

St. Helena Parish History

June 24, 1913	Rev. Owen J. Rowan appointed pastor of a parish in south Minneapolis by Archbishop John Ireland.
July 6, 1913	Fr. Rowan celebrates his first Mass as pastor of the new parish in the hall at 3725 E. 45th Street.
August 29, 1913	First marriage in St. Helena Parish.
September 10, 1913	The new parish named "The Church of St. Helena" by Archbishop John Ireland.
October 9, 1913	Formal incorporation of The Church of St. Helena.
October 14, 1913	Filing of papers of incorporation with the State of Minnesota and Hennepin County.
August 27, 1913	First Mass celebrated in the original church of St. Helena.
October 18, 1914	Dedication of original church. Archbishop John Ireland presiding.
May 13, 1915	First Holy Communion class at St. Helena.
October 17, 1915	Sacrament of Confirmation administered for the first time at St. Helena. Archbishop John Ireland confirming bishop.
May, June, 1917	First parish mission, conducted by the Dominican Fathers.
September, 1920	Dorothy Hurley enters the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and becomes Sister Ellen Joseph. St. Helena's first religious vocation.
October, 1922	Fr. Rowan moves into the newly built rectory at 4320 33rd Avenue South.
August 3, 1925	Ground-breaking for school building.
September, 1926	St. Helena School opens its doors for the first time. Mother Agnes Clare, C.S.J., first principal.
August, 1927	Rev. Patrick J. Ryan appointed by Archbishop Dowling as the first assistant priest at St. Helena.
June, 1938	Twenty-fifth anniversary of parish.
March 28, 1939	Ground-breaking for new church.
October 20, 1940	First Mass celebrated in new church.
November 21, 1940	Dedication of the new church. Archbishop John Gregory Murray presiding.
July, 1946 to January, 1948	Installation of stained glass windows in the church. Windows designed by Conrad Pickel.
Summer, 1945	Demolition of original church building.
June 8, 1946	Rev. Eugene J. Sebesta becomes the first priest ordained from St. Helena.
September, 1950	Construction begins on the convent and the addition to the

	school.
Summer, 1951	Sisters move into new convent.
September, 1951	Addition to the school is completed and put into service.
June, 1955	Fr. Rowan celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.
June 14, 1957	Fr. Rowan is named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII.
September 15, 1957	Fr. Rowan invested as Domestic Prelate in St. Paul Cathedral. Becomes Monsignor Rowan.
June, 1963	Fiftieth anniversary of the parish.
June, 1966	Msgr. Rowan retires as the Pastor of St. Helena. Becomes Pastor Emeritus.
June, 1966	Bishop James. P. Shannon becomes the second Pastor of St. Helena.
September, 1969	Rev. Alfred Wagner becomes the third Pastor of St. Helena.
September, 1971	Consolidation of St. Helena School and Holy Name School The combined schools become South Parks Consolidated Catholic School. St. Helena School is called South Parks East.
April 8, 1976	Death of Msgr. Owen J. Rowan.
June, 1978	Rev. Richard Villano becomes the fourth Pastor of St. Helena.
September, 1984	Following the deconsolidation of South Parks Consolidated Catholic School, classes begin at the reconstituted St. Helena School.
June, 1988	Seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Helena.
October 23, 1988	Jubilee Dinner held at Fort Snelling.
November 6, 1988	Commemorative Mass celebrated in the church to mark the 75th anniversary of St. Helena.
October 20, 2013	100th Anniversary Mass

The following chronology is taken from Dennis Q. McNerny's *The Church of St. Helena 1913-1988*.