



## Looking Back at the History of St. Patrick Catholic Church

In an article in the March 18, 1984, issue of the *Eagle Standard*, published in Fallon from 1980-1985, St. Patrick Catholic Church located at 850 West 4th St. in the “Oasis of Nevada,” was officially dedicated on September 22, 1964.\* Bishop Robert J. Dwyer of Reno offered a Pontifical Mass in commemoration of the event with Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as speaker. Monsignor John Ryan was the church’s pastor at the time.

Because over 50 years have passed since that dedication, let us take a nostalgic look at the history of the Catholic community within the City of Fallon and Churchill County. Resources have included the *Eagle Standard* article and various other historical documents. Thanks to parishioner Jackie Ugalde for her help.

The history of St. Patrick Catholic Church dates back to 1881 when a priest from the parish of St. Mary of the Mountains in Virginia City would occasionally come to Ragtown, situated about eight miles west of Fallon.

From 1904 to 1905, if a priest was available, he would celebrate Mass in the homes of area residents.

Beginning in 1905 Father Thomas Horgan from Immaculate Conception Church in Sparks would travel monthly by train to Hazen and then by stage from there to Fallon in order to say Mass. Services were first held in the court room of the Churchill County Courthouse and then in the old Town Hall just north of the Fraternal Hall on Maine Street. The old Town Hall was eventually destroyed by fire. The Veterans Hall—located at that time where the *Eagle Standard* printing office operated in the mid to late 1900s—was subsequently used as a chapel where Mass

could be celebrated. This locale then changed to the old high school which was housed in structures on E. Stillwater (that is, the Cottage Schools). When the school board decided the district could no longer extend this courtesy, Mass was once again offered in the homes of local Catholics including the



The large bell pictured above and permanently displayed near the front of St. Patrick Church, once rang in the steeple of the church at its former site at the corner of E. Richards and East streets. The 1,400 pound bell had been the gift of Edward Dietz.

McNally family whose abode was most frequently used for this purpose. People would often drive teams of horses on poor roads and over long distances to attend Mass.

The determination at last was made to turn the consecutive temporary arrangements into a permanent one and build a church. Catholics within the community were primarily homesteaders who were accustomed to hardships; they understood that building a church would require great sacrifices.

A group of Catholics organized and held its first meeting in the home of L.

A. Covell. Catholic families in Fallon and its vicinity—about 20 in number—agreed to pay \$1 per month toward a building fund and to promote enterprises helping to raise dollars for the project.

In addition to the monthly pledges, contributions came from other sources such as the Catholic Extension Society (\$500) and Catholics in Springfield, Illinois (\$105). When a total of \$2,075 had been collected, the church was built on two lots at the corner of E. Richards and East streets in Fallon and under the contracting services of Wilson, Hammond and Robinson. The land was donated by Dan Griffin who owned much real estate in the area.

Many of the furnishings for the new church were provided through the generosity of numerous friends:

The altar—had been at the convent in Virginia City and was sent by St. Mary’s Hospital in Reno

Stations of the Cross—came from Immaculate Conception Church in Sparks

Carpet—donated by Father Horgan  
Organ—donated by Mrs. W. C. Grimes

Pews—purchased with the donation of \$200 from George Wingfield

First vestments—sent by a Kansas City bishop

On June 9, 1913 St. Patrick Catholic Church at the corner of E. Richards and East streets in Fallon was officially dedicated by Bishop Grace. It was designated a mission church connected with Immaculate Conception Church in Sparks and served by Father Horgan who celebrated Mass once a month.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

\* The newspaper was titled *Fallon Eagle Standard* from 1961-1980.

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**Upcoming Events of Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick Church are conducting a blood drive on Sat., Feb. 27, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Rose Room. To make an appointment or for more information contact Pat Laca at 423-2436. Walk-ins, however, are also welcome.



On Sat., March 12, the Knights will host its annual Corned Beef Dinner, including cabbage, potatoes, carrots, ice cream and cookies, in the parish hall. Cocktails: 6 p.m. Dinner: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$12 per person, available from any Knight or at door. For more information contact Pat Laca at 423-2436.

**Afternoon of Family Bingo Returns Sun., Feb. 28**

**HOT BALL WINNER**—Mary, who regularly attends St. Pat's bingo on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, recently received \$189 in cash as a "hot ball" winner. Tickets for the contest are sold before the games begin, and the collected cash accumulates from one bingo night to the next if no one wins. Congratulations, Mary!

*Family Bingo* will again take place in the parish hall of St. Patrick Church on Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. Parishioners and their guests are invited to bring to this special event their children who can also play to win non-monetary prizes.

Admission is only \$10, while the bingo cards themselves are free. The doors will open at 1 p.m. Refreshments such as hot dogs and pizza may be purchased. Free popcorn, chips and coffee will be available. Daubers will

also be on sale.

The first *Family Bingo* was held in October of last year. Regular bingo nights, at which no one under 21 years of age can play, occur on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of fun and friendship at St. Pat's parish hall!

**Parish Directory Photos To Be Taken April 1 & April 2**

For those parishioners who have not yet had their photos taken for the 2016 parish directory, you may still make appointments to do.

The photographers from *Lifetouch* will return to the parish hall of St. Patrick Church on Fri., April 1, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and also Sat., April 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., to take your pictures. **This will be your final opportunity to be included in the 2016 parish directory.**

As a result of your participation you will receive one (1) free 8x10 unframed photo and a free copy of the parish directory itself. You may purchase additional photos of varying sizes on the day of the shoot for a discounted price.

Individuals, couples or families can sign up on the sheets which may be found in the Rose Room after the weekend Masses or by calling the parish office at 423-2846.

If you cannot attend either the April 1 or April 2 sessions, you may also submit a high quality 5x7 or smaller color photo from your own collection or a digital color photo at 250 dpi and 2.5 inch width. It should be a head-and-shoulder vertical view to match the ones taken by the *Lifetouch* photographers. Cost is \$10.

**LENT SERVICES****STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

6 p.m.—Fridays—Feb. 12, 19 & 26, March 4, 11 & 18—Followed by soup supper in the parish hall (Note: Feb. 19 in Rose Room)

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**

6 p.m.—Wed.—March 2

**PALM SUNDAY—March 20**

Masses at regular times

**HOLY THURSDAY—March 24**

6:30 p.m.—Mass of the Lord's Supper—Followed by procession of Blessed Sacrament to Altar of Repose—Church open until 9 p.m. for private prayer—Confessions until 9 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY—March 25**

2:30 p.m.—Outdoor Stations of the Cross (weather permitting)

3 p.m.—Good Friday Service

6 p.m.—Outdoor Stations of the Cross (weather permitting)

**EASTER VIGIL—March 26—7 p.m.****EASTER SUNDAY—March 27**

Masses at regular times