

HISTORY OF SACRED HEART

- 1880 Fr. Michael O'Toole would ride his horse from Newcastle to Emerson for Mass.
- 1885 Under the supervision of Fr. Moriarity of Bancroft, the first Catholic Church was built in Emerson. It was a white frame structure located on the north edge of town, east of where the Sacred Heart School was later built.
- 1885 The first Mass was said at the new church.
- 1888 Fr. Mugans from Wayne would travel by train, twice a month, to have Mass in Emerson.
- 1890 During the pastorate of Rev. James Berry the first rectory was built. It was located south of the church. Fr. Berry was the first priest in residence at Sacred Heart.
- 1897 Calvery Cemetery was acquired and blessed.



The second church built in 1903.



Sacred Heart School was dedicated on September 3, 1919.

- 1897 Rev. Michael Barret succeeded Fr. Berry. To accomodate an ever increasing congregation our second church was built just south of the original structure.
- 1903 Rev. James Burke became pastor of Sacred Heart.
- 1909 The Knights of Columbus was organized at the parish.
- 1917 His Excellency Bishop Jeremiah Harty laid the cornerstone of the new Sacred Heart School.
- 1919 On September 3, 1919 the new school was dedicated. The cost of the school was \$65,000.
- 1921 On March 17, 1921, the church burned to the ground after it was struck by lightning.
- 1921 Without delay, work was started on our third church. This was supposed to be a temporary building. It was our parish church from 1921 to 1950.

- 1926 Rev. Cornelius Collins became our pastor, he died in 1931.
- 1931 Monsignor Ernest Graham became temporary pastor until Monsignor Joseph Augheny became our priest.
- 1937 Rev. Edward Applebaum became our pastor and worked tirelessly for the parish and the school.
- 1940 The Sisters of St. Casimir, from Chicago, came to staff our school. They replaced the Presentation Sisters, who had been instructing the children of Sacred Heart for the last 20 years.
- 1950 Our present church was constructed of concrete and steel. Archbishop Gerald Bergan dedicated it on July 4, 1950.



The first student body of Sacred Heart School (1919).

OUR PARISH TIMELINE



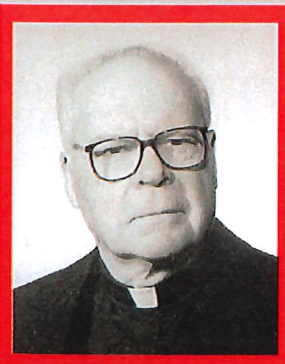
The third church was built in 1921.

- 1952 Rev. William Lordemann became our pastor.
- 1955 Margaret and Jerry Sweeney gave our church 80 acres of land south of Emerson. The legal document said it was exchanged for \$1.00 and other valuable considerations. They asked that one stained glass window in the church be installed in memory for Jerry and Margaret Sweeney.
- 1958 Rev. Alfred Hoelsing became our pastor. The boarding school was discontinued and bussing students from neighboring towns began.
- 1961 The new convent was dedicated on the 75th anniversary of the parish, on March 28, 1961.

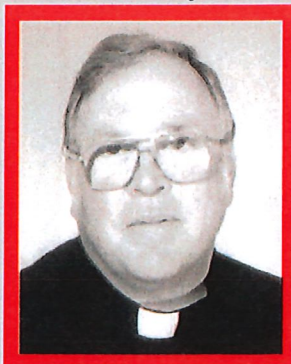


Father Malloy blesses the new ambo.

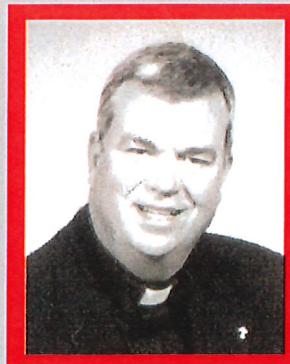
- 1965 A gymnasium was built at the cost of \$118,000. Here the students ate their lunches, held their proms and graduations and played basketball. It was later named after an alumnus of the school, Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan.
- 1966 Fr. Hoelsing returned to the rectory after coaching a basketball game and found it in flames.
- 1967 A new rectory was completed at a cost of \$60,431.
- 1975 Fr. Hoelsing died of a heart attack in 1975 and Fr. John Connealy became the new pastor.
- 1982 Rev. James Novotny, as our pastor, involved our youth in activities such as boy scouting, camping and trips to Canada and national parks. He was active in rural affairs. He started a food pantry and began bingo to help with supporting the school. He invited Teens Encounter Christ (T.E.C.) spiritual movement to conduct their weekends in the upper floors of the school.
- 1996 Fr. James Kramper moved to Emerson from Lindsey, Nebraska. He started the New To You Store and worked dilligently as a fundraiser for the parish and school.
- 2002 Rev. Michael Malloy became pastor after Fr. Kramper moved to Decatur and Tekamah.
- 2003 Sacred Heart School closed on December 19, 2003 because of low enrollment.
- 2005 The grade school building was taken down in 2005.
- 2006 Renovations began on Sacred Heart Church in April of 2006. The sanctuary walls were repaired and an altar, readers stand, and tabernacle stand were constructed. The altar society bought carpet for the church and we installed a new sound system.



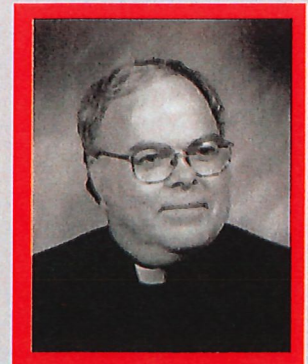
Fr. John Connealy
1975-1982



Fr. James Novotny
1982-1996



Fr. James Kramper
1996-2002



Fr. Michael Malloy
2002-Present