



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

*Joy in Christ*  
**100** Jubilee  
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Jubilee 100 Biography Project

**Biography of the Weiler Family**

Submitted by Sacred Heart Parish, Wetaskiwin



The Weiler Family, June 1, 1948

In 1897 Matt Weiler and his brother Nicholas Weiler arrived in Wetaskiwin from Burlington, Wisconsin. Their father, Nicholas Weiler had bought some land here speculatively ... "sight unseen." Thus, Wetaskiwin was put on the map for the Weilers. For Matt, the clean dry air of the Prairie West provided the change he needed; he never turned back and never wanted to. Matt and Nick settled five miles east of Wetaskiwin. A small frame house had already been built on this land, and since a creek ran within 200 feet of the house, the bachelors took advantage of it to do their laundry and to swim during the summer! Food was often supplemented to them by the neighbour ladies, and since Nick was an expert hunter, wild game was always plentiful.

Shortly after in 1902, their father, brothers Peter and Albert, and sister Eva emigrated from Burlington to Wetaskiwin and they settled in the Bear Hills district. Eventually Nicholas Weiler Sr. purchased a piece of land in the southern part of Wetaskiwin which became known as the Weiler sub-division. However, after living in Wetaskiwin for a few years all four returned to their native Wisconsin, leaving the two brothers.

In the fall of 1906, Matt met a lovely young girl – where else, but in the potato patch digging potatoes. Her name was Lucy Hinchberger. They were married on May 24, 1907, by Father Van Vetten. Fr. Van Vetten was soon succeeded by Fr. Walraven, a Belgian priest. When Fr. Walraven set out to build a new church, the Weiler boys were among the many who volunteered to help.

Matt and Lucy lived close to the church. If the priest was not at the rectory, he could be found at the Weiler home having lunch or dinner, a tradition that has continued on to the next generations. Fr. Walraven was an excellent musician and spent many hours playing at the Weiler piano and singing along in singsongs!

Nine children were born to Matt and Lucy Weiler. All of the Weiler children contributed to the life of Sacred Heart; for example, Zita Weiler was a music teacher and played the organ at Sacred Heart Church for 35 years, very seldom missing a Sunday.

Of the Weiler family, Jack, Peggy and Kay resided in Wetaskiwin and raised their families here. Jack married Marguerite and they settled in Wetaskiwin, raising their family here, and became very involved in their faith community life. Jack and his brothers Frank and Max all sang in the church choir. Jack's son Jim was the organist at Sacred Heart Church for many years. His children remember that Jack would sing solo, "Oh Holy Night" at the midnight Masses. The whole family volunteered for most church functions ... from the socials to installing new pews!

Jack served on Parish Council, the finance committee, ecumenical, maintenance, (helping install new pews in 1976 was one of the many things he volunteered for), school board, (he was there for the sod turning ceremony for the new St. Joseph's school), the Knights of Columbus (bingos) and the building committee for

our new church. He was also an active Elk and sang in the Barber Shoppers, played the drums and was in the summer parades.

The Weiler family all attended Sacred Heart School and Church. They would participate in the picnics, Christmas concerts and the children sang in the choir, at Mass as well as for weddings! They remember being taught by Sr. Patricia Margaret, who also led the choir.

Family intertwined with the Sieben's, Fonteyne's, Hemmingson's, Power's, Shantz, Doel's Kiebke's, Rehaume's the Landstorfers ... to mention only a few. Jack passed away in 1989 at the age of 75. Today, Marguerite lives in a nursing home. She receives communion every week. Jack and Marguerite's daughters have carried on the Weiler tradition of belonging to and caring for the parish!



Family of Jim & Kay (Weiler) Monaghan  
back row, L-R : Colleen, Bonnie, Marc, Sheila, Ron, Jim, Doug  
Front row, L-R : MaryLyn, Kay, Shawna



Peggy Brady in 2009 with her children  
Standing, L-R : Jack, Lynette, Peter, Gordon and Sr. Donna  
Seated, L-R : Joan, Peggy and Sharon

Peggy (nee Weiler) and Les Brady raised seven children – Joan, Donna, Sharon, Gordon, Peter, Jack and Lynette – in their wartime home on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Brady's are affectionately known as the "Brady Bunch." For the Brady's their Catholic faith was the centre of their lives. Peggy attended morning masses since she was a child. She remembers her mother attending Mass at 7 a.m. all her life. She has been an active member of the CWL all her adult life and even today at the age of 90 attends the meetings. Over the years she was there for all of the parish dinners, teas and retreats and did her month of cleaning the church each year.

Les Brady was well known in our community for volunteering. He was a member of the Legion, Pacemakers Club and volunteer fireman. He was the *master* "Master of Ceremonies" for many functions in the community including the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish in 1971. He is well remembered for his wit and sense of humour! In 1985 he received the Humanitarian of the Year award and in 1990 the Citizen of the Year award for volunteering.



A proud moment for the Brady's and for our whole Catholic community was when their daughter Donna (born in 1948) made her Profession of Perpetual Vows in the Community of the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, N.S. In 1977 she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with her Master's of Continuing Education. Sr. Donna lives in Antigonish but makes a trip home every year to spend time with her mother.

Kathleen and Jim were married on June 2, 1948, and lived in Lloydminster for 10 years, before returning to Wetaskiwin. Jim served on parish council, the school board and volunteered wherever else needed. Kay's life was faith-filled, the Rosary being her favourite prayer and the Blessed Virgin Mary her patron. She was an active member of the CWL. We remember her as selling religious items at the back of the church after masses. She was a leader in the parish's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee and was at the helm for the CWL Strawberry Teas, to name a few.

The Weiler family is very close – where there is one there are three! At Sacred Heart Parish we remember this family with respect and thanksgiving for their part in making us a proud bonded community of faith.