

Saint Mary of the Rosary parish in Chewelah was founded in 1885. It began as a Jesuit mission under Jesuit missionary Father Aloysius Folchi, and it continued as a Jesuit mission until 1916, when it was taken over by the Diocese of Spokane. The first Diocesan pastor was Father Emile Frederick, who served from 1916 to 1919. Prior to the acquisition of the first church building, Masses were held at the home of Patrick MacKenzie. The first church was a commercial building that was purchased by the Jesuits and made into a church; that building still stands and is now used by the American Legion in Chewelah. A new church was building was built in 1907 by Jesuit missionary Father Balthazar Feusi, and its site remains the present-day site of the current church building. In 1964, during the tenure of Father Norman Triesch, some interior renovations were done (the walls and ceiling were painted, new pews were constructed, and a new altar rail was installed). Further renovations were done in 1971 by Father George McCabe. The church's very distinctive copper steeple (topped by a gilded copper cross) was done in 1994 by Father Al Grasher, who also oversaw the construction of the parish hall after the parish rectory was sold in moved in 2001.

The parish rectory was built in 1920 by Father Nicolas Mertz and served as the convent for the nuns who ran the school until the school closed in 1969. At that time, it became the priest's residence. Father Severyn Westbrook was the last pastor to live in the rectory; he was succeeded by Father Al Grasher, who was already pastor of Holy Ghost in Valley and who chose to keep the Holy Ghost rectory as the priest's place of residence. After being named pastor of Saint Mary of the

Rosary in 1993, Father Al Grasher converted the rectory into office space for the parish. After the rectory was sold and moved in 2001 and the parish hall was built, the parish offices were moved into the office space in the parish hall.

Saint Mary School first held classes at the present-day American Legion building in Chewelah. This building was purchased by the Jesuit missionaries to serve as the Catholic church, and when the new church building was built in 1907, this building was remodeled to function as a school. A new school building was constructed in 1926, which served as the school building until the school closed in 1969. The school building still stands and is a prominent landmark in the Chewelah community. It is used now to host various parish functions and other community events.

One priest served as pastor to Saint Mary of the Rosary for many years, and during the tenure of Father Al Grasher, the pastor's responsibilities expanded to include Holy Ghost in Valley, Sacred Heart in Springdale, and Saint Joseph at Jump-Off. Saint Mary of the Rosary serves as the parish for the Catholic families living in Chewelah and the surrounding areas.