

Celebrating 125 Years at Sacred Heart Catholic Church



In 1881-1882, Fr. James A. Stephan and Fr. M.C. Brennan came to administer to the Catholics in Carrington, especially by celebrating Mass in the John Fitzgerald home since there was no church at the time. In 1884, Fr. Cassidy from Jamestown acquired a half block of land for \$250 and built the first mission church in Carrington in 1890. At the time, there were about 25-30 members, including the families of John Fitzgerald, Price Morris, James W. Murphy, Henry Beuning, Joseph Sheehy and R. O'Hara.

In 1893, Fr. Edmund Powers was the first resident pastor until 1895, followed by Fr. C. Murphy, who oversaw the construction of the first rectory in 1896. Fr. Benno Kauer came for a year after that. In 1898, the Ladies Altar Society formed and in 1908 had a membership of 68 women. Today, all women of the parish are considered to be members. Fr. James A. McDonald became the pastor in 1898. In 1903, he oversaw the construction of a larger church holding 180 people, which when completed was moved to Bordulac; it was \$7,000 to construct with \$2,000 spent on furnishings. The church at Bordulac served the community until 1982.



Fr. Michael J. Harte came to Sacred Heart in 1911 and stayed for 46 years. During this time a second rectory was built in 1912, Mary White was our first organist in 1925 and in 1954, Catherine Palmer became the organist and still enjoys playing after 59 years. Fr. Peter Bannon succeeded Fr. Harte as pastor from 1957-1958.

Fr. Martin C. Brennan came to be pastor in 1958. The present church and parish hall were constructed under his direction. In 1960, Council No. 4951 of the Knights of Columbus was chartered with 68 members. In 1969, the CCD and CYO programs were formed. CCD served pre-school through eighth grade and the first principal was Lucile Zink. CYO served grades nine through twelve and the first principal was Bill Bauer. The current Director of Religious Education, Joanne Becker, has served the parish as DRE for over 30 years.

Fr. Felix J. Preske served Sacred Heart parish from 1970-1984. During his time here he remodeled the entryways and built a reconciliation room. Also, stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ were added to the church. In 1972, the first Parish Council was established and in 1974 the present rectory was built. It was at this time that the parking lot was covered with black top. Carpet was also installed in the church in 1983.

In 1984, Fr. Leo Kuhn became pastor. He oversaw the installation of the stained glass windows in the south end of the church, the building of the CCD Center and the refinishing of the pews. In 1985, the first parish picnic took place. In 1989, the parish Board of Education was established.

In 1996, Fr. Lawrence Haas took over as pastor. Being a woodworker, he built the large cross outside the parish hall, gifts for students and teachers, patens and chalices for the altar, a frame for the stained glass picture in the hall, a large conference table and much more. Fr. Haas was known across the diocese for his presentations on the beauty of our sexuality. He also started a summer fun day for the CCD/CYO students. Fr. Haas's love of golf is evident in winning (more than once), the "Putt for a Purpose" golf tournament sponsored by the Diocese of Fargo to raise funds for Pro-Life activities. From 1998-2003, the pews and kneelers were padded, the sound system and air conditioning were installed and the hall was carpeted. In 2004, the KC Council installed a granite monument with two benches as a remembrance of all the victims of abortion outside of the parish hall.

In 2008, Fr. David Syverson became the pastor. Fr. Syverson implemented weekly adoration, helped begin a Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) group (a second group formed in 2012), and the church roof was redone. In 2010, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Sykeston became a mission parish of Sacred Heart. Over the years, the priests have held Mass at both Holy Family Villa (now closed) and at Golden Acres Nursing Home.



In February 2012, Fr. Terry Dodge became Sacred Heart's newest pastor. The parish rectory has been renovated and the roof replaced, the sound system in the church was updated and future plans include updating the church's lighting and more.