

St Bernard's Catholic Church Centennial Book
By David Kearney

Excerpts from page 29 – 30 (reproduced here by permission of the author)

On December 7, 1941, the nation was thrust into World War II and young men of the parish began entering military service. Many Masses were offered by their loved ones, asking God for their safe and speedy return.

.... "War time" went into effect in February of 1942 and the Sunday mass time was advanced an hour to 10:00 a.m.

Sugar rationing began and some parishioners set aside ration points so they had sugar available for baking pies and cakes for food sales and for making refreshments for card and bingo parties.

....The ladies of the Altar Society began sewing for the Red Cross, doing their part for the war effort.

....War bonds totaling \$600 were purchased by the parish as an investment.

Despite shortages due to the war, the parish sponsored a picnic in July at the city park and took in over \$1,400. Bingo was played in the afternoon, a dinner was served in the evening, and a dance was held with music by Toby Stout and his orchestra.

As the war progressed, most of the young men of the parish were in military service or working elsewhere in defense plants. People in the parish recited countless rosaries and offered many novenas on behalf of those in service to our nation.

....St Bernard's Church celebrated with a Mass in May of 1945, when the European conflict ended and also in August when World War II came to a close. Members of the church rejoiced that no one from the parish died in the war. In November, the parish had a homecoming party in honor of the returning servicemen.

By 1946, many of the people who had been gone during the war were now back home, marrying and starting families....