

History of St. Josaphat's Parish



Interior of Old Church

Significant Parish Dates:

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| June 1897 | Parish incorporated and plans completed for a church building with a school in the basement. |
| Sept. 6, 1897 | Laying and blessing the cornerstone of the original church. |
| Jan. 30, 1898 | Bishop Messmer dedicated the first church with 50 families. Building cost was \$4,700. |
| Spring 1899 | First rectory is built south of the church. |
| 1910 | Construction of the first school on Spruce Street with living quarters for nuns in the same building. |
| Sept. 1922 | Parish celebrates Silver Jubilee. |
| 1926 | Improvement program completed – new rectory built with the old one renovated for the nuns. Two lots adjacent to the school purchased for a playground. |
| 1936 | A suitable parish hall was created in the church basement. A Marian grotto was built behind the convent. |
| Jan. 18, 1947 | Bishop Bona presided at the Golden Jubilee Mass of the parish. |
| 1947 | Property purchased on the corner of Walnut and Congress streets. |
| Mar. 19, 1957 | Ground breaking for new school constructed next to the old school. |

Dec. 8, 1957	Bishop Bona dedicates new school.
Aug. 12, 1962	Fr. Al Trzebiatowski, pastor of St. Josaphat's invested as Monsignor and parish celebrates Msgr. Al's 25 years as pastor of St. Josaphat's.
Sept. 1962	Fr. Ralin Stencil became first and only full-time assistant pastor.
July 14, 1965	Msgr. Al accepts new assignment at hospital in Antigo.
April 1967	Parish voted to build a new church and formed a building and fundraising committee.
March 7, 1972	First Parish Council meeting.
Oct. 1, 1972	Parish celebrated Diamond Jubilee.
June 1974	St. Josaphat school closed.
April 21, 1975	Diocesan Board of Consultors gives unanimous approval for construction of new church on corner of Congress and Walnut Streets, including remodeling of school building to include kitchen and parish hall.
Aug. 15, 1975	Ground broken for new church. Convent razed.
March 19, 1976	Actual church construction began.
Dec. 19, 1976	Last Mass in old church.
Dec. 24, 1976	First Mass in new church.
April 1977	Old church razed.
June 26, 1977	Bishop Wycislo dedicated new church.
June 26, 1980	New church mortgage burned.
July 1, 1982	Fr. Stan Kolbusz became pastor.
March 1988	Pieta replica placed in church as a memorial to deceased parishioners.
1997	Church celebrates 100 th anniversary with banquet, ice cream social and much more.

October 2000

Fr. Stan Kolbusz retires and goes on Senior Priest Status. Fr. Robert Stegmann installed as new pastor.

July 8, 2007

Last Mass at St. Josaphat church.

July 14, 2007

St. Josaphat, St. Mary and St. Peter parishes merged into Most Blessed Sacrament Parish.