

125th ANNIVERSARY
SPRINGVALE



On this occasion, the 125th anniversary of St. Mary's Church, we dedicate this booklet to the men and women of faith, both religious and laity who have labored to keep the faith alive.



St. Mary Parish
Springvale, Wisconsin



Dear Friends,

One hundred and twenty-five years is a historic event!

Today as St. Mary, Springvale celebrates this milestone, we have an opportunity to give thankful praise to God for the countless blessings He has bestowed upon your parish family, past and present.

At the same time we pray for the strengths and courage we and future generations will need to live His Gospel at all times.

The whole of the Church of Milwaukee joins with you today in these prayers.

With warm personal regards and blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ Rembert G Weakland, O.S.B.

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

The Catholic Community of St. Mary



Franciscan Fathers

Springvale, Wisconsin

July, 1983

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ to One and All.

We celebrate this year the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary Parish. It is an occasion for reflection and renewal of commitment.

We reflect on all the people and events that have made up St. Mary Parish for these 125 years. Some of those people and events have been outstanding examples of the gospel message. Others have been - from the perspective of history - less than perfect. We need to recall all of them to learn what we are to be as a parish. Take a walk through the cemetery and even though some of the names are unfamiliar, realize they are the past of the community of which you are the present and future.

As we reflect on our past we are moved to thankfulness to God for all the gifts, favors and graces He has given to this parish. Each of the individuals that have been a part of St. Mary - with their goodness, wisdom, holiness and even their blindness and sinfulness - have, in their graced humanity, been a gift from God. We should also be thankful for His continued gift of one another.

As we reflect on what has gone before and thank God for it, we also renew our commitment to making St. Mary Parish a continuing witness to the gospel message. While we are justifiably proud of our parish history, we pay it scant honor unless we are willing to continue its gift to the world. Let us renew the commitment of St. Mary Parish to praise God and continue the building of His kingdom.

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless us all as we celebrate what has been and reach for what can be.

Fr. Eliot Comstock

Fr. Eliot Comstock, O.F.M. Conv.
Pastor

WARRANTY DEED.

This Indenture, Made this Third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight between James B. Kelly and Mary his wife of the town of Springvale County of Lincoln Wisconsin of the first part and John Martin Attorney at Law of the City of Milwaukee and a lot of this town in the second part. In trust for the Catholic Community for Church purposes in the town of Springvale.

Witnesseth, That the said part of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar

in hand paid by the said part of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he given, granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, aliened and confirmed, and by those presents does give, grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, alien and confirm, unto the said part of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all that certain piece or parcel of Land, situate lying and being in the town of Springvale beginning at the N.E. corner of the Catholic Church on the S.E. quarter of the N.W. quarter of Section (17) Township Seven (13) Range Four (15) East thence N. 75° East two chains as the place of beginning thence S. 60° W. (1.50) four chains and fifty links thence S. 30° W. (1.50) four chains and fifty links thence N. 60° W. (1.50) four chains and fifty links thence to 30° W. 450 four chains and fifty links to the place of beginning containing Two Acres and one fortieth

TOGETHER With all and singular, the tenements and appurtenances thereto belonging, in any wise appertaining; and the services and messuages, remains and services, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the main, right, title, claims, dues or demand whatsoever, of the said part of the first part, either in Law or in Equity; either in possession or reversionary, if in and to the above bargained premises, with the tenements and appurtenances thereto belonging.

To Have and to Hold, The said premises so above described, with the appurtenances, unto the said part of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

And the said part of the first part, for himself and his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do warrant, grant, bargain and agree to and with the said part of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that at the time of the creating and delivery of these presents, they were well seized of the premises above described, as of a good, sure, perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in the Law, in fee simple, and that the same are free and clear from all incumbrances whatever; the said premises in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said part of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons, lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof. They shall and will Defend, Maintain and Defend.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said parties of the first part, have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of }
John Kelly
J. S. Martin

James Kelly S.S.
Mary Kelly S.S.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,)
County of Fond du Lac)
Be it Remembered, That
on the Third day of October A. D. 1858
personally came before me, the above named James Kelly
and Mary Kelly
to me known to be the persons who executed the above Deed, and so
I acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed for the uses and
purposes therein mentioned. J. S. Martin

Register's Office,
Fond du Lac, Wis.,
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 3rd day of October, 1858.
John S. Dodge

Justice of the Peace

See Affidavit Vol 694-691

281579

AFFIDAVIT

State of Wisconsin }
 } SS.
County of Milwaukee}

ROBERT G. SAMPON, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says:

- 1) That he is the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee of the Roman Catholic Church, and that he is Secretary of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, a Wisconsin Corporation located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2) That affiant knows of his own knowledge from the history and records of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, that John Martin Henni was the first Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee.
- 3) That James O'Reilly and Mary, his wife, conveyed by Warranty Deed dated and acknowledged October 3rd, 1858, the following described property located in the Town of Springvale, Fond du Lac County, State of Wisconsin:

Beginning at the N.E. Corner of the Catholic Church on the S.E. quarter of the N.W. quarter of Section (17) Seventeen Town (15) fifteen Range (15) fifteen East - thence N. 1-3/4° East two chains as the place of beginning thence S. 60° W. (4.50) four chains and fifty links thence S.-30°-E (4.50) four chains and fifty links thence N. 60°-E (4.50) four chains and fifty links thence N. 30° W. 4.50 four chains and fifty links to the place of beginning. Containing Two acres and one fortieth.

to John Martin Hanoney, Bishop of the City of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin in trust for the Catholic Community for Church purposes in the Town of Springvale; which said deed was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Fond du Lac County on July 22nd, 1859 at 8:00 a.m., in Volume 19 of Deeds, Page 235.

- 4) That John Martin Henni, at the time the deed from James O'Reilly and Mary O'Reilly to John Martin Hanoney was executed and delivered, was the Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee located in the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin, and that John Martin Henni and John Martin Hanoney are one in the same person.

That this affidavit is made for the purpose of correcting and quieting the title to the foregoing described parcel of real estate.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 17th day of August, 1973.

Robert G. Sampson
Robert G. Sampson

Alfred W. Ecks
Alfred W. Ecks

Notary Public Waukesha County
My Commission is Permanent



This Instrument was Drafted by: Alfred W. Ecks

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St. Mary's From The Beginning

By John and Jerry Callan

This narrative is the result of gathering the recollections and feelings of many people, of searching for and probing through documents, and of piecing together bits of information. We have made an honest effort to record the history as we have researched it. Any omissions are entirely the result of human error.

We thank all those who have assisted in the preparation of this history. They are very much a part of it.

THE BEGINNING

"Making the beginning is one third of the work"
(Old Irish proverb)

The Catholic faith came to Fond du Lac county as early as 1787 when the first French trading post was established, but it was not until a half a century later that actual settlers began to make their homes and to cultivate the soil. Among the settlers there was a goodly portion of Catholics, as is evidenced by the fact that within ten years from the time the first house was built within the present limits of the county, there was a Catholic priest administering to the spiritual wants of the people in his faith. As early as 1847 a chapel was built and the worship of God according to the rites of the Catholic Church proceeded on a better basis.

They came from Ireland, from counties Cork, Carlow, West Meath, Sligo, and others to settle on lush green land in Springvale which reminded them of the old country. There are more level lands in the community than those which these Irish pioneers settled, but the land with its stones, hills, and marsh reminded them of their native Ireland. They wrested farms from the wilderness on lands given them under the federal homestead act.

It is no wonder then, that these Irish settlers began meeting in the home of James O'Reiley where

Rev. Father Haley from Watertown said Mass as early as 1847. For eleven years the congregation worshipped in homes until 1858 when the parishoners built St. Mary's Church on land donated by James and Mary O'Reiley for that purpose.

The building was constructed at a cost of \$1,500. It is believed to be the oldest unaltered wood structure still in operation in the Milwaukee diocese. The church was dedicated by Bishop Henni on June 5, 1860. Eighty-two were confirmed at that time.

St. Mary's Springvale is unique in one sense as it has always been a mission church and has never had a resident pastor. Priests have come from Watertown, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Ripon, and Waupun. Records are incomplete due to fires in churches where records were kept. Today records are put on micro film.

The earliest baptism of record was that of Catherine Havey, daughter of Michael Havey and Catherine Kelly Havey who was born Nov. 19, 1866 and baptized by Father George L. Willard on Dec. 23, 1866. Sponsors were Martin Gleason and Mary Kelly.

The earliest marriage of record on Oct. 5, 1898 united Andrew B. Smith of Chicago, son of John and Marie Smith, to Catherine A. Dunn, daughter of Peter and Margaret Shields Dunn. Ella Coad and Richard Coad were the witnesses. Father Wenceslaus Kruzka was the priest.

It is more than likely that there were earlier baptisms and marriages but these were the earliest actually recorded that could be found.

Without a resident priest, Mass was not always celebrated every Sunday. Often the priest would travel twice monthly to the mission church. The



Typical mode of travel to Mass in the early days

church was not much more than a shell when it was built. An Irish carpenter fashioned the pews that are the same pews we have today. At one time there were doors on the pews but they were removed years ago. It is quickly noted that the pews were not built for comfort but one must remember that the size of the average person in the 1850's was considerably smaller than a person today.

From the beginning, each family was designated a pew and paid "pew rent" for the yearly use of the pew. Earliest records show that \$1.00 a year was paid per family. The yearly meeting of the parish decided the amount the pew rent would be for a family or single person. The old numbers on the pews have been painted over, but many of the parishioners today remember what their number once was and still prefer to sit in that particular pew.

In 1882 under the direction of Father J. S. Munich, an Altar Society was organized. "We give our mite to adorn the house of God. May God keep all the good ladies of the _____," was the prayer of the Rector.

Rules of the Altar Society of St. Mary's Springvale

- I. The object of this society shall be to provide for its needs of the altar and the cleanliness of the church.
- II. The officers of this society shall consist of a spiritual director, a secretary, treasurer, and two sacristans.
- III. It shall be the duty of the secretary to solicit members, to collect dues, and to keep a record of the same.
- IV. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to take charge of all the funds of the society, to disburse the same upon the advice of the pastor and sacristans, and to keep a record of all receipts and expenditures.
- V. It shall be the duty of the sacristans to see to the arrangement of the altar, the needs of the sacristy, the washing of linens, and the neatness of the church.
- VI. The annual meeting of the society shall take place on the 15th of August at which the officers will read their reports and the election of new ones shall take place.
- VII. It is desired that every lady of the congregation, married or single, become a member.
- VIII. The fee shall be \$1.00 to be paid once a year by each member and by only one in a family if two or more members.
- IX. A mass shall be said for the members of the society on the first Saturday of each month or as soon thereafter as possible.
- X. In the case of the death of any member, a Requiem High Mass shall be said for the same at which all shall be present.

It is recorded that a Mass was said for Mrs. P. Fallon on Aug. 19, 1895. Father Goebel was given a Mass stipend of \$1.00.

Charter members of the Altar Society were:

Mrs. Conrad Asmuth	Mrs. Eliza Green
Mrs. Anton Comlar	Mrs. John Duffy
Mrs. John Moran	Mrs. Michael Callahan
Mrs. Patrick Limer	Mrs. Daniel Fenelon
Mrs. William Bodtka	Mrs. Timothy Maher
Mrs. James Pettit	Mrs. Michael Higgins
Mrs. John Heavey	Miss Bridget Fitzpatrick
Mrs. Peter Fallon	Miss Margaret A. Pettit
Mrs. Matheu Kennedy	Miss Celia E. Pettit
Mrs. James Connor	Miss Susan Green
Mrs. Thomas Madigan	Miss Mary E. Smith
Mrs. Thomas Tarite	Miss Katie Heavey
Mrs. Michael Heavey	Miss Gettie Fenelon
Mrs. Thomas Reilly	Miss Lizzie Heavey
Mrs. Peter Dunn	Miss Mary C. M. Pettit
Mrs. William Fenelon	Miss Agnes E. R. Pettit
Mrs. Samuel Yorty	Miss Mary A. Limer
Mrs. Michael Joyce	Miss Maggie Fallon
Mrs. Timothy O'Brien	Miss Mary E. Hilly
Mrs. Michael Doran	Miss Josie E. O'feilly

It cannot have been easy for these early pioneers. They had land to clear, crops to plant, and families to care for; but their parish meant a great deal to them. They sacrificed much, but the church was the hub of their existence. It was their extended family. It was there that they prayed, worked, and played together. In the early days, and even today, people stay and visit after the services. It is a time to exchange pleasantries and news of neighbors and friends. Many of the larger churches today are having coffee after Mass to encourage friendships among parishioners. St. Mary's has never lost its closeness.



Exchanging pleasantries after Mass in the early days

By 1884 the church was in dire need of repair and each family was asked to contribute as much as possible. It was a sacrifice but the church needed improving. Contributions ranged from \$2.00 to \$6.50 per family which was a great deal of money at the time. An average family donation was \$5.50. The church was reshingled and \$14.00 produced a new stove.

The Altar Society held a picnic that netted \$38.10. It must be presumed that a temporary altar

was used in the beginning because it was at this time that the Altar Society used the proceeds from the picnic and money from the treasury to build a new altar. A total of \$85.00 was paid to Fred Sell & Co. for building the altar in 1884. The carpet for the altar was \$25.70 and it took an additional \$40.00 to complete the structure.

The earliest parish census is from 1887 when Father W. A. Goebel was pastor. The parish was of considerable size with fifty-eight families containing 92 adults, 118 boys, and 86 girls. Many names at the beginning of this church are the same names that can be found on the church rolls today. In some cases the spelling may have changed somewhat, but the names are the same. This is most unusual in today's mobile society.

Parishoners of St. Mary's Springvale 1887

Names	Parents	Boys	Girls
Mat Kennedy	2	2	3
James Fenelon, Jr.		1	
Mrs. D. Fenelon	1	3	1
Peter Gallagher	2	1	2
William Fenelon	2	1	
P. Dunn	2	3	3
P. Wilson		3	1
Mrs. D. Green	1	1	1
C. Asmuth	2	5	
C. Pettit		1	2
Mrs. P. Fallon	1	2	3
R. Coad	2	1	2
Jno Sullivan	2	1	
Jas. Connor	2	2	1
Mrs. D. O'Leary	1	3	3
P. Liner	2	2	
T. Coad	2	1	3
Jas Ford	2	3	2
Jas Fitzpatrick		1	1
Mrs. Gallagher	1	3	1
Tim O Brine	2	2	3
J. O'Donnell	2	1	1
J. Scott	2	1	1
Mrs. C. Lynch	1	1	2
Madigan	2	2	
T. Smith	1	1	1
M. Heavy	2	5	3
Jas Heavy	2	1	1
Jas Fenelon, Sr.	2	2	1
Thos. O'Reilly	2		
J. Duffy	2	6	3
Mrs. H. Galligher	1	3	1
J. Moran	2	2	1
Jas. Heavy	2	3	
J. E. O'Reilly	2	5	1
D. Whooly	2	3	2
Wm. Bodtke	2	1	
Jas. Pettit	2	5	3
J. Kennedy	2	4	1
Mrs. M. Callan	1	2	1
Jos Pettit	2	6	3
Mrs. Gleason	1	4	2
Jas. Heavy, Jr.	2		1
Jas Colman		1	
Jas Dumas		1	1
T. Coad	2	3	4
P. Tisher	2	3	4
Q. Salinski	2	1	1
T. Zelinski	2		1

Aug. Zelinski	2	1	9
D. Kennedy	2	7	1
P. Fallon	2		
Jas. Liner	2	1	
T. Liner	2		
Ed Fenelon	2		2
Mrs. Doran	1		
J. Schaeffer	2		
M. McEvoy	1		

In 1887 a social was held at J. Heavey's. The ladies went out and bought oysters for \$2.50 to be served at an oyster supper. Their profit for the supper was \$6.80. Fortunately Father W. A. Goebel donated a cutter which was raffled off and brought in \$26.00. With these proceeds and money saved from dues, the Altar Society had the altar painted for \$10.00, bought a crucifix for \$4.00, candlesticks for \$2.75, and the marble top table which is still used today for \$6.00. In addition, the Queen Anne chair which is still on the altar today was purchased for \$11.00.



The Queen Anne chair purchased in 1887 for \$11 which is still used at St. Mary's today.

By 1889 a new fence was needed so a collection was taken up for this purpose. A holywater font was purchased by the Altar Society for \$10.00.

In 1896, at the annual parish meeting it was decided to raise the pew rent to \$9.00 per year. In 1897 Father Goebel announced at the annual meeting that he would not be able to say Mass at St. Mary's as often as he did unless the salary allowed by the Bishop was paid. A vote was taken, and pew rents were raised to \$10.00 per year.

Father Wenceslaus Kruzka came from St. Wenceslaus in Ripon on a part-time basis during 1898 and 1899. In his book *History of Polish in America*, written in the Polish language, Father Kruzka tells a bit about caring for the mission churches at Springvale and Eldorado.

The New Century

"Put it on your shoulder and say it is not a burden"
(Old Irish proverb)

Father Cosgrove was the priest who attended St. Mary's at the turn of the century. Improvements to the church continued. A sidewalk was built and the Altar Society put up the stations which originally came from France. The Altar Society also donated the lumber (\$5.72) for the confessional in 1911.

At one time a stile was used to cross over the fence rather than go through the gate. Father Cosgrove taught us catechism after Mass. I didn't know my lesson very well and didn't want to go to catechism. I ran out across the stile but only got to the top when Father caught me and took me back in the church for my lessons.

Howard Smith
Parishoner

Two card parties were held in 1913, one at James Duffy's and one at Jos. Pettit's and brought in \$13.45 and \$14.70 respectively. Some of the money was spent for suits for the altar boys, and two stools for the altar were purchased for \$2.50.

EARLIEST CELEBRATION OF GOLDEN JUBILEE

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pettit Celebrate Golden Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pettit of Springvale celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage on Tuesday, July 1, 1913. Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's church, Springvale with Rev. Francis J. Pettit of So. Milwaukee as Celebrant, Rev. W. D. Malone of Kenosha as deacon and Mr. Aloysius S. Pettit, S.J., of St. Louis university sub-deacon and Rev. M.B. Norton of Ripon, Master of ceremonies.

An impressive sermon was rendered by Rev. Malone, in which he spoke very feelingly of the worthy life of the Jubilarians and of the hardships that they endured during the pioneer days of Wisconsin, and of the rare blessings and joys that have crowned their union. He remarked that it is a rare occurrence where the oldest and youngest sons of a family are called to the service of God in the church and where both assist at the celebration of the Jubilee mass of their parents. He also spoke of how they were upheld and strengthened during trials and troubles, by their strong living faith and trust in God. He hoped that God would continue to shower all blessings upon them until they were called to the reward of a long and well spent life.

Sorin's Triumphal Mass in honor of Joan of Arc was rendered by the choir which consisted of the Misses Agnes and Rosalia Pettit and Messrs. Louis Mark and John Pettit, assisted by Miss Agnes Cavanaugh as soloist, who sang Millard's Ave Maria at the Offertory.

After receiving congratulations of their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Pettit repaired to their home where a bounteous wedding breakfast was served to the clergy, immediate family and intimate friends. A reception was held from two to four in the afternoon at which over one hundred guests were served with refreshments which was followed by a sumptuous wedding dinner at 6:30. The rooms were pretty decorated, the color scheme being in green and gold. The many useful and valuable gifts presented by their friends evidenced the esteem in which this couple is held in the community. A priceless gift of a Spiritual bouquet was given by their children and grandchildren and a remembrance in the form of two elegant rockers was given by present and former members of St. Mary's congregation.

Appropriate recitations were given by Frances and Elizabeth Liner, Eugene, Joseph and Frances Pettit, small grandchildren of the couple. The one given by Frances Pettit, which is given below, was written and arranged for this occasion by his father, Ambrose J. Pettit of Milwaukee:

Today they are fifty years married
And grandmo and grandpas are here,
Then let us be glad, oh' ever so glad
So we may help bring them good cheer
One way that we could help cheer them,
I don't know of much better way,
Is to tell them how dearly we love them,
and to hope God will bless them today
To Grandpas—
The years you've been mother and grandpa
Will make golden links in the chain
That the angels are waiting, to guide you
At the end of the years that remain.
To Grandpas—
The years you've been father and grandpa,
Must have been filled full with joys,
And you must have been all the time busy
Helping grandma make links for the chain.
All these years that you have made golden
We'll remember forever and aye,
Aren't Maisha we hope you'll be with us
And teach us for many a day

Those who attended from out of town were: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pettit and son Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Pettit and daughter Agnes of Rice Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Pettit and sons Francis and Joseph of Milwaukee, Rev. F. J. Pettit and Miss Rosalia Pettit of South Milwaukee, Aloysius S. Pettit, S. J., of St. Louis university, Miss Cecelia Pettit of Mapleton, Minn., Miss Agnes Cavanaugh of Minneapolis, Miss Mamie Gagan of Milwaukee, Mrs. M. Gallagher, Miss Mary Gallagher of Racine, Rev. W.D. Malone of Kenosha and Rev. M. B. Norton of Ripon.

Father Dowling, known as the "Silver tongued orator", came in 1914. It was in 1916, during his time at Springvale that the sacristy was built. Membership in the Altar Society had dwindled and ceased to exist in 1917. The society was reorganized in 1919 and once again added much to the well being of the church.

Father Dowling taught us catechism. My Dad had given us hair cuts the day before. Father Dowling asked me a question I couldn't answer. Father Dowling said, "I think you lost your memory at the same time you lost your hair."

*Tom Madigan
Former Parishoner
Died 1982*

Father taught us catechism. He had spoken at Mass about the coming collection for Peter's Pence. He asked Lora Green, "Who is the Pope?" Lora answered, "Pius the Tenth."

Father turned to Neil Green and said, "What did she say? Who is the Pope?"

"Pius the Pence," Neil Green replied.

*Lester Madigan
Parishoner*

In 1918 Father Joseph Platta from St. Wenceslaus Church in Ripon began attending St. Mary's. He was a much loved priest and many of the members today remember his days at Springvale. The pew rent paid Father Platta's salary as it did for many of the former priests.

A trip to Mass on Sunday was almost a full day affair. We would eat our lunch on the way home. It was seven miles. We would stop and pick wild flowers and watch the red winged blackbirds. By the time we got home, the flowers were wilted and there was not much left of the day.

*Helen Greenwood
Former parishoner*

When I was a child I thought the statue of the Blessed Mother was the most beautiful thing I ever saw. I remember thinking that if the church ever caught on fire, I'd quickly run and get it and carry it out.

*Helen Madigan
Greenwood*

Former parishoner

I remember going to midnight Mass in a sleigh. We cuddled in the bottom of the sleigh with sleigh robes piled on top. Once the sleigh tipped over as we went cross country. Father Dowling was our priest. The pot bellied stove would be red hot and we welcomed the warmth.

*Francis Pettit
Parishoner*

In December of 1921 Bishop Messmer dedicated St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Brandon. Father F. J. Riordan of Milwaukee was assigned to the new church. Other missions he was caring for were Markesen and Kingston. He began saying Mass at Brandon two Sundays out of each month. At the beginning, St. Brendan's counted between 15 and 18 families.

It is not surprising then, that St. Mary's church closed down completely on Sept. 1, 1924.

And so ended an era. The parishoners of St. Mary's Springvale went their separate way. Some went to Woodhull, some to Brandon, and some followed Father Platta to St. Wenceslaus in Ripon.

Springvale was closed entirely for awhile after Brandon was built. People either went to Brandon, Ripon, or Woodhull. The Madigans went to Woodhull which was predominantly of German extraction. It was quite a change because everyone at Springvale had an assigned pew. The Germans did it differently. The women and children all sat on one side of the church and the men and boys, when they were old enough, sat on the other. My grandmother was shocked. "Why, why should the Germans sit there that way? We always sit together."

"Well", Grandpa Madigan said, "That's so the men can sleep in peace."

*Barney Madigan
Parishoner*

It must have been heartbreaking for these people who had struggled so hard to keep their little church alive. It had been so much a part of their lives and no longer would they have the same feeling of being so very much at home in the familiar "house of God".

It is easy to relate to the thoughts of these people. Midnight mass with a ride across the crusty snow in a cutter would be no more. Children would no longer snuggle at the bottom of the sleigh where the warm rocks and flat irons heated at home would warm them. No more would the candles cast flickering shadows across the faces of the statues in the church. The beautiful hymns of Christmas would not be heard again at St. Mary's. The young girls would miss decorating the church in the Christmas motif with their mothers. It had been a tradition for so many years but it was over.

The Irish have a saying, "God never closes one door but he opens another". And so it was that in April of 1926 Father Kelly arrived in Brandon. Father Kelly served St. Brendan's at Brandon, St. Mary's at Kingston, St. Joseph's at Markesan, and St. Mary's at Springvale. It is uncertain as to the exact



St. Mary's was the scene of a double wedding on August 24, 1927 when Helen B. Madigan became the bride of George R. Greenwood, and Amy F. Grady became the bride of Lester B. Madigan. Witnesses for the Greenwood-Madigan marriage were Wilfred Madigan and Frances Madigan. Witnesses for the Madigan-Grady nuptials were Thomas Madigan, Jr. and Hazel Grady. Father Raymond J. Kelly was the pastor. The wedding took place in the middle of the week which was the custom at the time.

date that the church doors of St. Mary's were open and by which priest, Father Kelly, Father Sullivan, or Father Garvey but some time during that four year period, they were opened. Records show that the parishioners did meet during this period, they did elect officers, and did conduct parish business. There were twenty-two families supporting the church in 1926. A church picnic was held that year and brought in \$390.22 to help defray church expenses.

Father Dan J. Garvey came in May of 1930 and the parish contributed to the upkeep of his rectory in Brandon. One week Mass would be said in Brandon and Kingston and the next Sunday Mass would be said in Markesan and Springvale. Two card parties as well as a dance in Ladoga were held in 1931 and netted a total of \$36.65. The church was in debt at this time and in 1934 a picnic was held which brought in \$226.66. Donations were solicited to reshingle the church and \$102 was received. The shingles at Koehler Lumber were \$109.50.

First Communion Class of 1935



Sitting from left to right, Prudence Giffey, Patricia Smith, Father Garvey, Loretta Fenlon, Lucille Michalowski
 Standing: Jim McCarty, Neil Giffey, Jr., Sylvester Michalowski, and Dorothy McCarty

Father George R. Jentges came and served the mission churches in 1935, and he too lived in the parish house in Brandon. Father Jentges was highly thought of by the people of St. Mary's. He opened his house in Brandon for catechism classes and special events. After he left, the household goods of the parish house were sold as a parish house was no longer needed in Brandon.



Combined First Communion Class from St. Brendan's and St. Mary's on July 19, 1936. Front row left to right, Catherine Gallagher, Mary Pettit, Aileen Madigan, unknown, Joe Hovey, Athlene Smith, Eileen Smith, and Agnes Hovey. Back row, Neil Giffey, Jr., Bill Feneion, Father George Jentges, and Gerald Hovey.

The Franciscan Fathers began serving St. Joseph's in Waupun in 1931. Franciscans, founded by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th century are a religious order dedicated to many apostolates, e. g., parish work, hospital, chaplaincies, retreat work, teaching, and other causes. Once again St. Mary's was truly blessed when Father Bruno of the Franciscan Order came in 1938.

I remember attending Mass at Springvale as a child. One Sunday I paid more attention to a mouse inching its way across the top shelf of the altar than I did to the Mass.

Colleen Arner Hackbart

Summer school was held in Brandon in conjunction with St. Brendan's after Father Bruno came, and often as not there were sisters to conduct the program.

When I was young, we went to catechism classes at St. Brendan's in Brandon after school was out in the summer. The sisters taught us. When we had recess, I hurried over to play baseball with the boys as I was accustomed to doing at home. Sister told me I must play baseball with the girls, not

the boys. The first time up to bat with the girls I hit the ball as hard as I could. The ball sailed through the window at St. Brendan's. Sister sent me to tell Father what I had done. I had to sit on the stairs and wait until Father was available. It was frightening. When I told him, he laughed. The next week I had to go to confession and tell him that maybe I had hit the ball that hard on purpose just to show the sister that I was good enough to play with the boys.

*Maureen Halfman
Parishoner*

By 1952 the church needed another coat of paint, and a collection was taken at that time. It brought in \$255.00. Cost of painting the church was \$269.69.

It was in 1952 that the Franciscan Fathers ceased caring for Kingston and Markesan and concentrated on the two mission churches of St. Mary's and St. Brendan's. St. Mary's and St. Brendan's became closer. St. Mary's contributed to expenses at St. Brendan's as masses were only held in the summer at St. Mary's. Although the pot bellied stove had been replaced by a modern oil stove, it seemed more feasible to close St. Mary's in the winter.

Improvements were continually needed through the ensuing years. A new roof was put on the church for \$250 in 1955. In 1965 a new altar was built facing the congregation to conform with the changes in the church. The altar rail was removed. In 1967 the woodshed was reshingled. Father Dunstan Bryan painted the church exterior in 1970.



Newly decorated interior of St. Mary's today

It was in the early 1970's that the kneelers were recovered and the pews painted. The outside chimneys leaked so Don Nest and Richie Sabel removed them in 1980. Once again the church was reshingled, this time at a cost of \$1287.84. In 1981 a paint collection was taken and the exterior was painted, costing \$609.63. Paint for the fence was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vande Brink. Labor was \$123.50. New church doors were donated by former parishoners Mr. and Mrs. Don Statz.

In 1982 the church was in dire need of wallpaper, and a friend of the parish, Pauline Hoyt of Rosendale offered her services and expertise to wallpaper the church. With the help of parishoners Karen Madigan, Katie Nest, and Pat Wegner this feat was accomplished. The church was wallpapered at a cost of \$233.46. Mrs. Sharon Sina, another talented friend of the church donated her time and began repairing the stained glass windows at this time.



Mark Madigan is the most recent youngster to receive his First Holy Communion on June 13, 1982 at St. Mary's.



Most recent wedding held in St. Mary's was on May 1, 1965 uniting Catherine Ann Smith daughter of Parishoners Howard T. Smith and Mary P. Whalen Smith to Phillip Roger Ruedinger. Witnesses were Cyril Simon and Pat Smith Hunter. Father Elmer Mulcahy was the priest.



Justin Michael Madigan was the most recent parishoner of St. Mary's to be baptized on July 16, 1978. Warren White and Linda Madigan were Justin's Godparents. Most recent baptism, however, was that of St. Brendan's parishoner, Eric Scott Riedeman on August 22, 1982. Above picture with Father Sam shows Susanne Allick and Ted Otto, Godparents, and parents Scott and Roseann Riedeman on right.



The Church Today

*"Three best invitations; come to Mass, come and
make secure and come to the mill"
(Old Irish saying)*

It is truly unchanged; not just the structure itself, but those who enter the doors of this house of God today. We come with many of the same inner feelings as did the early settlers. We come to His house with thanksgiving and petitions. Prayers are said much like our forefathers. We ask for forgiveness of those we have offended. We pray for our families, for good crops, for peace of mind, for guidance, and for peace in the world. We pray for vocations to the priesthood. And today, more than ever, with the shortage of priests in the world, we give thanks for the priests who have been a part of our lives and a part of St. Mary's.



Now, as in years gone by, the men gather in the early spring and rake the cemetery together and while at this task discuss old friends as they clear the dead leaves from the grave stones. The young boys listen to the stories they will some day tell their sons.



The women meet at the church before the first Sunday in June and give it a thorough house cleaning. Water is hauled from home as there is still no running water. The carpet is cleaned by hand for the lack of electricity. Floors are scrubbed on hands and knees and the dust removed from every corner. We bring our children and hope they too will feel the sense of the "family of God" and a sense of continuity.

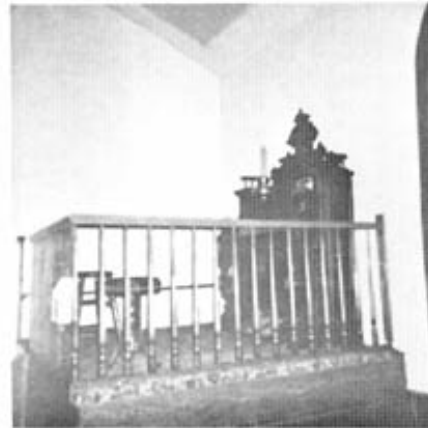


We plant trees to replace the old ones that someday will be no more. After Mass we stand by the old oaks and discuss important and unimportant events. We glance across the road and see the empty space that once held the horse stalls. The first one was for the priest and was completely enclosed. Others were for parishioners. Today the area is available for the parking of cars when it is needed.

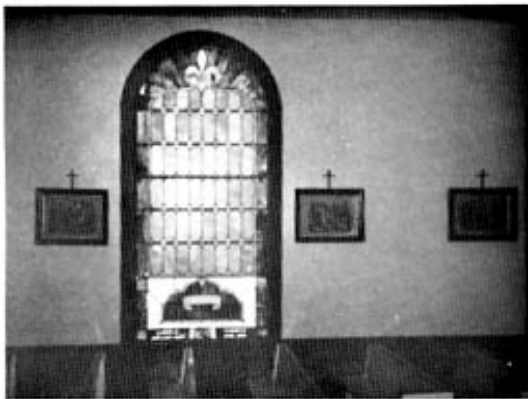


We enjoy a unique situation with St. Brendan's in Brandon and attend services there from September until the first Sunday in June. Our children attend CCD classes throughout the winter there and also go to a summer session for study as soon as school is out. We share an Altar Society with St. Brendan's of which Karen Madigan has been a long time president. When there is a death in either congregation, the women arrange and provide a luncheon for the bereaved family members. We put on a bazaar each fall with St. Brendan's. We share a church council with St. Brendan's and we share expenses.

After the final Mass at St. Mary's at the beginning of September we gather in the church yard for an end of summer picnic. Games are played by the youngsters. There is always a good volley ball game enjoyed by all, and people are slow to leave knowing that the doors of St. Mary's will not open again until the buds of spring appear.



It is rumored that this is not the first organ at St. Mary's. It is a pump organ and believed to have been purchased during Father Dowling's days at St. Mary's. On the left is printed Vienna 1873 and on the right, Paris 1867. Some of the organists were Eleanor Havey, Tillie Woodrick, Mary Smith, Pat Smith Hunter, and more recently Shannon Callan who is the granddaughter of Eleanor Havey Callan.



There were not always stained glass windows at St. Mary's. It is believed that they were put in while Father Cogrove was pastor. They carry the names of early donors: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pettit, James and Mary Reilly, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Haven, John Moran Family, Patrick and Bridget Limer, James and Anna McDonald, William Wilson, Michael Kelly, James Pettit, William & Louis Badtka, Daniel Green, John and Mary Havey, Peter and Catharine Fallon, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Kober, James and Mary Havey, and John and Elmore Duffy.



Shown is one of the statues and the oil painting of St. Patrick driving the snakes from Ireland. The painting has recently been moved to the back of the church where it can easily be seen upon leaving.

St. Mary's Cemetery

"Three truths; sunrise, sunset, and death"
(Old Irish proverb)

St. Mary's cemetery is not "finished" after well over a century of existence. In Ireland today when a cemetery is no longer used, the people say that it is "finished" and the cows are allowed to roam freely munching on the grass and occasionally knocking over a gravestone. No, St. Mary's cemetery is far from "finished" and in fact has been enlarged thanks to a gift of approximately an acre from Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Vande Brink in the early 1970's.

The oldest marker to be found today is that of Catharine Kennedy who died July 10, 1853 at the age of thirteen. In Latin at the top of the stone is printed "Glory to God in the Highest" and at the bottom is written:

*"Tread softly o'er this sacred mound,
A rose perfumes the hallowed ground,
May garlands deck and myrtles rise,
To guard the tomb where Catharine lies.
May her soul rest in peace.*

Amen"

There are many markers from the late 1800's and sparse grass covers where later burials have taken place. Guarding one family plot is an angel in marble sculptured in Italy. The cemetery contains the graves of four medical doctors, several lawyers, and a former writer for the Chicago Tribune. In this cemetery were buried the remains of four priests, Father Pettit, Father Kennedy, Father De Prater, and Father Boniventure Buczynski.

Early obituary from a local newspaper

GALLAGHER — At his home at Reed's Corners, Fond du Lac Co., Wis., April 1st, 1891, Peter Gallagher, aged 76. The deceased was an old and highly esteemed resident of Reed's Corners, having lived at that place about 33 years. He was born in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, and came to this country in 1851. Mr. Gallagher took the pledge from Father Mathew when quite young and kept it inviolate to the end. A devout Catholic he was, rarely, if ever, missed from his place in St. Mary's Church, Springvale, and, though living several miles from the church, the weather was never so inclement as to cause him to miss Mass. Indeed, his last illness was due to exposure caused by attending Mass on Palm Sunday. A true and sincere friend, honest and upright in all his dealings, he was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was buried in Springvale, April 4, 1891. Rev. Father Goebel preached the funeral sermon and paid an elegant tribute to the virtues of the deceased. Let us hope that ere this he has heard those words, the reward of the Christian, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

AN OLD FRIEND....

At a meeting of St. Mary's church on Feb. 16, 1896, it was stated, "That those desiring lots in graveyard shall call upon Wm Badtka or J. J. Duffy, pay \$1 for trouble and loss of time and committee also expects a contribution not less than \$4 to be expended for the keeping up of same. Consulters, Thos Green, Patk. Wilson, James Liner, James Fitzpatrick. Heads of families and all selfsupporting young men will be taxed \$1 each."



Father Platta and I would go across fields in the winter to church. One day we were on our way and Father said, "Look at all those crows circling over there. A farmer must have dragged a dead animal out into the field". I looked and just then the sleigh broke through the crusted snow and fell into a large hole. It was a basement of a home that had been removed from its foundation. The horses had to be unhitched and the sleigh pushed back out of the hole. Another time the weather was so bad when we were going to St. Mary's to a funeral that we had to take the train to Brandon. A sleigh met us in Brandon to make the trip the rest of the way. After a funeral Father Platta would very often stay to hear confessions or baptize a baby.

*Tillie Woodrick
Former organist from
St. Wenceslaus parish*

Barney Madigan has been continually planting small trees, and last year he and his sister Maureen Halfman planted a variety of larger trees. In 1981 and 1982 old markers were straightened and repaired for \$553.

The cemetery funds are kept separate from the church funds although the trustees of the church are also the trustees of the cemetery. At the present time, the perpetual care fund has a total of \$10,416.13. Only the interest from this money may be used for the general upkeep of the cemetery.



I recall just one "Irish wake". It was for Thomas Greene. Mother had stayed one night with him when he was very ill. The ladies helped fix food for the family. We children stayed across the road at Howard Smith's but did visit during the early evening. Mr. Greene was "laid out" in the dining room of his home. I do not recall anything like a jovial feeling as is the reputation of "Irish wakes". I just recall a quiet sadness shown by the family and friends.

*Prudence Giffey
Former parishoner*



St. Mary's Contributions To The Vocations

"The will of God yesterday, to-day and forever"
(Old Irish proverb)

It is said that St. Mary's has sent many into religious orders since its organization in 1858 but records were never kept. It is necessary then, to write only of those that are authenticated.

It is an interesting fact that the first baptism of record as mentioned earlier in this booklet was that of Catherine Havey who became Sister M. Petra. After



Sister Mary Petra

finishing high school, she taught for two years, attended State Normal School at Oshkosh, afterwards teaching for three years more. Next she went to Chicago and entered Haynes Business College, taking shorthand and book-keeping, completed the course in three months, thereby establishing a school record for swift study. She was asked after completion of the course

to return to teach the same courses in which she had excelled. In October of 1893 Catherine Havey became a postulant in the Dominican Order at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin and was received in the order December 8, 1895 under the religious name of Sister Mary Petra. She was appointed Superior for three years at the Dominican Convent in Appleton; declined the same honor on several later occasions, since it took too much time from her studies. Sister M. Petra worked for and obtained her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor's Degrees. In her zeal for learning, during her eight years at Visitation Convent in Chicago, she taught special classes after school and on Saturday besides taking work at DePaul and Loyola Universities.

Lucille Madigan, daughter of Thomas Madigan and Minnie Jess Madigan was born March 28, 1908. She was the sister of present day parishoner, Lester Madigan. She was professed August 17, 1929 and became Sister Mary Patricia R. S. M. She was a teacher and died on April 6, 1980.

Most unusual is the case of Joseph and Mary Pettit whose oldest and youngest sons entered the priesthood.

Rev. Francis J. A. Pettit celebrated his First Holy Mass in St. Mary's Church, Springvale, Wis. on Tuesday, June 25, 1895. He was ordained a priest at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wis. by Rt. Rev. John Vertin, D. D., on June 16, 1895.

Rev. Aloysius S. Pettit was born Feb. 5, 1887, youngest of eleven children of Joseph and Mary Pettit of town of Springvale. After graduation from Brandon high school, Aloysius entered the Jesuit order of the Society of Jesus July 24, 1908. He pursued his studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's seminary, St. Mary's, Kansas and St. Louis seminary where he was ordained June 24, 1922. Father Pettit went to India as a missionary in 1924. He organized Khrist Raja high school in Bettiah and served as Superior for several years; afterward as missionary among the Santals. For fifteen years he was in charge of the orphanage and school in Chakhbi until his health failed and he went to Holy Family hospital, Patna, India for treatment in Oct. 1964. He died there Jan. 2, 1965.



Rev. A. S. Pettit

PRIESTS WHO SERVED ST. MARY'S

1847	Father Haley
1866	Father George L. Willard
1870 - 1872	Father R. S. Tucker
1882 - 1883	Father J. S. Manich
1884 - 1888	Father W. A. Goebel
1896 - 1899	Father Wencoslaus Kruzka
1900 - 1909	Father J. Cosgrove
1910 - 1911	Father J. A. Condon
1911 - 1914	Father F. Cytronowski
1914 - 1918	Father S. J. Dowling
1918 - 1924	Father Jos. Platta
1926 - 1927	Father R. J. Kelly
1928 - 1929	Father J. J. Sullivan
1929 - 1930	Father G. J. De Breen

1930 - 1935	Father D. J. Garvey
1935 - 1937	Father George R. Jentges
1938 - 1939	Father Bruno
1939 - 1940	Father M. Keenan
1940 - 1941	Father Giles Berthiaume
1942 - 1944	Father Ralph Urajnar
1945 - 1947	Father Walter Steiner
1948	Father Othmar Miller
1949 - 1951	Father Elmer Mulcahy
1952 - 1956	Father Francis Geary
1957	Father William Bader
1958	Father Aloysius Jacoby
1959	Father David Hutt
1959 - 1965	Father Elmer Mulcahy
1966	Father Acquinas Marthaler
1967 - 1969	Father Alex Gardner
1970 - 1971	Father Danston Bryan
1972 - 1975	Father Alphonse Boardway
1976 - 1977	Father Gabriel Fox
1977	Father Cletus Pifher
1978	Father Campion
1979 - 1983	Father Simeon Yates

MEN WHO SERVED AS TRUSTEES AT ST. MARY'S

Elections are generally held every two years although many times the trustees are reinstated to their office. It would take too much space to give the years offices were held so as accurately as possible, here is a list of men who served: J. J. Duffy, H. J. Liner, F. J. Fallon, J. D. Fallon, J. E. Pettit, Frank Moran, E. J. Moran, H. L. Reilly, James Liner, Leonard Pettit, Howard Smith, A. J. Liner, C. J. Reilley, Thomas J. Madigan, James Fallon, James Liner, James Duffy, John Pettit, John Gallaher, Henry Reilley, Leonard Liner, John Havey, Claude Reilley, Loy Smith, James Gallagher, James L. Havey, Lester Madigan, Ben Sabel, and Terrence Madigan. Present trustees are Don Nest, secretary and John F. Callan, treasurer.



Father Robert St. Martin, associate pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Waupun assigned to St. Mary's Springvale, June 1983.



PASTORS WHO SERVED ST. MARY'S

1938 - 1945	Father Gabriel Eilers
1945 - 1951	Father Ignatius Hanley
1951 - 1957	Father Mathias Schneider
1957 - 1963	Father Marcellus Lell
1963 - 1966	Father Hugh Rochkes
1966 - 1970	Father Joseph Herp
1970 - 1973	Father Pius Poff
1973 - 1976	Father Wilfrid Logsdon
1976 - 1982	Father Edmund Goldbach
1982	Father Eliot Comstock



Today's Parishoners of St. Mary's



Jerry, John and Shannon Callan



Loretta and David Fryman
Lisa Luck



Madeline, Richard, Cindy,
Nathan and Lydia Diemer



Terry, Maureen, Chris, Tom, and Joe Halfman



Mary and Art Doctor, Jr.



Brenda, Gary, Jerry, Barb, and Sae Loop



Art Doctor, Sr., Father Sam, Grace Doctor



Lester Madigan



Mrs. Deborah (Miles) Amsrud, Virginia Miles,
Donald H. Miles, Susan Miles, Donald G. Miles



Barney, Cindy, John, and Sue Madigan



Iva Miles



Pat Madigan



Francis Pettit



Lori,
Terry, Karen, Kevin, Brian,
Mark, Justin, and Carrie Madigan



Katie and Don Nest



Bob and Shirley Vande Brink



Jeff, Sharon, Lori, Steve,
Ted and Pat Smit



Lori, Pat, and Tracy Wegner



Howard Smith



Frances and Jim Zimmerman

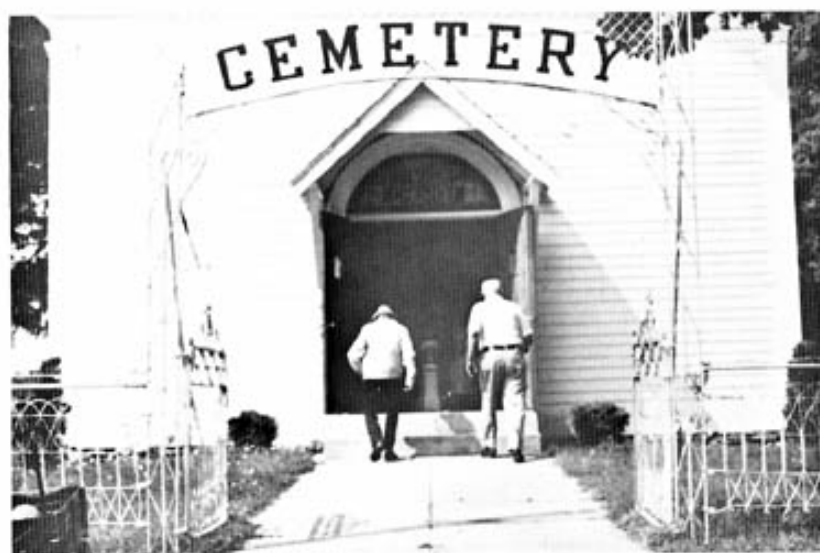


Tom, Ley, and Nettie Smith

And so Today



We Greet



We Pray.