

HOLY CROSS CHURCH HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1859 *January 3.* On the feast of St. Genevieve, a small chapel was dedicated to her on Main Street, by Father Manuel Chavez.
- 1879 St. Genevieve's Church was rebuilt under guide of Father Andres Echallier, Pastor
- 1927 *May 3.* On the Feast of Finding the Holy Cross, ground was broken for a small Holy Cross School on the grounds of St. Genevieve's Church.
- September 4.* Holy Cross School opened with 3 classrooms and 3 teachers from the Sisters of Loreto Academy: Mother Edmund English, Principal, and Sisters Francis Paula and Eileen Anglin Kelly
- September 14.* On the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, Holy Cross School was dedicated by Pastor Father Henry D. Buchanan.
- 1933 The first 8th grade class graduated with 8 students
- 1944-5 With school enrollment expanded to 245 students, Pastor Reverend David J. Kirgen employed the Sisters of Divine Providence, San Antonio, Texas, to administer the school including Sister Mary Amanda, Superior, and teaching Sisters Delpine, Margaret Clare, Herman Joseph, and Mary Regis.
- 1955-6 Holy Cross School at St. Genevieve's outgrew the small school building with enrollment at over 400 students. Every day over 100 students and 3 teachers were transported to a new, but yet unused, school building at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish .
- 1960 July 9. A quit claim deed was signed for the purchase of land for a new Holy Cross School of St. Genevieve's Parish on North Miranda and Palmer Road.
- 1961 December 24. With Reverend William Ryan as pastor of St. Genevieve's', ground is broken on the site of the new school.
- 1962 September 9. Holy Cross Parochial School at 1330 N. Miranda was formally dedicated by Most Reverend Sidney M. Metzger, Bishop of El Paso, with Reverend William Ryan as pastor. The 291 children in grades 1 - 8 and 25 in kindergarten were taught by 4 Sisters of Divine Providence and 5 Lay Apostle teachers from Emmanuel College, Boston, MA, including:
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| Principal and 8th grade teacher | Sister Alma Sophie |
| 7th grade teacher | Miss Ann Agneur |
| 6th grade teacher | Miss Maureen Martin |
| 5th grade teacher | Sister Mary Agnetta |
| 4th grade teacher | Miss Eleanor Fraas |
| 3rd grade teacher | Sister Mary Louis |
| 2nd grade teacher | Miss Helen Delany |
| 1st grade teacher | Sister Mary Geronima |

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- 1966 Convent for the Sisters was built on Holy Cross School grounds.
- October. Mass was celebrated for the first time in the Holy Cross School Multipurpose Room.
- 1967 A home was purchased on Palmer Road for a priests' rectory. St Genevieve's Church office was moved to the school site along with church records.
- September 24. Last Masses were celebrated in St. Genevieve's Church at Main Street and Las Cruces Avenue.
- October 1. The first Mass was celebrated in the newly constructed St Genevieve's Chapel on East Las Cruces Avenue.
- 1968 May 13. Holy Cross School rates "Number 1 Approved" (the highest rating) of 81 non-public schools in New Mexico, Diocese of El Paso.
- 1969 May. Construction was started on the new St. Genevieve's Church on South Espina.
- December 21. The first Mass was celebrated at the new St. Genevieve's Church.
- 1970 February 22. Dedication of new St. Genevieve's Church by Bishop S. M. Metzger.
- February 22. Mass was celebrated in the Holy Cross multi-purpose room by Pastor Father William Ryan. Holy Cross was designated as its own Church and School with boundaries separate from St. Genevieve's and Our Lady of Health. The parish began with over 700 families within its boundaries and an average weekly offertory of \$895. Father Stephen Peters was appointed Associate Pastor and assisted Father Ryan in celebrating 4 Sunday morning Masses at 7:30, 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 and 2 daily Masses at 8:00 am and 5:15 pm.
- 1972 April 17. With Reverend Ralph Barranger as Pastor, results of the church census were compiled showing: 221 registered parishioners, 93 children enrolled at the school and 200 children enrolled in the CCD program.
- 1980 Under the leadership of Pastor Father Jaime Israel, the Friends of Holy Cross was formed and incorporated by the State of New Mexico to raise funds to construct a new church.
- 1981 August 23. Ground was broken for the new Holy Cross Church with Father Jon J. Finnegan as pastor.
- October. Permission was granted to sell the old rectory on Palmer Rd and construct a new one.

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- 1982 February 1. Construction begun on new rectory on Palmer Rd.
- February 28. The first Mass was celebrated in the new church by Pastor Reverend John J. Finnegan. The School Principal at this time was Sister Rita Marie Metzger.
- May 27. Holy Cross Church was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Raymundo Pena, Diocese of E Paso.
- July. The first Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Cross Church for Dorothea Vernice Frank.
- October 18. The Diocese of Las Cruces was formed with Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, SCB, DD assigned as it's first Bishop. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was consecrated as the Cathedral with Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness and St. Francis of Assisi as Patron. The Diocese included: 117,756 Catholics, 68 priests, 70 religious women, 44 parishes, 42 missions, and 7 Catholic grade schools with a total enrollment of 1,028 students. It covered an area of 44,483 square miles which included the counties of Chavez, Dona Ana, Eddy , Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero and Sierra.
- 1987 Holy Cross Parish grew to 1200 registered families with 200 school enrollment and 300 children attending CCD. The Church and School were under the direction of Reverend John E. Anderson as Pastor, Reverend Michael P. Lindsey as Associate Pastor and Sister Rita Marie Metzger as Principal.
- 1988 Fathers Anderson and Lindsey were joined in ministry of the parish by Sisters Mary Jane Hicks and Jane Kerns as pastoral ministers. Mr. Jim See became the school principal with 170 students enrolled. The parish grew to 1275 registered families and had 270 children in the CCD program.
- 1989 Father George Reynolds, O.P., replaced Father Lindsey as Associate Pastor. The remaining staff continued to see the parish grow to 1336 families and 280 children in CCD. School enrollment dropped a bit to 135.
- 1990 Leadership of the parish continued with the same dedicated individuals seeing a slight growth to 1365 parish families and 300 children in CCD. School enrollment remained stable at 135.
- 1991 May 26. Father John Anderson was honored with the title of Monsignor. Father Jon Alexander, O.P., was assigned as his Associate Pastor. Sister Hicks and Kerns continued as pastoral ministers and were joined by Sister Marie Paule as pastoral minister to Hispanics. Dr. Patricio Quintana took over the position of School Principal with 140 enrolled students. The parish grew to 1450 families and 324 CCD students. The school faculty were joined by Mrs. Marge Little and Mrs. Carol Gaines continued in the Library.

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1992

Holy Cross continued to be blessed and thrive under the shepherding of Monsignor Anderson and his dedicated staff including Father Alexander; Sisters Hicks, Kerns and Paule, and Dr, Quintana. Sister Charlotte Struckoff joined them as an additional pastoral minister. The parish grew to 1600 families and 200 students enrolled in the school with 302 children entrusted to the CCD program.

1993-
2022

Please be patient as we work on compiling the events of the Parish over the last 20 years. If you know of any significant details that we should include for this period, please email them to Greg Sanchez at greg@hcclc.org.