

Churches of Humboldt Township, Wisconsin

The first church, in the Township of Humboldt, Brown County, Wisconsin, U.S.A.; was built in 1872. It was a mission, until October 15, 1872, when Rev. Gregory Pellegrin was appointed as its first pastor. The name of this church was St. Mary's.

St. Mary's parish was mostly of Flemish Belgian immigrants. Some of the surnames in St. Mary's Cemetery are; BARRAS; BINS; BERCEAU; BONCHER; CANNARD; CLABOTS; CLEEREMAN; COLLARD; DE PREY; DENIS; DERRICKS; DUCHATEAU; FERRY; GILLIS; GREATENS; HEIM; JONET; MICHIELS; NOOYEN; PANURE; RICKEL; ROLLIN; RONSMAN; TIELENS; TILLMAN; VAN DEN BERG; VAN DEN BUSH; VAN DEN PLAS; VANLOO; VANNESS; VICKMAN.

After a time St. Mary's set up a mission in Sugarbush, only two miles down the road; west of St. Mary's church. The mission was called St. Hubert. This area was mostly populated by Walloon Belgian immigrants. Some of the surnames in St.

Hubert's Cemetery are; BALZA; BORLEY; BOURNONVILLE; CANNARD; CHARLIER; CONARD; DANTINNE; DAVISTER; DE BAUCHE; DE GRAND; DE PREY; DELVAUX; DETERVILLE; DORNER; EVERARD; FENENDAEL; FERRY; GAUTHIER; GILLIS; JADIN; JAUQUET; JONET; JOSSART; LEIBECK; LELOU; LEURQUIN; LIEFEOIS; MARTIN; MASSEY; MATHEW; MATHEYS; MATHU; MERTENS; MICHIELS; PIRLOT; PROCESS; RABAS; RADAR; RADART; RASS; RAVET; SCONZERT; SERVAIS; SIMON; TILOT; VAN GOETHEM, VANDEN AVOND; VAN DEN BUSH; VICKMAN;

St. Mary's Church also established a mission in Eaton, Brown County, Wisconsin; several miles south of their church. This mission was called St. Joseph's, and was populated mostly of Irish settlers. When this mission church closed down in 1932; the parishioners went to a church in Poland, Eaton.

In 1895 Rev. Van Heyster was appointed as pastor of St. Mary's. During his four years at the parish, he attempted to merge St. Mary's parish with the St. Hubert mission.

Rev. Van Nistleroy followed in Rev. Van Heyster's footprints; and also attempted the merger. However the Walloons rejected the idea. Rev. Van Nistleroy left the parish in 1903 after failing in his attempt.

In 1905 it was very clear that a merger was not going to happen anytime soon; so St. Hubert's Church was built to replace the old mission. During this time Rev. Louis Van Oeffel was pastor of St. Mary's. His stay was from 1907 - 1916. Also during this time in 1908, a new St. Mary's Church was built; to replace the 1872 Church.

Rev. Hubert J. Kleiber appointed pastor in May of 1944. He stayed there over nine years.

Rev. Charles Duerr was appointed pastor by Bishop Bona of Green Bay, in 1958. In November of that year, Bishop Bona passed the order that the two churches were to merge. The name of the parish was S.S. Mary; and Hubert of the Town of Humboldt.

St. Mary's Church, being the smaller of the two was closed in 1959, and was torn down the following year. A new rectory was built across the street from St. Hubert's Church, on eight acres of land. The old rectory was sold as a private home.

In 1966 a fire destroyed the church, and a new church began being built. During this time Mass was held at a local hall, called Rainbow Gardens. In January of 1967 the parish name was changed to Our lady Queen of Peace of the Town of Humboldt.

The midnight Christmas mass was the first mass celebrated in the new church; which was still incomplete. The church was dedicated on October 15, 1968.

Rev. Duerr left the parish in 1972 after fourteen years of service. Rev. John Schmitt was then appointed pastor. After Rev. Schmitt's retirement, Rev. Dean Dombroski, was appointed Pastor, along with the parish in Poland, Eaton; called S.S. Cyril and Methodius.

In 1999 because of the priest shortage, the most Reverend Bishop Robert Banks, of Green Bay, ordered the two parishes to be merged and S.S. Cyril and Methodius to be closed. After the merger Our Lady Queen of Peace once again was renamed St. Thomas the Apostle.

Rev. Dombroski was then appointed a pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Kilian's Church, located in New Franken, Brown County, Wisconsin. In 2005 St. Joseph Parish, Champion, Brown County, Wisconsin was added to the linked parishes.

In 2010 Rev. William O'Brien was appointed as pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Kilian and St. Joseph parish.



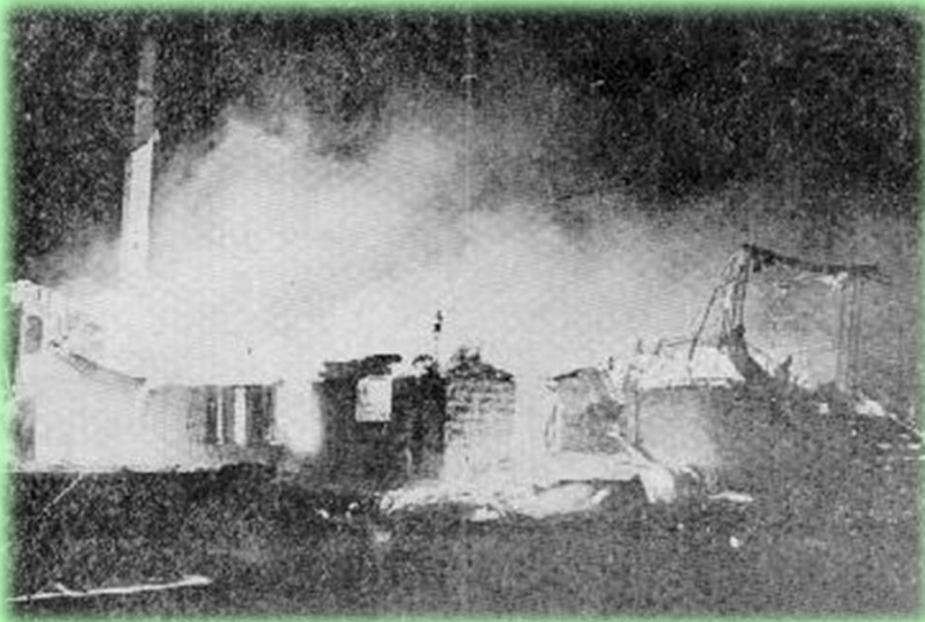
St. Hubert Church



St. Hubert Church 1953



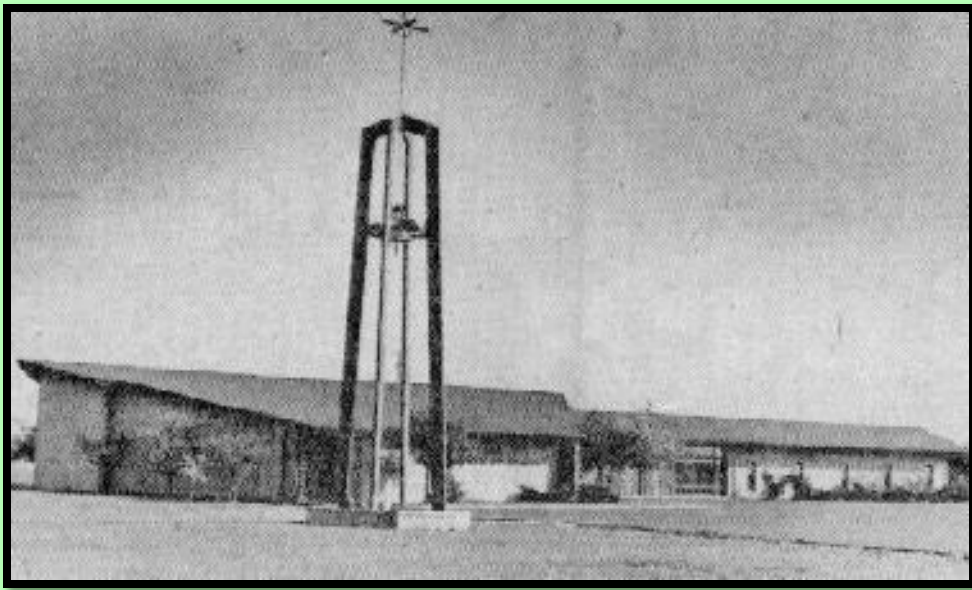
St. Hubert Church



St. Hubert Church Fire; 1966



St. Hubert Church; Nov. 30 1966



Our Lady Queen of Peace; 1978



St. Thomas the Apostle 1999



St. Thomas the Apostle 2011