

Brief History of Holy Rosary Church, Aurora, MN 1908-2016

The city of Aurora grew out of the mining locations, was established in 1903 and began to be built on the present site in 1905. The Catholic people of Aurora built a church in 1906 and were first served by a priest living in Eveleth. This community was officially incorporated as Holy Rosary Church on June 3, 1908. In 1953 the church was remodeled, but the people were outgrowing the church with the 1954 census at 1,311 people in 344 families. On April 8, 1957 the church was destroyed by fire. Six months later, construction began on the current church building which was completed in February 1959 and was dedicated by Bishop Lawrence Glenn on March 8, 1959. In the spring of 1981 a Youth Center was opened and served the youth of both the church and town until 2005.

Aurora now has a population of 1,750 and the church has a population of 240 families/450 people. In February-September 2015 we merged with Queen of Peace, Hoyt Lakes and St. John's, Biwabik to form Our Lady of Hope Parish. We are all members now of the same parish, with one set of trustees, one Financial Council and one Pastoral Council.

Priests who have served Holy Rosary Church, Aurora:

Mission Pastors

M. Bilban	1906-08
Francis Saloven	1911-13
Joseph Pollak	1913
Patrick J. Lydon	1913-14
Aloysius L. Pirnat	1914
Richard O'Gorman	1914-15
Anton Leskovik	1916
M. Bilban	1916-17
John Bigley	1917-18
A. L. Dufresne	1918-19
Joseph L. Quillien	1919
John Jershe	1919-25

Assistant Pastors

Innocent Koncnik	1954-58
Steven Savinshek	1958-59
Alvin Yard	1959-64
Cletus Pifher	1964-66
Herbert Graf	1966-67
Joseph Mulangattil	2005-06

Resident Pastors

Aloysius L. Pirnat	1908-11
John Jershe	1927-30
Timothy Culligan	1930-32
Thaddeus McCarthy	1932-34
Patrick S. Flynn	1934-46
Andrew P. Crawford	1946-47
Edmund Mockler	1947-49
David Taylor	1949-52
Mirko J. Godina	1952-59
Steven Savinshek	1959-72
John Dolsina	1972-87
John Sustarsic	1987-93
Peter Muhich	1993-96
Joseph Sirba	1996-2003
David Forsman	2003-07
William Skarich	2007-08
Richard Banker	2008-09
Keith Bertram	2009
Steven Daigle	2010-present