



# Holy Cross Parish

309 Desnoyer Street  
 Kaukauna, WI 54130  
<http://www.holycrosskaukauna.org>

## Our Parish History

<p><b>Mid 1800s</b></p>	<p>Catholics from Kaukauna worshipped at St. John Parish in Little Chute. Mass was also frequently celebrated at the Grignon Homestead in Kaukauna.</p> <p>In 1848 <u>Wisconsin became the 30<sup>th</sup> state in the Union</u></p>
<p><b>1869</b></p>	<p>A group of parishioners received permission from Bishop Melchor of Green Bay to erect a Catholic Chapel. This chapel was to serve all of Kaukauna, the north side, and the south side (known as Ledyard)</p>
<p><b>1871</b></p>	<p><i>October 8, 1871 <u>The Great Peshtigo Fire</u></i>. It was the deadliest wildfire in American history, with at least 1500 deaths. Despite the massive scale of the blaze, it was overshadowed by the Great Chicago Fire. Read about the miracle that happened at the Catholic chapel in Robinsonville (now Champion, WI).</p>
<p><b>1873</b></p>	<p><b>On December 26, 1873 on the Feast of St. Stephen, the Holy Cross Chapel was dedicated.</b> It was built with lumber from nearby woods. The foundation was stone and was donated by Mrs. Mary Grignon.</p> <p>Fr. Joseph Hackl of Darboy celebrated the first mass. An English homily was given by Fr. Ackley of Menasha, and a German Homily was given by Fr. Stern.</p> <p>From 1873-1878 the Holy Cross Chapel was a mission served by the pastors of Holy Angels Parish of Darboy.</p>
<p><b>1876</b></p>	<p>Fr Nicodemus Buschle began the first school in our parish. It consisted of 61 students meeting in the sacristy of the church. Miss Fannie Grignon was their teacher. That same year Fr. Buschle also built the first rectory.</p>
<p><b>1878</b></p>	<p>A small school house was completed in the summer. On September 21, 1878 Fr. Julius Rhode, a newly ordained priest, was assigned as the first full time pastor to Holy Cross Parish. He was pastor for 29 years.</p>
<p><b>1881</b></p>	<p>The School house was enlarged and a convent was built. Fr. Rhode brought in the Franciscan Sisters to run the school.</p> <p>The church was badly damaged by lightning and fire. The church was enlarged, remodeled and frescoes were added</p>

1884	A new pipe organ was purchased for \$900. This began the long tradition of beautiful music at our parish.
1886	The foundations for a new brick school were laid. The new school cost \$9,000. There were four teachers who made \$700 per year, and the school taught 265 students.
1888	The Dominican Sisters of Racine began years of service to our Parish.
1894	A new rectory was built at the cost of \$3,500.
1897	Holy Cross church was lengthened and widened. At this time it was formed into the shape of a Cross. A new brick face and a brick bell tower were added. The church also received new stained glass, electric lights, new pews and steam heat. The cost was \$18,000.
1907	Fr. August Dushold was assigned as the first associate to the parish to help Fr. Rhode, who was failing in health. On January 1, 1908, Fr. Rhode died and was replaced by Monsignor Peter J. Lochman.
1909	The church was remodeled again. The old pine floor was replaced with concrete and hardwood
1913	<b>On October 29, 1913 Holy Cross church burned to the ground.</b>
1914	A new church basement was dug. The basement served as a chapel from November 1914 until the new church was completed in May 1916.  *WWI began in July 1914, but the U.S. was not involved for the first 3 years.
1916	<b>May 1916</b> The new church was completed & dedicated in May. The church was built for \$65,000, and because of the generosity of the parishioners the debt was only \$12,091.
1917	<i>America formally entered WWI in 1917.</i> Our stained glass windows came from Germany prior to the U.S. entering WWI (which began 1914).
1929	October 29, 1929 – <i>Stock Market crashed.</i>
1931	In June Msgr. Lochman celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood. On April 25, 1932 he passed away. He served Holy Cross Parish for 24 years.
1939	WWII began (U.S. did not enter until until December 1941)
1940s	Fr. Peter Grosnick was the pastor during WWII. During that time he established a fund for a new school. In 1943 he had a fund raising drive.
1941	Organ rebuilt.  December 1941: <u>U.S. enters WWII</u> after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

<b>1947</b>	Fr. Grosnick died, and was replaced by Fr. Andrew Quella. Although a period of postwar material shortages delayed the project, excavation began on a new school in 1952. Classes began on March 8, 1954 and the school was dedicated by Bishop Stanislaus Bona on May 30, 1954.
<b>1960's</b>	During Fr. Quella's 19 years as pastor he also built the present rectory and offices in the early 1960s.  <i>1962 October - December (first session of Vatican II)</i> <i>1963 September - December (second session of Vatican II)</i> <i>1965 September - December (third session of Vatican II)</i>
<b>1966</b>	Fr. Andrew Linsmeyer became the pastor. Fr. Linsmeyer began to implement the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. He began a church renovation fund in 1966.
<b>1973</b>	The new pastor, Fr. Roy Crain, led the renovation of the church. The parishioners worshiped in the school cafeteria for six months.  On Christmas Eve, the centennial of the first Holy Cross Chapel, the renovated church was opened for the Christmas masses. The project included a new heating/ventilation system, new side entrances, a renovated organ and new carpeting. It cost \$200,000.
<b>1986</b>	Fr. John Mullarky became the new pastor. He was more commonly known as Fr. Jack. At this time the church basement was remodeled and renamed "Friendship Hall." It is now the center of many parish activities. The furnace systems in the church and the school were replaced and the school gym received a new roof
<b>1990</b>	The church received an extensive interior renovation which included a unique fiberglass and paint sealing process, new carpeting and replacement of the marble altar with chunky oak altar and priest's chair.
<b>1993</b>	After almost five years of discussion and careful study, the leaders of the three Kaukauna Catholic parishes agreed to form the Kaukauna Catholic School System: KCSS
<b>2000</b>	On June 6, 2000 construction began on a new addition to the church. A new gathering space was added with a carport and handicapped accessibility. The beautiful St. Cecilia window was brought from behind the organ to eye level so everyone could see it. This space was dedicated by Bishop Morneau on March 5, 2001
<b>2003</b>	Organ rebuilt and expanded.
<b>2007</b>	Fr. John (Jack) Mullarkey retired in July. Fr. Tom Pomeroy is the new pastor.
<b>2008</b>	The Holy Cross parish website ( <a href="http://www.holycrosskaukauna.org">http://www.holycrosskaukauna.org</a> ) was launched on our Parish feast day, The Feast of the Exaltation (Triumph) of the Holy Cross on September 14, 2008.

<p><b>2009</b></p>	<p>Parish directory was done in the parish. We have 5851 people from 1791 households who worship at Holy Cross</p> <p>In December of 2009 Fr Tom became the first priest at Holy Cross Parish to have a Blog.</p>
<p><b>2011</b></p>	<p>Holy Cross was blessed to welcome Deacon Bruce Corey to our parish community in July of 2011.</p> <p><b>Sept 2011 First Annual Holy Cross Walking Pilgrimage</b> to <u>The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help</u> in Champion, WI. On December 8th, 2010 Bishop Ricken officially approved the Marian apparitions that occurred on the site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help (<i>Reading from his decree, the Bishop stated, "I declare with moral certainty and in accord with the norms of the Church that the events, apparitions and locutions given to Adele Brise in October of 1859 do exhibit the substance of supernatural character, and I do hereby approve these apparitions as worthy of belief (although not obligatory) by the Christian faithful."</i>). Less than 1 year later, in <b>Fall 2011</b>, Holy Cross Parish began an annual 50 mile walking pilgrimage from Kaukauna to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion. This pilgrimage of love started with just Holy Cross Parishioners the first year, but since that time has evolved to include Catholics from many different parishes. This is the only approved Marian Apparition site in North America.</p>
<p><b>2013</b></p>	<p>March 2013 Fr. Tom and Deacon Bruce lead a group on a 10 day trip to <b>Italy</b>. While there, the "seat of Peter" was empty (Pope Benedict XVI had retired and a new pope had not yet been elected). Cities visited: Rome, Norcia, Assisi, Siena and Florence.</p> <p>In May 2013 Holy Cross was blessed to have a Holy Cross parishioner, Dr. Mark Ebben, ordained a deacon.</p> <p>November 30 – Dec 8 – Adoration before the blessed Sacrament was held 24 hours a day for 9 days (a novena) at Holy Cross. Parishioners came and prayed before the Blessed Sacrament for our parish, city, country, world and a renewal of faith, in honor of the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Cross Parish (dedicated on December 26, 1873). Holy Cross Parish also celebrated its 140th Jubilee the weekend of December 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> by holding a chili supper on Saturday Dec 14, as well as a pancake breakfast on the 15<sup>th</sup> after the 9:15 mass. As part of the celebration, we had coloring pages and trivia questions for parishioners to try their luck at answering. There was also a potluck supper and caroling on the bus on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p><b>2015</b></p>	<p>Summer 2015: With the input of parishioners and the councils, a plan was formulated what will allowed us to address present needs of our 100-year old current Church building and also planning for the future generations of Holy Cross. <u>Capital Campaign Fund-raising began for this need.</u></p> <p>November 2015 Fr. Tom and Deacon Bruce lead a group to the <b>Holy Land</b>.</p>

<p><b>2016</b></p>	<p>July 1, 2016 The name of our school was changed from Holy Cross school (KCSS) to <b>St. Ignatius Catholic School</b>. (Catholic Classical Education model)</p> <p>July 2016 – <u>repairs began</u> on the Church Steeple. New roof, clock face and hands. In September the interior needs of the church building began to be addressed.</p>
<p><b>2017</b></p>	<p><u>Church Capital Campaign Project continues through summer</u> – pews were refinished (stripped and stained), new sound system with T-coil (for those with hearing aids), new carpet, tile, paint, lighting (LED pendant lights added), statues of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus repainted close to original colors, new side alters, new furnishings in the sacristy, new artistic renderings on the walls. Later in Spring / summer – Heating and A/C (new), windows will be worked on and sealed and protected. Most of the original marble altar was donated back to the church (to the delight of many who remember the beautiful marble altar that was a part of Holy Cross) from a parishioner who stored it when it was originally removed. A new marble top needed to be ordered. With some changes, we incorporated some of the marble to the side altars to keep the architecture similar between the main altar and the side altars. This is not a complete list of everything slated to be done.</p> <p>In June: Bishop Ricken here to re-dedicate Holy Cross Church and celebrate mass. Still awaiting new altar top and baptismal font.</p>
<p><b>2018</b></p>	<p>March 2018 - Fr. Tom and Deacon Bruce lead a group to <b>Ireland</b>.</p> <p>March/April - The annual Holy Cross Men's Open Basketball Tournament celebrated its 50 year Anniversary</p> <p>Fr. Tom celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priestly ordination.</p> <p>July - Fr. Tom Pomeroy was assigned to Holy Family Parish in Brillion. Fr. Donald Everts became the new pastor of both Kaukauna Catholic churches: Holy Cross and St. Katharine Drexel as of July 2, 2018 and Deacon Steve Vande Hey has been appointed permanent Deacon of Holy Cross in addition to his current appointment as permanent Deacon of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Kaukauna. On July 16, just two weeks after his ordination, Fr. Kyle Sladek joined Fr. Don, as the Parochial Vicar of both Kaukauna parishes.</p> <p>October 2018 – The two Kaukauna Catholic Parishes began a partnership (while retaining their own individual parishes) working jointly together to share the Good News and Build the Kingdom of God. Four Parish Teams (Discipleship Team, Pastoral Care Team, Worship Team, and Resource and Support Team) consisting of parishioners from both Holy Cross and St Katharine Drexel were formed with a vision to Discover, Live &amp; Share Jesus!</p>

<p><b>Pastors of Holy Cross Parish</b></p>	
<p>1878 - 1908</p>	<p>Rev. Julius L Rohde (Rhode)</p>
<p>1908 - 1932</p>	<p>Rt Rev. Msgr. Peter Lockman</p>
<p>1932 - 1940</p>	<p>Rev. August Garthaus</p>
<p>1940 - 1947</p>	<p>Rev. Peter Grosnick</p>

1947 - 1966	Rev. Andrew J. Quella
1966 - 1971	Rev. Andrew G Linsmeyer
1971 - 1976	Rev. Roy L. Crain
1976 – 1979	Rev. John Bergstadt Rev. Mike Hoffmann (co-pastors)
1979 - 1985	Rev. Mike Hoffmann
1985 - 1986	Rev. Philip Hoffmann
1986 - 2007	Rev. Jack Mullarkey
2007 - 2018	Rev. Thomas Pomeroy
2018 – present	Rev. Donald Everts – Pastor (both HC & SKD) Rev. Kyle Sladek - Parochial Vicar (both HC & SKD)