

Church of St. Frances of Rome

St. Frances of Rome, located on Belleville Road in Wellington, Ontario, was erected in 1830 and is the oldest Catholic Church in Prince Edward County. Prior to the building of the Church, there was already a long history of the Catholic faith in this area, thanks to the efforts of the Recollet Missionaries from France. In 1968 a monument was erected in the Church yard to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the “Kente Mission”.

The official dedication of the present Church took place on July 1844. In 1864 St. Frances became a mission of St. Gregory parish in Picton, Ontario and remains so to this day.

The building has changed very little during its long life. The original pews are still in use today. The gates that once adorned them were removed and used as a wall, dividing the sacristy into two rooms.

St. Frances Church had been closed for several years. Under the direction of a previous pastor, Rev. Fr. Harry O’Neill, with assistance of the Knights of Columbus Council 10308 Picton, and the generosity of both parishioners and visitors, in 1994 we were once again able to celebrate Mass in Wellington during the summer months.