

**From our history....**

Akron is one of the older towns on the Colorado Eastern Plains. Located at 4,669 feet, it is the highest town in our area. The name “Akron,” comes from the Greek language meaning “summit.” On West 6<sup>th</sup> street, the present Saint Joseph church and rectory were built.

This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Joseph’s Parish. The main “gala” will be held on August 19, 2018. However, the foundation for this anniversary goes back to 1887. That year Rev. William J. Howlett began to come to Akron from Brighton by train to serve the growing Catholic population. About once a month, a Mass was offered at different homes.

From 1888 until 1890, Rev. James G. Hickey served Catholic families in Akron and in the area. He was succeeded by both Rev. Faber (1890-1893) and Rev. E. Downey who lived part-time in Wray and part-time in Fort Morgan. The Plains were treated as missionary territories.

From 1894 until 1897, Rev. J. H. Bricker took care of the spiritual needs of the Akron area Catholics. At that time, the small group of Catholic families decided to form “The Catholic Church in Akron.” On April 7, 1895, the Akron Catholic Church officially began to exist. On that day, a Certificate of Incorporation was filed for record at the Washington County Courthouse. Charter members, signing as the board of trustees of the First Catholic Church in Akron, were: Terry McAloon, John Gebauer, Dan Diamond, Dick Meenan, Herman Gebauer, and E.W. Morand.

From 1897 until 1902, Rev. J. J. Reardon was the priest serving the mission in Akron. On April 14, 1898, the church Board of Trustees bought Louise and Jacob Faehndrich’s store building located on Main Street where the Y- W Electric building now stands. Catholic families from town and nearby homesteads now had a place to meet and pray.

...to be continued

**Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Joseph Parish**

Celebrating the rich history of our Parish, I would like to invite you to pray to God in thanksgiving for all who were here before us. Feel free to talk to Pastoral Council Members about ideas on how to celebrate our history. Here are the names and phone numbers of PC Members:

- Terry Kuntz: 554-1279
- Terry Hart: 554-1536
- Kay Fuller: 345-2464
- Deacon Joe Benjamin: 554-1154
- Marjie Hottinger: 554-1161
- Noel Weis: 554-0924
- Jordan Willeke: 630-3839

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The August 19, 2018 celebration will have three (3) parts:

1. Cemetery – prayers for deceased Parishioners and blessings for New Signs
2. Holy Eucharist – in Church
3. Reception

\* We will commemorate the above celebration with photographs. There will be a DVD and Book made from that day. Peggy Willeke will take care of that project. She will need some volunteers to help her. If you can help with your time and talents, please talk to Peggy.

\* We need volunteers to collect old pictures and make an “Exhibition of the History.” We need as many parishioners as possible to bring different pictures to share with others.

I am running out of room here, so more will come soon... -Fr. Marek