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Did you guess St. Jude's in Thompson?

St. Jude's Parish was first established by immigrant families in the late 1800s. Catholics of the community built their first church south of town in 1891. The small building, built by the men of the area, was first served by Father Edward Conaty of Grand Forks.

St. Jude's was officially recognized as a parish in 1895 when it became a mission of Reynolds. In 1902, a devastating tornado destroyed the building. A new site was chosen and a white frame church was raised on the present location in 1904.

The building was then remodeled in 1945 and served the parish until 1963. In 1963, during the pastorate of Father Robert Mullins, the old building was removed and a new one was built on the same site. It featured a modern design and carved wooden statues, including one of Our Lady of Grace, a copy of a medieval French statue that was donated by Father Mullins.

Under the guidance of Father Phillip Ackerman, the church was remodeled and expanded in 2008. The first Mass celebrated in the newly remodeled church took place on Thanksgiving Day. Expansion brought about a new room for religious education classes and meetings, also a larger entrance and gathering area.

There are still remnants from the previous churches that can be found in St. Jude's today. Some of these include the Stations of the Cross and stained glass panels from windows that were preserved by members of the parish. Several items have been incorporated into the current design.

Father John Cavanaugh is the pastor of the 165-plus families at St. Jude's. Father Cavanaugh also serves Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Reynolds.

History provided by the parish and compiled by Katie Bowar, diocesan communications assistant