

BECOMING THE SAINTS GOD IS CALLING US TO BE!

200 YEARS

Dearborn County Catholics



St. John
1824



St. Paul
1833



St. Joseph
1841



St. Lawrence
1842



St. Martin
1850



St. Mary
1857



St. Teresa
2000

November 16, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

2024 marks an important milestone in Dearborn County. St John the Baptist Church, one of the four campuses of All Saints Parish will celebrate its bicentennial - 200 years! Anniversaries are an important part of life and meant to be celebrated. **This anniversary is the birth of Catholicism in Dearborn County.** The first Masses and the sacraments were celebrated in Dover. St. John's is the 2nd oldest Church Community in the state, the earliest being founded in 1823 in Floyds Knobs, IN. Any Catholic inhabitant of Dearborn County had to go on pilgrimage to St. John's for any of the sacraments. **In the last 200 years, there has been growth and expansion, so much so that there are now 7 active church buildings in Dearborn County, and thousands of lives that have been touched throughout the years!**

Given the magnitude of 200 years of authentic worship, compassionate service and faithful teaching in Dearborn County, we want to celebrate the accomplishments of our ancestors and current parishioners at ALL seven of our churches. We do not see this just as a celebration of the founding of St. John's in Dover, although that is noteworthy itself; **this is the birth of Catholicism in southeastern Indiana.** 200 years ago our ancestors were literally pioneers, today we are much the same, pioneering new ways of ministry and living out our Catholic faith. God is with us and God has been so faithful!

A committee has been established to help plan events throughout next year. The committee is hard at work and the excitement is building. Many events will take place in 2024 beginning with an **inaugural Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thompson at the Lawrenceburg Event Center on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Mass will be at 10am with an RSVP lunch to follow.** Plans are also being made for a special event at each of the seven churches, celebratory feast days at all seven churches, a collective history display, a new parish directory and of course merchandise celebrating 200 years.

If you wish to get involved with the planning, you may reach out to one of the parish offices. Please look for more communication in bulletins, websites and social media.

In His service,

Fr. Jonathan Meyer and Fr. John Hollowell

Priests in Solidum