

Church History

- 1857** First mass in Lawrence celebrated in Bernard Donnelly home by Fr. McGee of Lecompton. Later, masses held in small stone parsonage used as church and rectory. Fr. John Schact (1858-62).
- 1859** St. John the Evangelist Parish established.
- 1860** September 30. First church on Kentucky St. dedicated by Bishop J. Miege. Made possible by Col. Carnie Babcock who deeded the land; Dr. Charles Robinson, provided the stone. Fr. Favre Sebastian (1862-67).
- 1863** Bishop J. Miege from Osage mission here to celebrate sacrament of confirmation. Quantrill's Raid changes mass to funeral services for the 15 Catholics killed.
- 1871** First church dismantled and rebuilt larger (45x80) to accommodate growing community. Fr. John Cunningham (1867-73), Fr. Richard Nagle (1873-74), Fr. Carius (1874-75), Fr. William Fitzgerald (1875-77), Fr. P. Scholl (1877-78).
- 1883** St. John's grows to 150 parishioners. Fr. Guenther (1879-84), Fr. Dugan (1884-85), Fr. Alfonso Ennis (1885-92), Fr. R. B. Groener (1893-1901), Fr. T. J. Downey (1902-03), Fr. John McCourt (1905-06), Fr. George Eckart (1906-20).
- 1920** Fr. Henry Fitzgerald (1920-32).
- 1924** Church and first organ destroyed by fire caused by lightning.
- 1925** Present church dedicated November 26. First mass celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 21.
- 1946** Fr. George Towle (1946-63).
- 1956** Present school built. The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth serve as administrators and faculty.
- 1957** Parishioner Thomas Cawley ordained as priest.
- 1958** St. Lawrence Campus Center established by Benedictines.
- 1962** Parishioner Larry Albertson ordained.
- 1964** Present Reuter organ #1479 installed. Fr. Michael Moriarty (1964-77).
- 1973** Parishioner Bob Flannery ordained as priest.
- 1976** Diocesan priest appointed to St. Lawrence Campus Center.
- 1977** Fr. Larry Albertson, Fr. Vincent Krische, and Fr. Al Rockers appointed co-pastors of St. John with ministry to Catholic students at Haskell Junior College and the University of Kansas (1977-80).
- 1980** Fr. Al Rockers (1980-86).
- 1981** Parish has grown to 750 households. Daughter parish, Corpus Christi, established.
- 1986** Capuchin Franciscan appointed to the parish. Fr. Michael Scully O.F.M. Cap. (1986-1995).
- 1992** Church interior renovation begun.
- 1993** Archbishop Ignatius Strecker consecrates new altar and blesses the ambo and presider's chair.
- 1995** New Crucifix, sculpted by local artisan, installed. Fr. Charles Polifka O.F.M. Cap. (1995-2004)
- 1999** Church becomes accessible with new elevator for persons with disabilities. Parish has membership of more than 1,000 households.
- 2000** St. John's celebrates 75th Anniversary of church.
- 2004** Membership 1,350 households, Fr. John Schmeidler O.F.M. Cap. appointed pastor.
- 2007** Sesquicentennial of First Mass celebrated in Lawrence.
- 2008** Sesquicentennial of appointment of first Pastor.
- 2009** Sesquicentennial of the establishment of St. John Parish.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



1234 Kentucky • Lawrence, Kansas

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Welcome to Lawrence!

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church began with the first mass in 1857, celebrated in the home of Bernard Donnelly by Father McGee. In 1925, the current church was dedicated. St. John the Evangelist now has more than 1,000 households. Capuchin Franciscan priests have served the parish since 1986.

St. John the Evangelist Church is conveniently located two blocks west of the historic downtown Massachusetts Street. Ample parking is provided north of the church and across the street west of the church.

While you are visiting, please join us for our daily or weekend masses. At other times, enjoy the beauty of our many stained glass windows and Romanesque architecture. Look for self-guided brochures in our church at 1234 Kentucky.

Pastor: Fr. John Schmeidler, O.F.M. Cap.
Simon Parish Center (Parish Offices)
1229 Vermont
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-843-0109
Fax: 785-749-5064
www.saint-johns.net
churchoffice@saint-johns.net

Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy:

Saturday5:30 p.m.
Sunday7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. (Spanish), 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharistic Liturgy:

Monday - Friday7:30 a.m.
Saturday8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(or by appointment)

Saturday during
Advent and Lent3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Photography: Monte Mace Design: Darren Moore

