



100 Years of Faith, Hope, & Love Newsletter

COMPLETION OF THE ORIGINAL A-FRAME CHURCH

1926-1951

“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:5

A HOUSE FOR THE LORD

In December of 1926, construction was completed and the first Mass was said in the little A-frame church at Zarthan Avenue and West Lake Street (in the grassy area in front of what is now Holy Family Academy). The structure was 36 by 70 feet. The church interior was furnished with donated pews, altar, and holy water font, which parishioners transported and installed with their own hands.

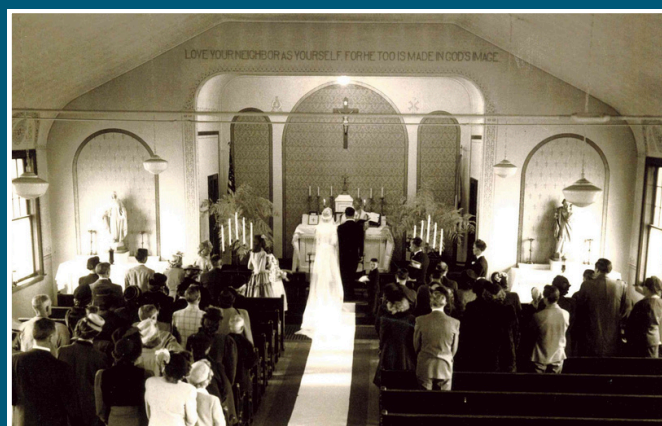


Photo courtesy of St. Louis Park Historical Society

A PEOPLE OF FAITH

By 1927, Holy Family parish had grown to a healthy 55 families, with the number increasing as the area became more populous. Weddings, Baptisms, and First Communions were celebrated at Holy Family. Catholics in St. Louis Park no longer needed to walk along the railroad tracks to Hopkins to receive the sacraments.

In Holy Family's first two decades, apostolates flourished beneath the pastoral care of Fr. William Driscoll and Fr. Francis Wilkins. In 1947, the Altar and Rosary Society and Men's Club were established at Holy Family, and three years later, the first Fall Festival was held.

Holy Family continued to grow, and soon the A-frame church's 25-year lifespan came to a close. Plans were drawn up for a combination church and school building. As construction began, the A-frame church was deconsecrated and sold to the city, which moved the structure to 6121 West Lake St. and made it a community center. Meanwhile, a sturdy brick building emerged just west of where the A-frame church once stood: a new spiritual home for the parish.