

Sacred Heart



St.James

CHURCH HISTORY

The first known visit by a priest to Alturas occurred in 1875 when the Rev. J.J. Callenn of Ureka came to Modoc County. Then in 1881, according to the memoirs of Father Thomas Nugent, he traveled to the Alturas area by stage and buck-board to celebrate mass.

In 1883, two years after the visit of Father Nugent, Father Patrick Kirley came to Modoc and founded a parish in Alturas. Mr. L.C. Estes, a non-catholic donated a tract of land and Fr. Kirley immediately began the construction of the still standing stone church which crowns the hill on Fourth Street. The Burke Brothers, (Stonemasons) laid the foundation in the fall of 1883 and in the spring of 1884 cornerstone ceremonies were held. At that time the rising church as placed under the patronage of St. Joseph. All available funds had been exhausted when the outer walls were completed and the Catholics of the area, few in number, were unable to complete construction. For 27 years the imposing walls, with their four Celtic crosses remained a lonely and somber sentinel overlooking the town of Alturas.

In 1900, during the pastorate of Fr. Patrick Gleason, it was determined that the land and the unfinished church has been sold for taxes. On February 19, 1902 this same piece of land, "including the old stone building and all of the building stone thereon," was purchased by Bishop Thomas Grace, "for the consideration of five dollars, gold coin of the United States of America." Thereafter, taxes were paid annually by the parishioners.

Fr. Thomas Horgan came to Alturas, in 1906 with a goal to complete the church, much to the delight of local parishioners. He developed a plan to raise the necessary funds, and submitted them to Bishop Grace for approval. In 1909 the Bishop granted permission to dispose of the excess property owned by the parish. Five acres of land previously donated by John McGahey were plotted and accepted as part of the City of Alturas. The lots were sold for \$10.00 each. In 1911 the Church was "under roof" and was given a grant of \$450 for completion.

In the Autumn of 1911 a new parish was created, encompassing Modoc and Lassen Counties. Father O'Reilly was pastor with headquarters in Alturas (for two years). Later he established himself in Susanville and visited Alturas monthly. Still later, with the opening of the lumber industry in Susanville and Westwood, the Catholic population of these towns began to increase and Fr. O'Reilly asked to be relieved of the Modoc County and in the Autumn of 1915, Fr. Tevlin arrived to take charge.

In 1917, the parish again found itself without a resident pastor. During this time priest from Lakeview, Oregon often traveled the 57 miles to care for the sick in the times of emergency.

In August 1923, Bishop Keane confirmed a class of children and formally dedicated the church in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On the occasion of the dedication, the parishioners were also notified that Modoc would once more be a mission of Susanville, with Father McCarthy as pastor. From 1923-1927 Alturas was served by Fr. McCarthy or his assistants, Fathers Conners, Lynch, Mayer, and O'Driscoll. In the winter of 1926-27 Modoc County was made an independent parish with Fr. Gerald O'Driscoll as pastor.

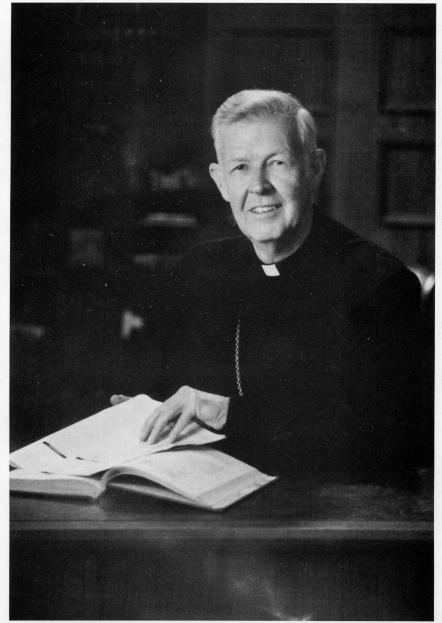
In the Surprise Valley area, mass had been celebrated in homes and the community hall for many years, and in the Fall of 1928, it was decided that parishioners should have their own church. A committee was formed to develop the plans and subsequently two lots on the corners of Bonner and Garfield Streets were purchased for the sum of \$10.00 Gold Coin and the building was begun immediately. Father O'Driscoll celebrated mass for the first time at St. James Church on March 3, 1929. Today, St. James Church still stands as the gathering place for the Catholics in the Surprise Valley area.

In 1933 Fr. O'Driscoll was succeeded by Fr. William O'Toole who served the parish until 1936, when Fr. James Casey became pastor. Father Casey was in Modoc County until 1940. From April 1940 until November 1942 Modoc was served by Fathers Patrick Keene and Maurice Kiely, and in December 1942, Father Matthias Oberaigner became pastor. The year 1944 saw Fr. William McLaughlin and his associate pastor Fr. Michael Proulx. In 1951, Father Dominic Antonelli served as pastor with Fr. Proulx assuming that role in 1954. The years 1959-1972 saw fathers Aloysius Silvestro, Ignatius Estes, Raphael Hollis and Anthony Vanucci. During these years many improvements were made, both spiritual and material.

On August 31, 1972, Father J. Dermot Dryer arrived from Sacramento to assume the leadership of the parish, and in December 1974 Fr. Joseph McGloin arrived. He was followed by Father John Hannan in October 1975 and Father Felix Myliwiec in January 1976. In the late spring of 1977 Father Michael Kiernan assumed the role of pastor, and was responsible for the renovation of the church. In November 1981, Father James Sheets arrived. Father Jim continued the spiritual life of the community. It was during this time that the Catholic Community of Modoc County observed the Centennial Anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish.

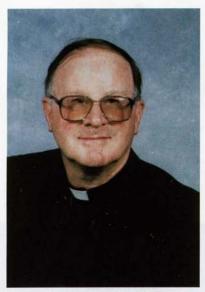
In 1988 Father Rodolfo Delgado became pastor and continued us on our journey both spriritually and socially. He was followed by Father Vincent Lenehan who served until his re-assignment in Downieville in May of 1993.

With us now is Father Rodney Hall, who comes to us from Auburn. As we begin this new venture with Father Hall, we must keep in mind that today Sacred Heart stands as a tribute to the countless men and women who gave of themselves to form the living church of Modoc. Because of their efforts, we continue to form a building--a home--which rises on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. We are members of the body. We are a community of faith. As individuals we bring our talents and gifts to share for the common good. We are the stones of flesh and blood that are being built up into the living temple of God. Together we cannot fail, and together we will continue to grow.



MOST REVEREND FRANCIS A. QUINN
ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

I send my prayerful best wishes to the Parish Community of Sacred Heart Parish, Alturas, and St. James, Cedarville. May God bless you and your loved ones with His choicest blessings. I will be keeping you in my Masses and prayers.



Father Vincent Lenehan July 1989 - May 1993

As I go from one faith family to another, I leave with gratitude that God used me and that I learned enriching things from the people of God in Alturas and Cedarville.

I rejoice in the dedication of the people in this parish. May they be rewarded even in this life.

God Bless You All,

P.V. Lenehan

Father Vincent



Father Rodney Hall May 1993 - Present

Hometown Parish - This is the term I use to best describe my communion with the place I live and worship. Alturas is my home. Sacred Heart - St. James is my parish. You, the people in my hometown parish, are my family. God works in each one of us. My prayer is: "Loving God, help us to be a community of believers in Your Son Jesus Christ by loving you, loving self, and loving each other. Help us to know we can do this only by serving you, each other and our community at large in their needs - material and spiritual. Amen"



Easter Vigil Mass First Communion and Confirmation









MINISTERS TO SICK & SHUT INS

CHURCH CLEANING





FATHER LENAHAN

CINCO DE MAYO



Mass On Cedar Pass - 1992





LADIES'

LUNCHEON

1992









CINCO DE MAYO













FIRST COMMUNION -ST. JAMES

CONFIRMATION CLASS -ST. JAMES





LADIES OF ST. JAMES

PARISHIONERS OF ST.JAMES





ANDRO, JOHN "SMOKEY" & DEE



BANISTER, DENNIS & PAM CHRIS, ANNA



BICONDA, JUANITA



BRENNAN, RAY



BUNYARD, BOB & MARY



BUNYARD, SUSIE; JEANNE



CAIN, BRIAN



CALDWELL, DICK & JOLENE



CANTRALL, ELWOOD & MARIA ELVIRA PICOTTE



CARROLL, CECELIA; CLAUDIA



CASTRO, ANTONIO & PRIMATIVA GABRIELA, JUAN



CEJA; JESSE, EDITH, NANCY, PABLO



CERVANTES, JUVENAL & BELIA JESSE



CHRISTENSEN, RANDY & CATHY GLENN, KAYTE, ERIN, EMILY, DANIEL VARGAS



COMISKY, HUGH & JILL; KEVIN, JARED



COMPTON, WILLIAM & CHRISTINE; BRAYTA, TEREZ, CHRISSY, JERRY



CONLAN, NORA; JOHN



COOPS, DON & ROSE MARIE



CORREA, EUSEBIO & MARIA S. EUSEBIO, ANTONIO, VERONICA, MARIANO



CORREA, HENRY & LAURA JESSICA, HENRY JR.



CORREA, RAMIRO & MARTHA



COYLE, LORENA



CURIEL, CANDELARIA; ALEX, RAMIRO



DEKKER, GUS & PEGGY



DELEISSEGUES, ZETTA



DEWITT, ANITA



DURAN, JOE & MARIA; JOE JR., JESSE, VANESSA, MARIA



ECKMAN, VIRGINIA



ENDERLEIN, TED & DOLLY



EPPLER, DON & BETTY



EPPLER, JAY & GAIL; MICAH



ERKIAGA, JANIE; RENAE SWEET 834



FEE, JAMES & SUSIE; TOM



FERNANDEZ, SALVADOR & CAREM; SALVADOR JR., VICENTE, ADRIANA



GAVETTE, CHARLES & ALICE



HARRIS, LYNN & DORIS



HERNANDEZ, OSCAR & MARGUERITE; TAMMY



IRVIN, JIM & LINDA; MONICA, DANIEL



IRWIN, CAROL



JACQUES, ALLAN & LORRAINE BILLY



JACQUOT, DAVE & ROSE



JONES, RHEA



KADERABEK, JIM & MICKI



KARGER, AL; SHADOW



KLOEPFER, BILL & BEVERLY



KNIGHTON, DUANNA; DUANA, DWYANE, DAVID

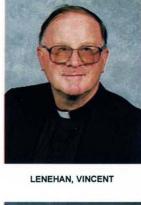


LARANGA, FERNAND & JOSEPHINE; RENE, FERNAND JR.



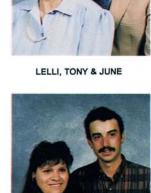
LEDERER, EVELYN





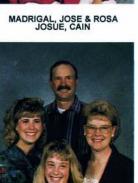








MARTINEZ, MIGUEL & MARIA ROBERT, MIGUEL, REBECCA



MCDONALD, BILL & DEANA ANNEMARIE, JEANNETTE













O'SULLIVAN, PATRICK & KELLY SHANNON, CAVAM, MICHAEL



PARNOW, TOM & LISA; STACEY, STEPHANIE



(irkjuoour **NEILSEN, PAUL & MOLLY** PERRY, JUNE

83



PETERSON, JOHN



PHILLIPS, JEFF & ANNMARIE



PREGLER, DON & DIANNA JEFFREY



RAMOS, CHARLES & EILEEN



RAYMOND, TONY



RILEY, ROBERT & MARY



ROBINSON, GEORGE & BEULAH



SANTA CRUZ, ANGEL; MICHAEL ANGELO



SERVER, MIKE & JANET



SMITH, RALPH & MARGARETTE



STUCEY, GEORGE & JOAN



STUDINSKI, GEORGE & YVONNE



TATE, FLOYD & VERA



TATE, STEVEN & SONDRA CLINTON, RICHARD, JED



TIERNEY, K.C.



WARD, BARNEY & MARION



WEBER, ANDY & CINDY; ALISA, KATHRYN



WEBER, JOHN & MARY



WELCH, JOHN & BARBARA STANFORD; ELAINA



WOLTER, MICHAEL & SHARON



YOUNG, GUY MARTIN & GLORIA



YOUNG, MARY



YTCAINA, PETE & BONNA

THOSE UNAVAILABLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY



BAKER, ROBERT K. & KATHLEEN



BUNYARD, SUSAN MARTIN, ZACK, JEANNE



HALDERMAN, MIKE & HELEN KRISTA, ALICIA



LAXAQUE, JOHN & CONNIE



LOUISSENA, MARIE