



SAINT BONAVENTURE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES

Historical Highlights

Celebrating 63 years of Franciscan Ministry and Service



Saint Bonaventure Historical Highlights

The Church of Saint Bonaventure was founded on the principles of St. Francis: love and service to God and neighbor. Today our community actively lives out our mission to *Love God - Love Others - Make Disciples*. We are a product of our experiences, and our community is vibrant because of our firm foundation of working together in love and service!

We are grateful for the Conventual Franciscan Friars who have been a part of our community, providing leadership, service, and ministry over 63 years. We want to celebrate and honor all we have done together!

Our rich history illustrates how our church and our community have grown and changed along with us. Naturally, we have had many sunrises and sunsets within our life as a parish. Enjoy a few highlights of how many of our current ministries began and our building and grounds developed. This project intends to provide a snapshot relative to our ministries and activities today, not a comprehensive historical record.



New Catholic Parish to Open in Bloomington

Plans for organization of a new Roman Catholic parish in Bloomington were announced Friday.

It will be known as St. Bonaventure's and will be directed by the Friars Minor Conventual of Our Lady of Consolation province, Carey, Ohio. The first pastor will be the Rev. Ambrose Finnegan.

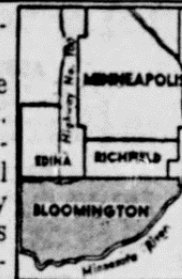
First masses in the new parish will be celebrated Feb. 8 in the Cedarcrest elementary school, 8700 Bloomington Av.

Property for a future church is owned by the archdiocese at 90th St. and Chicago Av.

St. Bonaventure's has been formed from the parishes of St. Kevin, Assumption and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.

Boundaries of the new parish will be the Minnesota river, 82nd St. and Portland Av.

BLOOMINGTON



Minneapolis Star, Jan. 31, 1959

The Franciscans Said Yes



The Franciscans said Yes – October 21, 1958

The Church of Saint Bonaventure began through the order of Archbishop William O. Brady, who asked the Conventual Franciscan Friars (OFM Conv.) to organize a new parish on 16 acres of land owned by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The Franciscan Friars have a deep affection for the parish of Saint Bonaventure! The Friars have provided leadership and ministry as they have been staffing the roles of pastor and associate pastor for many decades. Saint Bonaventure is also a Conventual Franciscan Community and we have been blessed to have many Friars-in-Residence call the Saint Bonaventure Friary home.





Liturgy & Sacraments



Liturgy & Sacraments

Mass and Services

First Sunday Mass- February 8, 1959

Mass was celebrated by 1200 parishioners at Cedarcrest Elementary.

First Funeral – June 1, 1959

Sunday Liturgies Moved to Valley View Elementary School – June 1959

First Mass Celebrated on Our Church Property – June 19, 1960

First Mass and Solemn Blessing of the Church – September 10, 1967

Saturday Evening Anticipatory Mass Added to Schedule – November 1969

First 4:30 p.m. Children’s Christmas Eve Liturgy – December 24, 1975

First Deacon assigned to Saint Bonaventure – May 1976

He had charge of the Baptismal program, served as Wedding Director, and participated in liturgies as a Deacon.

Liturgy of the Word for Children – April 1993

Divine Mercy Sunday Program Began – April 15, 2007

Mass on the Grass—June 7, 2020



Serving at Mass

Choir Debuts – March 22, 1961

Celebrating the Solemn Blessing of the Social Hall and School.

First Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) Installed – May 31, 1970

Lector Training – 1976

Liturgy Committee Formed – 1982

Greetership – 1997



Sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism – February 15, 1959 *Our first Baptisms took place on our second Sunday!*

Baptismal Font Moved – June 1970

From Baptistry in Back of Church to Front Near Altar

Baptisms Incorporated into Regular Mass Schedule – April 29, 1972

Confirmation – March 22, 1961

First Holy Communion – June 25, 1960

Profession of Faith (Converting to Catholicism) – August 15, 1959



Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation – December 23, 1959

In the Chapel of new office wing—also the first time the building was used.

All Confessions Heard in Church – August 1963



Sacraments of Vocation

Wedding – October 10, 1959

Took place in the friary!

Ordination – August 24, 1974

First Son of Parish Ordained to Priesthood (Fr. Richard Kaley) – April 19, 1975



Parish Life



Parish Life

Community Leadership & Life

Men's Club – February 19, 1959 and Women's Club – March 12, 1959
First Advisory Board Elected – October 1967
Social Action and Finance Committees Formed – October 1968
Social Activities Committee – 1969
Buildings and Grounds Committee – July 1973
Craft Group Began Meeting on Tuesday Mornings – 1981
Saint Bonaventure Scholarship – 2004
MinisTREE during Lent – 2005
Musical Theatre – September 2007
Women in the New Evangelization (WINE) – 2015
Parish Vision Team – 2017
Vanguard – March 5, 2018

Faith Formation

Religious Education Classes – Fall 1959
Youth Group (Kolbe Club) – September 25, 1960
Third Order of St. Francis (Secular Franciscans) – 1962
Adult Discussion Meetings Sunday Evenings in Member's Homes – 1974
Parish Mission Task Force forms and offers Alpha Course – January 2002
Parish Library – 2005

Care & Support

Bereavement Committee Began Serving Funeral Luncheons – May 1962
First St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting – November 18, 1963
First Coffee Sunday – January 21, 1968
Prayer Line – 1976
Ministry at Martin Luther Manor – June 1978
Ministry to Homebound and Hospital Patients – October 1980
First Loaves and Fishes Meal Served – October 18, 1982
Marian Prayer Group – May 1987
Meetings for Unemployed – January 1991 (*St. Thomas More Guild–2003*)
Adoration at Saint Bonaventure Began – October 2, 1997
Respect Life Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser – 2002
Parish Nurse Ministry – June 2002
San Damiano Vocations Cross Prayer Program – 2002
Cans Across the World – 2004
Bus purchased – June 30, 2013 (*Current Bus – October 3, 2018*)
Martha's Helpers – 2014
Weekend Prayer Ministry – February 15, 2015

Events

Community Action Committee's first Rummage Sale held with proceeds going toward a Senior Citizens Christmas Party in December – May 1960





Construction for a Growing Church



Events (cont.)

- First Fall Festival – September 19, 1970
- First Fall Festival Raffle (Grand Prize was a Used Car) – September 1971
- Car Show at Fall Festival – 1995
- Christmas Boutique and Bake Sales – December 1-2, 1979
- First Ash Wednesday Soup Supper – February 24, 1982
- First Fish Dinner – March 6, 1992
- Feast of Saint Bonaventure Picnic – July 15, 2009



Construction for a Growing Church

Friary & Office

- Chapel, Office, and Administrative Wing Added onto Friary – October 12, 1959
- Addition to Friary for Residents and Visitors – August 1963
- Remodeling of Parish Offices – 1971
- Garage/Storage Building Construction Plans Accepted – September 1983
- New Telephone System – 1996
- Telephone and Computer Systems Connecting Parish Buildings – 2005
- Church Website – 2003 (*Current Website Launched February 2020*)
- Cherub Memorial Garden - July 15, 2009



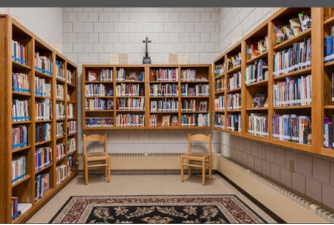
Activities Building

- Groundbreaking for the Social Hall – November 23, 1959
- Eight Classrooms Added to South End of Social Hall – July 5, 1960
- Storage Area Added to Social Hall – August 1963
- Saint Bonaventure Education Offices Moved to Activities Building – May 1978
- Social Hall Dedicated as Ambrose Hall – May 29, 1999



Church

- Groundbreaking for the New Church – July 14, 1966
- Eve of Feast of St. Bonaventure*
- Brick Wall Behind Altar Removed – October 1974
- Revealing "Canticle of the Sun" Stained Glass Window*
- Remodel Choir Loft and New Sound System – July 1984
- Marian Shrine Dedicated – May 4, 1988
- Major Church Renovation – September 1990
- Driveway, Gathering Area, Air Conditioning!*
- Choir Loft Renovation – January 1999
- Corpus Donated – October 1999
- Our Lady of the Angels Adoration Chapel Dedicated – November 26, 2000
- Respect Life Monument Dedicated – October 5, 2003
- Holy Family Sculpture Dedicated – 2007
- Dedication of Church Bells - October 2008
- Dedication of New Gathering Space and Youth Room – March 9, 2014
- Church Pews Refinished with Cushions Added to the Seats – November 3, 2017
- "Where Eagles Fly" Stained Glass in Hospitality Area Dedicated – April 14, 2019



Franciscan Flavor



Franciscan Flavor

Many Friars have called the Saint Bonaventure Friary home. These men have been our pastors, brothers, counselors, teachers, and friends. Each of them sharing their light, nurturing us as individuals, and cultivating our church family. We are grateful and celebrate all they have been for us and brought to us!

"I remember that the Archbishop said to **Father Ambrose**, 'Here's your land, now you build your church.' So it was up to him to do it from there on."

– Virginia Scattarelli (Scottie) (2008 Founder/Pioneer Discussion)

"**Father Ernie** was responsible for starting the Fall Festival. He said it didn't make any difference if the Fall Festival made any money. It was to build community. And that's what it did: it built community and continues to build community in our parish." – Angie Singer (Celebrating 50 Years in God's Service)

"YOU ARE THE CHURCH. You are the Body of Christ it is only through you that others will see the beauty of God and His love for all peoples. With one another I urge an openness—a willingness to share—listen."

– **Father Quintin** (February 8, 1976)

"A priest's purpose, I believe, is to try his best to assist God's people (and himself) to become one, to love one another, to care for one another, to care for one another, to trust one another. This too is the purpose of the parish. Anything else that is going on for a different reason or motive is junk—because Jesus said so. Together we have struggled to realize our own beauty and the beauty of others. And we have made progress. I pray that all of us, even though apart, will continue to make progress in this, the only direction that really matters."

– **Father Howard** (August 8, 1982)

"I am here to serve your spiritual needs first of all, I see myself as a unifier to help the parish community run as smoothly as possible."

– **Father Ed** (Celebrating 50 Years in God's Service)

"It is good people like you at Saint Bonaventure who make moving so hard on us Franciscans." – **Brother Hugo** (Celebrating 50 Years in God's Service)

"When Fr. Ambrose Finnegan first set foot on the property I'm sure that he and all the members of this new family wondered what God had in store for them. I'm sure they all had varied hopes and dreams. What they might have lacked in financial resources to make those dreams happen they made up for by working together. And our new family prospered and grew in the grace and love of God."

– **Father Regis** (1994 Directory)

"We are responsible for our brothers and sisters in this parish family. We are to discover the gift of each person who comes to our church. We cannot ignore one another or keep to ourselves. We have to reach out a hand of welcome to everyone." – **Father Bernie** (1998 Membership Directory)



“**Father Urban** has said, “I just love being a priest. I can be so tired, but when I begin to say Mass, I feel so invigorated and alive.” He was a man of peace, filled with faith and dedicated to the Franciscan way of life. He loved God and all people. He was always ready to provide the Sacraments to all who came to him and was a very wise counselor and friend.” (2004 Church Directory)

“The outside face of our church has changed, and so has the inside space. There is more of both. This is the result of the vision and sacrifice of the members of the parish, building on the past and moving into the future.” – **Father Richard** (2015 Family Directory)

“Saint Bonaventure Catholic Community is a place where the Christian Faithful palpably make manifest the presence of Christ. We are a community who takes great care of our worship, our fellowship, and our grounds! Our parish community is alive and is a sure sign of the Kingdom of God because we gather to love God, love others and make disciples.” – **Friar Bryan** (2019 Annual Report)

We are grateful!

From the beginning, when the Conventual Franciscans were asked to found the parish, many friars have been a part of our community.

Pastors of Saint Bonaventure Parish:

† Father Ambrose Finnegan	† Father Howard Hansen	Father Bernie Zajdel
† Father Ernest Waechter	† Father Edmund Goldbach	Father Richard Kaley
† Father Quintin Helline	† Father Regis Schlagheck	Friar Bryan Hajovsky

Friars Serving Saint Bonaventure:

Father Paul Brown	† Father Urban Wagner	Brother Randy Kin
† Father Warren Welsh	† Brother John Maurer	Father Dennis Thompson
† Father Simeon Yates	† Father Brendan Rosendall	Father Joe West
† Father Francis Anthony Lonsway	Brother Tony Good	Father Steve McMichael
Father Jeremy Hughes	† Father Ronald Bohl	Father Tom Merrill
Father Barry Schade	Father Ted Bertagni	Father Bob St. Martin
Father Xavier Goulet	† Father Timothy Byrnes	Brother Bob Roddy
Father Fred Pasche	† Brother Hugo Lamm	Father Phil Ley
† Brother Don Hart	Brother Dennis McGill	Father Charles McCarthy
† Father Vincent Gottbrath	† Brother John Pearson	† Brother Jeffrey Hines
Father Adam Bunnell	† Father Kenneth Gering	Father Camillus Gott
Brother Thomas Zelnik	† Father Fabian Keenan	Father Matthew Malek
† Brother Raymond Ramos	Father Terry Rassmussen	

Founder—Pioneer Reflections (Celebrating 50 Years in God’s Service)

Our parish Founders and Pioneers gathered to share their personal stories as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations for Saint Bonaventure Catholic Community. “This history tells us who we have been, who we are today, and who we can become as a people in Christ.”

“When Father Quintin first came, people might remember him saying, “You people are the church. We aren’t getting enough priests, enough vocations, and you people have to take on more of the load.” – Phyllis Genest

“(Our parish) is very fortunate that we have people here at Saint Bonaventure who volunteer a lot of their time and do a lot of things... for instance for funerals or to take meals to other churches and help set up everything. We are very fortunate with the people we have in this parish, and I hope for years to come. A lot of us are getting older and will be gone. I hope those who follow us will remember that those before did a lot, and hopefully they will do things to follow in our path.” – Hal Blom

“Our Franciscans have allowed us to do things, to be volunteers, to be leaders, to be able to do things with this parish, for this parish. Not every church allows that, but we’ve been blessed in what we’ve been allowed to do.” – Angie Singer



Rebuild My Church

St. Bonaventure tells us, in *The Life of Saint Francis of Assisi*, while praying before the San Damiano cross, Francis heard Jesus call to him: "Go repair my Church, which, as you see, is falling completely into ruin."

At first, Francis took this literally, and with his own hands, began to repair the material church where the San Damiano Cross was and then went on to physically rebuild two more church buildings.

After hearing the gospel message where Christ commissioned His disciples, "*Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts.*" (Matthew 10:9) Francis understood God meant building community, serving people to build up *The Church*, the people of God.

And so, Francis and the early friars would go out and rebuild communities that were in disarray.

We know *The Church* is more than a building and the people of God make up the Body of Christ on earth. Similar to the call of Saint Francis, we, the Catholic faithful, are called by Jesus Christ to share in this mission

to "Rebuild My Church." All of us. Not just the clergy. Not just the leaders, the prayerful, or even the devout. Every one of us has a role. As a family in faith, we must respond to God's call as a family, recognizing each of us has gifts to share. Together we make up the Body of Christ.



*"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."*

Saint Francis of Assisi

As We Move Forward

Saint Bonaventure is a vibrant community, and that is because of YOU. We know the future of our parish is bigger than our physical buildings. Our mission to **Love God—Love Others—Make Disciples** is animated by all the individuals generously giving their time and talents for many years. We are thankful for this strong foundation of working together in love and service as we move forward to our future filled with hope.

God of love and life, We praise and give glory for Your divine providence.

*We thank You for calling us together to this community,
for the beauty of Your Creation, and the gift of these grounds.*

*We thank you for the gifts of the Conventual Franciscan Friars
who have faithfully served the Church of Saint Bonaventure.*

*We are grateful for all we have done together in your name.
Help us let Your light shine and make us channels of Your peace.
Let us go forth in love and service. Amen!*

St. Francis, Pray for Us! St. Bonaventure, Pray for Us!



Please note we curated these highlights, dates, and quotes from many parish publications and documents, including Celebrating 50 Years in God's Service, Parish Directories, Handbooks, Newsletters, and Bulletins. We recognize our community today is a product of our experiences and rich history at Saint Bonaventure. Our intention for this project is to snapshot our parish relative to our ministries and activities today—not a comprehensive historical record.