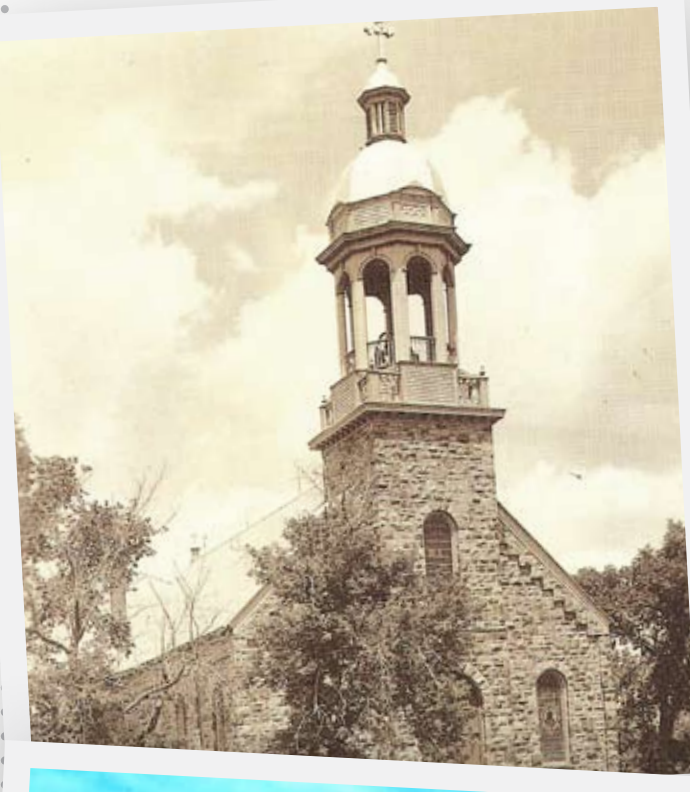


Alexandria St. Mary



ALEXANDRIA (Hanson County) St. Mary (Our Lady of Mercy)

Hanson County was surveyed in 1869 and the first settlers began to arrive by 1871. After the coming of the railroad, the county seat was moved from Rockport to Alexandria. A small frame church building had been erected at a cost of \$1,500 and had been dedicated by Bishop Marty on Sept. 1, 1882. The rectory, simple but adequate, was built two years later. Father Peter A. Lauer came to Alexandria on July 15, 1904. Two months later fire destroyed Our Lady of Mercy Church which had served the parish for 20 years. Nine days after the conflagration, Sept. 27, the first stone was laid for a more durable church (45x102 ft.). It was a challenge for a parish numbering only 60 families. The church, one of the finest in the state, was dedicated July 2, 1907, in the presence of 25 priests. The church had memorial stained glass windows and a remaining debt of only \$5,000. It was the sixth church built by Father Lauer in the diocese.

Father George R. Tatten, who came to Alexandria in 1942, made considerable improvements on Our Lady of Mercy Church and rectory. The stone church built in 1904 was weathering the Dakota winds well. The 60 families in the parish were saddened when on Nov. 24, 1948 -- Father Tatten's car skidded on an icy road in thickly falling snow on a trip home from Sioux Falls. When it hit an on-coming gasoline transport, Miss Gertrude Manderfield, his 76-year-old housekeeper, was thrown from the car and the priest was pinned behind the steering wheel. Both were taken to McKennan Hospital where Miss Manderfield died after four hours and Father Tatten three days later. Both were buried in St. Mary's cemetery, Alexandria.

St. Mary's Parish had grown to 145 households by 1973. In 1974 the bishop, priests and people were horrified at the sacrilege perpetrated by thieves who broke into the tabernacle of St. Mary's and two other diocesan churches and stole the ciboria, emptying the Sacred Hosts. The bishop called upon all Catholics to make reparation to God for this despicable deed. (CD)



A Brief Explanation

This Fatima Family Shrine in mid-America was blessed and dedicated by the Most Rev. Alberto Cosme do Amaral, bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Portugal on Sept. 26, 1987. The occasion was the Marian Year, declared by Pope John Paul II to prepare for the third Millennium of Christianity. The occasion of this Shrine's dedication and blessing was also the first time a Bishop of Fatima, Portugal, while administering the Diocese where God's Mother appeared with a major message for modern times, had come on pilgrimage to the United States. People were present from 40 states with representatives from several countries. Thousands participated at the Sacrifice of the Mass offered at the altar of this Shrine. Accompanying the Bishop of Fatima was Father Luis Kondor, SVD, international Vice-Postulator at Fatima for the beatification and canonization causes of Jacinta and Francisco. It marked the first annual National Marian Congress. Such Congresses are now held from Friday to Sunday night each year, the end of June.

The Congresses have become known as "Fatima in America" Marian Congresses. They feature each year nationally known speakers and Marian Apostles dedicated to orthodoxy in the faith and the sanctification of family life. There are candlelight processions, open air Masses, a Eucharistic procession, etc.

The statues at the Fatima Family Shrine are of white cararra marble from Portugal sculpted by the internationally famous sculptor Avelino Moreira Vinhas of the school of Thedim. The granite is quarried from the Milbank, S.D. quarry and fabricated at the Cold Spring, Minnesota Quarry. The Shrine was designed and crafted by Ter Haar Studio of Cold Spring, Minnesota.



Armour St. Paul



The new St. Paul the Apostle Church was dedicated by Bishop Lambert Hoch on December 10, 1967. The floor plan of the church resembles a fish, the early Christian symbol of Christ. The baptistry is found at the front entrance to symbolize that Baptism is the entrance into a relationship with Christ and his people.

At the main entrance of the church is a free standing bell tower, which reaches 43 feet in height, topped by a six foot cross. Within the frame work of the tower is a cast bronze bell (1500 pounds) manufactured in 1902 and moved from the former St. George Church. Beneath and in front of the bell tower is a statue of St. Paul the Apostle, depicted with a book in his arm indicating the Word of God and also a sword, the instrument by which he met his death. The statue is an original design and was sculpted in Italy.

Solid autumn brown granite, quarried in western Minnesota near Odessa, was used in constructing the altar of sacrifice, altar of repose, lectern, celebrant's chair, baptismal font, and water fonts. On the back wall is a relief of the Holy Family, carved in Italy from knot free lindenwood. The Fourteen Stations of the Cross are of bronze with black walnut crosses. The social and learning center is adjacent to the church structure along with the rectory. The rectory basement contains a multi-purpose room (meeting/audio-visual).

Fr. Lawrence Marbach was pastor at St. Paul the Apostle from 1971 - 1977 and was followed by Fr. Ladislav Dudek who served until June, 1984. Fr. Tom Heck is the present pastor. Jean Hanson serves the parish as a pastoral associate and is primarily responsible for outreach to the elderly, religious education for youth, and liturgical planning and environment. Since June, 1984, St. Paul's has assumed the mission Church of St. Mary, Stickney, South Dakota.

The laity has accepted many new responsibilities over the last few years. Special areas of lay leadership include the following ministries: Spiritual Life and Liturgy, Education, Social Concerns and Outreach, Administration, and Youth. The present Faith Community of St. Paul the Apostle includes nearly 150 households or families.

Our complete history can never be contained in any one book or told by any one person. Our history is a story of one hundred years and can only be told by the thousands of people who have shared our faith and prayed with us. This booklet contains the pictures and names of the present membership who are making the history of today for the generations yet to come.

On July 6, 1986, one hundred years of faith will be celebrated when our present Bishop, Paul Dudley, will lead us in an outdoor Celebration of the Eucharist!

ARMOUR PRESENTATION -- ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

In 1886 the two towns of Armour and Delmont were founded and a catholic parish was established.

St. Paul the Apostle Church started out as St. George Catholic Church at Armour, SD in 1887. It served Armour, Corsica and Delmont.

Father Eugene O'Sullivan was the first resident Priest from 1895 to 1896. There were several more Priests after that that served one or two years.

To meet the growing needs of more Catholic Faithful and because of the distance of travel 2 new churches were built in 1902. One was in Delmont and one in Armour with Armour having the parsonage.

The Delmont Church was named St. Theresa.

In 1903 Fr. William Carey was appointed Pastor of both Armour & Delmont and he served both until 1909 when Delmont became a mission Church of Scotland. It was also associated with several other Parishes until the cycle was complete and in 1961 Delmont again became a mission of St. George in Armour. St. Theresa Church in Delmont is officially closed with a Christmas Day Mass in 1966.

While changes were going on in Delmont, St. George's in Armour remained stable with Fr. William Carey as the Pastor from his appointment in 1903 until his death 58 years later in 1961. In 1954 Fr. Noel Power was assigned as an assistant until 1959. Following Father Carey's death in 1961 Fr. James Wolf was assigned to Armour until 1966.

In 1966 Fr. Robert Grabowski is assigned to Armour and with his leadership plans were laid for a new church large enough to provide a place of prayer for the Catholics of Armour, Corsica and Delmont. The groundbreaking for the new church was held in March 1967 and the new church named St. Paul the Apostle was dedicated by Bishop Lambert Hoch on December 10, 1967. The first marriage in the new church just happened to be Tom & Shirley Kelly on April 27, 1968.

Bridgewater St. Stephen

History of Our Church

Early in 1870, when the Dakota Territory was first settled, the pioneers were building sod houses, having filed on government land claims. Just forty miles west of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the town of Nation was forming and among such settlers were many Catholics who had moved in from Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and points east. Names of these are still familiar: Weber, Letheter, Welbes, Niescher, Sheehan, Biever, McCarthy, Schilling, Rederick, Gossman, McNaboe, Quinn, Kelly, Nugent, Riley, Simon, O'Rourke, Farley, Fitzgerald, Schreeder, Kappenman, Baldwin, Jennings, Skelly, O'Gara, Lacombe, Wilkomme, Wyss, O'Brien, Ryan, and Zuraff and this group brought about the birth of St. Stephen's parish. The town that had been established as Nation, Dakota Territory in January of 1880 bore that name only until November of the same year when it was changed to Bridgewater.

Missionary priests served these people during their first years and even the famed Bishop Marty came to worship with us, with Mass being said in various homes, among them the Peter Weber place now occupied by Ivo Weber, a grandson, and the Joseph Rederick home which was located on the William Glanzer property. As the parish grew, services were conducted in the Rederick Lumber Yard building on the site of the present Great Plains Supply. Our history must record the names of some of these missionaries who traveled by wagon pulled by oxen or horses to tend the needs of this young parish, the sick, instruct and baptize the young, such brave priests being Father Charles Wennierski, W. Keanelly, D. V. Collins, N. Callan, Edward Power and J. V. McInerney.

The Catholics in about 1881 commenced work on building of a frame church and it is this same building where all the faithful gathered and all the sacred functions of our parish have been held up to our present time. In 1882, the church being completed, Father John Lerche was appointed the first pastor of St. Stephen's. A little leanto at the rear of the church was his living quarters. It was in 1886 that Father C. A. Hopenhut took charge and he served this group until 1894. A rectory was built on the site of the present brick one. In 1895, Father P. Grabig became Pastor at Bridgewater and it was he who placed the bells in the steeple, bells cast in St. Louis, Missouri, removed the plank and beer barrel pews and placed the stained glass in the windows.

The first choir was organized by Stephen Welbes as organist and his brothers John, Jake, and Nick. Nick Welbes continued with the choir for over fifty years. Father B.M. Bunning came in 1901 to take over the duties of the growing parish and also tended the Catholics in Dolton, South Dakota, nine miles southeast of Bridgewater, Mass being said there in private homes.

Father M. J. Burkel in 1916 took over the parish. At this time, a fund was started for construction of a new parochial school. In 1919, Father M. J. Harte replaced Father Burkel and he, in turn, was replaced by Father C. Schilling in 1920. In the spring of 1921, Father Walter Roche was assigned as Pastor. St. Stephen's new school was built and dedicated in 1922 and the frame church which then stood just immediately east of the school was moved on the corner lots to the east, its present location, in about 1929. The Presentation Sisters with motherhouse in Aberdeen, South Dakota, were still in charge and their living quarters were on the upper floor next to two dormitories which housed many of our present day parishioners while attending school. As of 1923, they numbered forty. This total grew at one time to a total of seventy-five boarders. In the later thirties, this method of handling the students from the country was replaced by the bus system. Father Roche spent sixteen years in this parish, leaving it on the call of the Bishop in 1937, Father John Gaire following him as our Pastor. It was he who was instigator of the project to enlarge the frame church to its present size, adding some 20 feet to the north, for a new sanctuary. In 1939, Father Leonard Sullivan took charge of the parish and completed the remodeling program, installing hardwood floors, new altar, and pews. It was during Father Sullivan's tenure that the debt on the church and school was dissipated. In 1947, Father Clarence Trautner became our interim Pastor for a period of only four months after which time Father Charles Nemmers was named Pastor. He was to head the flock for a period of seven years until 1954. During this time, a double garage was built to house the bus and pastor's car, an organ was purchased in 1950, the bells electrified in 1952. Many improvements in the electric and heating systems in the church, school and rectory were made, much of this work being done by Father Nemmers himself. With his help and supervision, the ladies of the parish painted the entire interior of the school in 1952 and the following year they painted the interior of the church.



Dimock Ss Peter and Paul

History of Ss. Peter and Paul Church -formerly Starr-

The first settlement and homestead in the Dimock area was in 1879 when a large emigration of German settlers from Dane County, Wisconsin came to S.D. Father Krizels of Tabor used the home of Mathias Schillingen for the first mass in the spring of 1880. The first area priest, Fr. McCarthy, offered the first mass in the new small church in 1880. Fr. Lamesch became the first resident pastor in 1885.

The little church proved too small, as the parish was growing rapidly, attested to by Bishop Marty confirming a class of 160 on September 8, 1886. As a result of the growth, a larger wood frame church was built and dedicated on November 18, 1890 at the site of the present church. Engelbert Schillingen and Mathias Schmitz donated the parish land, in the early 1880s. The town was originally called Rome, then Starr, and finally Dimock in 1911. The town was named after Warren Dimock from Menno who was Hutchinson County Judge at the time.

On March 19, 1908, the enlarged framed wood church in Starr burned to the ground. Under the direction of Fr. John Wulf, the parishioners started the foundation for the new church on June 29, 1908, the feast day of Ss. Peter and Paul. The railroad added a sidetrack from the downtown rail to the church for the sole purpose of transporting the materials to the building site. The corner stone of the present church was laid late in the fall of 1908, and Bishop O'Gorman consecrated the completed church on October 6, 1909. The consecration included confirming 105 young members in the new church. When completed, the church was the second largest in the diocese. Joseph Schwarz of Sioux Falls was the architect, and Anton Zwach of Dubuque, Iowa the contractor, although most of the labor was provided by local volunteers. The church was built at a cost of \$34,864 and was entirely paid for upon completion. The parish leader, Fr. Wulf, died on September 6, 1913 at age of 46 while working to build a new parish school.

The house directly across the road from the church was built in 1895 and served as the rectory until 1950. A new rectory and a social hall/gymnasium were built in 1950. A three story brick school, located where the city park is today, was built in 1913. It was the educational center for the Catholic community for 54 years, serving from 100 to 300 students each year in grades 1 through 8. The parochial school closed in June 1967 but continued operation as part of Parkston Public School until May 1990. The building was demolished in June 1991.

The main and side altars were built by the Dubuque Altar Manufacturing Company. A replica of the last supper is seen below the main altar, and the side altars contain depictions of the Annunciation and the death of St. Joseph. The church is consecrated, meaning it has a special blessing by the bishop and has relics of a saint, located in the marble below the tabernacle. A new hand-carved altar and podium from Italy were donated in 1994 and 1996, respectively by Henry and Bertha Ripp. The new altar is made of linden wood base with a European walnut top and portrays Christ and two disciples breaking bread after meeting on the road in Emmaus. The lector's stand has the symbols of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

In 1918, Father Auer had the church decorated in a gothic theme. The paintings are all canvas murals prepared in Germany. The west side depicts the life of St. Peter and the east side of St. Paul. The murals over the side altars are the Adoration of Shepherds and murals Adoration of the Magi. In the south side, of the transepts are murals of the Pentecost and Resurrection. On the rear wall of the church are the mural paintings of Jesus forgiving the adulterous woman and the Prodigal Son.

The gothic stained glass windows were sent from Germany. The builders went by wagon to Sioux City to pick up the windows in honor of the Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In the transepts are the windows in honor of St. Peter on the west and St. Paul on the east.



Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Dimock SD Historical Timeline

- 1880: First mass held in home of Mathias Schillingen w/ Father Krizels of Tabor.
- 1880: First small wood framed church built in the fall & first mass w/ Father McCarthy.
- 1885: Father Lamesch became SSPP first resident pastor.
- 1886: Bishop Marty confirmed a class of 160.
- 1890: A larger wood framed church was built to accommodate the growing parish.
- 1895: A house was built south of the church and served as a new rectory (still stands).
- 1908: On March 19th the SSPP church burned to the ground.
- 1908: June 29th under the direction of Fr. John Wulf construction began on new church.
- 1909: Oct. 6th Bishop O'Gorman consecrated the completed church & confirmed 105.
- 1913: Fr. John Wulf died at age 46 during construction of a 3 story brick Catholic school.
- 1918: Fr. Auer decorated the church in a gothic theme with murals & 24 new windows.
- 1929: The Schaefer Pipe Organ was installed and the church was wired for electricity.
- 1950: A brick social hall/gymnasium was built under direction of Fr. William Schmitt.
- 1950: A brick house was built next to church to serve as a new rectory.
- 1955: Fr. Charles Nemmers constructed classrooms & chapel in church basement.
- 1967: After 54 years the Catholic school was closed and sold to Parkston School Dist.
- 1991: Catholic school building was demolished and replaced with a community park.
- 1994: Hand carved altar and podium from Italy were installed in the church.
- 2003: Shingles were replaced in the church roof.
- 2004: Interior of the church was restored under the direction of Fr. Joseph Glancy.
- 2008: New parish hall was built under the direction of Fr. Joseph Thalanany.

