

Historic Parishes: Celebrating Over **150** Years of Faith and Community

The Diocese of Gaylord is blessed with many parishes that have long been nurturing the sacramental life of their communities—some for well over 150 years. To delve into the rich history of these parishes and the devoted people they have served over the years, consider visiting them this year.



1. Holy Cross, Cross Village, est. 1696

The Catholic Church in Cross Village was founded in 1696, for Native Americans. In 1918, during a fierce windstorm in Cross Village, a fire broke out destroying most of the town. A student asked Sister Redempta to nail an image of Our Lady of Victory to the school's wall, and miraculously the fire turned and spared both Holy Cross Church and the school.

2. St. Mary, Burt Lake, est. 1831

St. Mary at Burt Lake was known as the Indian Church. The current St. Mary Church, dedicated in 1910, is located not far from the original St. Mary Church that was built under the direction of then-Father Baraga in the 1800s.

3. St. Ignatius, Good Hart, est. 1833

St. Ignatius was founded by then-Father Baraga to minister to Native Americans. The wooden church had three fires and was rebuilt each time. The present church was built in 1889.



4. Holy Childhood of Jesus, Harbor Spring, est. 1829

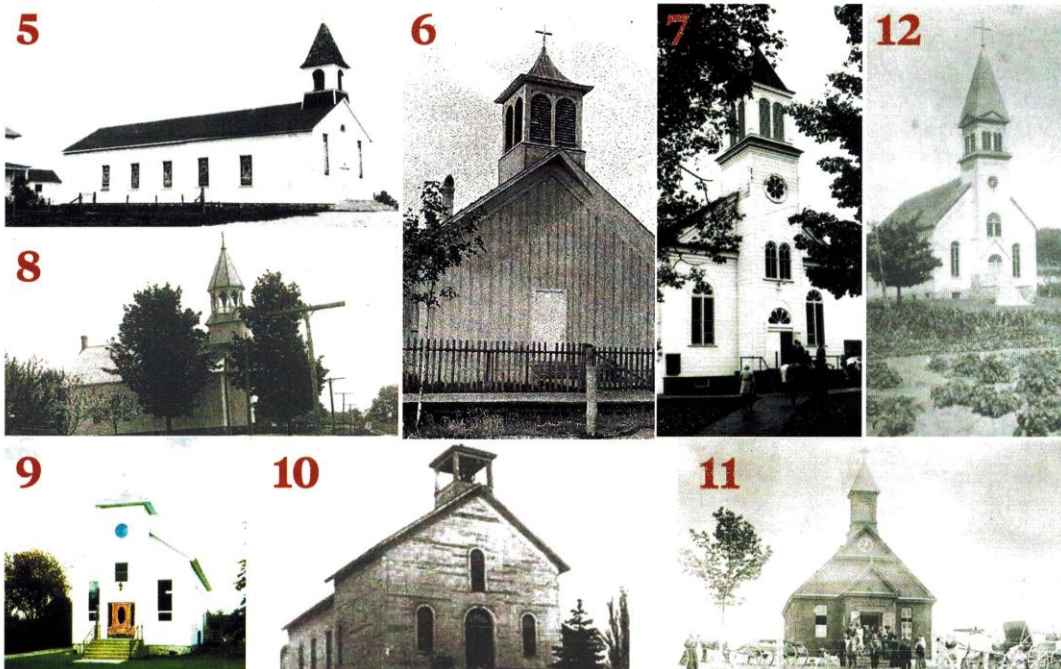
Some of the Middle Village Ottawa aligned with the "black robes." When tensions became so great, those that supported the Catholic mission moved with the Franciscans to Harbor Springs in 1829 and built St. Peter, later renamed Holy Childhood of Jesus.

5. Holy Cross, Beaver Island, est. 1860

Bishop Baraga established the permanent parish on the Island and assigned the first resident pastor. In 1860 the Reverend Patrick Murray received this assignment. With much zeal and great labor, he built the first portion of the church. The building had apparently been started by one of the missionaries, Father Seraphim Zorn, who was a companion to Bishop Baraga.

6. St. Francis of Assisi, Traverse City, est. 1870

The parish began in a small 24 x 30-foot frame building in which Mass was first celebrated in December of 1870 by Father Philip Zorn. Father Zorn ministered to 21 different missions in Northern Michigan.



7. St. Mary of the Assumption, Lake Leelanau, est. 1864

In 1864, while the first log church was under construction, Margaret Schaub traveled to Buffalo, NY, by lake steamer to buy liturgical supplies, including a statue of the Blessed Virgin. During the return voyage, a fierce storm struck, and passengers and crew prayed before the statue. Margaret vowed that if they survived, the new church would be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin under the title of the Assumption.

8. St. Joseph, Mapleton, est. 1864

The parish originally served Native Americans and early cherry farmers in northern Michigan. It hosted the first Spanish Masses to support the migrant workforce essential to the cherry harvest. It began the "Blessing of the Blossoms," which inspired the National Cherry Festival and maintains its agricultural roots, with vineyards managed by parishioners to produce sacramental wine.

9. St. Gertrude, Northport, est. 1865

Mass was celebrated in the log house, the home of Charles Verrau, by Father Ignatius Mrak in 1865. Mass continued to be celebrated in the Verrau home until 1882 and later in the home of Sam Gagnon. In 1903, the first Mass was offered in the new church.

10. St. Anne, Harrisville, est. 1868

Under Father Patrick Bernard Murray, a site was chosen for the 24x40-foot church. With the rapid development of the lumber industry and the influx of French, Irish and Scottish, the church was later enlarged many times.

11. St. Philip Neri, Empire, est. 1872

Philip J. Sullivan, who arrived in Glen Haven by boat, came to Empire and homesteaded the site of the former church. He donated the land where the old church stood and the cemetery property. He was buried there in 1892.

12. St. Michael the Archangel, Suttons Bay, est. 1873

Father Andrew Herbstritt established the parish which later became home to a school and convent in 1899. The original church was destroyed on Oct. 30, 1904, by a fire. In 1905, the parish was rebuilt and finally received its own resident pastor, Father John D. Engemann.