



Brief History of the Shrine of Our Lady of Miracles

The formation of the Catholic community in Gustine began prior to the construction of the Holy Ghost Church in 1912. Father John A Leal was pastor at the time of the dedication, serving the communities of Newman and Gustine. The Holy Ghost Parish was established in 1919, with Father Joannes Maiztequi as its first pastor.

In 1930 a new rectory was built after the original was destroyed by fire. The rectory still stands on 7th Street and is now a private home.

The longest resident of the old parish house was Monsignor John B. Forde, pastor of Holy Ghost Church from 1947-1978.

During Monsignor Forde's time, an ambitious effort was begun to raise funds for a new church. The new church was completed in 1965.

Following Monsignor Forde's death, Father John A Harguindeguy became Pastor. Under his direction, Our Lady of Miracles School reopened in 1979.

Father Joseph Pacheco came to Holy Ghost Parish as Pastor in 1981. Father, now Monsignor Pacheco, was active in the school and taught 8th grade religion until his death in 1992.

In 1987, Holy Ghost Parish was renamed Our Lady of Miracles Parish in honor of the Blessed Mother. For over 50 years, Our Lady of Miracles, the OLM Celebration and the OLM society have been key elements of the faith, finances and social fabric of the Parish.

Father Myron Cotta, now Monsignor, became pastor following Monsignor Pacheco. Under Monsignor Cotta's direction, a new parish center was built.

Fr. Leonard Trindade is currently the pastor of The Shrine of Our Lady of Miracles, the church being renamed in 2008. The parish center and school bathrooms have recently been remodeled and the church has been repainted. These important projects have been made possible by the generosity of the Our Lady of Miracles Celebration Society and the Diocesan Capital Campaign.

The OLM Celebration Society has close ties to the Parish and is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.
(1936-2011)