

SACRED HEART

100 years



19 11 – 19 12

It was Fr. Jeremiah Harrington, the pastor of Ascension church that organized the parish of Sacred Heart, naming Joseph Boyce and Sherrill Klapp the first trustees. Three lots were purchased fronting on what is West Broadway today at the corner of 40 1/2th Ave. and a small wooden church was constructed on the site at a cost of \$6,900. The very first mass celebrated in Robbinsdale was the Midnight Mass on Christmas 1911. Fr. William Blum was appointed the first resident pastor in 1912.

19 14 – 19 26

In 1914, a parish rectory was built just to the north of the church building. Good times and growth meant that in 1916, just five years after being built, the original church needed to be enlarged. After 8 years of committed saving and raising funds, land was purchased along Hubbard Avenue. 85 years ago Sacred Heart School was completed and opened for the beginning of the 1926/27 school year. It had six classrooms and the basement included a “modern” school kitchen and an auditorium that was the largest in the surrounding area.

SACRED HEART



19 **27** – 19 **31**

The convent for the nuns was completed in August of 1927. That same year of 1927, responding to continued growth the original church was again enlarged, adding transepts and sanctuary and covering the original wooden exterior façade in brick matching the school and convent. In 1930 two more classrooms and an underground garage were added to the school. In July of 1931, after 19 years of monumental service to the parish and community, Fr. William Blum died.

19 **31**

Archbishop John Murray acted swiftly and appointed a new pastor for Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale. Father Francis Nolan was called from his assignment at Waverly, Minnesota to rekindle his former association with Sacred Heart. He embarked on a 35 year pastoral commitment as Sacred Heart's consummate spiritual and cultural leader that would last to his dying day in July 1966.

1911 - 2011



1956 – 1958

In 1956, Fr. Nolan arranged for the purchase of the old Elwood Hotel and the vacant land across the street. The hotel building, which sat where our current church now stands, was moved across 41st Avenue to its present location in order to create space for a new church building large enough to accommodate the parish's booming population growth. Ground-breaking for the new church was in December of 1957 and it was completed the next year, with the first mass celebrated on Christmas Eve 1958.

1965 – 1966

With the dramatic changes throughout the Catholic Church brought on with the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, Sacred Heart faced its own seismic change as Father Nolan passed away in July of 1966. The 38 Catholic families that began the parish in 1911 had now grown to well over 1200 in the first 50 years and been served by just two resident pastors. By contrast the second 50 years would be shared by seven pastors, equally dedicated and each leaving a unique imprint on Robbinsdale's Catholic community.

SACRED HEART



19 **66** – 19 **73**

Father Alfred Wagner, became Sacred Heart's next leader in 1966. He was followed for a, brief, one year tenure by Fr. John Flaherty in 1969. Then in 1970, the pastor of the Waverly, Minnesota parish, Father Wallace Hermes, took on a new assignment as pastor at Sacred Heart. His concerns led him to lobby for and lead the construction project that would build a new Multi-Purpose Activities Building. A major fundraising effort was conducted and ground broken in early autumn of 1973.

19 **73** – 19 **76**

None too soon, for on November 3rd 1973 the old, original, landmark church, which had stood solid and proud for 62 years, was completely destroyed by fire. The following September, Fr. Hermes presided over the new building's completion. He even drew on his cultivated connections from his stay at Waverly to invite former Vice President Hubert H Humphrey to speak at the Dedication of the Activities Building on September 30, 1974. In 1976, Sacred Heart welcomed St. Paul native Father John McGrath as its new pastor.

100 years



19 82 – 19 95

During a span of 19 years, he entrenched the tradition of the annual parish Fun Fest as the parish fund raiser and supervised the construction of a new rectory in 1982.

Tragically, in 1995, Fr. McGrath, at age 64, suffered a heart attack and died. That loss was filled by Father Robert Zasacki. Father “Bob” not only shared his canine companion, Micah, with the parish, he also bequeathed his secret recipe for Mostaccioli sauce, which to this day is served up by the parish Men’s Club at their primary fund raising event.

20 01 – 20 02

Father Zasacki moved to St Joseph’s in Hopkins in November of 2001, Sacred Heart was left without a resident pastor for over six months until Father Michael Creagan was assigned in July 2002. He took a strong interest in the architectural attributes that Fr. Nolan, had incorporated into the design of the present “new” church. He formulated a plan to “complete” the sanctuary that would rightfully focus the congregation’s attention on the tabernacle holding the blessed Eucharist.

SACRED HEART



20 06 – 20 08

Fr. Creagan's efforts resulted in a beautiful and successful Sanctuary Completion Project. The parish was graced by Archbishop Harry Flynn, who consecrated the altar and the "completed" church on June 10th, 2006. Fr. Creagan accepted a new assignment at St Joseph's parish in West St. Paul in 2008, his successor, Father Bryan Pedersen, assumed custody of all the accumulated efforts and accomplishments of the prior pastors and parishioners.

20 11

Father Pedersen has embraced the legacy of the original founders of Sacred Heart Parish. Our current "Focus On Facilities" campaign to make that vision reality is completely consistent with the first 100 years of parish history at Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale. As the parish embarks on its second century in Robbinsdale, its dreams are as ambitious and worthy as they were originally in 1911. God has truly blessed the parish of Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale!



Centennial Mass

Sunday, September 25th 2011





Centennial Reception

— Sunday, September 25th 2011 —

