

**Our Lady of the Lakes Parish
Mass Schedule**

Our Lady of the Lakes (Oquossoc)

Sunday @ 7:30AM

(Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day)

St. Luke (Rangeley)

Saturday @ 4:00PM (Jul. through Labor Day)

Sunday @ 7:30 AM (Sunday after Columbus Day to
weekend before Memorial Day)

Sunday @ 9:00 AM (All Year)

St. John (Stratton)

Saturday @ 6:00 PM (All Year)

Bell Chapel (Sugarloaf)

Saturday @ 4:30 PM (Dec. through Mar.)



Our Lady of the Lakes Rectory
Reverend Paul Plante
43 Rangeley Avenue
P.O. Box 333
Oquossoc, ME 04964
(207) 864-3795

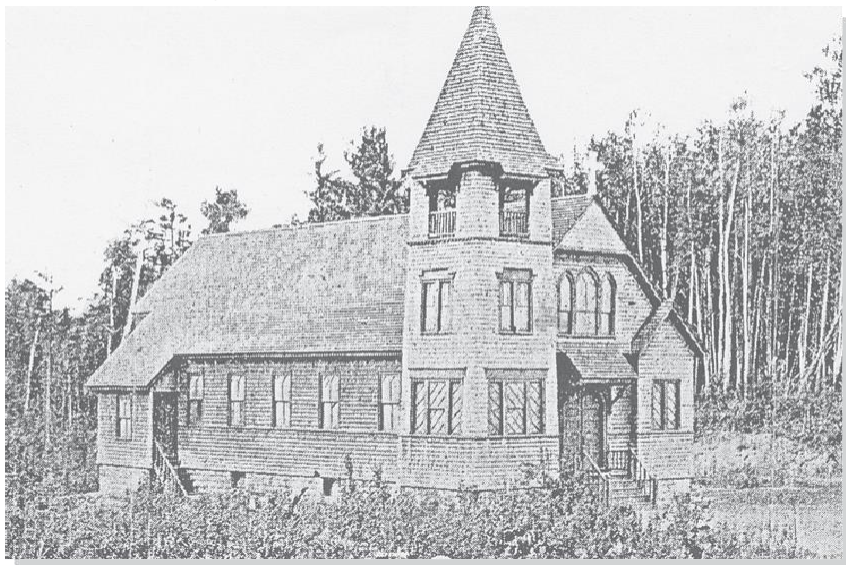
**Our Lady of the Lakes
Roman Catholic Church
Oquossoc, Maine**



**Centennial Celebration
1908 – 2008**

Our Lady of the Lakes Church

Our Lady of the Lakes Church was built in 1908, primarily through the efforts of Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby. A convert to Catholicism, she was authorized by letter from Bishop O'Connell (dated July 23, 1906) to accept donations "with a view to a chapel in the Rangeley Region". Collecting funds from residents and tourists and using land given to her by the railroad company, she spearheaded the construction of the church. The first Mass was said in the church on August 30, 1908 by Father Ambrose H. Barry. On September 30, 1908, Bishop Walsh visited the newly built chapel. He would later bless the church on August 15, 1911.



With the arrival of a resident pastor in 1926, a rectory was built next to the Church. The Parish of Our Lady of the Lakes was officially established in 1927. St. Luke in Rangeley and St. John in Stratton are mission churches.

St. John Church



St. Luke Church



Our Lady of the Lakes Pastors

Prior to 1926, Our Lady of the Lakes Church was a mission served by various priests from Rumford and Farmington. In 1926 the first resident pastor was assigned and the church became a Parish with Rangeley and Eustis. Today, Our Lady of the Lakes is a part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Maine.



Chronological List of Church Pastors:

Rev. Julius Boucher	1927–1937
Rev. Emilien Faucher	1937–1948
Rev. Origene Guillet	1949–1957
Rev. Joseph Allard	1957–1961
Rev. Gilbert Patenaude	1961–1968
Rev. Armand Neault	1968–1973
Rev. Robert Girouard	1973–1977
Rev. John Dougher	1977–1982
Rev. Raymond Gauthier	1982–1985
Rev. Chanel Cyr	1985–1990
Rev. Paul Cote	1990–1998
Rev. Raymond Morency	1998–2000
Rev. John Harris	2000–2003
Rev. Michael Hinken	2003–2004
Rev. Paul Plante	2004 – Present

Father Paul Plante celebrating Christmas Eve Mass at Our Lady of the Lakes in 2007



CHURCH BLESSING AND DEDICATION

Date: Monday, August, 14, 1911

“Left on train at 7:40 for Oquossocarrived at 12:30, had good rooms at Mountain View House. In the afternoon a trip to Upper Dam in amotorboat. Quiet evening on piazza.

Chapel was in good condition ready for the Blessing and splendidly equipped.”

Date: Tuesday, August, 15, 1911

“Mass at 8:00. Solemn Blessing at 10, followed by Mass with Fr. Horan celebrant, Fr. Barry deacon and Fr. McDougal subdeacon, Fr. Carey in charge of ceremonies.

Bishop preached on the meaning of the Church as House of God, for worship and prayer and Sacraments.

A good audience, including many non-Catholics. Confirmation of three boys after Mass.

Beautiful weather, impressive blessing for the first Chapel of the Rangeley Lakes, called “Our Lady of the Lakes” and St. Anthony as second Patron.

The Chapel was built two years ago by Fr. Barry of Rumford, a great part of the money was collected by Miss Cornelia Crosby (Fly Rod) and many beautiful ornaments given by friends all over the country.

In the afternoon “Stations of (the) Cross” canonically erected by Fr. Barry as delegate. Rain fell in torrents all evening and a good part of the night.”

Date: Wednesday, August 16, 1911

“We left on 6:55 train for Portland, arriving at 11:30”.

Steeple Bell and Stained Glass Window



The steeple bell and stained glass window behind the altar are dedicated to Miss Susan Laroche Johnson who, at the age of nineteen, died at the Birches, Maine on August 6th, 1910.



Statue of the Blessed Mary

Located across Rangeley Avenue from the Church is a beautiful statue of Blessed Mary holding Jesus. The statue was originally located in front of the Convent.



Our Lady of the Lakes Convent

Our Lady of the Lakes Convent was blessed by Rev. Daniel F. Feeney, coadjuter bishop of Portland, on Sunday, August 21, 1955. Located on Oxford Street, the convent was home for the Franciscan Sisters of The Atonement from 1955 - 1964. The Rev. Guillet, pastor, purchased the land and Oquossoc schoolhouse in 1952 at auction from the town of Rangeley for \$1,000. The schoolhouse was renovated to include a



small chapel, community room, dining room, kitchen, and five bedrooms with private bathrooms. Today, the house is a private residence.

Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby

Cornelia Thurza Crosby was born on November 10, 1854 in Phillips, Maine. An avid outdoorswoman, her fishing successes earned her the nickname "Fly Rod" Crosby and led to her recognition as Maine's first licensed guide.



"Fly Rod" converted to Catholicism while convalescing in a Catholic hospital. She raised the money for the chapel by traveling and soliciting her many contacts in the sporting community for her project, eventually raising the necessary \$5000. She credited the success to her patron saint, Saint Anthony.

From a story in the Bangor Daily Commercial on Jan. 10, 1907,

"On the spot where the chapel is to be erected, there was not so long ago only a blazed trail....and Miss Crosby first passed over this route, when a girl out on a hunting expedition.... Today the Portland and Rumford Falls railroad has its terminal station within a stone's throw of the place and school houses, stores and dwellings dot the large clearing there, while a good carriage road passes through from the Moosehead (Mooselookmeguntic) lake to the Rangeley itself, not far away. These things bring the chapel very close to civilization and to the scores of sportsmen who spread all over the region ... within easy reach of the new church."

Cornelia Crosby died on November 11, 1946, a day after her 92nd birthday. She is buried in Strong, Maine, next to her mother, father and brother. On the occasion of her death, the Rangeley Record said, "Rangeley has lost one of its most famous people and America has lost its most famous woman sportsman. May her soul rest in peace."

A chalice engraved with "CTC" (Cornelia Thurza Crosby) is still used in the church



Diary entries from Bishop Louis Walsh, fourth bishop of the Diocese of Portland:

EARLY MASS

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 1908

"We started north, my purpose being to visit the Church at Oquossoc and see the needs of the region.

When we reached Livermore Falls, we decided to leave the auto which had a broken spring, and we went by train to Farmington, thence on narrow gauge (2 ft. rails) to Rangeley Lake House and spent a quiet night, as the season was to close on Oct 1 and nearly all guests were gone"

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 1908

"An ideal day – bright, balmy, clear and invigorating, the first of that kind in many weeks.

The only drawback was the lack of the necessary articles to say mass.

We just roamed about the picturesque locality and everything seemed attractive. In the afternoon we took the regular boat for the other end of the lake, saw all the chief landings, and then visited the new chapel at Oquossoc. It was well built and neatly, though not finished inside.

Miss Crosby (Fly-Rod) was present and Pat. Quigley, the sexton, and both were justly proud of their Chapel. The land was given by the Railroad, the money (about \$1000.00) collected by Miss Crosby and many fine presents given through her efforts with natives and tourists. The cost will be about \$2500.00 and will be cleared in good season. It is well located for all three lakes.

We returned to Rangeley and remained there for the night."