

ST. CLARE CATHOLIC CHURCH

-Where We Were -Where We Are -Where We Will Be

November 2013

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WHERE WE WERE...

- In 1965 Archbishop William E. Cousins established our Catholic Congregation.
- Fr. John A. Kapellen is appointed the first Pastor for St. Clare Catholic Church.
- First Mass is celebrated at Pagel's Resort, the temporary 'church' for St. Clare.

- In 1968 the members of St. Clare break ground for the 'temporary' metal frame church building.
- In 1970 Fr. Kapellen retires and Fr. Joseph L. Baran is appointed Pastor.
- In 1972 the Steeple is added to the church.
- In 1985 a brick façade is added to the church and a corner stone is placed in the structure.
- In 1996 Fr. Baran retires and Fr. John D. Hensing is appointed Pastor.
- In 1997 strategic planning is started regarding the future of St. Clare.
- In 2004 the members of St. Clare break ground for the new permanent church building.
- In 2005 Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan comes to celebrate Mass and dedicate the new church.



It took nearly 40 years to build the beautiful church that we now enjoy every day. The more recent members may not even know the history of our humble beginning. After almost 10 years in the new church some may have forgotten what the old building was like. As a faith community that began by serving the people that filled the summer cottages around the local lakes, the members of St. Clare have continued to provide a valued presence in the Wind Lake area. It's important to continue the work that the founding members began almost 50 years ago. It's time to step forward and secure our presence in the future.

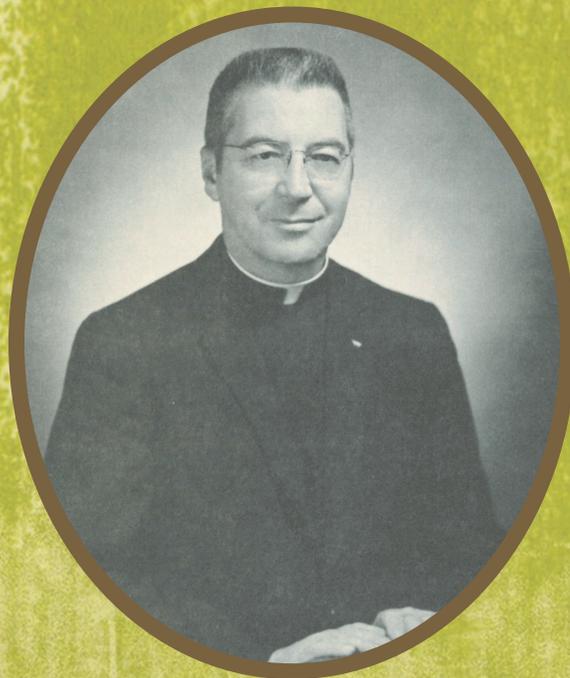
Disciples hear God's voice and take it to heart.

"Prescription For Our Future" - 2014-2016

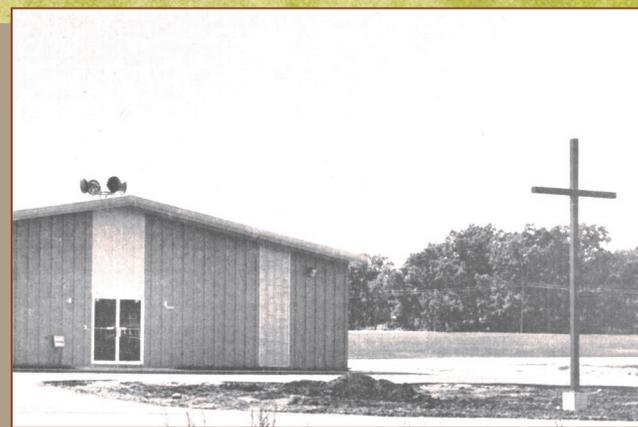
Where We Were...

In 1965, Archbishop Cousins sent a letter officially transferring Fr. Kapellen from his position as Assistant at St. Thomas Aquinas in Waterford to become the founding Pastor of a newly established parish in Wind Lake. He moved into a temporary rectory on Waubeesee Lake, and that is where he celebrated the first masses for the new parish. After another move to a slightly better location, Mr. and Mrs. Pagel, parish members of St. Thomas, offered their resort hall as a temporary worship space. Now that a more suitable worship space was established, thoughts turned to giving the parish a name. Several ideas were presented, but none seemed to fit. Then Fr. Kapellen suggested St. Clare; who better than the foundress of the Second Order of St. Francis.

And since it was his mother's name, it all seemed like it was just meant to be. The story of St. Clare was very similar to the people of the fledgling parish. At 18, St. Clare left the security of her well-established and affluent home to strike out on her own and founded the "Little Sisters of the Poor". Just like the people of the Wind Lake community were striking out to form a parish of their own. After much perseverance, they upheld their patroness' conviction that all things are possible with God's Help.



*Reverend John A. Kapellen
Pastor of St. Clare from 1965-1970*



St. Clare Church as it was built in 1969



In July 1968, Fr. Schaefer and Fr. Kapellan gave a blessing and then eagerly took a shovel in hand and broke ground.

At the first Mass in 1969, Fr. Kapellen shared these sentiments with his parish:

“At last, after many years of dreams, disappointments, delays, and heartaches the Catholics of the lakes region have their own church. The prayers and efforts of many have produced a reality, though it seems every type of obstacle was put in our way to the extent that we wondered at times if ever we would have our own place. And here it is. We are moving.”

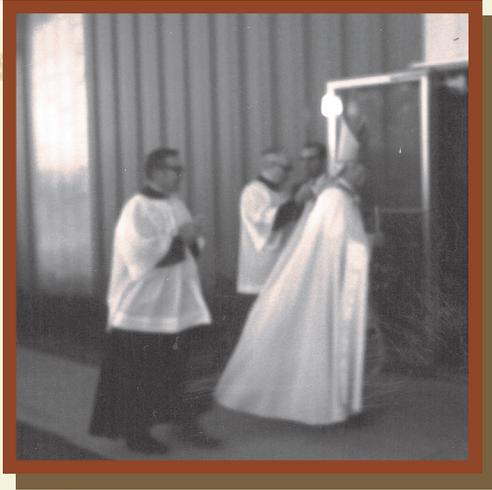
On the Journey...

Shortly after finding a temporary place at Pagel's resort, the parish was able to buy eight acres of land from John Fritz. Now the real work of building a parish could begin, and so it was Fr. Kapellan, along with many dedicated members who started the planning to build a permanent worship space. They encountered all kinds of hurdles and set backs. It was a difficult time in the history of the nation, loans were hard to secure, money was tight, the civil rights movement was fresh in the minds of everyone. It was slow going and frustrating.

During this time, the parish held events to raise funds to build a permanent church, the whole community came forward to help in various ways. The people of St. Thomas were among the many supporters, and offered the use of their hall for meetings and for some of the events. The first major success was the first picnic in July 1966, which brought a net profit of \$12,000.00 and some free publicity in the Milwaukee Sentinel under "Jaunts with Jamie." They tried many things Ice Jamborees, dances, style shows, rummage sales, card parties, monthly bake sales, and even a paper drive.

Still, delays and setbacks made the dream of building a permanent church seem impossible. In the Fall of 1967, there was a fire at Pagel's and although the hall was not damaged it made the idea of building a church even more urgent. About that time, William Easterly, a parish member, offered to act as unpaid contractor for a building to be erected by his employer, Nordberg Manufacturing of Milwaukee, manufacturers of steel buildings. After some concerns with the septic system and soil condition was resolved, they were finally ready to build the church.

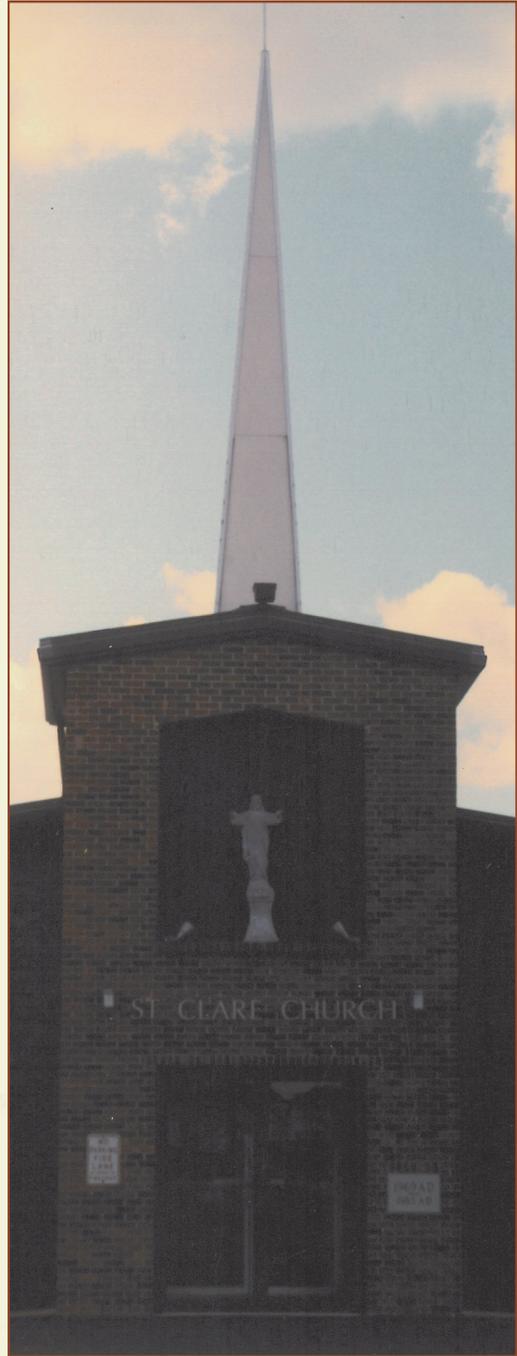
Moving On...



On September 28, 1969, Archbishop Cousins dedicated the new church. Finally the congregation of St. Clare was ready to serve the community in full. During planning it had been determined that building a school was not feasible, and so when the new multipurpose structure was complete, members of the parish turned their focus to providing religious education to the youth of the parish. Many programs were offered, including the establishment of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in November 1969.

At this time, the parish had grown from about 400 families to 565 families, and had witnessed 70 baptisms, 68 first communicants, 90 confirmations, 20 marriages and 10 deaths.

Sadly, Fr. Kapellan would only serve one more year at St. Clare after his five years of work to bring the parish to the Wind Lake community. In 1970 Father Joseph Baran came to serve St. Clare parish and remained until 1996 when he retired and Father John D. Hemsing was appointed as Pastor.



In 1972 a steeple and cross was added to the church built by Fr. Kapellan. In 1985 the brick front and cornerstone was added.

○ The Journey Continues... ○

Under Fr. Hemsing, a new planning committee was formed to complete the dream of a more permanent worship space. The Strategic Planning committee conducted research and gathered information and opinions to determine if St. Clare and St. Thomas could continue to grow and thrive as independent parishes, or should they merge once again and build one new church and school. The consensus was that the communities of Wind Lake and Waterford as well as the surrounding areas would be better served by two parishes.

At that point in 2001 another building committee was formed and plans for a new church were started. In May 2003, the parish embarked on the capital campaign, "Fulfilling Our Promise" to raise enough funds to build the new church. Between the funds raised under the campaign, and the promise of a loan from Catholic Financial Life, the plans were finalized, the permits were approved, and contractors were hired.

In 2004, the people of St. Clare once again break ground to complete the dream of the founding members of the parish; to build a permanent and beautiful worship space. On April 3rd, 2005 Archbishop Dolan came to dedicate the new church for the good people of St. Clare. It was a joyous feeling as the people closed the old church and processed to the new church. The whole congregation gathered for the first Mass, and witnessed the many rituals of blessing and opening a new worship space.



WHERE WE ARE ...



Fr. John's last project was to complete the lower level of the church, which was dedicated in 2007 as Holy Family Hall. This area serves many purposes. It houses our parish office, classrooms for Religious Education, and thanks to the folding walls; which can open to make a nice hall that allows for other events to take place.

But just three short years after blessing the new church, Fr. John Hemsing says good-bye to St. Clare and her wonderful people. On June 17th, 2008 the parish welcomed Fr. Aurelio H. Perez. During 2008-2009 the old church building was removed and the parking lot was completed. With the help of Fr. Aurelio, a beautiful multi-purpose storage building was built in August 2011 to match the style of the church. This building provides much needed storage, and space to serve food during our community events. In 2012, he and the parish members helped to purchase our new piano, which was a much needed improvement to the music ministry.

St. Clare and St. Thomas have been working together developing our response to the Archdiocesan Vision 21 Pastoral Plan. The 'Plan' noted that between the year 2010 and 2020 the number of priest retirements would exceed ordinations resulting in a projected 40% reduction in the number of priests serving in parish ministries. Because of this information our

plan proposed that one priest serve both St. Clare and St. Thomas. In Fall of 2012 when Fr. Aurelio was unexpectedly reassigned, our Vision 21 Pastoral Plan was put into effect, and Fr. Gene Doda was asked to serve both St. Clare and St. Thomas.

Today, the job of completing the dream of the founders of St. Clare has fallen into Fr. Gene's capable hands. While the work of building the faith community and church of St. Clare was done by the preceding priests, the difficult task of paying off the debt incurred to build the new church belongs to Fr. Gene.

It has cost the parish about \$2.9 million to build the new church, finish Holy Family Hall, complete the parking lot and drainage area, and build the storage building. About eight years ago, the congregation borrowed \$1,475,098 to build the church, and today \$796,382 of the loan amount is still remaining. This is more than half the loan amount on a maximum 15 year loan, with only about 7 years left to pay. We need to be able to raise more funds to pay off this debt, please commit to another 3 year pledge.

We are asking every family of St. Clare to consider making a 3 year pledge for the mortgage debt reduction. Please consider a monthly amount, we offer EFT payments as well. If you would like to give a large gift, please contact the office. Also, many companies offer 'Matching Gift' programs, ask your employer for information. Please help your parish.

The Me I See is the Me I will be...

"Prescription For Our Future" - 2014-2016

Where We Will Be...

We need to payoff the mortgage so that we can have funds available to continue to pursue our ministry and mission in the community. One of the key missions for St. Clare is the religious education of all our members, from birth to retirement. If our parish and faith is going to grow and survive in today's world, we need to educate and connect not only with our young people, but with all of our people and our community. How do we do that?

Just like in the 1960's when the parish had to cope with the changing world because of the Civil Rights movement, today we are also coping with change. The struggling economy has changed the way people live. The ever-evolving technology has changed the way we learn, grow, work, communicate, and even how we practice our faith. Can we change our methods to meet the needs of today? Have we fulfilled our mission to spread the word, and help the less fortunate?

The way people view religious vocations today is very different than in the 60's. This shift in thinking has contributed to the decrease in priests, nuns, and lay ministry people. We have recently experienced this firsthand by sharing a priest with St. Thomas Aquinas. As the number of priests continue to decline, parishes will need to depend on more of their lay ministry members to manage more functions within the parish.

The ideas set forth in the Vatican II council promotes the role of skilled lay ministries. A parish is more than the pastor alone. A healthy parish is an active and involved parish. God didn't expect Jesus to announce the good news by himself, he gave him the disciples. Jesus himself charged the disciples with the task to go forth and spread the Word of the Lord. So why do we expect one priest to do all the work?

We need to pay off the mortgage, that is true but we also need to expand our mission in the community. We need to open our doors and truly welcome all who enter; young, old, rich, poor, those who feel unwanted, people we know or don't know. Please help fulfill the dream, help to build our faith community.



Fall 2013

"Prescription For Our Future"

To build the parish of St. Clare by growing disciples through education, encouragement, compassion, and faith. To be good stewards of our faith by caring for the lost and disconnected. To support St. Clare through tithing, time, and talent.

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Side by Side Past and Present St. Clare Church

