

# Big Bend St. Catherine



**BIG BEND St. Catherine**

1917 First church was built near the river. Gerhardt, 1865-1965

1960's A church was brought in from Cedar Creek.

1972 The church was completely rebuilt. Trailer was procured to serve as CCD center.

1973, Mar. 23 Reported By Rev. David T. Fenelon, OSB, stationed at St. John's Chapel in Pierre: 50 Catholic families, both Indian and white Church, trailer for CCD and meeting place CCD for grades and jr. high Active: Parish Council, Altar Society in process of getting organized

# Chamberlain St. James



THE OLD ST. JAMES CHURCH, WHICH THE NEW CHURCH REPLACES



**Chamberlain (Brule County) St. James**

Father Colman O'Flaherty, born in Galway Ireland ~~xxxxxx~~ and ordained by Bishop O'Gorman on Sept 15, 1901 was first assigned to Lyman and Brule counties. Within 2 years he had erected a parish house in Kimball and from there directed the construction of St. James Church in Chamberlain at a cost of \$5,000. In April of 1910 Father O'Flaherty turned St. James over to the Victorians. Father Louis J. Goulette, CSV, became pastor. Father Goulette found the early history of Chamberlain interesting. The first Catholic services in the town took place in 1881 at Wright House, later known as the Nussman Hotel. The Catholics in the area were poor and hesitant about building their own church...making only 25 to 30 dollars a month...Fr Goulette was told that in the 1890's, Fr E Douka of Tabor and Father George Hoffman of White Lake made the long trips to offer Catholics in Chamberlain the opportunity of receiving the sacraments...word sent around when priests were coming and people from outlying areas came (conflicting dates here from earlier info in CD on pp 154...on Nov 4, 1931 the 1st step toward parish organization was taken. St. James Parish was incorporated...two years later, under the direction of Father Colman O'Flaherty and supported by Protestant business of the town, St. James Church was erected...dedicated by Bishop O'Gorman on May 25, 1903 (Chr. CD said earlier that Fr O'Flaherty was not ordained until 1901)...The people begged for a priest but the best the Bishop could do was annex Chamberlain as a mission to Fulkwina (1902-05) and later to Kimball... Fr Goulette was succeeded by other Victorian priests: M. Lemnarts, 1911-13; F. J. Moissant, 1913-15; Joseph D. LaPlante, 1915-17, the last one being Father Stanley A. Swikowski, 1927. When the Victorian Fathers withdrew in 1927, Bishop Mahoney offered the care of St. James Parish to the priests of the Sacred Heart. Fr William Hauer, SCS, served the parish for a year...later it was attended by Father Hogsbach who shouldered the responsibilities of both pastor to the parish and superior of the Indian school in Chamberlain...6 years later Bishop Mahoney appointed Fr James Burns to be resident priest.

On page 372 CD states: "the Priests of the Sacred Heart were entrusted with the care of St. James Parish, Chamberlain in 1944 (doesn't this conflict with earlier dates she listed?) Father Joseph Speyer, SCS, initiated a building program the next year. A parish house, with a basement for community activities was completed in 1949. Father Thomas McPhillips was assigned to Chamberlain (1949) He realized that a church-rectory was needed. On Sept. 18, 1955 the new church was dedicated with provisions for CCD classes. In 1973 there were 225 Catholic households in Chamberlain. (DD)

# Fort Thompson St. Joseph

**FORT THOMPSON, Buffalo County St. Joseph**  
15 miles from Stephan

\* 1794, Sept. 30 John Baptist Trudeau was at the site of present Ft. Thompson and explored and traded.

1862 Ft. Thompson was established. This was the first white settlement in the large Buffalo County. Inventory of the County Archives of S.D., No. 8, "Buffalo County" (1937)

1865 W.W. Brookings laid out a road from Ft. Thompson to Pipestone, Minn., passing through Forsburgh and Westington Springs. Schell, "Notes," p. 40 f.

1884 The Congregational church was the first to erect a house of worship. It was a sod house. Inv. of Archives, Ibid.

\*\* 1883 Catholic church built

\*\* 1895 A Catholic church was built to serve both whites and Indians. Cost, \$2,500. A priest came from Stephan every week to offer Mass. The former St. James Church, Chamberlain, built in 1903, was moved to Fort Thompson and renovated.

\*\*\*\* 1951 Fr. Alan, OSB of Blue Cloud Abbey got sisters from Stephan to teach religion at Ft. Thompson.

1954 The parish had to move to a new site when the construction of the Big Bend Dam started.

1967, July 1 The mission church at Ft. Thompson burned down. BB, July 1967

Members of the parish: 340 adults and 135 children. These numbers include the mission of Duncan.

Until another church can be erected, Catholics will worship in the garage next to the rectory. BB, July 1967

1968, Apr. 20 The new St. Joseph Church with facilities for social and educational programs was blessed.

The pews, altar, and sanctuary furnishings were donated to the parish by the congregation of St. William, Yale, whose church was closed last summer.

\*\* 1877 Ft. Thompson has a first class hotel and a new store. It is 158 miles from Yankton. No soldiers at the post. The stockade and the dwelling houses remain. Pierre Route. PRESS & DAKOTAIAN, Apr. 28, 1877

\* 1794 John Baptist Trudeau with 10 men landed on the site of present Ft. Thompson on Sept. 30, 1794, and explored and traded throughout what is now Buffalo County (then it included also Brule, Buffalo, Aurora, Davison, Hanson, Winer, Sanborn, Jesuick, Beale, Park, Spink, Clark and Kingsbury up to 1871.) A trail was opened from Ft. Thompson northeast into the settlements in Minnesota, where Indians and whites traveled and traded for many years. The trail was of great importance to the early pioneers. Sessions, EARLY HISTORY OF HAND COUNTY, p. 7.

\*\*\* 1915 Deed of St. Joseph Cemetery, Ft. Thompson, held by the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions: "I wish to donate this to the Catholic Indian Mission on the Crow Creek Reservation...I will give them this land for \$5. I want to give it free but understand a small consideration should be paid." This was said by Frank Papani—the gave 2 1/2 acres, Nov. 15, 1915. 3/4 of 32 1/2 of 36 1/2 of 36 1/2, Sec. 15 T 107 N, R. 72 W.

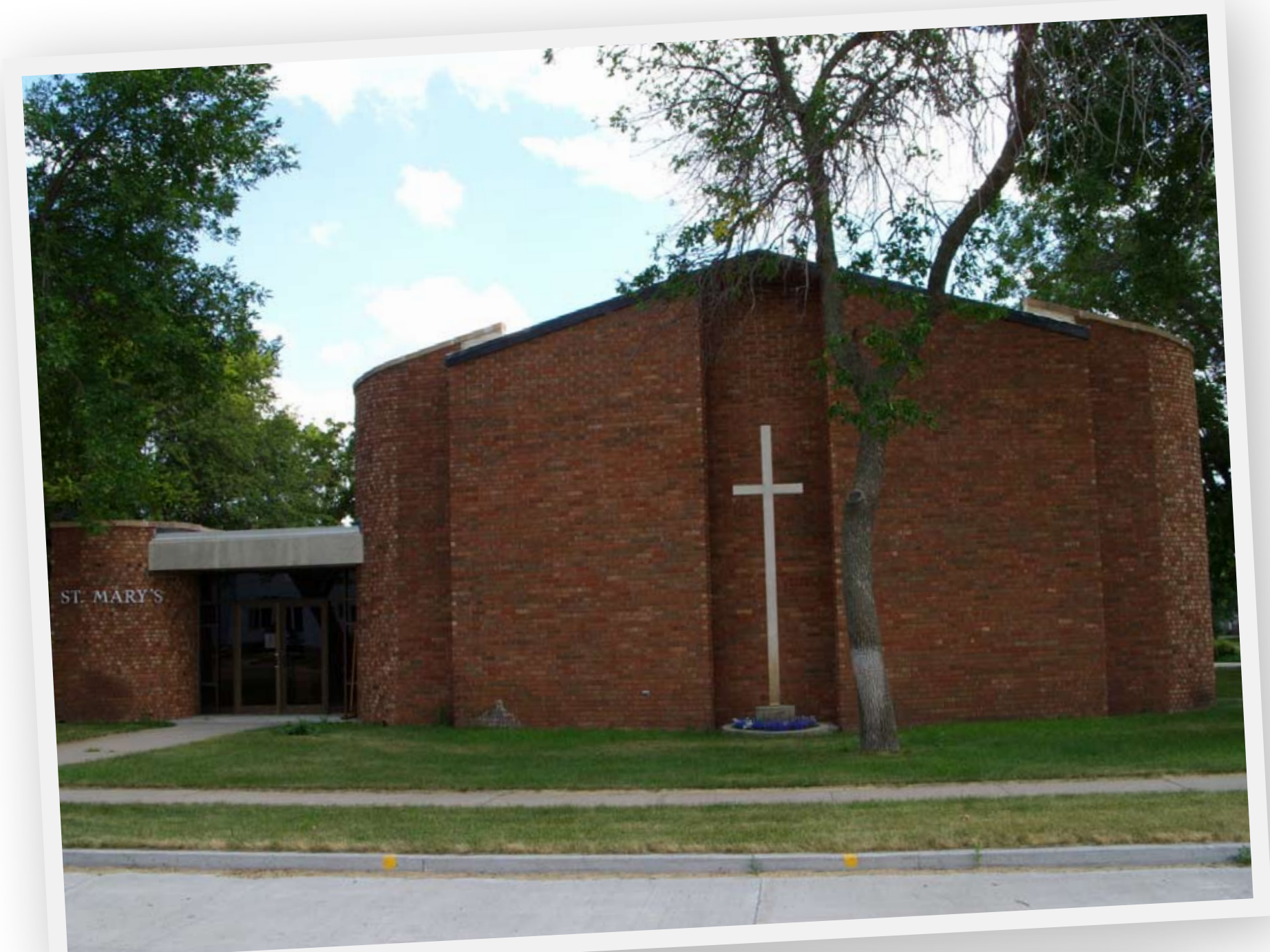
1929-31 Levi Bird was a full-time catechist at Ft. Thompson, being paid by the BOM. After 1931 he was paid \$15 a month.

1974 Government grants under Part B of the Education Act: Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, FT THOMPSON got \$53,600. P & D, Aug. 16, 1974.

1975 April. Albert Bruce was making 300 new crosses for the cemetery at Ft. Thompson. Fr. Julius Armbruster, OSB is the pastor and also cares for St. Catherine's at Big Bend. Wopcedah, July-Aug. Stephan



# Highmore St. Mary



**Highmore (Hyde) St. Mary**

From 1883 to 1885 Highmore was the only town in Hyde County and the men associated with its beginnings were not Catholic. The first Catholic ever mentioned in the Pierre parish records of Father Bernard H. Bunning. On the first Friday of February, 1884, he celebrated Mass at the Highmore railroad station at which 15 persons received their Paschal communion. The priests of Pierre continued to make the 70-mile trip until Highmore was assigned to Immaculate Conception Mission at Stephan. Father Ambrose Mattingly, OSB, made the 18-mile trip with horse and buggy from 1889 to 1901 when Highmore reverted to Pierre. By 1892 there were five German and 15 English Catholic families.

An influx of Germans from Russia in 1904 increased the number of Catholic sufficiently so that a church was feasible. Father M. J. McCarthy, newly appointed resident pastor of Miller, directed construction of a small frame structure. It was blessed by Mgr. Thomas A. Flynn on Nov. 20, 1905. The priest of Miller attended to St. Mary's Parish until 1912 except for the year (1912?) when Father Albert A. Walloch was in residence, caring also for Blunt and Harrold.

The new Highmore Church was uniquely furnished in 1970. Hyde County rock was employed in the fashioning of the sanctuary furniture -- the altar, lectern and the baptismal font. Father Paul Morgan was the artisan. (CD)