

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES CONGREGATION

A Condensed History of St. Mary's Church, Random Lake, Wis.

1854: St. Mary's Congregation in Random Lake was first organized and a small unpretentious frame structure church was built near the current St. Mary's Cemetery on Hwy. 144

In 1873, St. Mary's membership had increased to such an extent that it became necessary to erect a larger church. With the unanimous consent of the entire parish, immediate steps were taken towards the erection of a solid stone structure, the dimensions of which were 34x60 feet. By the middle of November, 1873, this building was completed, and Father Hamm, attending the mission at the time, celebrated the first Mass in the new building. The official dedication of the new church took place on January 24, 1896.

By 1924, the church had to be enlarged by building on a sanctuary and an addition to the church.

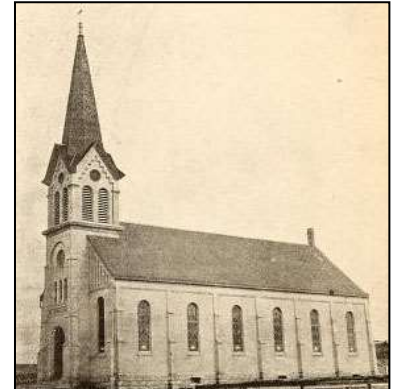
The interior of the church was redecorated in 1940 and communion rails were installed, along with new lighting fixtures.

In June of 1955, the interior of the church was repainted.

In 1965, a new altar was built so the priest could face the congregation while saying the Mass.

In 1980, along with the painting and redecorating of the interior, the communion rail was removed. The original altar was moved forward and a huge crucifix was placed about the tabernacle.

There was still considerable repair work to be done on the exterior of the church.



St. Mary's Chapel before the sanctuary and sacristy were added on the east end in 1924.



Prior to the 1980 remodel



After the 1980 remodel

In 2015, a beautiful prayer garden was added to the grounds, in conjunction with a renovation at the former school building when two former classrooms were turned into a Community Room and the bathrooms were renovated.

From December 2017-April 2018, renovations were made to repair the cracks in the walls, refinish the pews, restore the statues and the Stations of the Cross, refinish the terrazzo flooring, install new carpeting, clean the stained-glass windows, restore the altars, and repaint the chapel interior using a new color scheme.



After the 2017-2018 renovation

Here at Our Lady of the Lakes, we are blessed to have such a beautiful chapel but it has not been without the hard work and dedication of many, past and present, that St. Mary's Chapel is what it is today.