



St. Mary's and the rectory

1966

Sadly, in 1966 the beautiful spires on the two towers had to be removed. Over the years water had leaked in and caused major structural damage to the roof.

1968

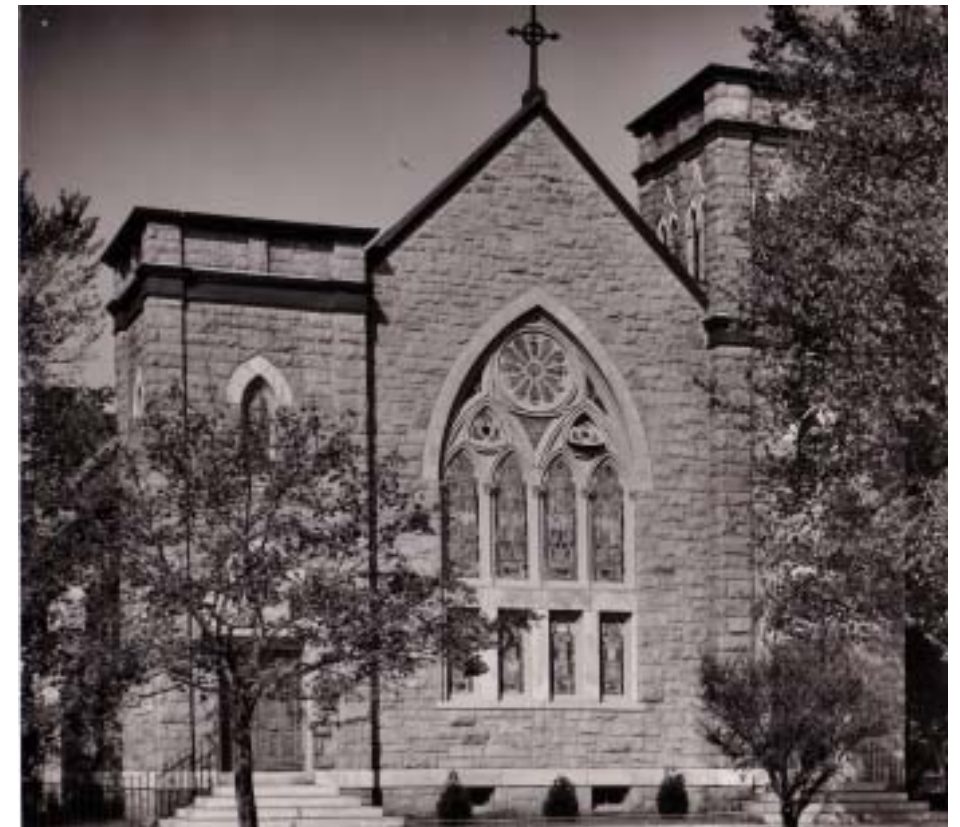
In 1968 the Buckroe chapel became St. Joseph Catholic Church under the direction of the Redemptorist Fathers. On July 26, 1971, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's parishes merged, with the Rev. Raymond E. Schantz, C.Ss.R. as pastor.

1975

On February 15, 1975 the Rev. Leonard Cordier, C.Ss.R. became pastor of St. Joseph-St. Mary's Church. The parish hall at St. Joseph's would later be named for him.

1977

On July 1, 1977, St. Mary's again became an independent parish with the Rev. Daigle as pastor. Two years later the Rev. Charles Brickner raised funds to refurbish the neglected church buildings and remodel the altar to conform to changes in the liturgy under Vatican II. The stained glass windows were renewed and sealed on the outside. The organ was moved so as to better view the large central stained glass window in the choir loft. Roof repairs were made, the interior plastered and painted, and the new blue carpet laid throughout the church. A new altar was installed, after the original altar against the wall was removed.



St. Mary's prior to sealing of the stained glass windows. Note the open window in the choir loft.

1985

During Rev. Charles Brickner's pastorate the parish celebrated its 125th anniversary on September 9, 1985. This culminated several years of reconstruction to the exterior and interior of the church.

1989

A new 1300 square foot Parish Hall, attached to the original historic rectory, was completed under the leadership of Rev. Charles W. Brickner. Because the rectory is considered an historic building, the project needed approval from the National Register of Historic Places.

1995

During the pastorate of Rev. Joseph L. Clark, our longest serving pastor, new light-colored wainscoting was added behind the altar and along the sides to replace the dark wood. The reconciliation room was refurbished and the new entrance doors with stained glass panels were installed. He oversaw the installation of a new roof, windows, and central air and heating to the rectory. He built up a substantial reserve fund for future church renovations.



Photo by Chuck Edgette, circa 2003

2001

September 11, 2001 changed our lives forever. That first weekend we held mass in the school chapel, because no one was allowed entrance to the base unless they lived or worked there. Screening procedures were initiated and soon we were able to have mass as usual in the church.

2003

Rev. Joseph L. Clark retired and Rev. Peter M. Creed became our new pastor in 2003. A reception and historical display marked the 100th anniversary of the current stone church building. Hurricane Isabel struck on September 18, 2003 and caused major flooding in the church, rectory, and parish hall – as well as the fort and city of Hampton. Repairs were made and on December 6, 2003, at the beginning of Advent, Bishop Emeritus Walter Sullivan installed Father Creed as our pastor. Fr. Creed strengthened lay participation in parish life.



2006 © Alan V. Cecil used w/ permission. Image is on the banner in the back of the church.

2006

In the summer of 2006 Rev. Anthony W. Morris, C.Ss.R. became pastor of St. Mary's, while continuing as pastor of St. Joseph's in Buckroe. He oversaw numerous renovations of the church buildings and grounds, including a new stone and concrete ramp to allow easy access to the church.

2008

Rev. Peter E. Sousa, C.Ss.R. became pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in August 2008. Father Sousa serves as the Reserve TRADOC Chaplain at Fort Monroe, and is also the Vicar of the Redemptorist Vice Province of Richmond.



St. Mary's after a snowfall. Photo by Jacquie McCall

Parish Outreach

* ACCESS-Aids Care Center * Bayview Community * H.E.L.P. *
* Lackey Free Clinic * Transitions Family Violence Services *

Parish Ministries & Programs

* Altar Servers * Arts & Environment * Building & Grounds * Justice & Peace *
* Knights of Columbus, Council #511 * Liturgy * Music *
* Parish Council * Prayer Shawl Ministry * Quilt Group * Religious Education *
* RCIA * Social Activities * Volunteers * Women of Faith *