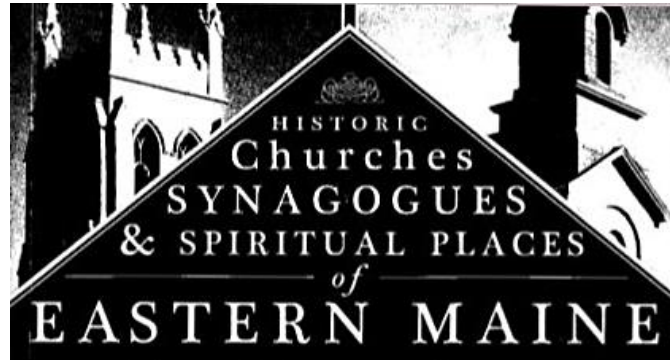


## **Sacred Heart Church - Historical Information**

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As early as 1811, a small number of Catholic families were scattered along the shores of Trescott, Maine. The Reverend Ephraim Abbot, a young missionary graduate from Andover theological seminary in Andover Massachusetts was assigned to do his mission work for the Society for the propagation of the gospel to the early residents of this Downeast region. He recorded in his diaries of 1811 and 1812 that he discovered in the area, Roman Catholics who were eager to hear the word of God from any source. A mission to the Passamaquoddy Indians at Pleasant Point had been established at an earlier time by the Jesuits. The Reverends Jean-Louis Lefebvre Cheverus and Charles French were two of the early priests to serve in this Down East region. By 1825, many Irish immigrants were entering the United States through Eastport, Maine. Many of these new arrivals in America who settled in the Trescott area were from the Counties of Antrim, Derry, and Meath in Ireland.

By the early 1850's a group of about 50 Catholic families were living in Trescott and were being served by priests from Machias and Eastport. A small chapel was erected at the site of the present Chapel Cemetery on Route 189 and Timber Cove Road. This chapel served as the spiritual home for this small Catholic community until 1881. Up until that time, fishing and farming were the main occupation for these people, but by 1881, lead mines were in full operation; many families moved down from Trescott to West Lubec for employment in the new industry.

The population shift required a new church, and in November 1881, the Catholic women of Lubec and Trescott held a fair at Independence Hall to raise funds for building a new church. It was reported in the Machias paper that the fair netted \$325 for their building project.

In 1882 a new mission church named St. Patrick's was completed at the head of Bay Road and Route 189. As the new century approached Lubec's fishing industry was in full swing, and the Catholic population in Lubec was growing, which once again resulted in the need for a new house of worship closer into the town of Lubec. Thus, the first Sacred Heart Church was built at

the top of Main Street, Lubec. This small new church served about twenty families. During this period, the Catholic community residing in Trescott, West Lubec, and Lubec remained as a mission parish of Holy Name of Jesus Christ in Machias, Maine.

In 1913, the mission parish status was transferred from Holy Name of Jesus Christ in Machias to St. Joseph's church in Eastport. At this same time, it was decided to form the Catholic congregations of Trescott, West Lubec, and Lubec into a parish. The Reverend Joseph Sullivan began raising funds for this purpose. Bishop Joseph Walsh of the Diocese of Portland, Maine established Sacred Heart Church as a parish in 1914 and appointed the Reverend James A. Farley as its first resident pastor.

By 1924, the first Sacred Heart Church had grown too small for its burgeoning population, and the parishioners begin raising funds for a new church. The Great Depression with the market crash of 1929, put the building project on hold for nearly a decade. In the Spring of 1937 ground was broken for the new Sacred Heart Church on the site of the old Fanning Homestead on Church Street. The new Sacred Heart Church was completed and free of debt in the fall of 1937.

The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on November 7, 1937, and Bishop McCarthy dedicated the new Sacred Heart Church in June 1938.

Through the years major projects were undertaken that included the building of the parish hall in 1967, and a new rectory in 1983.