

# Watertown Holy Name

# Grover St. Peter

## HOLY-NAME-CATHOLIC-CHURCH— 1009 SKYLINE DRIVE, WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57201 (605)886-2628

HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF HOLY NAME PARISH  
WATERTOWN, S.DAK.

The history of this parish began on August 16, 1955, when the Catholic Community of Watertown was divided into two parishes. Holy Name Parish was set apart from Immaculate Conception on that date by Bishop William O. Brady. The new parish, which was to be headed by Father Myron Martin, consisted of areas in northeast and northwest Watertown. The new parish at first held Sunday Mass in the city auditorium, with baptisms, funerals and weddings being held at Immaculate Conception Church.

In 1957 the new school and auditorium was completed and the liturgical services were held there. The Holy Name School was staffed by the Bernadine Sisters from Reading, Penn. In August, 1963, Father Francis Dillon became the second pastor of the parish and remained in that position until 1973. In 1966 the school was closed when the nuns were forced to depart because of a lack of vocations within their Order. Under Fr. Dillon's pastorate the new church rectory building was built; being blessed by Bishop Lambert A. Hoch on March 3, 1968.

In 1973, Father James Wolf became the parish's third pastor and he remained here until May, 1982 when Father Robert L. Flannery became the fourth pastor of Holy Name Parish. Today the parish consists of 600 households.

November 1987



### HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S PARISH Grover, South Dakota

St. Peter's Catholic Parish of Grover, South Dakota was founded in 1901. The present church was built in 1905. Prior to the time the church was built, Mass was offered at the John Zimprich home at Grover and the Grover School building by a visiting priest, who traveled from parish to parish to offer Mass. He came to St. Peter's about three or four times a year. After the parish was established, Mass was celebrated on the first Sunday of each month until 1930. At that time Father John Garry started coming to the parish each Sunday. Until 1984 St. Peter's was a mission of St. Henry's Parish, Henry.

The church was built by the men of the parish who volunteered their labor. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by John Zimprich. The first families of the parish were the George Hallauer, John Wiess, John Zimprich, Patrick Bierse, Elijah Parker, John Coplan, Michael Langten, Lewis Blais, Henry Coplan, Nick Barrett, Joe Strobus, William Murray and George Arhien families.

During the decades of 1950 and 1960 the membership of the parish had grown to 42 families. In 1984 St. Peter's Parish began to be served by the priest of St. Michael's Parish, Clark.

The priests serving the parish are as follows:

1908 to 1910	Father Timothy J. O'Gorman
1910	Father John F. Hogan
1910 to 1919	Father Terence J. Slattery
1920 to 1929	Father John Bushman
1929 to 1930	Father Joseph Carroll
1930 to 1936	Father John Garry
1936 to 1941	Father J. R. Halpin
1941 to 1944	Father J. J. Rowan
1944 to 1955	Father Francis Majusiak
1955 to 1961	Father Joseph Anderson
1961 to 1962	Father John Murray
1962 to 1966	Father Walter Duracynski
1966 to 1983	Father Robert Mullett
1983	Father William Walker
1984 to 1985	Father James Kusz
1985 to 19	Father Jerome Kopel

The parish has been blessed with three vocations. They are Sister Depazzi (Maxine) Zimprich, the daughter of John and Cecile Zimprich of Downey, California; Sister Kathleen Bierse, the daughter of the late Lawrence and Jeanne Bierse and Sister Virginia (Lucille) Hallauer, the daughter of the late Carl Hallauer and Mrs. Bertha Hallauer of Watertown.

# Watertown Immaculate Conception

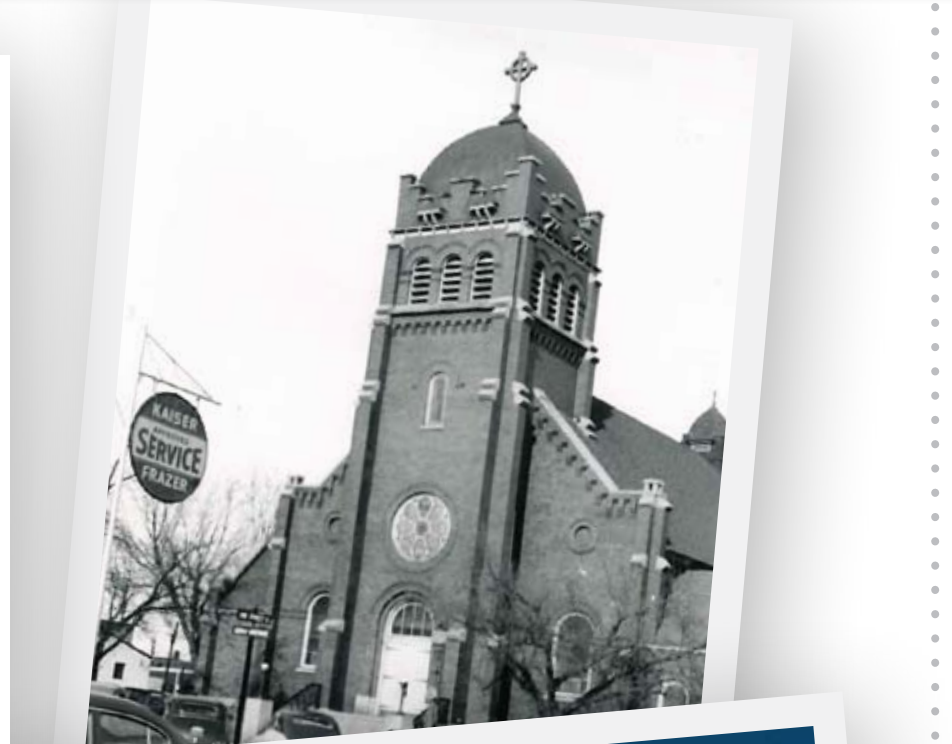
### A Short History of Immaculate Conception Church

The history of the Catholic Church in Codington County began when the United States government opened Dakota Territory for homesteading in the late 1870's and early 1880's. People came in search of fertile land on which to build their homes and their lives. These sturdy pioneers, as soon as they took possession of the land, sought the establishment of the church in their midst. Under the leadership of Father Bechtold of New Ulm, Minnesota, an unpretentious frame church was built and dedicated in June, 1879, in Kranzburg. This was the first Catholic church building erected in the county. The first resident pastor was Fr. Chrysostom Foffa, a Benedictine priest. The town of Henry was next to establish a Catholic presence. Mass was offered beginning in fall of 1882, with a church building completed in 1884.

Mass was first offered in Watertown itself in 1885 in a private home. In 1886 Father Perreault was transferred to Watertown as its resident pastor. About 25 families purchased a building from the Methodist congregation and Mass was celebrated there beginning in 1887. This building was located on East Kemp Avenue, just west of Star Laundry. Fr. Perreault was succeeded in 1887 by Fr. M. J. Nolan, then by Fr. Niebling in 1889 and Fr. Wernick in 1890. During his time, a Catholic day school was started, operating only one year 1892-93, due to drought and adverse economic conditions. Fr. Lauer began his ministry in Watertown in 1895. The parish, which had been originally named St. Otto's was formally incorporated in 1900 under the new name decided by the people, "Immaculate Conception Church." Shortly after this, a church and rectory were built on the corner of 3rd and Kemp, which would be the church's location until 1991.

A second attempt to establish a Catholic school was made. Property was purchased, a building was begun, then it became apparent that the site chosen was not suitable, and plans were abandoned and the property sold. Fr. Lauer ended his ministry here in 1903. After an interim pastorate by Fr. Birke, Fr. W. S. O'Meara became pastor here, an office he would hold until his death 42 years later in 1945. The small frame church was replaced by a brick building dedicated in 1907, built at a cost of \$33,000. This building was to serve the parish until 1991. The parish, now 87 families, made a third attempt at a Catholic School, beginning classes in the church basement, under the leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph, of St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1912-13, a school building was built, as well as housing for the Sisters. The school began with 8 grades, but in 1915 a high school was added with the first graduating class in 1920. In 1933-34, the Franciscan Sisters from Rochester, Minnesota began staffing the school, now back to 8 grades.

In 1943, the former home of John B. Hanten, 518 East Kemp, was acquired as the priests' residence. After Msgr. O'Meara's death in 1945, Fr. J. P. Veesser was appointed pastor, serving until 1965. During his time here, a new Burton Pipe Organ was dedicated on December 8, 1946. Fr. Veesser was appointed a Monsignor by Pope John XXIII in 1961.

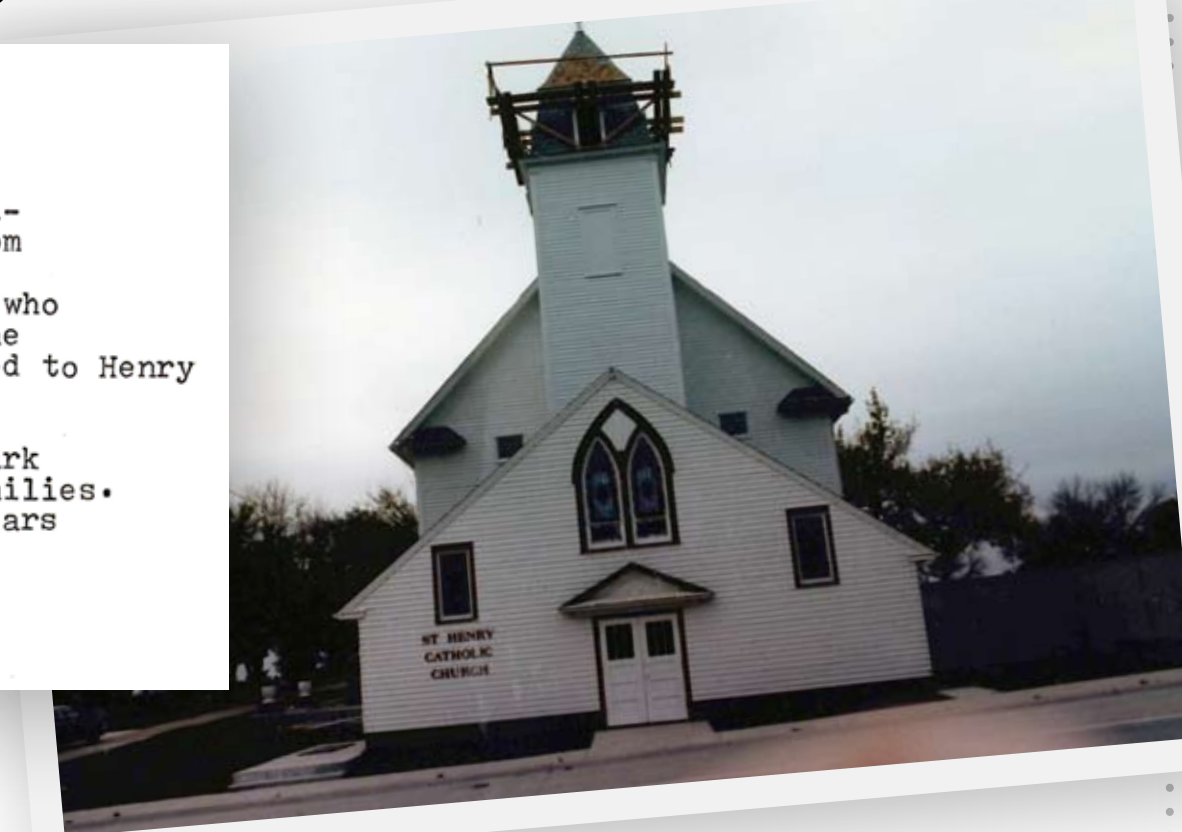


# Henry St. Henry

Henry (Codington County) St. Henry

In July of 1882 the Western Town Lot Company laid out the original town of Henry. In the fall of that same year the pastor from Kranzburg offered holy Mass in the home of John J. Perry and did so every month thereafter. It was he -- Father Adolph Bergman -- who inspired the Catholics to erect their first church in 1884 when the town had a population of 300. Father Terence Slattery was assigned to Henry and Grover in 1910 where he remained for nine years.

St. Henry Parish was a mission of Watertown, Frankfort or Clark before 1906. It maintained a stable population of 20 Catholic families. Father F. J. Twohig was the first resident pastor. Through the years the Henry pastor has served the Grover mission. (CD)



# Florence St. Marice

# Clark Annunciation

Clark (Clark County) St. Michael

With the coming of the Chicago and North Western Railway in 1883, the town of Clark sprang up. It is certain that Father Robert W. Haire of Aberdeen offered the Holy Sacrifice at the home of N. J. Zender in 1884; later he used the upper room of the school building. He was back in Clark in April of 1885 when he lectured on temperance. He encouraged the people to build a church.

Father Joseph Perreault, pastor of Frankfort, began to pay regular visits from 1885 to 1887. For the next four years the priest of Watertown ministered to the Catholics of Clark. Father M. J. Nolan in 1887 united the efforts of the scattered Catholic settlers to establish a parish. A church site was purchased and a simple frame church -- St. Michael's -- was erected the same year. In 1891 the Clark parish reverted to the care of the pastor of Frankfort. Father Charles Robinson found it necessary to enlarge the church by adding a sacristy and belfry in 1902. Father Emil Bonneterr, resident priest, 1903-09, built the rectory. He also cared for Henry and Grover. In 1909 Father E. P. Cunniff succeeded him in Clark.

St. Michael's Parish planned for a better church as early as 1910. A site was purchased but nothing was done until Father Edward O'Connor (1930-48) took the first step by starting a building fund. Actual construction was done under the direction of his successor. The 450-seat church was completed in February of 1952. Because of the new trend in the liturgy, Father Roch O. Schirber had the sanctuary renovated in 1966. (CD)



Above, the original parish church of Clark, built in 1889



### History of St. Maurice and Blessed Sacrament Parish

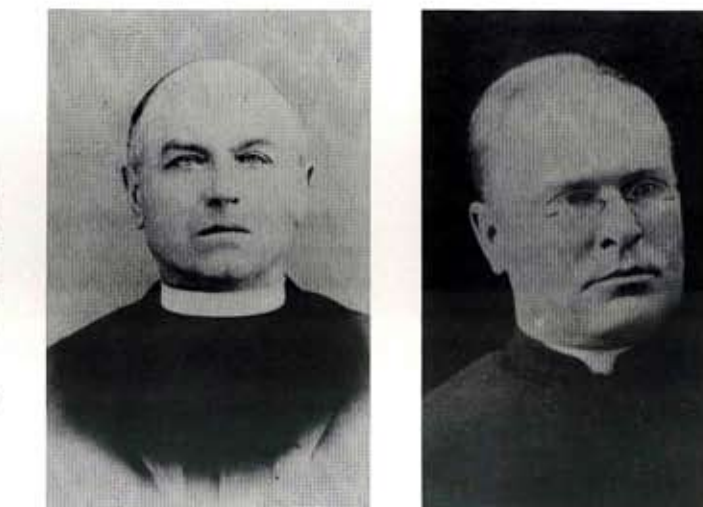


Esterly School, St. Maurice Church, Rectory and Cemetery

As the 1870 homestead settlements sprang up in Dakota Territory, one, of German descent, settled at Kranzburg, in Eastern Codington County. A Catholic Church was built there in 1879, with a resident "traveling" Pastor. As other sites developed, the Kranzburg priests reached out to serve neighboring settlements.

Among the many locations served from Kranzburg, was a group of predominantly German Catholics who first settled in 1879 at Esterly, fifteen miles Northwest of Watertown. The first Masses at Esterly were celebrated in claim shanty homes whenever the priest arrived there. In the early 1880's a public school was built, the 19th District School of Codington County. The schoolroom was then used for celebrating Mass and Sacraments. The first priests at Esterly, traveling from Kranzburg, were Father Bergmann and Father Albrecht.

For a number of years, in the early 1880's, the priest



Father Albrecht Father Mensing

Lewis Becking, a teacher at Esterly, recorded part of the early history of St. Maurice Parish, an important resource for this directory.



Lewis Becking

On May 6, 1884, Theresa and Bernard Hovestadt signed papers to donate five acres of land for a church and cemetery site at Esterly. The document was made with Bishop Martin Marty, then residing at Yankton. A crude fence was put around the acreage, and burials began in the consecrated ground in what is to this day the parish cemetery.

On October 30, 1890, a four acre plot of land (two miles north and 1/2 mile east of Florence) was donated by Laurenz and Theresia Tschakert. This, too, was given to Bishop Martin Marty, then of Sioux Falls

