

1893  
2013

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## HISTORY

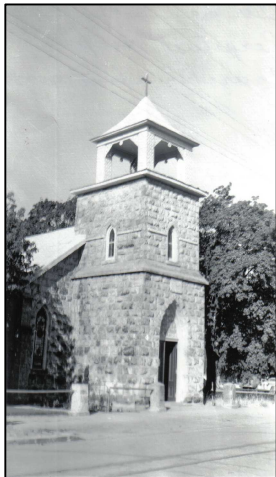
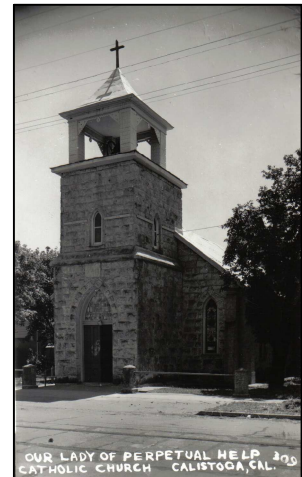
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Years

WHEN CALIFORNIA BECAME A STATE IN 1850, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ITS MEMBERS WERE SCATTERED FROM ONE END OF THE STATE TO THE OTHER. THERE WAS BUT ONE BISHOP, AT MONTEREY, AND THERE WERE FEW PARISHES AND FEW PRIESTS TO SERVE THE CATHOLIC POPULATION, WHICH WAS BEGINNING TO GROW BECAUSE OF THE GOLD RUSH.

IN 1853, THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF THE STATE WITH **ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH ALEMANY** AS ORDINARY. A YEAR LATER, THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE CITY OF NAPA AND IN 1859 IT BECAME THE MOTHER

PARISH OF THE NAPA VALLEY. **FR. PETER DEYAERT**, A BELGIAN PRIEST, WAS THE FIRST PASTOR ( AND THE ONLY PRIEST FOR A TIME ) AND HAD FOR HIS PARISHIONERS ALL THE CATHOLICS IN NAPA AND LAKE COUNTIES.

ACCORDING TO A 1935 HISTORY OF THE PARISH, THE CATHOLICS OF CALISTOGA WERE FIRST ATTENDED TO BY **FR. PETER DEYAERT** IN 1872. THERE WAS NO CHURCH BUILDING, SO MASS WAS SAID OCCASIONALLY IN PRIVATE CATHOLIC HOMES.



WHEN ST. HELENA BECAME A PARISH IN 1887, WITH **FATHER JOSEPH BUCHOLZ** AS FIRST PASTOR, CALISTOGA WAS MADE A MISSION OF THE NEW PARISH AND GIVEN THE NAME " ST. ALOYSIUS " ( LATER CHANGED ). SUBSEQUENT PASTORS WERE **FR. JAMES MELVIN** ( 1888-1889 ), **FR. RENATUS BECKER** ( 1889-1892 ) AND **FR. PATRICK BLAKE** WHO BECAME PASTOR IN 1892 AND CARED FOR THE CATHOLICS OF CALISTOGA UNTIL IT BECAME A PARISH IN 1915 WHEN THE PRESENT CHURCH WAS BUILT, THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATED A STAINED-GLASS WINDOW IN HIS MEMORY. IT IS THE WINDOW NEAREST THE ALTAR ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CHURCH.

SHORTLY AFTER THE CALISTOGA MISSION WAS ESTABLISHED, THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO, ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1887, PURCHASED FROM JOHN GREER FOR \$200 LOTS 8 AND 9 IN BLOCK L, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NAPA RIVER NEAR WASHINGTON STREET.