



**Fr. Ambrose
Oswald**

Sponsored by
**The St. Nazianz Area
Historical Society**

For a tour of our museums or to visit our
research center containing local history,
photographs, and family genealogy, contact:

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St. Nazianz Area Historical Society
121 South 3rd Avenue (P.O. Box 455)
St. Nazianz, WI 54232

Historic St. Nazianz Village Tour

**A Religious Settlement
Unique within
the United States**



ST. NAZIANZ

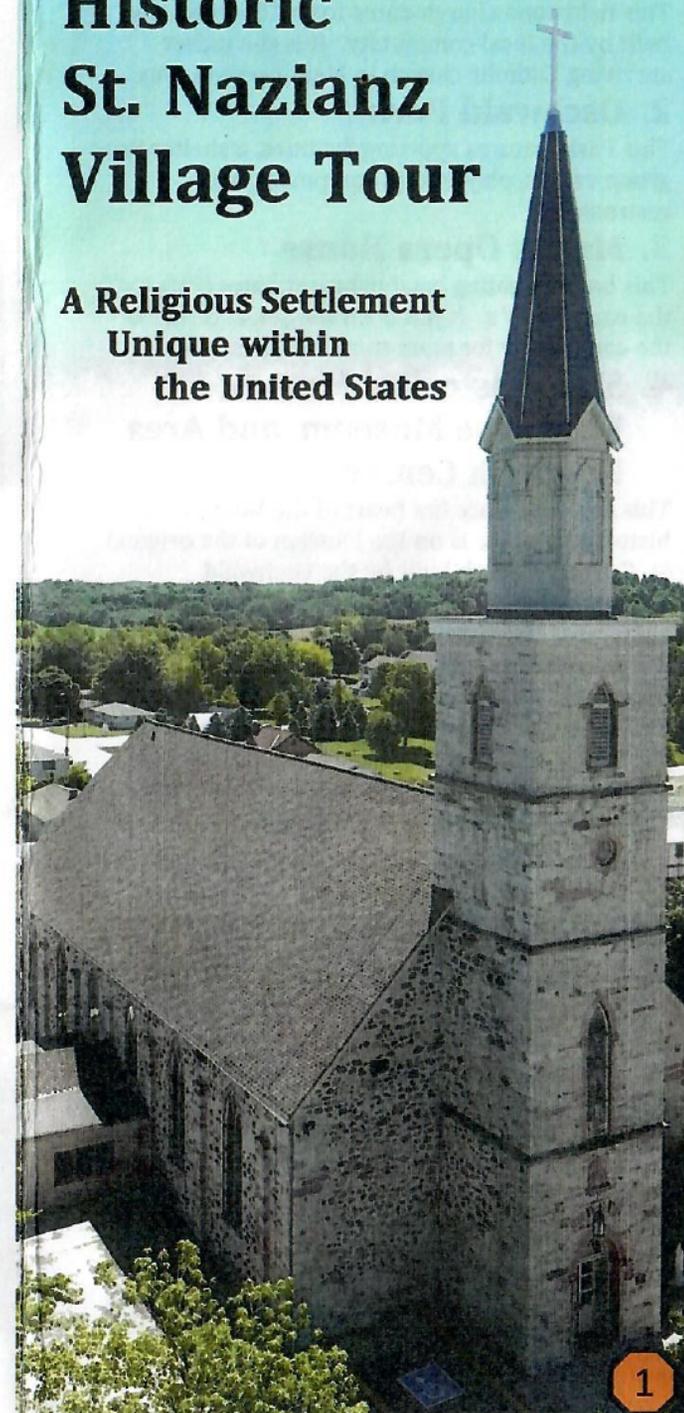
In 1854, Fr. Ambrose Oswald and a group of settlers emigrated from Baden, Germany to found a Catholic religious colony. In the spirit of early Christians, this communal settlement was named St. Nazianz, after St. Gregory of Nazianzus from whose life and writings Fr. Oswald drew inspiration.

Like St. Gregory, Fr. Oswald was interested in healing physical ills. Before departing for America, Fr. Oswald studied medicine at the University of Munich. In Wisconsin, many came to St. Nazianz to seek his aid. Miraculous healings were reported.

Fr. Oswald's spiritual leadership and an effective administration held the community together. When he died in 1873, there was no successor of his equal and the community began to disintegrate. Descendants of the first settlers of St. Nazianz still believe in the motto of Fr. Oswald, "let all do their best to promote the welfare of their neighbor."

Erected 2000

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1. St. Gregory Catholic Church and Cemetery

This fieldstone church dates from 1864 and was built by the local community. It is the oldest surviving Catholic church in Manitowoc County.

2. Oswald Park

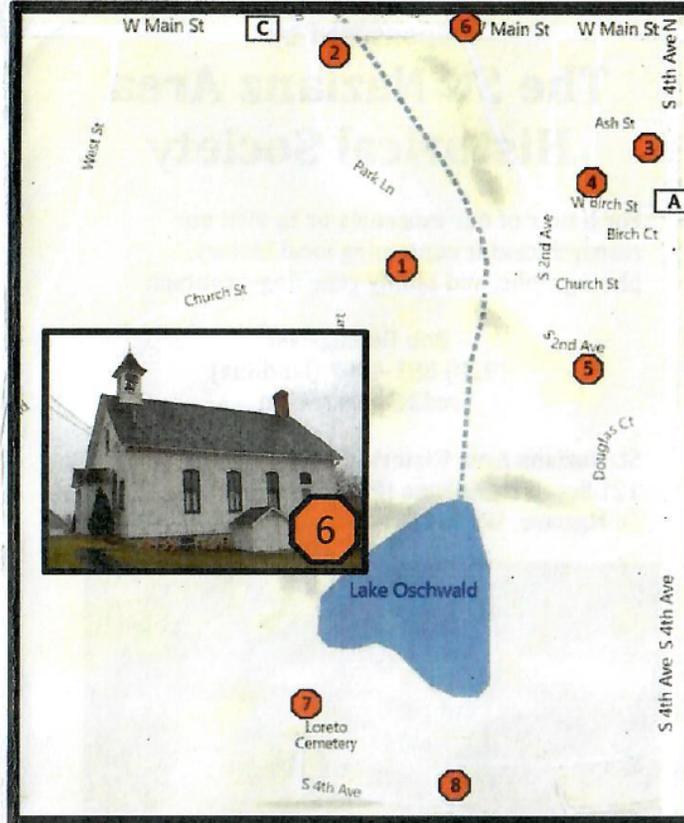
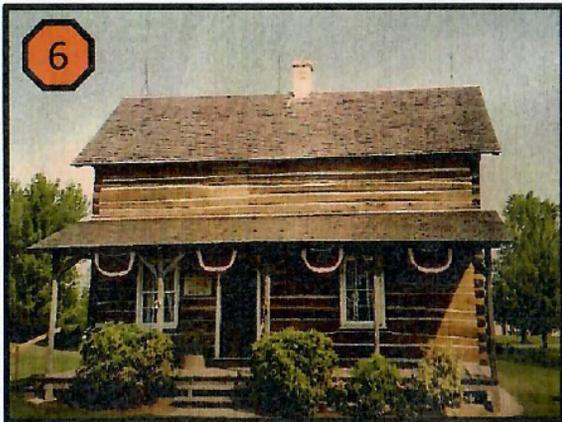
This Park features sporting facilities, a shelter for group events, playground equipment, and restrooms.

3. Meat's Opera House

This bar and eating establishment dates back to the early 1860's. It has been the social center of the community for more than 150 years.

4. State Historical Marker, Firehouse Museum, and Area Research Center

This area was once the heart of the Village. The historical marker is on the location of the original St. Gregory Church built by the Oswald Community in 1854. The Firehouse Museum showcases the history of the Catholic Church in the development of the Village and of the various businesses and families that formed the Village. The Research Center houses the land history and genealogy of all of Eaton Township and parts of surrounding Townships. It holds a collection of more than 500,000 area photographs.



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5. Holy Resurrection Monastery

This monastery began as the Oschwald Commune Orphanage and Hospital in the 1860's. It later became the St. Mary's Convent for the Salvatorian Sisters, and today is a Monastery for the Eastern Romanian Catholic Monks.

6. Village Hall, Neumeier Log House, and Carpenter Shop Museum

All three are located at West 228 Main Street. The Village Hall is located in the former George Washington Public School and was restored to reflect its historic nature. The Neumeier Log House Museum was built in the early 1850's and retains many of its original features.

7. Loretto Chapel, Oschwald Mausoleum, and Salvatorian Cemetery

Located at the end of a public easement leading from the St. Nazianz Christian Center, the Loretto Chapel dates back to 1872, the Mausoleum is the final resting place of Rev. Ambrose Oschwald.

8. Salvatorian Seminary

This building complex was originally the Loretto Monastery which began in 1862 and was expanded as the Salvatorian seminary beginning in 1892. It became JFK Preparatory High School in the 1960's and is now the St. Nazianz Christian Center.

