



St. Mary's, circa 1912

1912

This picture was taken around 1912, showing Mr. Jim Boyhan's Ford. He was a well-known character around the church; he used to train, pick up and return the altar boys, as well as the Sisters and others needing a ride. Note the closeness of the water to the church grounds at this time. The pastor was the Rev. Thomas J. Wilson, a priest from Mullahoran and Loughduff in County Cavan, Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Ireland. He saw the need for a parochial school and began raising funds during his pastorate. At the time of his death Father Wilson had paid the church debt and established a large fund for a parochial school.



Original interior with painted Gloria in Excelsis Deo and stars above altar

1923

The Catholic school on Mill Creek was realized under Msgr. William A. Gill in 1923. The school building had been used as a hospital during the Civil War and later became a deluxe hostess house known as Brightview Manor and was used for officers' wives and families visiting Fort Monroe. To serve the school Msgr. Gill secured the services of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, Tennessee. These sisters still serve the school, now a regional school for four parishes. A famous walker and swimmer, Msgr. Gill took an early morning swim in the Bay every day - all year round.



Easter at St. Mary's, date unknown

1933

On January 14, 1933 Rev. Richard B. Washington became the pastor at St. Mary's. Born in Charles Town, West Virginia, he was a descendant of President George Washington and a convert to the Catholic faith. He was very patriotic and gave many lectures on the patriotism of Catholics in this country.



Postcard showing St. Mary's and Post Hospital, exact date unknown

1941



Photo by W. J. McCall, Sr. in 1941, when he was stationed at the 122nd Coast Artillery School.

1953



Marian altar, 1953

1955

The Rev. Julius O. Schmidhauser made arrangements for the construction of a new St. Mary Star of the Sea School and convent additions. He also oversaw the building of the Buckroe Beach St. Joseph Chapel that became a mission of St. Mary's. St. Mary Star of the Sea School was designated as the central parochial school for the parishes of the Lower Peninsula.

1956

The Rev. Walter F. Sullivan was Associate Pastor at St. Mary's from 1956-1958. He later became the 11th Bishop of Richmond. He has expressed fond memories of his days here.



Christmas at St. Mary's, year unknown