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St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish (Irishtown)

Mass schedule
Coordinates

History

First established in 1820; first church around 1847; first pastor in 1946



Irishtown was first established by Irish settlers in 1820, and thus was so named. They settled between the English of the Moncton township and the Scottish of Scotch Settlement. In the beginning, these catholic families had to travel quite a distance to attend mass or other church services because the closest church was in Memramcook. Some of the earliest Irish Catholics were baptized and married there.

A small church was built probably around 1847; a tombstone bearing that date and the name of William O'Neil was found in the cemetery with that

date. We know that this church was burnt in 1849. By this time, there was a church in Saint-Anselme and the population was served from that parish. The present church in Irishtown was built in 1870 and placed under the patronage of Saint-Lawrence O'Toole, Dublin's historic bishop of the 12th century.

Saint Bernard's Parish was assigned the Irishtown mission in 1920, when Father Savage received Father Wilfred J. Mallette as an assistant. In 1923, mass was celebrated by the priests of Saint Bernard's seventeen times in Irishtown for 35 families.

After 1938, the new parish of Saint-Theresa, Dieppe, served Irishtown. The curates, Calixte Richard and Camille Léger, gave their services at least once a month. From 1941 to 1946, as curate of Saint Bernard's, Father Angus MacDonald took care of the spiritual needs of the Irishtown people.

In 1946, Msgr. Norbert Robichaud made Irishtown a separate parish, joining it with Saint-Philippe's mission that had a church since 1912, but was dependant on the parish of Grande-Digue. The parish had four schools for their children.

The first pastor was G. Anthony McDevitt who served from 1946 to 1956. As there was no existing rectory in the Saint Lawrence Parish, he enjoyed the hospitality of Father McDonald at Saint Bernard's until the large existing Irishtown sacristy was remodelled to provide living quarters. Father McDevitt was replaced by the following priests: Wilfred Lauzon (1956-1972), Peter McKee (1972-1976), Arcade LeBlanc (1976-1980), Normand Drisdelle (1980-1985), Ernest Léger (1985-1987), Fidèle LeBlanc (1989-1992), Georges LeBlanc (1992-1997), Antoine Arza Kwaw (1997-2000).

With the diocesan restructuring, the parishes of St. Augustine's, St. Michael's and St. Lawrence O'Toole were regrouped to form the Queen of All Saints pastoral unit.

The priest moderators were Fathers Allison Carroll (2000-2005), Phil Mulligan (2005-2007), Yvon Arsenault (2007-). Assistant priests were Fathers Peter McKee (2001-2003), Jean-Bernard Mallais (2005-2006),

Bernard Sloan (2007-).

With time, it has become more and more a bilingual parish. A Community Center has been built and serves the whole community. The Lions and Lionettes had a very active role in the building and the activities.

Avec les années, de plus en plus de familles de langue française se sont établies à Irishtown. Elles constituent actuellement la majorité catholique de la région.

Saint-Philippe (Weisner) était desservie depuis longtemps par la paroisse de Grande-Digue. L'église date de l'année 1912. On y retrouve environ 80 familles, surtout de langue française, de trois villages réunis soit Évangéline, Saint-Philippe et Weisner.

La mission de Saint-Philippe s'est dotée depuis quelques années d'un édifice pour les gens de l'âge d'or qui y trouvent une cause de fierté. Le sous-sol de l'église est devenu un centre d'activités et de rencontres de loisirs sous la direction d'un comité local.

(Updated excerpt taken from the Souvenir book published in 1986 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Moncton Archdiocese.)

Coordonnées

[View Larger Map](#)

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