

ST. AMANDS OF WALHAIN

Jean Streyckman came to Walhain in 1856 with his family. He was an architect and furniture maker by trade. He purchased a farm but never worked his own land. Jean engaged in building homes and furniture for the pioneer families in the area. He also built the first church. His son Felix married Flora Gauthier at the first mass to be said in the church. The structure later burned and was replaced by a new church in 1912 at a cost of \$9000, while the parish was under the guidance of Rev. Milo P Smits. On October 13, 1913 the first mass was celebrated with the church being dedicated on November 19, 1912. The parish had about 20 families in the congregation.

The following priests served the parish, Father B J P Scheevers, 1898-1908; Rev Milo P Smiths, 1908-1922; Rev L A Dobblessteen, 1922-1947; Rev H E McDonnell, 1947-1956; Rev T L Werner, 1956-1959; Rev J A Mailhot, 1959-1962. At the present time Father Christian O'Brien serves St. Amands parish.

While Father Smits was at Walhain parish he started out to say mass on Sunday morning with his horse and buggy along CTH "H" when a car came along and frightened his horse. The animal jumped over the bridge and fell into the water with the priest and buggy. Services had to be postponed that day.

(From A History Of Luxemburg Township And Village 1855-1983)