

## **History of Holy Family Parish**

### **Saint Mary's, Assumption of Saint Mary and Saint Thomas**

#### **History of Assumption of St. Mary's**

- 1856 Irish immigrants enter land claim in name of Bishop Hennessy
- 1857 First Mass and Baptism by Fr. Aylward from Fort Dodge
- 1859 Log Church built and destroyed by fire
- 1871 Fr. J Smith appointed pastor for 39 families
- 1872 Church built at the Irish Colony by Fr. Lenihan
- 1874 Town of Emmetsburg moved to present location
- 1880 General Lawler, President of Milwaukee Railroad donated land for Church
- 1884 Assumption Church built for \$35,000
- 1888 Buildings for rectory and convent moved in
- 1889 BVM Sisters arrived to teach grades 1-12 at St. Mary's Academy, frame school building and convent built
- 1897 Tall pointed steeple replaced after numerous lightning strikes
- 1912 Fr. P Farrelly named pastor
- 1920 St. Mary's convent built
- 1924 Fr. J Murtagh named pastor
- 1930 Old public school gym purchased and moved onto property for gym and parish hall
- 1932 Fr. J Finnegan named pastor
- 1936 Fr. EA Dunn named pastor
- 1938 Fr W Mason named pastor
- 1952 Emmetsburg Catholic High School built, Fr. E Thom Superintendent
- 1953 St. Mary's grade school built
- 1957 Corrigan Hall, gym and cafeteria built for \$237,000
- 1967 Emmetsburg Catholic Grade School formed by consolidation of St. Ellen's and St. Mary's grade schools
- 1968 Emmetsburg Catholic High School closed
- 1970 Fr. Thom named pastor
- 1979 BVM Sisters leave Emmetsburg after 90 years
- 1979 Fr. D Ries and Fr. C Borman named co-pastors
- 1981 Fr. Sitzman named pastor, convent converted to Senior Citizen Home, Deacon D Guenther serves both parishes, New pews and interior renovation of church
- 1982 All grades move to former ECHS building
- 1984 Convent sold to Horizons Unlimited
- 100th Anniversary Assumption Church structure
- 1986 Fr. L Suentjens named pastor, Fr. E Young Associations

#### **History of St. Thomas Parish**

- 1905 St. Thomas Church completed on Tobin Family land site for \$35,000 as directed in Thomas Tobin will. Bishop Garrigan named Fr. M McNerney pastor of newly formed parish
- 1906 Rectory at 801 Lake Street bought for \$3200, sold in 1987 for \$14,500
- 1914 St Ellen's Grade school built next to St. Thomas Church for \$25,000. Razed in 1987. Staffed by BVM's until 1967.
- 1924 St. Ellen's convent built for \$25,000
- 1944 Fr. CE Farrelly named second pastor
- 1952 Emmetsburg Catholic High School built by both parishes for \$180,000
- 1979 BVM Sisters leave parish
- 1979 Msgr CE Farrelly resigns as pastor

#### **History of Holy Family Parish**

- 1990 St. Thomas and assumption parishes merge as Holy Family Parish
- Holy Family Parish Center opens in renovated former Catholic Grade School
- 1991 Fr. C Yetmar named pastor
- 1993 Fr. R Guerdet named pastor
- 1990 Fr. E Murray named pastor
- 1995 Sr. L Hass named principal of Emmetsburg Catholic School
- 1996 St. Thomas celebrates 90th anniversary, moved to Oratory status
- 1997 St. Thomas closed and razed with alters and Stations of the Cross donated to Epiphany in Sioux City. Church property sold
- 2000 Fr. D Guenther named pastor
- 2005 Fr. C Currans named pastor
- 2006 150 years of Catholic Faith in Emmetsburg
- First annual outdoor Memorial Day Mass
- Mosaic of Holy Family donated by family of Karen Ruddy
- 2007 Quarterly newsletter initiated by Fr. Currans
- 2008 Church Renovation project with goal to raise \$245,000
- 2009 Fr. C Currans celebrates 35 year anniversary of ordination
- F D Ries celebrates 50 years
- 2010 Renovation completed: interior painted, ceiling and wall repair, new carpet, pew refinishing, new light fixtures, Stations of Cross repainted, new Church doors and new Roof on Corrigan Hall
- 2010 Bishop R Walker Nickless blesses new ambo, alter and presiders chair and presides over first mass in renovated Church
- 2010 Lisa Oberg recipient of Bishop's Excellence Award
- 2011 Four candlesticks from St. Thomas Church return to Emmetsburg
- 2011 Parish Cluster Committee formed to facilitate the sharing of one priest with Ayrshire, Emmetsburg, and Ruthven
- 2011 RAE of Light Cluster parishes begins with new mass schedules
- 2012 Two new keyboards donated from memorials
- Fr. T Geelan celebrates 50th anniversary of ordination