

Churches

Methodist Church

On November 13, 1910, the Reverend Frank O. Wilson of the First Methodist Church of Staunton, preached at the Williamson schoolhouse. He preached regularly every other Sunday afternoon. On November 27, 1910, he had an infant baptism as requested by the parents. A Sunday school was organized on January 29, 1911 at Williamson.

Along with preaching at Williamson, the Reverend Wilson started preaching at the Livingston schoolhouse on March 26, 1911.

On October 29, 1911, a new Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated by the Reverend Victor Thrall of Litchfield. It was located just north of the present Catholic Church and was the first church in Livingston. It has been known as Twin Cities M.E. Church and Livingston M.E. Church. Two weeks following the dedication, the Reverend Wilson had evangelistic services, hoping that these services would bring more people into the church.

As early as 1912, a Ladies Aid was organized with Mrs. John Westwood as president. The ladies met once a week to quilt and do handiwork to raise money for the church. Once a month they met socially.

An Epworth League, a Methodist youth organization, was formed. This church had picnics at Pleasant Hill School and in Schuette's pasture. A choir was formed in 1920 with U.L. Easter as director. The people had ice cream socials and chicken dinners to raise money.

Pastors who served Livingston church usually had one or two other churches, with the exception of years 1922 – 1925 when Livingston had their own pastor.

The following served as pastors:

Staunton and Livingston Churches

1910 – 1911 Rev. F.O. Wilson

1912 – 1913 Rev. T. J. Haney

1914 – 1915 Rev. Samuel Thero

Waterloo and Livingston Churches

1916 – 1917 Rev. Alfred Zimmerman

New Douglas and Livingston Churches

1918 Rev. Kitt

1919 – 1920 Rev. Struebing

Mt. Olive and Livingston Churches

1921 Rev. J.L. Miller

Livingston Church

1922 – 1923 Rev. D.R. Fleming

1924 Rev. Leonard Metcalf

1925 Rev. J.F. Glotfelty

Staunton and Livingston Churches

1926 Rev. Leslie Beers

1927 Rev. Roy N. Keen

Fairview and Livingston Churches

1928 Rev. Dale Hagler

Elsah and Livingston Churches

1929 Rev. Burnis D. Rogers

Piasa, Fidelity and Livingston Churches

1930 Rev. Burnis D. Rogers

1931 Rev. L. Emmet Hard

Benld, Mt. Olive and Livingston Churches

1932 – 1934 Rev. Tennis Martin

Rev. Martin was in poor health when he served this parish so his wife, Ruth Rush Martin, stepped in to help. After his death in 1938, Ruth Martin served as an itinerant minister in Southern Illinois.

1935 – 1936 Rev. Robert R. Howe

Some of the families who attended this church were: Alfeld, Berry, Best, Busker, Easter, Hebenstreit, Nixon, Tietze and Westwood.

Sacred Heart Church

Livingston, Illinois 1913 - 2005 History

From the beginning of the town of Livingston in 1904, the new town was annexed as a mission to the parish of St. Ubaldo in New Douglas, with the Reverend Barnard Lee, the pastor at New Douglas, periodically offering Mass in a hall which was later destroyed by fire. In 1910, Livingston was annexed to St. Michael Church in Staunton where Father John Duval was the pastor. Masses were then offered periodically in the public school building and also in the city hall. This was the state of affairs when Bishop James Ryan of Alton authorized Father Duval to start a new parish in Livingston dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with Father Ignatius Kershevich as its first pastor. On December 13, 1913, the cornerstone was laid but the building was destroyed by fire before it was ready for use. A second church was built on the same foundation and a new cornerstone was laid on May 3, 1914, and the dedication was on Thanksgiving Day of that year.



Above is the church as it appeared in 1945.

Father Kershevich served as pastor until 1919 and was succeeded by Father Joseph Jaksztys and Father William Sloan, each serving for only a short time. In 1920, Father Francis Gribbin was appointed pastor and built the present school building in 1924.

In 1926, Father Gribbin was succeeded by Father W.R. Yahner. Father Yahner was the first priest to celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart Parish on December 24, 1926. Although this was a custom in other areas Sacred Heart had no such observance to date. Father Yahner was succeeded by Father Mare Marangos. Both Yahner and Marangos each served about one year. In 1928, Father A.J. VanSpeybroech, was appointed pastor and served fourteen years. It was during his pastorate that St. Ubaldo in New Douglas was made a mission of the Livingston parish a relationship that grew in cooperation so that it was more like one parish as most parishioners felt at home at either church.



Historical Data

At the end of each year, the Sacred Heart priest submitted a document to the Springfield Diocese stating the inventory of the priest's personal property, a report of the cemetery funds, and a short synopsis of historical data. These reports gave the current priest's perspective of the community as well as the Church. An interesting note is that one of the questions that appears on each report is, *Have you made your will?* The following are excerpts of these documents (all information is typed as written on documents. No changes were made to spelling or grammar).

December 31, 1926 Inventory: 1 radio, 1 picture of the Sacred Heart, 2 clocks, books, 2 suits, 1 quilt, saxophone

Historical Data: June 26, Rev. Francis Gribble was transferred from Livingston to Robinson, B.C. and Rev. W.R. Yahner of Robinson, sent to succeed Fr. Gribble at Livingston

September, 1, The Ursuline Sisters in charge of the Livingston School, residing heretofore in Staunton, moved to Livingston occupying the rectory as a convent. Father Yahmer, after vacating the rectory in favor of the Sisters, moved into a nearby rented house, There are now five Ursulines here – four teaching and one doing housework in the convent.

December 31, 1929 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:

Sale of Lots: \$ 115.00

Sale of Single Grave: 60.00

Total: 175.00

Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads 20.50

Note: There is no balance as money used for Church purposes.

Balance Forward: None

Total: 20.50

Inventory: automobile, radio, trunks, typewriter, a few books and clothes

Historical Data: nothing of importance occurred during the year. In the school, Sisters Julia, Borgia, and Veronica were replaced this year by Sisters Clare, Pierre and Marceline.

The parish is rapidly declining, owing to the lack of work our men are obliged to find other homes for their families. I fear this is a grave-yard of a might-have-been parish some twenty years ago.

The families who practice their religion at all number about seventy five, of this number quite a few are unable to help scarcely any toward the support of the Church.

December 31, 1930 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year: 0.00

Sale of Lots: \$ 60.00

Sale of Single Grave: 20.00

This money turned to church fund

Total: 80.00

Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads 1.00

Balance Forward: None

Total: 1.00

Inventory: Radio, automobile, books, trunks, few bed clothes

Historical Data: The year 1930 was noted for no work. The miners having been entirely idle for eight months and working the remainder of the year for about one day per week.

The poverty in the parish during this year has been unusual. Many people moving away on this account.

Of the number of families in the parish enumerated above two thirds are not practical Catholics, Catholics in name only. Very little hopes of ever being able to bring them back. Most of them being hardened scoffers at God and what pertains to Him. They refuse to allow their children to come to church or school. Cases are hopeless.

The parish is a back number. It is the consensus of opinion that the town will never be anything. The mine may not open for another three years, if at all. Case is hopeless.

December 31, 1931 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:	-----
Sale of Lots:	\$ 80.00
Sale of Single Grave:	0.00
<i>Money turned in to pay parish debts.</i>	
Total:	80.00
Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	0.00
Balance Forward:	0.00
Total:	0.00

Inventory: my books, radio, my automobile, my clothes, clock, and pictures, a rocking chair, typewriter

Historical Data: During the past year. Nothing noteworthy took place.

We had confirmation on Ascension Day, and First Communion in May and again in June.

The Parish is in dire circumstances financially. Our mine having been closed for almost two years with no hopes of it opening any way soon.

May God give us patience to bear up under the heavy cross.

December 31, 1934 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:	
Sale of Lots:	0.00
Sale of Single Grave:	\$ 15.00
<i>Transferred to Church Account</i>	
Total:	15.00
Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	4.50
Balance Forward:	0.00
Total:	4.50

Inventory: automobile, typewriter, books, radio, clothing

Historical Data: This year we tore the stucco from the house, was in bad condition. boarded it with double building paper and asbestos shingle making it look like a brick house. Painted wood on exterior--- remodeled the garage--- painted the exterior of the Church. Put on new spouting all around-- decorated the Church. A wonderful job by an artist--decorated all statues, painted all altars--bought all new chandeliers for the Church. Pews were revarnished.. Windows which were plain glass most beautifully decorated, like leaded glass. The Pastor sacrificed over five hundred dollars salary this year to make this possible. It is worth it. As the church was a disgrace to decency. May God forgive us for delaying it so long. Two outside friends came to our aid with donations of two hundred and one of sixty dollars for the project.

December 31, 1935 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:	None
Sale of Lots:	\$50.00
Sale of Single Grave:	

Transferred to Church exp. acc

Total: 50.00

Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads 6.00

Balance Forward: 0.00

Total: 6.00

Inventory: automobile, typewriter, books, radio, clothing

Historical Data: Nothing of note has happened. This parish is rapidly going down. Scarcely any work to be done in the mine. No new men hired.

When work opens up we will lose practically all our bread earners, only women and a few children will be left. When children are old enough to work, they will migrate where they can make a living. This will be a Mission in a very few years.

December 31, 1937 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:

Sale of Lots:

Sale of Single Grave:

Total:

Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads 5.00

Balance Forward:

Total:

Inventory: auto, books, radio, clothes, typewriter

Historical Data: The parish has again been hit with hard luck. Our tippie burned down making work amounting at practically nothing. Were it not for outside help with our card parties we could not exist.

I have sacrificed \$2,406.21 since my nine and one half years of my incumbency in salary. It is impossible to pay Cathedralricum unless a drastic change in working condition takes place. I do not have a housekeeper due to not means enough. Things are going from bad to worse. I have done my utmost but of no avail it is not here to be gotten

December 31, 1938 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:

Sale of Lots:

Sale of Single Grave:

Total:

Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads \$ 5.00

Balance Forward:

Total: 5.00

Inventory: auto, radio, typewriter, books, and clothing

Historical Data: The parish is struggling trying to make ends meet. The men have very little work, and those who could give are not as generous as they could be.

We keep up all repairs about the building at the expense of our salary, as the attached salary report for the past ten and one half years shows.

This parish should have a mission attached, then I think it could pay its pastor a full salary and pay the Cathedralricum which thus far we have been unable to meet. Much to our regret of course the young men and women leave for other parts, as they cannot secure employment in the mines. The books being closed against hiring any men, for the past ten years.

Just a matter of time when the old people will die off and the parish with them. I foresee Livingston as a mission in the next five years at best.

In 1942, Father Robert McCarthy was appointed pastor of the Livingston and New Douglas parishes and with his personal talents and abilities made many improvements in both churches.

In May of 1950, when Father McCarthy was appointed administrator of St. Michael's Parish in Staunton, Father Francis Corrigan was appointed pastor of the Livingston parish and its mission, New Douglas. The mission extended to the people of Alhambra, Hamel, Worden, Williamson, and Sorento, as well as Livingston and New Douglas.

Historical Data

December 31, 1955	Cemetery Report:	
	Receipts: Balance from last year:	\$ 824.68
	Sale of Lots:	140.00
	Sale of Single Grave:	
	Membership fees	439.00
	Special Services	179.19
	Total:	1,582.87
	Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	349.00
	Trees, etc.	76.34
	Balance Forward:	1,157.53
	Total:	1,582.87
	Inventory: all radios, television, sound recorders, slide and movie projectors and portable screen. All clocks, fans in rectory, lounge chairs, books, desk, air conditioner, juke box and records	
	Historical Data: June – On June 22, Carol Pacchetti, daughter of Armond and Elsie Pacchetti of Livingston, entered the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Ill, as a postulant. Her profession will be on June 3, 1956 with the name of Sister Francis Marie.	
	July – For the month of July Bishop O'Connor assigned two diocesan sub-deacons, the Rev. Mr. Vincent Harland and the Rev. Mr. Herman Neibrugge to this parish to conduct a religious survey in the Alhambra and Worden areas of this parish. A detailed report of this survey was sent to the Bishop and a copy was put on file with our parish record.	
	Aug. – On August 1, Sister Ann Miriam (Mary Lou Landolt), daughter of Harold and Anna Landolt of Alhambra, made her first profession as a Sister of Notre Dame at the Mother House in St. Louis, Mo.	
December 31, 1956	Cemetery Report:	
	Receipts: Balance from last year:	\$1,157.53
	Sale of Lots:	150.00
	Sale of Single Grave:	
	Membership fees	473.50
	Perpetual Care Interest	12.50
	Memorial Day Collection	29.42
	Special Services	75.32
	Total:	1,898.27
	Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	325.00
	Amount transferred to Invest. Fund	1,000.00
	Balance Forward:	572.77
	Total:	1,898.27
	Inventory: radios, televisions, sound recorders, Slide and movie projectors with portable screen. All clocks, fans in rectory, air conditioners, lounge chairs (2), books, desk, juke box, automobile	

Historical Data: Sister Francis Marie (Carole Pacchetti) will be professed a Dominican Sister (Spfld., Ill) on Jan. 4, 1957.

Approximately \$8000.00 improvements made on school building – including converting of steam heating system to hot water with new commercial fin-type radiator (\$3,600.00) and installation of glass block windows (30) with aluminum ventilators.

Purchase of Lots 13, 14, 15 in Block 2 of Fisher and Woodward Addition – adjacent to present church property on south at a cost of \$192.00 including taxes and Guaranteed Title Policy.

December 31, 1957

Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:	\$ 572.77
Sale of Lots:	
Sale of Single Grave:	
Perpetual Care	4,016.00
Perpetual Care Interest	25.00
Annual Membership fees	176.00
Memorial Day Collection	44.00
Special Services	273.26
Total:	5,107.03
Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	325.00
Amount transferred to Invest. Fund	2,000.00
Equipment and Maintenance	338.12
Balance Forward:	2,443.91
Total:	5,107.03

Inventory: all radios, television, recorders, slide and movie projectors with portable screen. All clocks, fans and air conditioners in rectory, 2 lounge chairs, desk, books, and juke box in school building

Historical Data: Annette Philippe became a Dominican Postulant at Springfield, Ill in June and will be received as a novice as Sister M. Paulette on June 3, 1958.

December 31, 1959

Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:	\$ 484.48
Sale of Lots:	548.00
Sale of Single Grave:	
Income Care	95.00
Income Care Interest	191.72
Annual Membership fees	176.00
Memorial Day Collection	36.00
Extra Services	178.00
Total:	1,533.20
Expenses: Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	300.00
Amount transferred to Invest. Fund	1,000.00
Mowers, tractor, repairs, seed, etc.	173.69
Balance Forward:	59.51
Total:	1,533.20

Inventory: all radios, TVs, sound recorders, slides, movie projectors, portable screen, clocks, fans in rectory, lounge chairs (2), large desk, books, etc.

Historical Data: Sister Mary Stanley, O.P. (Lillian Karnosky) made first profession of vows in August.

Sister M. Paulette, O.P. (Annette Philippe), first profession in January, 1959.

Addition to Church completed supplying

1. Toilet Facilities
2. Extra Sacristies
3. Emergency Exits
4. Choir Room
5. Attic Storage

In 1962, a \$50,000 renovation (see photograph of interior below) of Sacred Heart Church was undertaken in preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the parish in 1963. The fifty year old frame building was completely renovated, inside and out, enlarged, brick veneered and a third cornerstone laid on July 8, 1962.

December 31, 1963 Cemetery Report:

Receipts: Balance from last year:	\$ 561.18
Sale of Lots:	115.00
Sale of Single Grave:	
Burial Charges	130.00
Income Care	388.00
Income Care Interest	280.00
Annual Care fees	15.00
Miscellaneous Services	40.00
Memorial Day Collection	47.00
Total:	1,576.18
Expenses: Labor Digging Graves	130.00
Labor, Care of Cemetery and Roads	410.40
Purchase of 1¼ acre addition	600.00
Survey of above	153.71
Balance Forward:	282.07
Total:	1,576.18

Inventory: all radios, TVs, sound recorders, slides, movie projectors, cameras & equipment, including pictures, albums, etc.
 All clocks, fans, typewriter and all printing equipment including that in school building and large paper cutter in garage.
 Two lounge chairs, large desk, all books and all personal belongings such as clothing, luggage, etc.



The interior of Sacred Heart Catholic Church as it appears today.

Historical Data: On June 9, 1963 the Golden Jubilee of the Parish was officially observed with a Solemn Pontifical Mass offered by Bishop O'Connor. A banquet followed in the school building.

In 1994, Father Corrigan retired to the Priests' Home in Springfield. At that time the Bishop appointed Father George Radosevich, the Pastor of St. Michael's parish in Staunton, administrator of Sacred Heart Church. At this time, Sacred Heart became a mission parish of St. Michael's Parish. In June of 1995, Father George Radosevich was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart.

In 2004, Bishop Lucas of Springfield, Illinois, found it necessary to close St. Ubaldus Catholic Church in New Douglas and merge it with Sacred Heart. Their last mass was held October 6, 2004 at 7:00 p. m. Bishop George Lucas and Father George Radosevich concelebrated. A reception followed the beautiful service. Items from the church went to St. John Neuman's School Chapel in Maryville, Illinois, and various other places.

Since that time, the church has held 2 auctions and established a restoration fund. During this time,



many projects have been completed, including landscaping, the outdoor grotto with the statue of Mary, the indoor votive area with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, new Stations of the Cross. Ongoing improvements include: additional parking, a heating and cooling system for the church hall, roof for the church, and painting the church when the roof is completed. These continuing improvements and the enthusiasm of the parishioners serve as a tribute to the cooperation and sacrifices over the past years and a tribute to the future.