



MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Oshkosh, was created on July 14, 2007 with the merger of three parishes on the city's northeast side: St. Peter, St. Mary and St. Josaphat. It also serves the Newman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. It had 2,290 households in 2007. Worship services are held at the St. Mary and St. Peter sites.

The oldest parish in the group is St. Peter, which was established three years before the city was incorporated. The early missionaries who served the area were Frs. Samuel Mazzuchelli, Theodore Vanden Broek and Florimond Bonduel.

Twelve families built a small, white church in 1851 at the urging of Fr. Bonduel. The first resident pastor was Fr. Paul Farinacci. By 1856, a larger church was needed. The first Catholic school went up in 1857, staffed by lay teachers. The first parish school was built in 1863. The Dominican Sisters from Sinsinawa staffed the school from 1866 until 1984. A large brick school was built in 1884 and a high school existed from 1931 until 1941. A new church was dedicated on May 16, 1880. The present church was built in 1955.

St. Mary Church was initially built as a cathedral because Bishop Francis Krautbauer was thinking of moving the seat of the diocese to Oshkosh. Fr. Roman Scholter and the congregation decided to build a suitable church, but the bishop died before plans could be completed. The congregation went ahead and built an impressive Gothic-revival-style church anyway. Fr. Scholter would become the longest serving pastor with his 33 years. He is buried beneath the church.

The congregation was started in 1858 when Germans wanted a place of worship. It was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception on Aug. 15, 1858. While the parish shared a priest with St. Peter, the St. Mary congregation was

hopeful it would get its own pastor and built a rectory in 1865. Fr. Anton Leitner was the first resident pastor. A new rectory was built in 1923.

The parish did host a bishop for a time. Auxiliary Bishop John Grellinger became administrator in 1954 and served for about 12 years. He participated in the Second Vatican II Council and when he returned, he donated Stations of the Cross he found in an Italian shop. He also sent back a marble altar for the church. It was removed and put in storage when the church was renovated in 2012 because it did not fit the décor. The church got new pews, but refinished and reused the end caps. It is also home to the City of Oshkosh Adoration Chapel, which was blessed by Bishop David Ricken on March 9, 2010.

St. Josaphat Parish was incorporated in 1897. The first school was built in 1910 and staffed by Franciscan Sisters from Stevens Point. The school closed in 1974. The most recent church was built in 1976.

