

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH HISTORICAL FACTS

DID YOU KNOW...?

- On December 1, 1957 Amherstview became a mission and the first Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Provincial House.
- Sunday Masses continued to be held in the chapel at St. Joseph Provincial House for the people of the Amherstview area until 1980.
- On December 8, 1957 Archbishop O'Sullivan blessed and formally opened "Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School", with two classrooms and an enrolment of 59 students, built by Frank Morris.
- Amherstview became a parish in September 1968 and was named "Blessed Sacrament Parish", with St. Linus parish as a mission.
- By 1974, Blessed Sacrament Parish was the largest single-priest pastorate in the Archdiocese.
- In May 1979 it was clear that a church had to be built, and a Building Committee was formed, chaired by John Murphy.
- Architects Polson, Thompson, Laframboise & Mallett were hired to develop plans for the new church [see sketch on right].
- Kehoe Construction Ltd. was awarded the contract to build the new church for \$500,000 on January 21, 1980.
- In February 1980 the sod was turned, and parish volunteers canvassed homes in the Amherstview area to raise funds to build the church.
- Building began and continued through the year, then on December 8, 1980 Blessed Sacrament Church was dedicated by Archbishop Wilhelm.
- In the spring of 1982, Kingston artist Fred Schoenberger painted a 28 ft. x 20 ft. mural over the altar, depicting the Crucifixion and Resurrection.
- The bell was installed in 1983.
- Fred Schoenberger was again called upon in 1984 to design and paint coloured windows that would replace the plain glass that existed. Each of the coloured windows depicts a theme from the Bible, centering on Adam and Eve, Moses, Abraham and David.
- In 1985 the first Parish Directory was published.
- On February 1, 1990 a Hiro Lift was installed to make the hall wheelchair-accessible.
- On March 11, 1992 the final mortgage payment was made on the church and the Parish celebrated with a mortgage-burning ceremony on June 14, 1992.



- On October 3, 1993 the Parish celebrated its Silver Jubilee, with Archbishop F.J. Spence presiding.
- In 1995 the Blessed Sacrament Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League Amherstview chapters were founded.
- Renovations in 1996 included a steel roof.
- Renovations in 1998 included redecoration of the church, new flooring, a redesign of the sanctuary and kitchen renovations in the church hall.
- In 2000, as part of the Centennial Year activities, the second Parish Directory was published.
- In 2001 a World Youth Day committee was formed and two young people from the parish represented Blessed Sacrament at World Youth Day.
- A wheelchair ramp was installed outside the building on September 23, 2002.
- Air conditioning was installed in July 2006.
- Blessed Sacrament Parish web site was launched December 31, 2006.
- In May 2007 the Blessed Sacrament Knights of Columbus assumed the task of coordinating the annual Food Blitz for Amherstview, Odessa and Bath.
- In February 2008 the CWL introduced the "Adopt-a-Soldier" campaign (changed to "Project Homeland" in 2009) to provide items to local military personnel stationed overseas.
- The first annual Bible Summer School was organized in July 2008.
- On September 22, 2008 the parish celebrated its 40th anniversary as a Parish.
- In September 2008 a new refrigerator was purchased for the hall kitchen.
- In October 2008 the "Pennies for Pesos" campaign was launched in aid of the San José de Ocoa Mission in the Dominican Republic; this very successful campaign was adopted by schools and other councils in the region.
- In 2009 the church sound system was updated and enhanced.
- On June 27, 2009 the parish celebrated Rev. Michael Reed's 60th birthday with a pot luck dinner and entertainment.
- In August 2009 a privacy fence was built around part of the residence by members of the Knights of Columbus using funds donated by Knights and CWL.
- In October 2009 a door was installed in the residence to allow entry directly into the fenced privacy area.
- In October 2009 a new furnace was installed in the church; funds were raised from parishioners, the Knights of Columbus and the CWL.
- In November 2009 a sanctuary lamp was donated from the chapel of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph.
- On November 14, 2010 the CWL celebrated its 15th anniversary with cake and a display of CWL activities over the years.
- On November 10, 2011 Rev. Michael Reed took a leave of absence and was replaced with a temporary administrator, Deacon Don DiRocco.



- On March 24, 2012 an appreciation potluck dinner was held for the sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph.
- On July 25, 2012 Rev. Stan Alanen became our 10th parish priest.
- In July 2012 Blessed Sacrament was clustered with St. Bartholomew (Amherst Island) and St. Linus (Bath).
- In August 2012 many items were obtained for the hall and kitchen from the RHSJ sale.
- Air conditioning and a new heating system were installed in the rectory in 2012.
- A new lift into the church hall was installed on August 15, 2012.
- In November 2012 a garage was built for the priest's car, constructed mainly by Knights of Columbus, under the direction of Gerry Splinter.
- In December 2012 the Blessed Sacrament website was re-launched (webmaster Shirley McDonald).
- On January 14, 2013, a half wall was installed between the music ministry and the congregation.
- Evening card parties established February 19, 2013 (3rd Tuesday of each month).
- A cabinet for holy oils was built and installed by Mike Shanks in spring 2013.
- A parish potluck was held on April 20, 2013 to welcome our clustered parishes of St. Linus, Bath and St. Bartholomew, Amherst Island.
- A cabinet for the CWL was built and installed in the hall by Gordon McDonald in May 2013.
- A bathroom was built between the vestibule and stairwell in December 2013, by members of the Knights of Columbus.
- New taps were installed in the bathrooms in the hall in 2014.
- The church hall was painted in 2014 by the Knights of Columbus.
- An automated external defibrillator (AED) was installed in June 2015.
- In 2016, the third parish directory was published.
- Two stained glass windows were repaired in September 2017.
- Leaks around windows and dormers were repaired in summer 2018.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacted on church capacity and closures between March 2020 and February 2021.
- Kitchen sinks and countertops were replaced in 2022.
- Church ceiling was repaired and church was repainted in 2022-2023.
- Bathrooms in church hall were renovated in 2023.



OUR PARISH PRIESTS...

1957 - 1968	Rev. Walter Joseph Lynett	
1968 - 1969	Rev. William Wiley	
1969 - 1972	Rev. Edwin McSherry	
1972 - 1975	Msgr. Arthur James Welsh	
1975 - 1984	Rev. Edward H. Barrett	(1981: Associate Rev. Robert Chisholm)
1984 - 1990	Msgr. Donald Patrick Clement	
1990 - 1994	Rev. Raymond Gerard Shannon	(1991 – 1997: Associate Rev. Allan Peterkin)
1994 - 2005	Rev. John Francis Grainger	
2005 - 2012	Rev. Michael Anthony Reed	
2012 – 2016	Rev. Stan Alanen	(August 1, 2013: Deacon Bill Gervais)
2016 – 2023	Rev. Tim Shea	
2023 -	Rev. Americo Santos	

...AND OUR DEACONS...

1993 - 1994	Dr. Philip Carney
1995 - 1999	John Ezard
2011 - 2012	Don DiRocco
2013 - 2022	Bill Gervais



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS JOURNEY WITH US!