

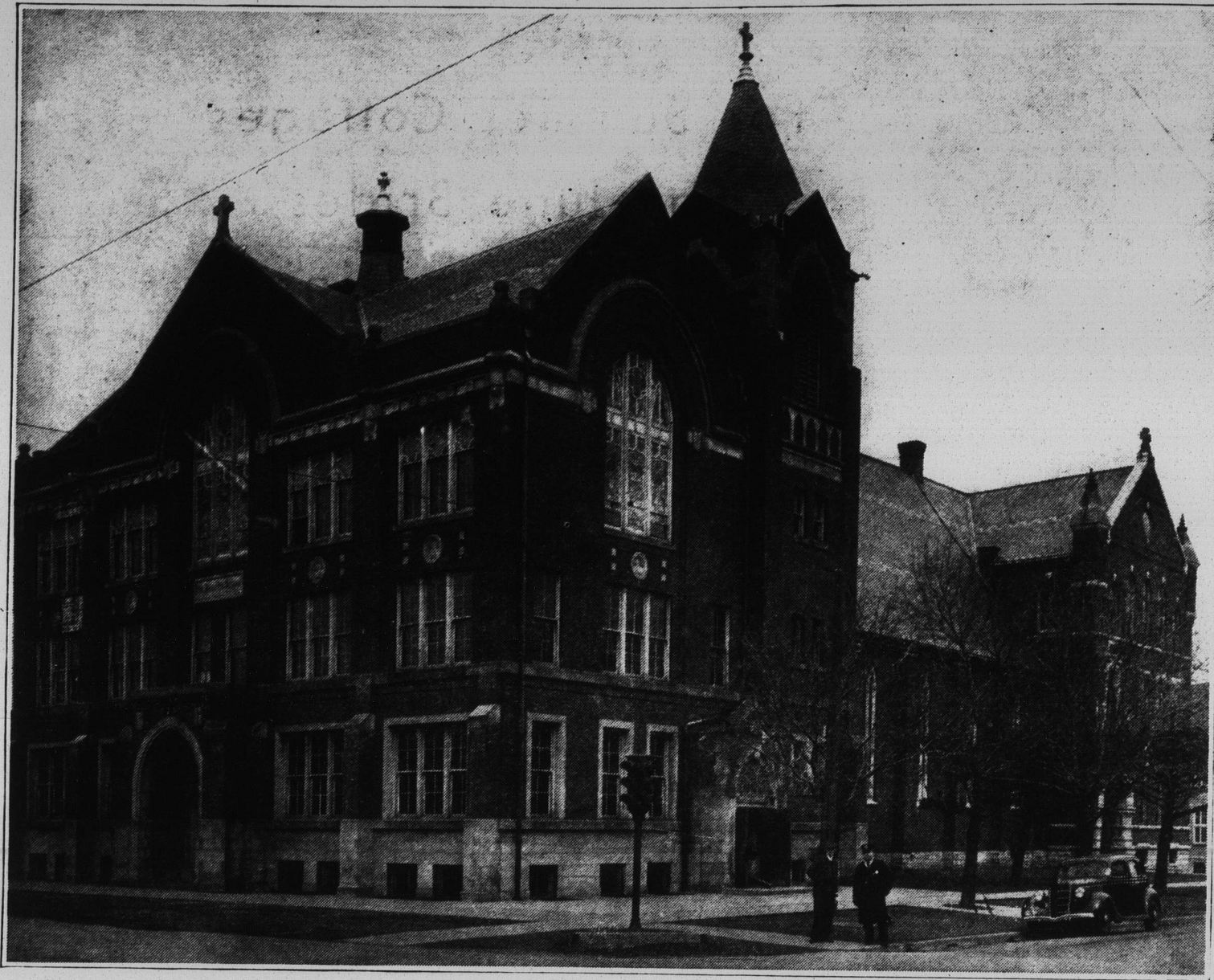
# St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Soon to Have New Edifice

## Wreckers Start Demolition of Old Landmark

One of Wilmette's historic edifices will disappear soon when St. Joseph's Catholic church at Ridge road and Lake avenue will be razed to make room, in the near future, for a larger and more commodious house of worship, plans for which are not yet completed.

The work of demolition is expected to start within a few days, and for the scrapbooks of parishioners and other interested persons a picture of the building as it now appears is presented herewith. Also pictured is the former brick church, the front of which was altered when St. Joseph's school was built in 1915. This school building has just been superseded by a large and thoroughly modern structure immediately to the east, facing Lake avenue.

For almost a hundred years the interests of communicants of St. Joseph's parish have centered about the spot from which the old church will soon be removed. Grandfathers and great grandfathers, grandmothers and great grandmothers of today's worshipers in the sanctuary, and pupils of the school, foregathered here in religious freedom to worship after the dictates of their own consciences. Here, too, births were sanctified, marriages blessed and the last rites performed for those called to another existence.



St. Joseph's church at Lake avenue and Ridge road, now being razed in preparation for new structure.



The first brick church, built in 1868, and remodeled in 1915.

### Organized In 1843

According to record it was in 1843 that the Rev. Father Fisher of St. Mary's church, Chicago, came to Wilmette and organized St. Joseph's. With the thrift characteristic of those pioneer German people, they proceeded almost immediately to provide a church home, and in the summer of

that year a log building, 24x30 feet, was erected. For five years worship services were conducted in that primitive sanctuary, but the rapid growth of the parish required a larger edifice, and in 1848 a new and more commodious frame structure was begun, and finished the following year. Still the parish grew, and still more room

was necessary. So it was in 1868 that the third structure was started, and completed in 1869. The frame church was purchased by John P. Lauer-mann and for many years used as a barn. In 1915 the brick church was, as has been said, remodeled and the school facilities added, and these are now giving way to the fifth structure in the history of the parish.

### Long Record of Pastorates

Of special interest is the record of the pastorates of St. Joseph's. Father Fisher, who organized the society, and the Rev. Father Ostlangenberg, also a priest of St. Mary's, Chicago, had charge from 1843 until December, 1845. It was under their pastorate that the first log church was built. In 1845 the first settled pastor, the Rev. G. H. Plathe, was called, and remained until January, 1847. His successor was the Rev. I. H. Fort-mann, who continued as priest until 1852, and under whose charge the frame church was erected. From

June to September, 1852, the Rev. I. B. Jacomet served the church, being succeeded by the Rev. L. Kuepper, who remained until January, 1853. From that date until May, 1855, the Rev. Nicholas Stauber was in charge, and from then until early in 1860 the Rev. A. Kopp was pastor, the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Michael's church, Chicago, attending until October of that year, when the Rev. Peter Hartlaub assumed charge and remained until February, 1861; Rev. Father Tschieder until June, 1861, and Rev. Franz Blacsinger from July, 1861, to November 10, 1864, dying shortly thereafter. From November, 1864, to October, 1865, the Redemptorist Fathers again had charge of the church, when the Rev. B. Heske-mann, who built the first brick church, became pastor and continued until June 1, 1872. On that date the Rev. William Netstraeter became pastor and remained until his death,

(Continued on Page 87)



The new St. Joseph's school, fronting on Lake avenue just east of Ridge road.