



HISTORY OF ST. ANDREW APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first meeting of Catholics in Saline took place at the home of current parishioner Mrs. Anne Prout on September 20, 1950. From that gathering of interested people emerged the decision to have regular Catholic instruction for children in Saline under the auspices of St. Francis parish, Ann Arbor and its pastor, Fr. Leon Kennedy. By November of 1951, Catholic religious services were taking place at the former Valentine Rural School on the north side of Michigan Avenue just west of South State Road. By April of 1952 the congregation had applied for a building permit to construct "a small Catholic Church on a five acre plot of land to be located on Macon Road directly opposite the cemetery." Designated "St. Andrew Catholic Mission Church," it was dedicated on Sunday, September 13, 1953. (We moved to our present site on Austin drive in 1970).

In June of 1954, St. Andrew ceased to be under the jurisdiction of St. Francis, Ann Arbor and came under the jurisdiction of St. Dominic, Clinton, where Fr. Lewis Ellis was the newly named pastor. Fr. Edward Kalinowski succeeded him shortly thereafter. Fr. Joseph Noelke, in turn, succeeded Fr. Kalinowski in August 1966. By April of 1967, St. Andrew had grown so rapidly that Fr. Noelke requested that the Archbishop of Detroit (Washtenaw County was a part of the Archdiocese at that time) make St. Andrew the parish and St. Dominic the mission. In December 1968, Archbishop John F. Dearden elevated that status of St. Andrew from that of a mission to that of an independent parish. Fr. Noelke served as pastor until 1989 when Fr. Roger Prokop was appointed pastor. He served until 1993. In 1993, Fr. Jim McDougall was appointed pastor and served until June 1997. Fr. William Stevenson was appointed pastor in 1997 and began his service as our "tent priest" in the midst of a major building project.

In the previous ten years, St. Andrew had grown very rapidly and it had outgrown its buildings. Thus, in 1994, a Building committee began planning for expanded facilities. In the summer of 1996, after a successful fund drive, construction of new facilities began. This included our new worship space seating 700 (and capable of expanding to 900), renovation of the old facility to a hall and class/meeting rooms, renovation of the old rectory to offices, youth facilities and meeting areas, and construction of a new residence for priests. The new church was dedicated on November 23, 1997.

In 2011, the building of the Faith Formation Center which houses the offices, meeting rooms and class rooms for the parish was completed. The Columbarium and Memorial Garden was also built to provide a sacred place on Church Property for the permanent repose of our departed loved one's cremated remains.

In July, 2013, Fr. William Stevenson retired to Senior Priest Status and Fr. Francis Mossholder was named as our current pastor.