

Emery St. Martin



Second St. Martin's Church, Built 1885



Interior of St. Martin's Church, Built in 1905



HISTORY OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH EMERY, SOUTH DAKOTA

The history of St. Martin's Parish goes back to the year 1880 when Father Marty was consecrated Bishop at St. Meinard, Indiana. Emery, along with other communities, was being taken care of by traveling missionaries. Emery, in Hanson County had been founded in 1881 but bore the name of Farmington. Subsequently, however, because the town site was platted on the S.M. Emery tree claim, the town was named for him.

The second priest to come was Father Mc Carthy, who came later in the year 1880. He first said mass in the homes of the community until September of the same year when the first church was built in Emery, on the southwest corner of Mrs. Susan Driscoll's homestead. The first recorded baptisms in the new church were performed by Father E.M. Hennessy on July 30, 1882.

This church was blown down during the storm of 1884. Father Quinn, who had charge of Emery and Alexandria in 1884, desired that the people of Emery should split up and go to Bridgewater and Alexandria. However, permission was obtained to erect a new church here, and the church, fifty-six feet long and thirty feet wide was erected where St. Martin's parochial school then stood, was built and paid for within two years. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Driscoll were the first couple married in the second church. St. Martin's Church was dedicated by Bishop Marty on the Feast of St. Martin, November 11, 1886.

On June fifth of 1901, Father George Hoffman came here from White Lake, South Dakota. The church property at that time consisted of only one-half a block, so Father Hoffman bought fourteen acres from Henry Bunger. The first thing that was done was to build a priest's house, and within three months it was ready and occupied.

In 1905, the church being too small, Father Hoffman bought the land on which the church now stands for \$1,500. Father donated the land and gave \$1,500 toward a new church, which was built that same year. After it was started the people joined in and within three months it was ready and occupied. The cross was put on the 120 foot steeple in 1906. The cost of the church was \$11,000.

Father Hoffman built a barn shortly after his arrival, where he kept a horse and cows.

On June 12, 1924, a mission was held in Emery, the services starting at 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. However, since the people were busy in the fields, Father Hoffman asked the Missionary to postpone the services until 8:15 in the evening to which he gladly agreed. On Saturday of that week, a great storm came up and at 8:00 P.M., the chimneys were thrown into the church and it was practically wrecked. Only a few people were present at the time, but had services been held at the regular time, some would surely have been killed. The church was, with the insurance money, fixed up.

The present church was completed in 1952 and together with the furnishings cost some \$150,000. The church was dedicated and consecrated by the Most Reverend William O. Brady on May 14, 1952. The bell from the old church was put on the new church. It weighs 1030 pounds and was built in 1891.

Mitchell Holy Spirit

MITCHELL, Davison County

Holy Spirit

1962, June BB. Bishop Hoch appointed Rev. Thomas J. McPhillips to organize a second parish in the southeast section of the city.

1963, Feb. BB The proposed church-school combination will have 8 classrooms with library and faculty facilities. A multi-purpose room will serve as gymnasium and cafeteria during the week and as church on Sundays. The stage will be the sanctuary. During the week, a chapel for week-day Mass will be built along one side of the stage and will do double duty as "dryingroom" on Sundays.

1964 BB Sept. About 225 youngsters are enrolled in 8 grades in the new Holy Spirit parochial school. 4 PVMs and 4 Lay teachers staff it.

1964, Jan. 12 Bishop Hoch blessed the Notre Dame High School and Holy Spirit School-church complex. BB, Feb. 1964.

1965 Residence for the pastor at 1412 W. Cedar Avenue.

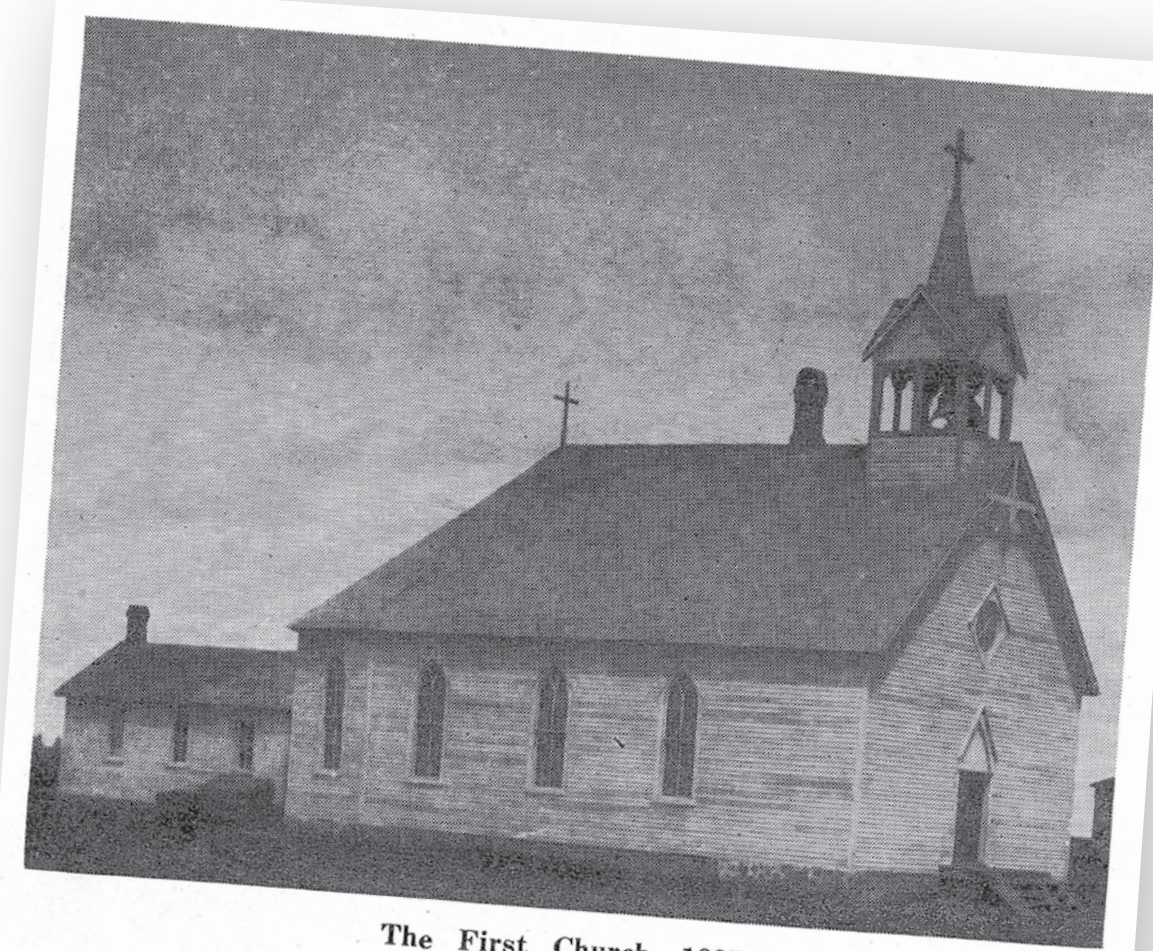
1977, May 28 The new Holy Spirit Church was dedicated by Bishop Hoch. It has a capacity of 570. BB, Aug. 1977.

1978 In the parochial school 135 pupils were taught by 4 PVM Sisters and 4 lay teachers.



Parkston Sacred Heart

Mitchell Holy Family



The First Church—1887

The start of our parish is comparable to the other communities in South Dakota. The Dakota Territories were being settled in the late 1800's, and the first catholic settler in Hutchinson County came from Cross Plains, Wisconsin in 1878. His name was Mathias Schlinggen.

Early pioneers typically came from Wisconsin to Mitchell, and from Mitchell they had to walk until they found land they could claim. Some of the immigrants could not find land, so they hired a "locator" to help them achieve their quest. One of the early locators by the name of Theodore Brech was directing the German and Austrian/Hungarian Catholic immigrants to a community know as Rome. Rome was located just west of Dimock, and because the rail line ultimately bypassed Rome, the post office was abandoned and moved East along the rail line to the community re-named Starr (aka Dimock).

Catholics from Sacred Heart of Parkston and Holy Trinity of Ethan journeyed to Dimock for worship services. The priests typically traveled from Marion, Bridgewater, and White Lake to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. Ultimately the populations began shifting according to the settlements, and the churches sprung up on the prairie. The Catholics constructed a church at Dakota City, however when Parkston began growing due to the railroad, a group of citizens decided to travel to Yankton and ultimately received permission to build a church in Parkston-know as The Church of Sacred Heart. In 1891 the first church was constructed at a cost of \$2,000. Within a few years, the church was far too small to handle the increased attendance. In 1903, Sacred Heart received a bid for \$20,240 to construct a much larger brick church which was located on main street in Parkston. Parishioners were required to haul the material and provide all the rocks for the foundation. The architect called the plans the most pretentious and expensive church building for which he had ever prepared plans.

In 1912, Fr. Nicholas Dahlmann was transferred to Parkston from Aberdeen. Fr. Dahlmann was responsible for initiating construction of a catholic school as well as numerous other "forward looking" projects. The Knights of Columbus in Parkston was later named after Fr. Nicholas Dahlmann.

With the parish membership continuing to grow over the next several years, Sacred Heart now required assistant priests to keep up with the services needed to manage the church and school. This growth continued into the early '70's until the economy, family size, and societies began changing. In the summer of 1970 tornado like winds destroyed the church, and reconstruction of the parish into today's facility was initiated. Sacred Heart now has 310 members of which approximately 265 are considered active.



MITCHELL, Davison County

Holy Family

Mitchell is 75 miles west of the Big Sioux River, 75 miles north of Yankton, 75 miles east of Chamberlain, and 50 miles south of Huron.

1874 Firesteel, a town 3 miles from where Mitchell will be located, was founded, but later the buildings were moved to Mitchell. "Pioneer Mitchell," Federal Writers Project.

1878, May A town site was established and named for Alexander Mitchell, president of the Milwaukee RR. It was on Firestone Creek. MITCHELL GAZETTE, Sept. 23, 1945.

1879 Mitchell was but a name--no houses, no inhabitants. Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism in S.D.*, p. 63

1880 A U.S. Land Office was opened.

1880, Sept. The Ch. Milw. & St. Paul reached here.

1880, June Bishop Marty offered Mass here the first time. He later appointed Rev. Meinrad Mc Carthy, O.S.B. for a few months to organize the parish.

1881, May The town was incorporated.

1881 Only one meeting house, a hall over a saloon on Main St. This place was used for religious services, theater, dances. Seats were planks on beer kegs. "Pioneer Mitchell", p. 6

1882 Mitchell had a population of 1200 persons. There were several flour and feed mills, an elevator, a foundry, machine shops, and a brickyard. Briggs, *FOUNDERS OF THE NORTHWEST*, p. 427 Parker, *FOUNDING OF PRESBYTERIANISM*, p. 63. He gives the pop. as 2,000.

1882 Bishop Marty dedicated the new Catholic church. Fr. E. Hennessy directed the construction. 40 German Catholic families. DAILY PRESS & DAKOTIAN, Sept. 27, and Oct. 6, 1903

1883 Father E. Hennessy built the first rectory.

1884, July 12 DAILY PRESS & DAKOTIAN, July 12, 1884 The Catholic priest (Fr. E. Hennessy) organized a total abstinence society in his parish.

1885 The oldest branch of Knights of Columbus was established in Mitchell in 1885 with 20 charter members. THE DAKOTA CATECHIC, Mar. 30, 1889

1886 The Ch. Milw. & St. Paul RR reached Mitchell from Scotland.

1886 A parochial school is being built of brick at a cost of \$10,000 by Rev. George Sheehan. DER WANDERER, May 6, 1886

Acta et Dicta, II (July, 1909)

1908

"Dedication of the Church of the Holy Family, Mitchell, SD"

On July 25, 1908, the Rt. Rev. Thomas O'Gorman dedicated the new church after which he celebrated a Pontifical Mass. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. J. P. Moran O. F., of Minneapolis, Minn. The church cost \$70,000 and was erected under the direction of the pastor, Rev. J. J. Shea. The Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 120 persons. Present were Flynn of Madison, Sheehan of Elkton, Mensing of Webster, Noesen of Deadwood, p. 138

1925 Father J.M. Brady was invested as Monsignor.

1933 The KC have their own building at 317 North Main Street with reading, billiard, and card rooms. They number at this time 250 members.

1941 A committee of 5 laymen look after the welfare of Catholic Boy Scouts. Ralph Hollister is the scout master.

1942-1943 "Annual Bulletin of Notre Dame Jr. College-Academy": Expenses for college students who wish to work in homes for their room and board were for the year \$123.00.

1943 In the last 25 years the Alter Society contributed at least \$80,000 to the church.

1943 Five lines of railroads emanate from Mitchell. MITCHELL GAZETTE, Sept. 23, '43

1943 The Court of Margaret Mary, 441, was established by Catholic Daughters of Am. with about 300 members.

1960 Over the past 2 years 70 adults have been received into the Catholic Church. Bishop Hoch confirmed them. BB, Feb. 1960

1949 A "free store" for the needy is conducted by the Holy Family Parish in one of the schoolrooms. Nobody pays for what he gets and nobody gets paid for providing the clothing and household supplies. The Parish Aid Committee headed by E.C. Sweeney and Jake Martin is also called upon to find employment and housing for the poor. The committee was organized in 1949. BB, Nov. 1972

1966 The annual convention of the KC will be held Apr. 20 in the Corn Palace in Mitchell. The three-day affair will be marked by a pontifical Mass by Bishop Hoch in the Corn Palace. BB, Apr. 1966