



## **"A Little History of Our Parish"**

In 1975, eight years after the creation of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, two new parishes were established in South Anchorage, St. Paul Miki Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

Church services for St. Paul Miki were held at Oriental Gardens Restaurant on the Old Seward Highway. Services for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton were held at O'Malley Elementary School.

In 1978, Archbishop Francis T. Hurley determined that the population served by the combined areas did not justify the existence of two separate parishes, so St. Paul Miki and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton were combined. The result of the merger was one parish which retained the name of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, after the first American-born saint. St. Paul Miki continued to be honored in a small chapel and social hall called the "Miki Center" in the first church, and in the Paul Miki Center in the present church.

The first church and the school building of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, located on Huffman Road, were dedicated in 1980. The school began with lower elementary classes and gradually expanded to include K-8. Today, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School is a K-6 facility.

In December of 1987, just one week before Christmas, the roof of the first church collapsed during noon Mass and, although the church was destroyed, everyone escaped from the building and no injuries resulted. It was later determined that faulty construction and an unusually heavy snow load contributed to the disaster.

Christmas services that year were held in a warehouse in Huffman Business Park donated by Carr Gottstein Properties. Later that year, the parish moved to a second warehouse, which became "home" until the present church was completed in the spring of 1990.

In November of 1999, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish completed a \$3 million, 14,000 square foot addition that includes classrooms, offices and a multi-purpose facility.

Presently, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is home to over 1300 families, with a growing multicultural population. The parish faith community is involved in over 40 ministries, including an active outreach to Brother Francis Shelter, St. Francis House and Clare House, and participates in a local Habitat for Humanity effort. Each year, the church facility is host to the Alaska Catholic Youth Conference which brings participants from the around the state. In 2005, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton became the only parish in the archdiocese with Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Pastors and Parish Directors include:

Father Thomas Connery, Pastor St. Paul Miki, 1975-78

Father Ernest Muellerleile, Pastor St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1975-84

Father Stanley Allie, Pastor, 1984-90

Father Dan Hebert, Pastor, 1990-97

Father Justin Dzikowitz, O.S.B., Pastor 1997-98

Sister Loretta Luecke, CPPS, Parish Life Director, 1998-2002, serving with Pastoral Associate Father Scott Medlock

Father Craig Loecker, Pastor, 2002-2005

Father Tom Lilly, Pastor, 2005-Present