

Holy Family Parish History

- 1853 – Benedictine missionaries from Pennsylvania began serving the area; mass offered in private homes.
– Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, established by Pope Pius IX; Rev. George A. Carrell first bishop.
- 1858 – Fr. Oswald Moosmueller came from Covington for Mass on second Sunday each month.
– 32 Catholic families; ½ being Irish and ½ German. Mission stations established in area.
– Church records began with baptism of Irish lass, Anna McConingly, on Dec. 10, 1958.
- 1859 – Bishop Carrell visited Ashland to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 46 adults.
- 1860 – Holy Family Parish established by Bishop of Covington, Most Rev. George Aloysius Carrell.
– Holy Family received first lot of present property from Kentucky Iron, Coal and Mfg. Co. for \$.01.
– Rev. Herman G. Allen appointed first permanent pastor of Holy Family Parish; small white building at 10th St. and Carter Ave. served as the first church.
– First marriage in parish was Mary Ann Connors and John Byrne on Jan. 8, 1860.
- 1863 – Fr. Allen arranged school classes in small church after arrival in 1860.
– Fr. Allen died in Feb. and was buried under altar of first permanent church after construction began in 1867.
- 1867 – Construction of first large church began in March during Fr. Cornelius O’Brien’s pastorate.
– Wood frame structure built for first school under Fr. O’Brien’s direction was later used as convent.
- 1876 – First large church completed.
– Two “exiled” French nuns arrived to teach at Holy Family.
- 1879 – Deed for church property was for all land between Carter and Winchester and 9th and 10th St.
– Srs. of St. Francis arrived to “begin Holy Family School.”
- 1890 – Cornerstone for “old school” laid during Fr. Narcissus Gosselin’s pastorate.
- 1892 – Church dedicated at Laurel Creek in honor of St. James.
- 1895 – Sr. M. Anastasia organized Holy Family Business School.
– First Grand Commencement of Holy Family Parochial School on June 25, 1895, at Grand Opera House, two young ladies were first graduates.
- 1900s– St. Cecilia School of Music began and flourished for three decades.
- 1902 – Mission church in Greenup dedicated to St. Lawrence was established.
- 1904 – Interior of church redecorated.
- 1906 – First graduating class of eight years of elementary and four years of high school education.
- 1915 – Fr. N. Gosselin died and buried in Calvary Cemetery next to his friend Fr. James Cusack.
- 1917 – Business and music classes held in building at 10th and Carter due to large enrollment.
- 1922 – Another redecoration of church completed.
- 1924 – Holy Family Alumni Association organized.
- 1925 – Father Bocklage approved football team; team undefeated until last game, losing 7-6.
– St. Cecilia School of Music classes held in home located on 9th and Carter.
- 1929 – Inter-class basketball games played on court provided by Mr. McKinney and Mr. O’Kelly.
- 1937 – St. Cecilia School of Music closed.
- 1938 – Holy Family Men’s Choir organized as first formal musical group.
- 1939 – Diocese banned all sports.
– Third floor added to “old school” and used as business classrooms.

- 1940 – Major renovation of church as copy of fresco work in Benedictine Abbey in Indiana under Fr. Alfred Hanses.
- 1945 – Holy Family Athletic Association started by Knights of Columbus.
- 1946 – Bishop Mulloy reversed ban on sports.
- 1947 – Holy Family Business School closed.
- 1948 – Groundbreaking for present school.
- Srs. of St. Francis return to Minnesota.
 - Srs. of Divine Providence begin leadership at Holy Family School.
 - First church demolished to begin new school; white block building served as church, school, and last as cafeteria.
- 1949 – New school dedicated and Fr. Declan Carroll elevated to Domestic Prelate of Pope Pius XII.
- 1954 – Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital (OLBH) is founded.
- First “black” family, the Wycliffs, entered the parish and school.
- 1956 – Cornerstone of “old school” uncovered when building razed to begin high school addition.
- 1957 – New school completed.
- Fr. Carroll died suddenly at OLBH before new school was opened.
- 1960 – Interior and exterior renovation of church completed under Fr. John Danz’s direction.
- Steeple erected to complete 1876 plans.
- 1975 – Major renovation of church addressed changes by Vatican Council II; fifth renewal since church began.
- 1978 – Fire destroyed church on Dec. 8, convent razed due to damage. Fr. Allen’s tomb removed from “watery” grave and later relocated to Calvary Cemetery.
- 1979 – Sr. M. Ernestine Ott, CDP, completed sketch of Holy Family Church as fundraiser for new church.
- 1982 – Present church dedicated on Oct. 7 during Fr. Theodore Keller’s pastorate.
- First official service was held on Maundy Thursday; First church directory published.
- 1986 – Diocese Board of Education closed Holy Family High School.
- 1988 – Diocese of Lexington established by Pope John Paul II; Kendrick Williams appointed first bishop.
- St. Lawrence Church in Greenup placed on National Register of Historic Places.
- 1992 – Last sisters of CDP depart Holy Family School.
- 1993 – Holy Family Church mortgage “burned” on September 12 by Fr. John Wordeman.
- 1995 – Holy Family hosts weekly radio show, “God’s Holy Family,” on WTSE.
- 1996 – Holy Family School reinstated 7th grade program; 8th grade planned for next school year.
- 1997 – Holy Family Principal, Colleen Gossett, named Kentucky “Principal of the Year.”
- First annual picnic with Sisters of Divine Providence held at Marydale.
- 2000 – Fr. John Wordeman died suddenly at OLBH.
- Fr. John P. Noe was appointed pastor of Holy Family in August.
- 2002 – Security system installed in Holy Family School.
- 2009 – Father John P. Noe, present pastor, celebrated 35th year in priesthood on May 31.
- One in Faith and Mission Campaign began in the fall.
- 2010 – Begin process for the first use of the new text of the Roman Missal. November 27, 2011.
- Holy Family Parish celebrated 150th anniversary on October 17, 2010.