

History of St. Anne Parish

The 1950's and 60's was a period of prosperity and optimism in the City of Regina.

With the war and the depression years behind them, the citizens of this city experienced a period of rapid growth and with that prosperity came a building boom. An oil pipeline was constructed, linking the city with the newly discovered oil fields in Alberta and the refineries of Eastern Canada. In 1954, CKCK became the first licensed television station in western Canada. In 1956, the Museum of Natural History opened. It later became the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Regina also got a new post office and a new geriatric centre, which later became Wascana Hospital and later still the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre.

By the early 1960s this area was growing at a rate of 4,500 new residents per year according to the City of Regina Archives. Churches, schools and shopping centres were popping up across the landscape to serve the needs of these new residents. Only later would we look back and describe the period for what it was: a genuine post-war boom.

Against this backdrop, a group of residents in the Hillsdale neighborhood took a leap of faith. St. Anne's Parish was formed in July of 1962. St. Anne is the mother of Mary. Her Feast Day is July 26th.

The first pastor of St. Anne's was the Right Reverend P.S. Kinlin. At its founding, there were 180 families in the parish. The first building to be finished and opened was the parish hall. In the early years, it served as the Chapel and the Parish Centre.

One year later, Parish Council began planning for the construction of a church. In August of 1964, Reverend J. Floyd became Pastor. The following year, Father Floyd and his building committee paid a visit to Winnipeg. The purpose: engaging the services of a young architect in that city—Etienne Gaboury.

The choice of Gaboury was a bold and inspired one. His work is now known around the world. He is renowned for giving special consideration to the needs of the people who will occupy his buildings. You didn't visit Mr. Gaboury if you wanted a plain, ordinary church building.

Work on St. Anne's church can be said to have started in March of 1966. That's when the construction tender was awarded to F. W. Sawatsky Limited. Their bid was \$294,000, ironically almost the same dollar amount as the contract awarded in 2002 for renovation and rehabilitation of the towers.

On April 12th, 1966, Archbishop M.C. O'Neill turned the first sod at the site. On November 12th, 1967, the new altar was consecrated by the Right Reverend F. Gerein. Within two years most of the landscaping was completed. In 1972, the first roof repairs were done. By 1980 the final payments on the mortgage were made.

St. Anne's stands as the physical embodiment of the spiritual ideals and faith in the future of the 180 original families.

Through the years, St. Anne's has been and continues to be a vibrant part of Regina. The community of the faithful has cared for its members while reaching out to the larger community in service and friendship. That legacy of faith and service continues and grows.