

Faith of our Fathers, Living Still

1849-2024

175 Years



St. Theresa Parish - Theresa, WI

St. Theresa Catholic Church Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Theresa's Parish Community, are rooted in a strong Roman Catholic tradition of faith with which God has graced us through generations of family and friends. We are here to continue God's work throughout the rural community.

Our mission is to use the many gifts of our parish members, and to live and teach the Gospel message through example, love, and service in our everyday lives.

Our Patroness St. Teresa of Avila (also known as St. Teresa of Jesus) (1515-1582)

Born in Avila, Spain, on March 28, 1515, St. Teresa was the daughter of a Toledo merchant and his second wife, who died when Teresa was 15. She was one of ten children. Shortly after this event, Teresa was entrusted to the care of the Augustinian nuns. After reading the letters of St. Jerome, Teresa resolved to enter a religious life. In 1535, she joined the Carmelite Order. She spent a number of relatively average years in the convent, punctuated by a severe illness that left her legs paralyzed for three years, but then experienced a vision of "the sorely wounded Christ" that changed her life forever.

From this point forward, Teresa moved into a period of increasingly ecstatic experiences in which she focused more on Christ's passion. With these visions as her impetus, she set herself to the reformation of her order, beginning with her attempt to master herself and her adherence to the rule. Gathering a group of supporters, Teresa endeavored to create a more primitive type of Carmelite. From 1560 until her death, Teresa struggled to establish and broaden the movement of *Discalced* or shoeless Carmelites. During the mid-1560s, she wrote the [*Way of Perfection*](#) and the *Meditations on the Canticle*. In 1567, she met [St. John of the Cross](#), who she enlisted to extend her reform into the male side of the Carmelite Order. Teresa died in 1582.

St. Teresa left to posterity many new convents, which she continued founding up to the year of her death. She also left a significant legacy of writings, which represent important benchmarks in the history of Christian mysticism. These works include the [*Way of Perfection*](#) and the [*Interior Castle*](#). She also left an autobiography, the [*Life of Teresa of Avila*](#).

(Source: from Christian Classics Ethereal Library <https://ccel.org/ccel/teresa>)

We have her most famous poem in her own handwriting:

†
nada te turbe
nada te espante
todo se pasa
dios no se muda
la paciencia
todo lo alcanza
quien a dios tiene
nada le falta
solo dios basta
teresa de Jesus



Relic of St. Teresa of Jesus/Teresa of Avila, found in the back of St. Theresa's church nave. Acquired by the parish in 1965.

*Nada te turbe,
nada te espante
todo se pasa,
Dios no se muda,
la paciencia
todo lo alcanza,
quien a Dios tiene nada le falta
solo Dios basta.
- Teresa de Jesus*

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
He who has God
Finds he lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.
- Teresa of Jesus*

St. Theresa of Theresa, Wisconsin – historical review:

In 1849, the people of the Village of Theresa decided that there was a need for the formation of a Catholic parish in their community. Bishop Martin Henni purchased three lots in the village from Solomon and Josette Juneau on April 23, 1849 for \$500.00. The deed said, “for St. James Parish,” but the first pastor, Rev. Francis Xavier Schraudenbach, who organized the parish, named it St. Theresa. The first services were held in homes of various members and also in the basement of the former Rock River Hotel. Fr. Schraudenbach’s successor, Reverend Michael Beiter, built the first church, a log frame chapel in about 1851.

Rev. Michael Beiter was born on February 22, 1824 in Munich, Bavaria (Germany) and came to the United States in 1847. He was ordained by Bishop Henni on September 28, 1847. After an appointment to St. Mary’s in Milwaukee, he arrived in St. Lawrence in 1849. He maintained the pastorate of St. Lawrence, St. Peter and Paul (Nenno), and St. Matthias (Nabob). He also built a larger framed church to replace the little log shrine that was St. Lawrence. While serving as pastor of St. Lawrence, some land was donated and some was purchased by Bishop Henni to build St. Lawrence Seminary, which never materialized. Later, this land was sold by Bishop Henni, and the Seminary was eventually built at Mount Calvary, WI.



Fr. Casper Rehr

The third pastor, Reverend Casper Rehr, who served here from November 18, 1855 to September 21, 1863, kept the first records of the church. Those records show the first baptisms were in September and October, 1855, and were for three girls, all named Theresa. The first marriage recorded was performed on November 29, 1855 between Frederick Fufs and Catherine Koll. Rev. Rehr also recorded marriages that he performed in 13 other churches.

Fr. Charles Loehr, who compiled a history of St. Theresa in 1984 (and from which a lot of this information was obtained), noted that from 1859 to 1864, there were 500 baptisms recorded. He believes those recorded baptisms were for the whole area of eastern Dodge, Washington, and Fond du Lac counties.

The first death recorded in the parish was Matthew Mayer, son of Matthew Mayer and Catherine Mersh. He died on January 28, 1855 at the age of two years and was buried two days later. Of the first eleven deaths recorded, eight of them were children.

Rev. Casper Rehr was born on December 31, 1809 in Aichen, a suburb of Salzburg, Austria. He was ordained a priest September 20, 1835. After working in the Salzburg Diocese for nine years, he became interested in missionary work in America. He worked in New Orleans with German immigrants for a short time, then came to Milwaukee on January 8, 1845. Bishop Henni sent him

out to visit immigrants, and to establish parishes wherever possible. Following the Milwaukee River, he came north along blazed roads and Native trails.

Fr. Rehr found too few settlers to establish a parish in West Bend at that time, so he traveled further north to the vicinity of Johnsbury (Fond du Lac County) and started a parish there. From Johnsbury, he went in search of Catholics as far north as Chilton, Sheboygan, and Green Bay. He founded many parishes and attended these from 1846 until his death in 1881. Some of the towns and villages where he served parishes include St. Lawrence, Hartford, Addison, Nabob, Mayville, Barton, West Bend, Fredonia, Newburg, Saukville, Jackson, and, of course, Theresa. In December of 1855, he was in charge of eight parishes. By June of the following year, he had eleven parishes, and became known as the "Apostle of Washington County." His work in Dodge County included Horicon, Mayville, and Leroy.

Marriage records kept by Rev. Rehr spanned from November 29, 1855 to September 21, 1963, and covered thirteen different churches: St. Theresa, St. Martin, St. Anthony, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Matthew, St. Lawrence, St. Bartholomew, St. Andrew, St. Bridget (Wayne) 1856-1857, St. Killian (St. Killian) 1857, St. Mary (Mayville), St. Mary (Barton) and Holy Angels (West Bend) 1858.

In a letter dated March 9, 1864, he showed his concern for the spiritual needs of children by stating, "without Catholic schools, the Catholic religion is difficult to keep in this country." He succeeded in founding an order of teaching nuns in honor of St. Agnes at Barton on August 12, 1858. The Mother House was moved from Barton to Fond du Lac in 1870.

Fr. Rehr suffered from heart trouble, which led to his death on September 3, 1881. He was first buried in St. Mary's (Immaculate Conception – West Bend) Cemetery. His body was later moved to Fond du Lac (St. Agnes Sisters Cemetery) in 1968. (West Bend Daily News, September 23, 1994)

Following Rev. Rehr at St. Theresa were Rev. A.H. Meauclere, interim pastor for two months in 1858, Rev. Nicholas Pickel in 1859-1860; Rev. August Durst from April 1865 to July 1866; and again, Rev. Pickel from 1866-1867.

Once the parish was established, the need for a Catholic school was recognized. Rev. Pickel built the first school along the Rock River, northeast of the present church. School children who lived outside of the village often stayed with relatives in the village during the weeks in winter months, returning home on weekends. Teachers also boarded with local families. Around 1877, the Franciscan Sisters of Charity staffed the school. One of the teachers, Attorney Peter Langenfeld, was born in Prussia on December 8, 1837. He came to America in 1855 and settled in Theresa in 1861. He taught at the Theresa Catholic School for fifteen years. He also served as the Justice of the Peace for 24 terms, Notary Public for four terms, and Town Clerk for 18 terms. Later he went on to become a member of the Wisconsin Legislature in 1878.

Succeeding Rev. Pickel at St. Theresa were Rev. F.X. Katzer, on August 6, 1867, who later became Archbishop of Milwaukee, and Reverend Hubert Jansen from August 18, 1867 to April 2, 1869. Bishop John Martin Henni encouraged Rev. Jansen to come to America in 1858. In 1867, the mission of St. Killian was transferred to Rev. Jansen's jurisdiction. During his pastorate in Wisconsin, he built seven churches, two schools and one parsonage. Fr. Jansen died on October 25, 1892. After him came Rev. George Strickner, July 1868 to September 4, 1872. Rev. P. Uhlmeyer served Theresa from January 7, 1873 to February 23, 1873; Rev. V. Rademacher served from November 25, 1873 to September 28, 1875; and Rev. L.G. Woelfel, October 1876 to May 26, 1878. Rev. Hermes Hellstern came in June 1878 and stayed until September 8, 1882. The present church as we know it was completed in 1880 under Rev. Hellstern.

The Rev. J.P. Van Treeck served here from December 1882 through March 21, 1885. Next came Rev. Phil J. Vogt, September 1885 to May 1889, interim Rev. Bernard Weyer, July 23, 1886, and Rev. Joseph Hubert, May 1889 to his death in 1892.

Rev. Rudolph Olig came in January 1894. While Fr. Olig was pastor of St. Theresa, he also served at St. Mary's in Mayville. In February 1895, Fr. Olig discovered a fire in the church just prior to services. Fr. Olig and men of the parish quickly extinguished the fire, caused by an overheated smoke pipe. After services, the men gathered outside the church and decided that Theresa should have a fire department. The local fire department was organized ten months later in November 1895.

The sanctuary of St. Theresa was redone as a gift from Barnabas Dieringer in September 1895. His two sons, born in Theresa, later became priests.

In February 1896, twelve stained glass windows were installed in St. Theresa Church. Several members of the congregation contributed \$45 each for the windows. More contributions from the members led to the purchase and installation of the pipe organ mentioned below. (That same organ is still in use!)



Fr. Michael Groff

From the Dodge County Pionier, August 14, 1896: "New pipe organs are being built by Bernhard Schaefer of Schleisingerville (now Slinger) for St. Theresa Church in Theresa and the Lutheran church in Hartford. Mr. Schaefer has just completed an addition to his factory." The congregation paid \$700 for the instrument.

Rev. Michael J. Groff came to St. Theresa on September 1, 1896, having just been ordained that year. Apparently, he liked it here because he stayed for the next 55 years. Fr. Groff was affectionately known as "Fr. Gruff," a name that fit the big man who spoke in a rather gruff voice. He was born in Belgium, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin on October 28, 1873. He was educated at the Seminary in St. Francis

and ordained to the priesthood in the private chapel of the Archbishop's residence by the Most Rev. F.X. Katzer on September 13, 1896.

During the great Theresa fire on May 4, 1901, the first two-story brick school burned to the ground. Seven other buildings were lost in the fires including a livery stable and the firehouse.



St. Theresa School (2nd building)

Members of the Congregation held a four-day fair beginning on September 20, 1901, and raised some money (\$1,800.00) for the new school, which was built just south and west of the Church and rectory. It had two classrooms, a hall upstairs where many parish meetings were held, and quarters for the sisters on the west wing. That school served the parish until 1960 (and was demolished in June 1974), when the present school was constructed.

The rectory was built in 1914 while Fr. Groff was pastor. The cost: \$4,795.00, coming close to a promise by Fr. Groff of a price "not to exceed \$4,000.00."

Church records show that the School Sisters of St. Francis were here from 1895 to 1974. Three nuns were assigned to St. Theresa during most of the years, with the exception of two being assigned from 1901-1902 and 1911-1912, and 4 from 1960-1961.

St. Anne's Sodality for married women was organized around 1865. The Catholic Order of Foresters was begun in 1899. It is a fraternal insurance organization (also originally considered a "secret society") serving Catholic families and parishes through charitable works and contributions. Holy Childhood was founded in 1906 and then replaced with Childhood Jesus sometime between 1910 and 1915. St. Mary's Sodality was formed in 1920 and served as an organization for single women. The Society of the Propagation of the Faith began in 1935. Also in 1935, the Holy Name Society (later known as the Men & Boys of St. Theresa in 1971) began. They encouraged them to attend weekday Mass, bring someone (back) to attend Mass, and to assist the Clergy. The Junior Forest Rangers group began around 1940.

St. Theresa used to have an annual meeting where parishioners could bid on assigned pews. By bidding, they established their "pew rent." Meetings were well attended because people wanted to be able to obtain the most favorable pews in the church – those next to or near the heating system in the winter. Pew rent was comparable to church dues as we know them.



Fr. Leo Skalitzky

Rev. Leo Skalitzky served the parish from 1951-1963. He was considered a peacemaker - low-key, happy-go-lucky, and fun-loving. He oversaw the building of the third (and present) school in 1960 for \$86,243.31. It is 61' by 120' and had 4 classrooms, store room, faculty room, toilets, and a boiler room in the basement. In July 1963, Fr. Leo got a proxy for \$1,950 to paint and repair the exterior of the church and the tower.



The Grotto honoring Mary is located behind the church, adjacent to the school's main entrance. The Robert O. Baker family gifted the Grotto in the mid-sixties. It was built to replicate the Grotto at Our Lady of Lourdes (also replicated at University of Notre Dame).

Rev. G.A. Brielmaier served St. Theresa from September 1963 to 1966. He is remembered for saying "I want you people to open up the windows and let a little fresh air in." He completed the church renovation. Fr. Brielmaier died in 1966 due to complications from a car accident.

Rev. George Lehman came in the spring of 1966 as an interim priest. He was at St. Theresa for such a short time that little is known about him, except that the school children were always excited when they could see him with his pet dogs outside.

Rev. William F. Restle served St. Theresa from July 1966 to December 1967. He was near retirement when he came to Theresa. He oversaw the installation of the new altar on April 10, 1967.



Rev. William Restle

Rev. Charles D. Loehr was pastor of St. Theresa from December 13, 1967 to March 30, 1992. His tenure brought an installation of a new sound system in 1969, a new front entrance to the church in 1970, and consolidation of the school with St. Mary's in Lomira. The school was renamed Consolidated Catholic School – Lomira Theresa (CCLT). Fr. Loehr set a new



Rev. Charles Loehr

tone for St. Theresa as the 1970s began. He understood the rural community and dealt well with the people in Theresa. Fr. Loehr spearheaded the establishment of St. Theresa's Education Trust and Cemetery Fund after St. Theresa became a beneficiary in a parish member's will.

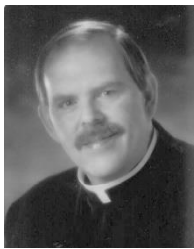
In 1987, the interior of the church was renovated. The dark paneling was removed, and a fresh, bright color of paint replaced it. The altar was moved forward (not an easy task, as it is extremely heavy). The communion rails were moved behind the altar table to create a more spacious, inviting look. Silver Polster did much of the carpentry and Peggy Langenfeld consulted on the color scheme.

The choir loft was remodeled in 1988. The organ was moved from the center to the north side of the choir loft, making it easier for the organist to see the altar area. Also in 1988, two candle holders, four vases, the easter candle holder, and a crucifix were stolen. The thief was never found, but the church's insurance company replaced the missing items.

After Fr. Loehr retired, St. Theresa had several interim priests: Fr. Theisen, Fr. Wagner, Fr. Wild, and Fr. Fechhelm. Fr. Charles Verhalen was appointed St. Theresa's part-time pastor in July 1993 and stayed through 1997. He spent Thursday through Sunday each week in Theresa, and the rest of his time in St. Francis.



Rev. Charles Verhalen



Rev. V. Holubowicz

Fr. Vincent Holubowicz was installed as the pastor of St. Mary's church in Lomira in 1996. He came from St. Patrick Parish in Erin, where he served as Pastor for two years. Born June 6, 1947, Fr. Vince received his Bachelor Degree in Education at Marion College in Fond du Lac. He taught junior high and high school, was a principal, and a director of religious education for almost twenty years before entering the seminary. He completed graduate work in Illinois at Loyola University (Chicago) and several schools of Theology. He was ordained in 1989. He became pastor of both St. Mary and St. Theresa in 1997 following Fr. Verhalen's retirement and served both parishes until 2002. Also, from 1997 to 1999, Fr. Len Van Vlaenderen from Milwaukee assisted Fr. Vince by celebrating the 8 p.m. Saturday night Mass at St. Theresa. Also in the fall of 1997, Dave Gilles was hired as the new Director of Religious Education and later became the Pastoral Associate to help the priest.

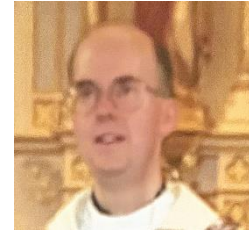
The stained-glass windows in church have always brought beauty and a sense of comfort to the building. In 1997, however, it was observed that several ventilating windows needed repair. Some members expressed interest in having them restored. Upon further investigation, it was determined that many of the windows were sagging and in need of new storms. Abler Art Glass Gallery of Kiel, Wisconsin was commissioned to do the work. A campaign to finance the project solicited donations from all members of the congregation. Families whose ancestors had purchased the original windows were given the first opportunity to restore their family window. The response was gratifying. The congregation raised \$26,000, surpassing the original goal of \$20,000. The work was completed in May 1998.



By July 1998, it became evident that the building was in need of additional attention. Tuckpointing and a new roof for the church were scheduled for the summer of 1999. The slate shingles which had adorned the church for so many years were no longer available. It was necessary to replace them with more conventional asphalt shingles. In removing them, it was necessary to remove the cedar shingles underneath. The project cost \$36,500. Building and Maintenance collections were

held each month, and the remaining window fund was applied to finance the project. The summer of 1999 also brought installation of a new sidewalk along the west side of the school hall. With the closing and/or merging of numerous parishes in the Archdiocese at this time, it seemed imperative to keep St. Theresa's building in good repair as a means of expressing parish unity and commitment. Once again, parish families gave generously as they looked to the future.

Rev. Kevin Kowalske served the parishes from 2002 to 2007. He was born and raised in the Milwaukee area. After attending UW-Milwaukee, Kowalske's first career was in the insurance business, but he was drawn to the priesthood later. Fr. Kevin was ordained May 20, 1995, and his first assignments were as Associate Pastor of St. Rita in West Allis, then Associate Pastor at St. James in Mequon. Following his time at the Lomira and Theresa parishes, he was assigned to Holy Trinity in Newburg.



Rev. Kevin Kowalske



St. Theresa Rectory

Because St. Theresa would no longer have a full-time priest in residence, the parish rectory was sold in August 2006. Prior to 2007, the Consolidated Catholic school included daycare services. As circumstances changed, it was decided to close the schools in June 2010.



CCLT, Theresa campus



Rev. Dennis Budka

In 2007, Rev. Dennis Budka became pastor of St. Mary's and St. Theresa's Churches. Fr. Dennis was ordained in 1984, and since then has served in many parishes. Additionally, he worked as a cartoonist, musician, heavy-equipment operator, pizza chef, grave digger, salesperson, and truck-loading dock worker. He was pastor until 2013.

After Fr. Dennis left, St. Theresa requested to be part of the St. Mary (Mayville) and St. Andrew (Leroy) cluster. The archdiocese reevaluated the parish clusters and approved the St. Theresa proposed collaboration with St. Mary and St. Andrew. At that point, Rev. Thomas Biersack became the pastor of the three parishes from 2013 to 2022. Prior to serving as pastor of St. Mary, St. Andrew and St. Theresa, Fr. Tom grew up in the rural Kewaskum area. He studied at St. Francis de Sales college, St. Francis seminary school of pastoral ministry, and completed clinical pastoral training at Providence Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. Fr. Tom was ordained in 1981, served parishes in Milwaukee, Port Washington



Rev. Tom Biersack

and New Munster. Fr. Tom understood rural communities well and thus was an ideal fit for our congregation.

During his tenure, the church was renovated again in 2017. A committee was formed in April 2016 to identify and remedy issues such as

- Correcting the floor elevations in and around the sanctuary to minimize tripping hazards
- Repairing the back/west wall behind the high altar[reredos], moving the tabernacle from the side altar to the reredos
- Replacing the carpet and floor tile in the church, sacristy, and entry way
- Providing a proper baptistry
- Providing a proper confessional
- Providing Stations of the Cross that better match the church
- Repainting the entire interior of the church
- Replacing the kneelers
- Repairing and refinishing the pews
- Repairing /updating lighting in the church
- Remodeling the entry between the exterior doors and the back of church



Rediscovered stained glass at the church entrance

The committee included Fr. Tom Biersack, Mark Walcheske, Rick & Bonnie Pahl, Lee & Monica Bleuel, Jody Steger, Dave Vodak, Jim Ruecker, and Karen Scheberl. They worked with Michael Smith of Smith Renovations to design our worship space by incorporating liturgically correct design elements, lighting, paint schemes, carpet and flooring materials. In the process of renovation, the crew rediscovered the stained-glass window at the church entrance.

A new set of Stations of the Cross was acquired from a company that re-homes statuary from churches that have closed. The set installed with this renovation in 2017 were originally in a Polish church in the state of Pennsylvania. They were repainted, including the marbled painting on the side pillars, and English titles replaced the original Polish ones.



8th Station of the Cross, 2017



1946 Church Interior (Fr. Groff's Jubilee)



Earliest image of church interior



Church interior, early 2017



Completed church interior, September 2017



High altar/Reredos, September 2017



Choir Loft, early 2017



September 2017

In November 2019, a committee was formed to see through the project of selecting and installing a new church sign. This committee included Fr. Tom Biersack, Eileen Lifke, Mary Jaster, Jim Jaster, Bonnie Pahl, Rick Pahl, and Jody Steger. TLC Sign installed the new digital monument sign in July 2020.



Prior sign at St. Theresa



New sign, 2020-present



Rev. Joe Dominic

Rev. Joseph Dominic took the position of pastor from 2022 to 2023. Originally from India and a Pallottine priest, Fr. Joe balanced his work in the three parishes with his work with the Pallottines. After the Provincial of the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers died, Fr. Joe was appointed to take his place, and Rev. Ed Kornath took over as our pastor on December 2, 2023. Originally from South Milwaukee, Fr. Ed's home parish was the Basilica of St. Josephat. He



Rev. Ed Kornath

studied at Mundelein College (Chicago) and St. Francis de Sales seminary before serving parishes at Campbellsport, Waterford, Kewaskum, Waukesha, West Allis, and Brookfield, and then was assigned to serve our parishes here.



Rev. Nathan Miniatt

Our current pastor Rev. Nathaniel Miniatt had a rural upbringing, working on a dairy farm in his high school years before his extensive path of liturgical studies at Loyola University, American College in Leuven, Belgium, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Rev. Mark Brandl came to us recently from the Sheboygan parishes, also raised in a farming community as a child. Along with Fr. Miniatt, Fr. Ed Kornath and Fr. Mark Brandl serve St. Theresa, St. Mary (Mayville), St. Andrew (Leroy), St. Mary (Lomira), Sons of Zebedee (Byron and Oakfield), and Sacred Heart (Horicon) since June 2024.



Rev. Mark Brandl

Activities in Church Life

St. Theresa continues to have an active community of parishioners involved in various roles. Members serve on the Parish Council, the Cemetery Committee, the Prayer and Worship/Spiritual Life Committee, Human Concerns Committee, and the Church Decorating/Altar Guild. Members of the congregation share their time and talents in Mass by being servers, communion distributors, readers, ushers, greeters, choir members, and musicians. Some belong to groups such as the St. Ann Sodality, Knights of Columbus, and Foresters. Others participate in quilting and the prayer shawl ministry. Some share their faith with the next generations by being catechists. Our church has had several successful projects like the Service Men and Women Project, the Tree of Lights, the Crop Walk, the Christmas Giving Tree, the Lenten Giving Tree, along with several Pizza, Chili, and Bake Sales. Church socials are held once a month following Mass.

St. Theresa's Memorial Gardens

On September 8, 1862, Frederick and Dortha Delorme and John and Anna Schrauth of the Town of Theresa sold two acres of land to John Martin Henni, Catholic Bishop of Milwaukee, Diocese of Wisconsin. The warranty deed states, "the prime is to be used and occupied for burial purposes and no other." This land became Parcel I of the St. Theresa's Cemetery. The price agreed upon by the parties involved was one dollar. (The Delormes had originally purchased that same land for \$100.00 from Joseph Meixemsperger.) An additional .914 acres was purchased on October 19, 1872 from Peter Quast, becoming Parcel II. This includes the Cemetery Road, now Forest Street.

Church records also show that Frederick X. Katzer, Archbishop, signed a quit-claim deed and for "the consideration of one dollar," the Catholic graveyard became the property of St. Theresa's Congregation on October 24, 1899.

Parcel III, .274 acres was obtained from Robert Sigler on April 14, 1959; Parcel IV, .141 acres from Fickerts on January 29, 1973 for \$1,200.00, and Parcel V, 3.257 acres from Alphons Beck on December 15, 1975 for \$8,142.50. This gives the cemetery a total of 6.586 acres of land.

Fr. Groff had George Morse, a civil engineer, survey the cemetery property. The notice of completion of that survey was dated November 8, 1909. The survey mapped the outline of the cemetery and divided "the east sixteen rods into lots, streets, and alleys, leaving the east 32 feet for street and single lots if desired." In the notice of the survey, the suggestion was made that the corners could be marked with stones "which Mr. Haesley and two or three other good men could set." Any changes desired were to be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors meeting that same week and would then be returned by Ernst Bodden.

The prices were established on January 6, 1907 – a minimum of \$10, and a maximum of \$20. The graveyard was plotted in 1909. The cemetery road was deeded to the Village of Theresa on January 9, 1926. On October 4, 1941, the parish started a separate cemetery fund for perpetual care. Drilling a well for the cemetery was apparently a controversial subject, failing to pass the first two times a vote was taken. Village water was installed in 1970.

In 1971, a St. Theresa parishioner, Barbara Asenbauer, bequeathed one fifth of her estate to the cemetery. An appointed cemetery committee handles the monies, along with issues concerning the cemetery.

The cemetery was surveyed again in July 1972. Following the survey, the road was blacktopped. Trees were purchased and planted in 1973, and an electric gate was installed in 1974.

Grave sizes in the older section of the cemetery are 5' by 10', and, in the new section (north area), 4' by 9'. (No above ground markers, monuments, trees, or shrubs are permitted in the new section.) As of 2024, the cost for a plot is \$100 for parishioners and \$200 for non-parishioners.

The name “St. Theresa’s Memorial Gardens” was chosen on March 21, 1976 during Fr. Charles Loehr’s tenure as pastor at St. Theresa. “Memorial Gardens” was chosen because “it expresses a true and theologically correct idea of death and burial, namely, a place to realize and to understand that a more beautiful life grows (Garden) forever (Memorial) with the Resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Source: the cemetery fact-finding report, 1976.) A storage building was erected in 1986 with blacktop and trees to complement it in fall 1987 and spring 1988.

Priests of St. Theresa:

Year	Priest
1849-	Rev. Francis Xavier Schraudenbach
1851-1855	Rev. Michael Beiter
1855-1863	Rev. Casper Rehl
1858-1858	Rev. A. H. Meauclere (interim – 2 months)
1859-1860	Rev. Nicholas Pickel
1865-1866	Rev. August Durst
1866-1867	Rev. Nicholas Pickel
Aug. 6, 1867	Rev. F. X. Katzer
Aug. 18, 1867-1869	Rev. Hubert Jansen
1868-1872	Rev. George Strickner
Jan.-Feb. 1873	Rev. P. Uhlmeyer
1873-1875	Rev. V. Rademacher
1876-1878	Rev. L.G. Woelfel
1878-1882	Rev. Hermes Hellstern
1882-1885	Rev. J.P. Van Treeck
1885-1889	Rev. Philipp J. Vogt
July 1886	Rev. Bernard Weyer (interim)
1889-1892	Rev. Joseph Hubert
1894-1896	Rev. Rudolph Olig
1896-1951	Rev. Michael J. Groff
1951-1963	Rev. Leo Skalitzky
1963-1965	Rev. G. A. Brielmaier
1966	Rev. George A. Lehman
1966-1967	Rev. William F. Restle
1967-1992	Rev. Charles D. Loehr
1992	Rev. Robert Theisen (interim)
1992	Rev. John Wagner (interim)
1992	Rev. Michael Wild (interim)
1992	Rev. Richard Fechhelm (interim)
1993-1997	Rev. Charles Verhalen
1997-2002	Rev. Vincent Holubowicz
2002-2007	Rev. Kevin Kowalske

2007-2013	Rev. Dennis Budka
2013-2022	Rev. Thomas Biersack
2022-2023	Rev. Joseph Dominic
Dec. 2, 2023-	Rev. Ed Kornath
June 2024-	Rev. Nathaniel Miniatt (pastor); Rev. Ed Kornath & Rev. Mark Brandl assoc.

St. Theresa Trustees:


Years	Trustee Secretary	Trustee Treasurer
1934-1939	Dr. Arnold Boegel	Baldus Serwe
1940-1948	Joseph Kohl	Ernest Bodden
1949	Joseph Kohl	Baldus Serwe
1950-1957	Edmund Bodden	Baldus Serwe
1958-1961	Edmund Bodden	William Lackas
1962-1965	George Reider	John Widmer
1966-1969	Henry Schnitzler	John Widmer
1970-1973	Myron Lamers	Philip Langenecker
1974-1975	James Ruecker	Ralph Ruecker
1976-1977	Michael Bodden	Ralph Ruecker
1978-1979	Michael Bodden	James Walters
1980-1982	Lucy Lux	Michael Gundrum
1982-1984	Ruth Burns	Michael Gundrum
1984-1986	Ruth Burns	Walter Sauer
1986-1988	Nancy Wiedmeyer	Walter Sauer
1988-1990	Nancy Wiedmeyer	Dennis Charapata
1990-1992	Todd Bodden	Dennis Charapata
1992-1994	Todd Bodden	LoRae Zimmer
1994-1996	Mary Bogenschneider	LoRae Zimmer
1996-1998	Mary Bogenschneider	Eileen Lifke
1998-2000	Marlene Adelmeyer	Joseph Haak
2000-2001	Sandra Ruecker	David Vodak
2001-2007	Sandra Ruecker	Michael Lau
2007-2008	Sandra Ruecker	
2008	Sandra Ruecker	Karen Scheberl
2008	Karen Scheberl	
2008-2011	Karen Scheberl	Lee Bleuel
2012	Karen Bodden	Karen Scheberl
2012-2017	Karen Bodden	Eileen Lifke
2017-2018	Cindy Bowe	Eileen Lifke
2018-2023	Cindy Bowe	Greg Petri
2023	Cindy Bowe	Michele Burns
2023-2024	Michele Burns	Rick Steger

Veterans Buried at St. Theresa Memorial Gardens (note that * = killed in action)

Veteran	War	Birth	Death
Matthias Bintzler	GAR/Civil War	1827	1889
Joe Wirth	GAR/Civil War	1835	1912
Ludwig Wirth	GAR/Civil War	1839	1921
Robert Liebold*	WWII	1921	1944
Walter Guelig*	Army WWII	1920	1945
August Ackerman	WWI	1895	1946
Gustav Rouseau	Army Span Am	1873	1950
Roman Zimmer	Army WWII	1909	1950
Fred Schilling	WWI	1891	1957
Alfred Musack	USM WWI	1898	1958
Keith Coulter	USAF Korea	1937	1959
Nicholas Koll	Army WWI	1896	1959
Paul Koll	WWII	1919	1961
Adolph Leichtle	Army WWI	1859	1962
David Seiler*	Army Korea	1939	1963
Vernon Lau	USCG WWII	1921	1964
Richard Ruecker	Army WWI	1895	1965
Robert Baker	USMC WWI	1899	1970
Richard Kaiser	Army Korea	1937	1976
Bernard Adelmeyer Sr.	Army WWI	1893	1978
Leo Mueller	WWI	1893	1979
Paul Zingsheim	Army WWI	1895	1980
Harold Adelmeyer	Army WWII	1923	1980
Raymond Guelig	USN WWII	1923	1982
Lawrence Steger Jr.	Army Korea	1932	1982
Leo Guelig	USN WWII	1922	1983
Edgar Guelig	Army WWII	1928	1984
Glenn Honeck	USN WWII	1920	1988
Mark Langenfeld	Army Vietnam	1945	1991
Lynn Zimmer	Army Vietnam	1945	1991
Jerome Zimmer	Army WWII	1918	1993
Peter Bodden	Army WWII	1913	1993
Rueben Lackas	Army WWII	1924	1994
Paul Trauba	USN WWII	1927	1996
Edwin Hartman	National Guard	1907	1997
Michael Krapfl	WWII	1913	1997
Jacob Koll	Korea	1928	1998
Waldemar Zimmer	WWII	1914	1998

Rudy Heinecke	WWII	1921	2000
Walter Faber	USAF Vietnam	1943	2001
Myron Weninger	Army WWII	1927	2001
Carl Bandle Sr.	Army WWII	1921	2003
James McDermott	Army WWII	1915	2003
Donald Jackson	USMC WWII	1924	2004
Delmar Musack	USAF Vietnam	1938	2004
Lester Zimmel	Army WWII	1920	2004
Eugene Greiner	Army WWII	1922	2005
John Schmidt	Army Korea Era	1932	2006
Ralph Widmer	USN WWII	1915	2006
Paul Leichtle	USN WWII	1922	2007
James Polster Sr.	Army Korea Era	1930	2008
Bernard Adelmeyer	Army WWII	1925	2010
Eugene Lackas	Army Peacetime	1936	2011
Jack Lesser	Army Korea	1931	2011
Chris Mauritz	Army Vietnam	1950	2012
Leroy Priesgen	Army Peacetime	1934	2013
Jesse M. Paul	USN	1935	2015
Clarence Steger	USN WWII	1926	2015
John (Jack) Bodden Jr.	Army Vietnam	1945	2016
Myron Brandt	Army Korea	1933	2016
Robert Hartmann	USN Korea	1926	2016
Neil Coulter	USN	1942	2020
Frank Kuchkowski	Korea	1939	2020
Jakob Mueller	Army Korea Era	1930	2020
Steven Ruecker	Army Vietnam Era	1949	2023
Nick Russ	Army Peacetime	1934	2024

Year	Cornerstone Award given to:
2014	Joseph & Henrietta Schnitzler
2015	Ken & Laverne Schoebel
2016	Gerald & Rose Mary Adelmeyer
2017	Karen Scheberl
2018	St. Theresa Renovation Committee
2019	Eileen Lifke
2020	(Pandemic – God bless all)
2021	Mark & Annette Walcheske
2022	Mike Bodden
2023	Jim & Mary Jaster



175th anniversary committee: Karen Bodden, Mary Bogenschneider, Don Charapata, Marilyn Steger, and Monica Steger.

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