

 *Our Mission: To proclaim the Gospel, serve others, and praise God*

 *as we grow in faith, knowledge, values, and respect.*

Brief History of Holy Angels School:

The earliest record of Holy Angels School is referenced in the building dedication booklet from 1963 which stated: “The building committee of the Catholic Congregation of West Bend is to meet at the Catholic School house at West Bend...This was a notice in the West Bend newspaper in February of 1866. The location of this first Catholic school is not known.” The first recorded school year would therefore be 1865-66.

Over the years, there have been many changes: In 1880, construction was begun on a school building which now sits at the corner of 7th and Hickory; it was dedicated in September of that year. An addition in 1890 and an extensive remodeling in 1903 provided more room for the growing school. And in 1910, indoor plumbing was added and by 1918, there were 226 students.

In 1926, the school was able to move closer to the church when the old high school building was made available for rent to Holy Angels. That building on the northeast corner of 8th and Elm later became the library, rec center, and most recently apartments and offices.

With an enrollment of 369 students, another move brought the school even closer to the church when the old West Bend grade school was moved to McLane. The aging building was purchased and renovated in time for occupancy after Christmas, 1939. That building was located on what is presently the playground.

In 1948 construction began on a new building connected to the north (which is our present “old building”) and in January of 1950, over 500 students were able to enjoy the additional space it provided. Enrollment peaked in 1955 with 806 students (144 in first grade alone!) and in 1957 Cabrini opened its door to relieve overcrowding.

In 1962, the enrollment was again near 700 and plans were made to build a six-room addition. However, the Industrial Commission nearly condemned the southern portion of the school and the plan was revised to include another ten more rooms. The new school opened in September of 1963 and the south portion was razed resulting in the current configuration of Holy Angels School.

With a little more than 50 years since this building opened, it became time for a major renovation of the school in 2015. The 21st Century Classrooms Project has provided a refurbished facility with updates to classrooms and hallways in anticipation of another fifty years of learners. The changing family demographics in the community is reflected in the current enrollment of about 280 students which will likely continue in a one class per grade configuration.

Holy Angels continues to be a unique, premier and enduring school which provides a place where a learning community gathers “to proclaim the Gospel, serve others, and praise God as we grow in faith, knowledge, values, and respect.”