

St. Mary Parish

Mass was celebrated in Anacortes for the first time in 1890 by a missionary priest, in a private home. In 1896, Father Peter Leroux, with a Mr. Davis, built a small church on 7th Street where Mass was offered once a month until 1910. During this period, Anacortes was a mission station served alternately by Sedro Woolley and LaConner.

In 1910, St. Mary's was formally established as a parish by Bishop Edward O'Dea. Father Gustave Treunet was appointed resident pastor, a position he held until his death, forty years later.

Under the guidance of Father Treunet, the parish community grew steadily, necessitating building a new church on 7th Street in 1929.

In the 1970s, more space was needed to accommodate a growing congregation. Renovation and extension of the existing church would have cost more than a new building. Also, there was no way to increase parking. So, in 1979, the decision was made to move to the present site on St. Mary's Drive. Under the leadership of Father Kenneth Ogradowski, the people of St. Mary's built our new church and rectory next to the Parish Center, which had been erected ten years earlier by Father Paul Auer.

Pastor Father Gerry Clenaghan, OMI

Resume: Born in Ireland, 1922. Entered Seminary of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, 1940. Ordained, June 29, 1947. Assigned to British Columbia, Canada, October 1947.

Appointed pastor in Burns Lake, B.C., in 1960 and in Prince George, B.C., in 1970. Nineteen years as Directory of "Frontier Apostolate", the lay volunteer program of the Diocese of Prince George. Involved in Marriage Encounter, Parish Renewal, Cursillo and the preaching of Parish Missions, Knights of Columbus, Rotary.

Pastoral work in Yakutat, Alaska, 1975-77; Burns Lake, B.C., 1977-80; San Fernando, CA, 1980-82, and in the Archdiocese of Seattle since 1982. Arrived in Anacortes as co-pastor, August 15, 1985. Six years appointment as pastor effective July 1, 1987.