assigned the various



mission churches of Polk County to diocesan priests. Father Michael J. Farley, the first pastor of St. Joseph, Lakeland, became responsible for the missions in Bartow and Winter Haven.

On December 1, 1932, Fr. Dennis O'Keefe would serve the parish for the next three years until 1926.