

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of  
St. John Nepomuc  
Parish**

**Prairie du Chien,  
Wisconsin**

**1891      1991**

School opened on February 23, 1921 with two new classrooms and an annex for the sister's convent. The convent was ready on February 16, 1921. Sister Agnes Chlanda, Sister Throphora Flint, and two candidates Adelaide, and Elizabeth were the first to live in the new home. This was very helpful to the sisters, as they had to live at St. Mary's Institute previous to this time.

There were now three classrooms and a classroom in the older building was converted to a chapel.



Class of 1921

Row 1, left to right:

Helen Pulda, Helen Honzel, Father Cyril Smetana, Blanche Forst, Blanche Cejka

Row 2

Raymond Peloch, Henry Novey, Francis Valant, Florence Strauman, Vincent Polodna, George Panka.

První tiché sv. přijímání was on March 3, 1921.

First Quiet Holy Communion was on March 3, 1921.

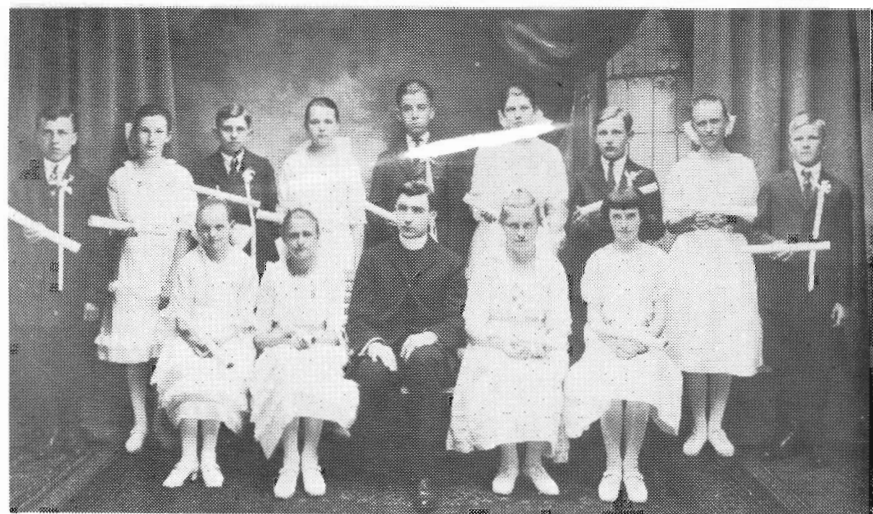
Slavné sv. přijímání was on June 12, 1921.

Solemn Holy Communion was on June 12, 1921.

President Warren G. Harding was elected in November 1921.

Several former students told me about Sister Agnes, and her ruler. She was very handy pointing out things on the board, making straight lines and doing other things with it to get their attention. She got it!

Sometimes Sister had enough of some boys. Richard Strauman and Raymond Berish told me, "She would send them over to Father Smetana. They would tell Father why they were there and Father would tell them they shouldn't upset Sister". He kept them a while and then he would show them his successful hunting pictures. He would ask them, "Have you seen any squirrels or deer?" The boys would tell him all the good spots, and sometimes the boys showed him where to go. Father liked hunting and was good at it. The boys went back to school with an apple.



Class of 1922

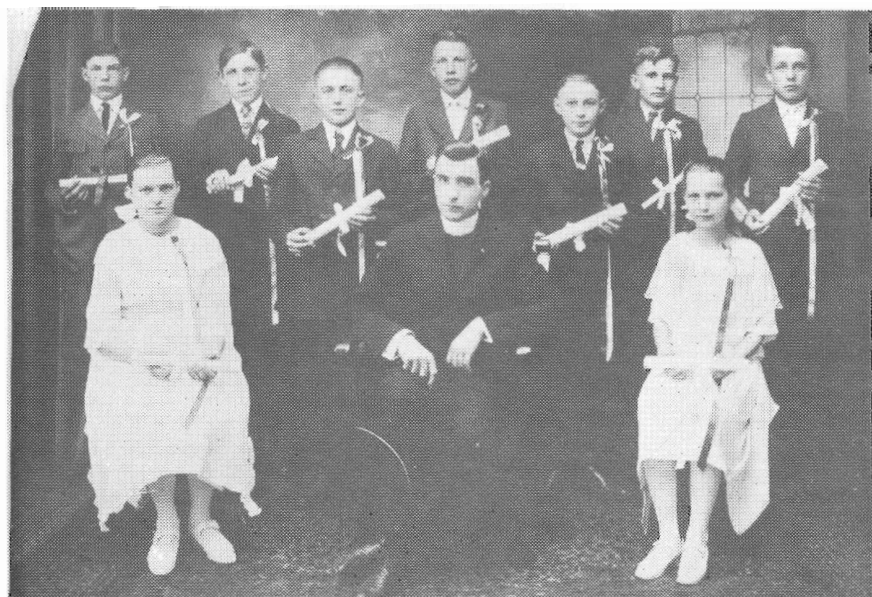
Bottom row, left to right:

Helen Ludvik, Anna Hanzal, Father Smetana, Helen Konicek, Mary Nicholson

Row 2

Clarence Novacek, Cecelia Long, Jack Kasparek, Grace Phillips, Clem Zach, Mary Balk, Edward Bouzek, Dorothy Blazek, Lawrence Kasparek.

Holy Communion was on June 18, 1922.



Class of 1923

Bottom row, left to right:

Grace Konicek, Father Smetana, Bernice Lanka

Row 2

Clem Vladicka, Rudy Vopelok, Arthur Feally, Arnold Muller, Jack Polodna, Adolph Novey, George Kopet.

The First Quiet Holy Communion was held on May 16, 1923 and the Solemn Holy Communion was on May 27, 1923.

President Calvin Coolidge was elected in November 1923.



Pastor 1923-1924

Father John McNamara

Father John McNamara was born at Seneca, Wisconsin. He studied at Seneca, Campion College at Prairie du Chien, and for theology and philosophy he attended St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He was ordained by the Most Reverend Bishop McGavick in June 1923 at Marathon City, Wisconsin. He arrived on December 2, 1923.

## Father Francis Boos-Waldeck

Father Boos-Waldeck was born in Yoselec, Bohemia, September 10, 1878. His family belonged to lesser nobility of that country.

He was ordained to priesthood May 3, 1911 at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

He was appointed pastor of St. John's until October 1927 when he was appointed pastor at Muscoda. He died suddenly June 28, 1938 while pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Potosi, Wisconsin, He was buried in the cemetery of that parish.



Pastor 1923-1927



Class of 1924

Front row, left to right:

Irvin Zabel, Father John McNamara, Arthur Benish

Row 2

Marie Slama, Clara Vladica, Louella Blazek, Lillian Honzel, Bertha Benda, Evelyn Zabel, Mildred Kasperek, Lillian O'Brien

First and Solemn Holy Communion was held on May 16.



Class of 1925

Row 1, Left to right:

Leota Pohlman, Daniel Strauman, Alvina Polodna, Father Francis Boos-Waldeck, Margaret Blazek, Joseph Ludvik, Blanche Strnad.

Row 2

Thomas Gallagher, Alvina Bouzek, Albert Kopet, Mary Benda, Lawrence Stevens, Myrtle Konichek, Victor Pintz.

Solemn Communion was held for eleven boys and eight girls in May of 1925.

From October 1927 to July 6, 1928 the Jesuits of Campion College were again in charge. Father Joseph Hyde, S.J., kept the records, and the most frequent in attendance at parish affairs.

<u>School Sisters</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade Taught</u>
Lioba Kalina	1931-1932	6,7,8
Jonata Dulas	1932-1933	Homemaker
Obdulia Scheurich	1933-1934	Homemaker
Bonita Ehl	1933-1934	Help in school
Sulpice Sempier	1922-1935	1,2,3,4,5
Bona Schaefer	1934-1936	Homemaker
Fulbert Garrity	1935-1936	4,5,6
Salvina Norske	1935-1937	Homemaker
Aguata Klecker	1938-1939	Homemaker
Armelda Hrobsky	1931-1937	1,2,3
Aurelia Chlanda	1931-1937	6,7,8



Class of 1926

Bottom row, left to right:

Kathy Fishler, Joseph Krachey, Marie Blazek, Father Boos-Waldeck, Cecelia Mara, John Strnad, Caroline Zach

Row 2

Catherine Rod, Bessie Nicholson, Lillian Vopelok, Mae Mara, Ludmilla Balk, Helen Cejka, Fern Hoppe.

First Quiet Holy Communion was held on April 1, 1926. The Solemn Communion was May 16, 1926.



Class of 1927

Bottom row, left to right:

Raymond Kozelka, Helen Stevens, Father Boos-Waldeck, Julia Blazek, James Pelloch

Row 2

John Novey, Joseph Navacek, Anna Lechnir, Clarence Vladicka, Naomi Mara, Vernon Koresh, Dorothy Lechnir, Lawrence Lanka, Emma Kalina, John Pohlman, Dorothy Benda, Richard Strauman, Raymond Feally.

Solemn Communion was held on May 16, 1927, for nineteen girls and seventeen boys.

Children learned to read and write in Cech (Bohemian). They learned the alphabet in Czech; a á b c č d ě é ě f g h ch i ě j k l m n ň o ó p q r ř s š t ť u ú v and there was no "w" except in foreign words until about 1979, "x" was in foreign words, y ý was not in the dictionary but the letters occur within words like syn (son) or pěkný (pretty), z ž.

The months are January (Leden), February (Unor), March (Březen), April (Duben), May (Květen), June (Červen), July (Červenec), August (Srpen), September (Září), October (Říjen), November (Listopad), and December (Prosinec).



Class of 1928

Row 1, left to right:

Clara Fishler, William Bickle, Father Theis from Campion, Blanche Vladicka

Row 2

Frank Krachey, Melvin Biehl, Rosella Pelock, James Honzel, Helen Kopet, William Bouzek, Francis Schaufenbil.

First and Solemn Communion was held on May 20, 1928.



1928-1965  
Pastor

Monsignor Paul Monarski

Monsignor Paul Monarski was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on January 12, 1897. He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School in Eau Claire. He received high school, college and seminary training at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained at St. Thurembius Chapel, Josephinum College, Columbus, Ohio, on June 11, 1923, by the Most Reverend Peter F. Biondi. After his ordination he served at parishes in Eau Claire, Plain, Marshfield, Wuerzburg and Abbotsford. On July 5, 1928, he was appointed pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish, Prairie du Chien. On August 29, 1956, he was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII, with the title of Monsignor and was invested by Bishop Treacy on November 25, 1956. Monsignor Monarski remained at St. John's until his retirement on June 22, 1965. He died August 1, 1979, and was buried at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Eau Claire.



Class of 1929

Row 1, left to right:

Caroline Konicek, William Garvey, George Marvin, Father Paul Monarski, Lawrence Strauman, Virgil Mara, Marie Vopelok

Row 2

George Novey, Florence Konicek, Lawrence Strnad, Marie Koresh, Clarence Lechnir, Helen Novey, Paul Amann, Alice Benda, Clarence Phillips.

Confirmation was held on Tuesday, May 7, 1929. The Right Reverend Bishop Alexander J. McGavish D.D. officiated.

Communion was received by nineteen children on May 26.

President Herbert C. Hoover was elected in November 1929.

The days of the week are:

Sunday(Neděle), Monday(Pondějí), Tuesday(Úterý),  
Wednesday(Středa), Thursday(Čtvrtek), Friday(Pátek),  
and Saturday(Sobota).

Neděle was uvítání den, zadny práce.

(Sunday was a welcome day, no work.)

Sister Lioba Kalina recorded twenty-five first communicants received their First and Solemn Communion on May 18, 1930.

Children learned to count to ten just like the children today, but the words sounded different; jeden, dve, tri, ctyri, pet, sest, sedm, osm, devet, and deset.

Today children say one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

It is very easy to see why people of different languages had problems understanding each other.

Many names were changed because people wrote them the way they sounded, and the people tried to give the correct sound.



Class of 1930

Bottom row, left to right:

Martin Kozelka, Ethel Touble, Father Paul Monarski, Anna Krachey, Andrew Benda

Row 2

Rose Kalina, Emma White, Marie Kalina, Edward Selch, Veronica Zabel, Mildred Blazek, Mayme Konicek.



### Class of 1931

Row 1, left to right:

Dorothy Gaulke, Frances Betzle, Michael Suhrada, Father Paul Monarski, Jack Campbell, Cecelia Valley, Irene Tench

Row 2

Helen Novak, Clara Phillips, Lucille Scott, Clara Mae Kennedy, Gladys Lechnir, Ethel Long, Betty Garvey, Grace Touble.

Eleven boys and fourteen girls made their First and Solemn Communion on May 31, 1931.

During the thirties, classes were starting to be taught in English. Many of the students from that period of time remember their families spoke Cech (Bohemian) at home, but the children were speaking English, and writing in English.



Interior of the Former Church.



Class of 1932

Bottom row, left to right:

Raymond Lechnir, Robert Johnson, Father Paul Monarski, Francis Mara, Felix Bohonek

Row 2

Louis Sandleback, Sylvia Kapinus, Dorothy Marvin, James Slama, Angela Benda, Stacia Phillips, Arnold White



### Class of 1933

Bottom row, left to right:

Joseph Rod, Goldie May Kapinus, Helene Pohlman, Robert Peloch,  
Frank Kozelka, Wilma Toubl, Velma Novey, Thomas Morel

Row 2

Russel Robejsek, Robert Campbell, Leona Koresch, Faith Hoppe  
Marie Shurada, Rita Johnson, Ted Long, Jack Strauman

First and Solemn communion was held on May 28, 1933 for six boys and eight girls.

Confirmation was administered by Right Reverend Bishop McGavick on Monday, September 11th.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected in 1933.

Many older grandparents who did not get out in public never learned English.

Family members were as follows:

<u>Ceck</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Cech</u>	<u>English</u>
otec	father	tatínek	daddy, papa
matka	mother	maminka	mama, mommy
syn	son	bratr	brother
dcera	daughter	sestra	sister
dědeček	grandfather	příbuzný	relatives
babička	grandmother		
teta	aunt		
strýc	uncle		



Class of 1934

Bottom row, left to right:

Rosella Strauman, Andrew Novak Jr., Father Paul Monarski, Leo Koniček, Anna Slama

Row 2

Dorothy Hanzal, Grace Honzel, Bernice Scott, Virginia Bohonek, Ethel Koniček



### Class of 1937

Row 1, left to right.

Norma Saunders, Lawrence Novey, Father Paul Monarski, Robert Kane, Myrtle Kapinus

Row 2

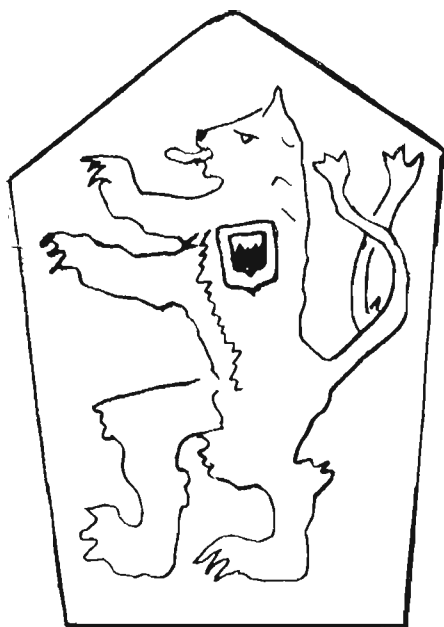
Margaret Betzle, John Schrada, Teresa Benda, Edward Novey, Bernice Strauman, Frederic Schrader, Arlene Kopet.

Confirmation was held on Monday, May 3, 1937. The Most Reverend Bishop William R. Griffin D. D. officiated.

First Communion for thirteen boys and nine girls was held on June 6th.

## COAT OF ARMS

A Lion with a divided tail,  
a symbol of the historic  
Bohemian Kingdom.



New Rectory 1938

On August 22nd, men started removing trees from the lot next to the church, for the new rectory.



Class of 1938

Bottom row, left to right:

Monica Mezera, Joseph Novy, Margaret Youngblood, Father Paul Monarski, Vivian Polodna, Clement Wachuta, Mary Kavanaugh

Row 2

Robert Honzel, Virginia Long, William Cejka, Alice Lechnir, Howard Mezera, Rita Lorenz, Leo Lechnir.

First Communion was on May 29, 1938.



Class of 1939

Row 1, left to right:

Eugene Mara, Vera Lynett, Robert Konicek, Father Paul Monarski, Robert Gernert, Evelyn Cejka, John McKillip

Row 2

Helen Biehl, Alfred Lechnir, Faith Kapinus, Kenneth Kelley, Catherine Lechnir, Vincent Benda, Betty Valley.

Fourteen girls and twelve boys received First Communion on May 28, 1939.

A steel tabernacle was donated by Miss Theresa Falch, it was installed on the high altar.

Father Monarski moved into the new rectory on January 3, 1939.

In the fall of 1939 a male choir was formed by the pastor. They sang once a month for the men's Communion Mass.

World War II started on September 2, 1939 when Germany attacked Poland.

First Communion was held on May 26th for twelve girls and eleven boys.

The Most Reverend Bishop William Griffin D. D. officiated for Confirmation at St. John's on Thursday June 6, 1940.

The pupils of St. John's put on a program at the Metro Theater, at the end of the school year. On May 6th they presented "Tom Thumb Circus".



Class of 1940

Row 1, left to right:

Anna Konichek, Elsie Konicek, Jane Rod,

Row 2

Robert Lechnir, Father Paul Monarski, Robert Gores

Row 3

Erma Walters, Lillian Novak, Anna Marie Novak

Missing from picture:

Gerlad Kavanaugh, Clifford Lynett and Robert Betzle



Class of 1941

Row 1 , left to right:

James Lechnir , Helena Lynett, Father Paul Monarski, Gloria McKillip, Robert Cejka

Row 2

John Kopet, Jack Touble, Lorraine Kapinus, Robert Wachuta, Wilfred Benda, Rose Robejsek, Frederic Johnson, Carrol Polodna.

The pupils of St. John's put on a program at the Metro Theater , at the end of the school year. This years program was on May 6th, and was "Tom Thumb Circus".

First Communion was held on May 25th for twelve boys and six girls.

In preparation for the Golden Jubilee the altars were repainted, and a new electric organ was donated.

The Golden Jubilee Celebration of St. John's Parish was celebrated on Sunday October 12, 1941. Church services were held in the morning, a parish dinner was held at noon and a bazaar in the afternoon and evening.

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on November 7, 1941 about 7:50 A.M., and many of the parish young men were called into service.

<u>School Sisters</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade Taught</u>
Vittoria Degenfelder	1944-1946	3,4,5
Armenia Balk	1944-1945	Homemaker
Lucille Eder	1947-1948	3,4
Gaudina Beauprey	1945-1949	Homemaker
Renata Bratkowska	1949-1950	Homemaker
Laurentia Bauer	1944-1950	6,7,8
Longina Miksch	1950-1951	8
Karina Pintar	1950-1955	Homemaker
Joyce Merten	1948-1959	5,6
Lucille Czarnecki	1946-1959	5,6,& organ
Jositha Van Straten	1944-1960	1,2,3



Class of 1942

Row 1, left to right:

John Lechnir, Marguerite MacDonald, Father Paul Monarski, Geneva Lynett, Alfred Fischer

Row 2

William Panka, Helen Tarrence, George Kalina, John Koresch, Rosemary Panka, Bob Balk.

There were eight boys and seven girls who made their First Holy Communion on May 29, 1942.



Class of 1943

Row 1, left to right:

Donald Benish, Margo Bremmer, Charlotte Trapp, Ursula Kavanaugh, Marlon Lorenz, Joseph Yopelok

Row 2

Kenneth Novey, Mary Robejsek, Father Paul Monarski, Cecelia Benda, Andrew Mezera

Row 3

LaVerne Jelinek, Veronica Yopelok, Mary Jo Gores, Robert Koresh, Rita Maloney, Robert Bohonek, Delores White, Richard Rod

There were fifteen boys and six girls who made First Communion on June 13, 1943.

The play at the Metro Theater the students put on was "Flavia, or the Unknown Martyr". Cecelia Benda remembers part of the lines, "Great Jupiter is this life wagging and dragging on, as though we were senseless creatures? Surely Job would not have cast his lots among drudgery as this, to be called a slave is bad enough, but to be one is worse."

Mary Jo Gores and Patricia Panka had the major roles.

There was a tie for high scores between Rita Malony and Mary Jo Gores, and they were the honor guard for the May crowning. Marilyn Nugent, a first grader, did the May Crowning.

First Communion was held on May 28, 1944 for seven boys and nine girls.

Confirmation was held at St. John's on Wednesday, October 4, 1944. The Most Reverend Peter W. Bartholomew D.D., Coadjutor Bishop of St. Cloud, Minnesota was the official who administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Class of 1944

Bottom row, left to right:

Clifford Benish, Milda Pohlman, Theresa Mezera, Mary Beth Dawes,  
Paul Kavanaugh

Row 2

Rita Swatek, Father Paul Monarski, Winifred Malony

Row 3

Barbara Reiser, Lawrence Shedivy, Arnold Mara, Jeanette Peterson



Class of 1945

Row 1, left to right:

Jean Draka, James Glynn, Edward Vopelok, Nancy Karnopp

Row 2

Sally Kaber, Robert White, John Cejka, Greta Anderson

Row 3

Charles Pritchett, Joseph Tarrence, Father Paul Monarski, Patrick McKillip

Row 4

Anna Marie Enke, Teresa Tarrance, Marcella Panka, Blanche Cepleka, James Bush, Francis Greene, Peggy Marousek, Patricia Panka, Marguerite Gores, Richard Fischer, Kenneth Lechnir

On May 27, 1945 twenty-eight children made their First Communion. Sister Mary Jositha was their teacher. There were fourteen boys and fourteen girls.

The Second World War ended on September 2, 1945, after the Allies dropped the Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Harry S. Truman became president on April 12, 1945 following the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

First Communion was held on May 26, 1946 for eleven boys and eight girls.



Class of 1946

Row 1, left to right:

Mary Ellen Peterson, Joyce King, Phyllis Vopelok, Margaret Mary Mezera

Row 2

Lorraine Scheibel, Clarence Robejsek, Father Paul Monarski, Donald Novey

Row 3

Loretta Lechnir, Theresa Mezera, Rose Jean Benda, Rosemary Selch, Nancy Schneider, Joan Polodna



Class of 1947

Row 1, left to right:

Robert Bouzek, Bonita Warner, Phyllis Mezera, Dennis Benish

Row 2

Roger Steiner, Jeanne Panka, Father Paul Monarski, Lois Smethurst, Donald Kalina

Row 3

James White, Joseph Granzow, Robert Draka, James Reilly, Franklin Fischer, Jack O'Brien

Confirmation was held on Friday, May 23, 1947. The Most Reverend Bishop John P. Treacy D. D. officiated.

First Communion was held the following Sunday, May 25th for eleven boys and seventeen girls.

In August 1947 three lots 80' X 140' were purchased from the Duffy estate in preparation for building a new, larger church.



Class of 1948

Bottom row, left to right:

Aelred Mezera, Rose Ann Rink, Patricia Lanke, Bernard Walz  
row 2

Mary Ellen Strauman, Father Paul Monarski, Ann Polodna  
Row 3

Donald Cipra, Shirley Pettera, Delores Tarrence, Jack Reiser

First Communion for twenty-six second graders was held on May 23, 1948.



Class of 1949

Bottom row, left to right:

Richard Stark, Jean Granzow, Darlene McKillip, Allen Lanke

Row 2

Joan Feeney, Richard Lanke, Nan McPhee

Row 3

Adrian Jelinek, Beatrice Jean Neisius, Anna Selch, Edmund Tarrance

Row 4

Father Paul Monarski

First Communion for the second graders was held at 10:00 A.M. mass. In the afternoon the First Communicants met at school. They led the procession over to church for the May Crowning of the Blessed Mother. The children carried their Baptismal candles, and the Sisters lighted them as they entered the church. The acolytes with their plumed hats and capes assisted the altar boys in the procession. Beatrice Neisius, her five attendents, Father Monarski and two servers, followed by many parishioners, completed the procession.

First Communion Day was May 28, 1950, and the May Crowning was held later in the day with Anne Mezera doing the honor of the crowning.



Class of 1950

Bottom row, left to right:

Joanne Stark, Patricia Graap

Row 2

Theresa Prochaska, Marilyn Nugent, Laura White

Row 3

Tom McKillip, Anne Mezera, Joanne First, Marie Ludvik, Rodney Smethurst

Row 4

Robert Blazek, Joseph Ludvik, Dale Cipra, Francis Forst, Gary Novinska, Gerald Forst

Row 5

Patricia Fischer, Richard Stevens, John Feeney, Father Monarski, Thomas Kozelka, Jack Lechnir, Maryann Schloegl

On Wednesday March 29, 1950, Confirmation was held with the Most Reverend Bishop John P. Treacy, D. D. officiating.