

1853 - 2009 HISTORY of SAINT PATRICK'S PARISH - ADELL

The exact date of the founding of St. Patrick's church is uncertain. There is no mention of St. Patrick's can be found in the 1852 directory. The Directory of the United States stated that in the year 1853, St. Patrick's nearly finished church was attended monthly by Rev. Patrick Bradley from St. Mary's at Cascade.

On Saturday, he would journey to St. Patrick's south of Adell and spend the night with the Doyle family who lived on the farm directly west of the church. After Sunday Mass and breakfast with the Doyle's he would return to Cascade in the afternoon.

In 1854 Rev. Bradley increased his monthly visits to twice a month. For many years after that, the pastor from St. Mary's, Cascade continued to serve the Irish. *(In 1848 the town was known as Town 13. Later it became Abbott town or Town of Abbott. In 1865, after the close of the Civil War, it's name was changed to the Town of Sherman)*

The priests life was not an easy one. Travel was difficult, parishes scattered and the Lord did not always provide ideal weather for the priests convenience. The winter of 1871-72 was so hard that it was impossible to travel. In 1872, Rev. E. J. Goss, pastor at Cascade was unable to get to he Adell area until Spring, when the snows had melted. Life long member of St. Patrick's Thomas Hand, was born during January, 1872. Hand and the other parish baby's born during that winter had to wait for Spring before they could be baptized.

The first church building was a small log structure and a frame church before the stone one. A new stone church was erected in 1877, with the Rev. Fessler as pastor. The largely Irish congregation contributed wagons pulled by oxen, filled with lads of stone gathered from their fields. Gravel and sand for the masonry came from the Lake Michigan shore. It was during 1877, St. Patrick's officially became a mission of St. Mary's Random Lake and remained so until 1953.

Number of parishioners in any given year is uncertain due to the destruction of the valuable records during a fire in 1895 at St. Mary's. *(now "Our Lady of the Lakes.")*

Knowledge of a class of 11 first communicants in 1886 would give one to believe the number of parishioners was not small.

Articles of Incorporation and By-laws occurred in 1898. An interesting regulation in that document is "Lay Trustees--Persons engaged in any retail business may vote, but cannot be elected as trustees."

A huge celebration was held for the 75th anniversary of the parish on July 2, 1928, beginning with a solemn High Mass at the church with it's pastor, Rev Father John A Koelzer, assisted by Father A.K. Ziegler of Washington D.C. as deacon and Rev. Father E.J. Beck of Dacada as sub-deacon.

Rev. Ziegler is the only priest son of the parish. He was baptized, grew up in this area and while visiting Rev. A.V. Mueller in 1918, he asked Mueller to preach the sermon at his first Mass. Mueller agreed but the Lord took him sooner and he was buried on Armistice Day in November.

During the pastorate of Father F.J. Hillenbrand, sometime after 1913, the first furnace was installed in a basement that Father Hillenbrand had excavated under a portion of the present building. It replaced the inadequate wood stove in the rear of the church. These two units were not adequate so both heating systems were used for the comfort of the parishioners.

Rev. Frank Kovac came here in 1951 from St. John's in Clyman. It was during his pastorate in 1953 that St. Patrick's congregation observed its 100th anniversary. He was assisted by Rev. Raymond Sochurek who had been ordained in 1942.

Changes over the years brought different priests who maintained services for the people.

During this time as a mission parish of St. Mary's Parish in Random Lake. The parish was facing many problems in its struggle to remain an active membership and the workload for the pastor of St. Mary's increased and jeopardized the continued services at St. Patrick's Parish in Adell.

In response to the needs of the parish, Father Sochurek became its first pastor in 1953.

He knew of the determination of the parish people and through his own unselfish concern, he undertook this new challenge by coming to St. Patrick's at Adell from Holy Name parish at Sheboygan where he had served for twelve years. In 1954 he served as the Chaplain at St. Nicholas Hospital, in Sheboygan. Fr. Sochurek knew of the parish people and through his own unselfish concern, undertook this new challenge along with his normal duties at the hospital.

Under his leadership, for twelve years, he assisted in planning the "Sports Night." twelve years. Sport celebrities entertained relating facts and experiences of their personal sports activity. Through all his countless efforts, he has touched many of our lives and assessed Patrick's Parishioners to maintain 38 years of St. Patrick's history,

In February 1954, parish members surprised him with a parish celebration to Commemorate his Diamond Jubilee as a priest.

In December 1990, Father Sochurek retired. Due to the lack of priests in the Milwaukee Archdiocese, the parish underwent a consolidation with St. Mary's, Random Lake.

During 1991, while the parish was searching for a priest to assist at both churches, Rev. Clifton, Rev. Hess, and Rev. Weiss fulfilled the needs of both sites and were soon joined by Rev Paul Janette. He had moved to the Random Lake area until Rev. Richard Cerpich arrived on the scene in 1992 in time to celebrate St. Patrick's 140th anniversary on December 5th, 1992.

Changes within both parishes were beginning to take place. Among them were new schedule for Sunday Mass times: St. Patrick's 7:30 am. St. Nicholas 8:45 am and Random Lake 10:00 am. In addition, Holy day masses were discontinued at St. Patrick's.

April, 1996, Fr. Cerpich's was faced with arrangements to proceed with combining 5 parishes, St. Mary's-Random Lake, St. Patrick's-Adell, St. Nicholas-Dacada, St. Mary's- Cascade, and St. Michaels-Parnell. A mass schedule to please everyone was a problem. Either closing St. Patrick's has or merging with Random Lake suggested, neither was accepted. Poor health and traveling distance did not work out to depend on retired priests.

1996-Parish Center was sold for \$46,000 -- \$43,192 net. Equipment donated to St. Nicholas, VCR and TV donated to St. Mary's RL, for CCD classes, Chairs and tables sold to St. Mary's-RL.

1997 - Retired priest is helping with Masses at Cascade and Mitchell. Closing of St. Pat's was averted for another year. Mass: 7:15 a.m. every Sunday.

1997 - Father Cerpich explained some of the procedures necessary to merge the five parishes. St. Michaels chose to withdraw from the 5 parish group.

The Bishop required that remaining parishes would need a name and asked that names and reasons for the the name and he would make the final decision on. His choice was "Our Lady of the Lakes" Reason for name submitted: All parishes involved had something related to a lake... St. Mary's-RL-obvious reason-St. Mary's-Cascade over-looks Lake Ellen, St. Nicholas-Dacada has a small lake less than a 1/2 mile west of the church and finally, anyone facing east while standing on the porch at St. Patrick's can easily see Lake Michigan.

(incidentally-name submitted by St. Patrick's Organist)

Since 1999-2000 St. Patrick's is used only for Weddings, Funerals, St. Patrick's Day

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH . . . a small country church with a large history!

St. Patrick's Parish continues today as it began, back in the early 1850's, a small country church perched on a rise, 10 miles west of the Lake Michigan Shores. The parish was founded by Irish immigrants. The workmanship and the heritage of those people still surfaces today as one looks upon the beauty and architecture of the 104 year old stone building, built in 1877, and still in use for Sunday Mass as well as on holy days.

Prior to gathering stones from the lake shore for construction of the building, and hauling them to the present site by oxen, Mass was held in a small log building. A priest traveled on horseback from Cascade on a monthly basis, arriving on Saturday evening and staying over at nearby homes of parishioners.

Alex McMullen, one of the craftsmen who assisted in the construction of the church, continues to be represented in the parish. Five generations of the McMullen family have been members. Isabel Hand McMullen is its oldest member, who far surpasses some of the young people with her vim and vigor at parish activities.

For many years, St. Patrick's was a mission parish of St. Mary's, Random Lake. In 1953, Father Raymond Sochurek became its first full-time pastor. He knew of the determination of the parish people and through his own unselfish concern, undertook this new challenge while continuing as Chaplain of St. Nicholas Hospital caring for the spiritual needs of the sick.

In December, 1990, at the age of 75, Father Sochurek retired, and history began to repeat itself. St. Mary's Pastor, Father Paul Janette, became administrator of St. Patrick's. Father Sochurek continued to celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's until November, 1991. The parish continues to retain its individuality by conducting its own CCD classes for the grade school children but combining resources for the high school students. It continues with its own fund raisers, and with the help of God, St. Patrick's will maintain its identity as a parish community.