



## **HISTORY OF SACRED HEART PARISH**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Valley Park, Missouri is a growing parish with an established and rich heritage of faith. Guided by the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the church serves the spiritual needs of a diverse group of faith-filled people. Through the various ministries, the parish family seeks to love, educate, serve and nourish its members. We welcome those who are called to love and serve the Lord through the sharing of their time, talents and treasures with which they have been blessed.

Sacred Heart Parish was founded in 1903 by Reverend Henry S. Kister as a small mission church on the banks of the Meramec River. The church served a total of 31 families.

A parish school was built in 1904 with an enrollment of 40 children. The three-story brick building also served as a convent and church. This building was replaced in 1967 with the present school and a new convent was built in 1969. (The new convent is now part of the parish offices/rectory)

The cornerstone of the present church was set in September 1907 and the building was dedicated on July 4, 1908 at a cost of \$40,000.

Sacred Heart High School once occupied the corner of Ann and Didian Avenues. The first graduation took place on June 16, 1935. In 1945 the high school closed. Currently the property is used by the church as a playground and parking lot.

At the present time, Sacred Heart Parish is experiencing unprecedented growth. We have 2,600+ registered families and 7,500 registered parishioners, not including all our members in retirement homes. Our Grade School enrollment is 364 students for the 2007-08 school year. Our Parish School of Religion's serves 570 students for the 2007-08 school year.

Under the leadership and spiritual guidance of Rev. Denny M. Schaab, all those who preceded him, and those who have assisted him as well as through the prayers, pledges, sacrifices and the efforts of all our parishioners, Sacred Heart has continued and will continue to grow and expand.