



There are 51 parishes in Metropolitan Omaha. This is an amazing number of parishes and is a tribute to the Catholic character of the see City of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

The very first church in Omaha was constructed in 1856, on two plots of donated ground at 8th and Howard Streets and served 12 Catholic families. In 2017 we have a parish with more than 12,000 registered households, Saint Stephen the Martyr.

Most parishes are territorial in order to provide stable pastoral care to the people in that area. As we all know Catholic people can and do live within a particular parish boundary but attend and participate in the life of a parish elsewhere or who take advantage of the Mass schedule of more than one parish which is not the parish where they live. In every instance, Catholics rely on the presence of a particular pastor or a pastor and other priests to provide Mass, the sacraments and parish life.

A few parishes in Metropolitan Omaha do not have specific boundaries. They are considered Personal Parishes, which means they serve a particular ethnic group or a particular need. For instance, **Vietnamese Catholics** have used Saint Peter Parish (27th and Leavenworth) for decades; **Korean Catholics** make use of Saint Adalbert parish (south of Hanscom Park on 31st Street); **Catholic deaf people** have gathered in a former Baptist church on Seward Street off 52nd Street for decades. **Military Personnel serving Offutt AFB** gather at the Base Chapel and on Lincoln Highway; **Catholic students attending UNO** have used Saint Margaret Mary Parish on Dodge Street for years and recently moved into the Saint Pope John Paul II student chapel on the Aksarben campus; **Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholics** have had their own church at 16th and Martha for decades and recently united with **Rome Anglican Catholics** and continue to use their small church at 40th and Davenport, just south of the Cathedral.

Saint Joseph Parish was given specific boundaries in 1980. In 2005 the Archbishop revised several parish boundaries in Metropolitan Omaha. Saint Joseph's

boundaries were among those modified. Today our parish boundaries differ from the original northern and western boundaries.

If you can visualize it: Start at Highway 50 and Capehart Road – Go east on Capehart to 114th Street, then south to Fairview Road, then east to 108th Street, then south until west at 118th Street and then south to the Platte River. The Platte river remains the south boundary (across the Platte is the diocese of Lincoln) until 180th Street. The west boundary is 180th Street north to I-80. The North boundary follows I-80 to highway 50 then the east boundary follows Highway 50 due south to Capehart Road. It appears that Saint Joseph has either the 3rd or 4th largest parish area in Metropolitan Omaha.

No matter where you live within this area or no matter where you might come from outside of this parish area the center of the parish is the church and the parish campus. This is where we “gather as “church” in our church, named Saint Joseph.

WE NEED YOUR HELP?

We are looking for any pictures, newspaper articles or memorabilia regarding our church, the pastors, the members, the RE students and any activities sponsored by our church or any of the groups such as the K of C, the Ladies Guild, etc. Since the beginning of our church JoAnn Ostransky kept a detailed scrapbook, (actually 2 of them) depicting everything that happened at St. Joseph. When Fr. Chuck left and Fr. Matt came, JoAnn needed to give up this job and no one came forward to continue it. We would like to keep it going and to do so we need to fill in a lot of time gone by. So if you have anything that would be of help, we would like a copy of your pictures, news articles, etc. We can make the copies for you if needed. Please contact Fr. Gutsell or Sharon VanTassell if you can help this most worthy cause. It is our history.

TOUR THE CATHEDRAL

Father Gutsell is willing to lead a tour of St. Cecilia's Cathedral on a weekday in the near future. First, we need to get a group together, and then decide on a day at Father's convenience. Please call Candy Connery [402-661-4214](tel:402-661-4214) if you are interested in this opportunity.