

St. Mary of the Lake Chapel

Praxis Solid Cork Flooring



Product: Praxis

Material: Cork

Industry: Congregational

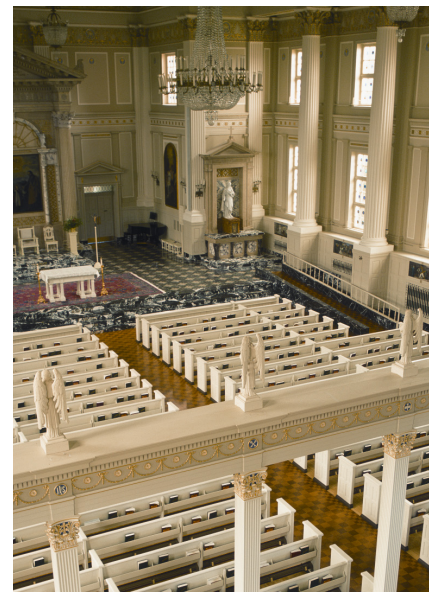
Location: Mundelein, IL

Photography: Candyce Herman

For generations, cork flooring has been the material of choice for churches, chapels, and other gathering spaces where comfort, acoustics, and lasting performance are essential. During the restoration of the historic Saint Mary of the Lake Chapel, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake sought to preserve the character of the original early-20th-century interior while selecting a floor capable of serving decades of future use.

Zandur was chosen to recreate the original cork flooring, carefully matching its color, scale, and timeless appearance while incorporating a modern commercial finish for enhanced durability and simplified maintenance. The result honors the chapel's architectural heritage without compromising the performance expected in today's high-traffic environments.

Today, the chapel continues to welcome thousands of seminarians, clergy, and visitors each year. The project stands as a lasting example of cork's unique ability to combine natural beauty, exceptional durability, underfoot comfort, and acoustical performance—qualities that have made it a trusted flooring choice for



Solid Cork Benefits

Enduring Value

From flooring to wall applications, Zandur cork solutions combine comfort, acoustics, durability, and sustainability. Naturally resilient and remarkably versatile, cork supports quieter, more comfortable interiors with lasting performance.

Inherent Material Benefits

Cork's value begins with its renewable origins and continues through its natural performance characteristics. Its unique cellular structure provides resilience, sound absorption, thermal insulation, and comfort—all inherent to the material itself.

Durable

Cork is naturally resilient and designed for years of reliable performance. Its cellular structure compresses under pressure and recovers, helping the material maintain its appearance and performance over time.

Acoustically Beneficial

Cork's air-filled cellular structure naturally absorbs sound and helps reduce noise and echo, contributing to quieter, more comfortable interiors.

Comfortable Underfoot

Naturally resilient, cork provides cushioning underfoot that helps reduce fatigue and impact on joints. Its cellular structure also provides thermal insulation, helping reduce cold transfer from the subfloor.

Easy to Maintain

Cork offers excellent stain resistance and is easily cleaned with a damp mop and neutral cleaner. Solid cork construction provides strong indentation recovery, while periodic recoating helps renew the surface and extend its service life.

Low Life-Cycle Cost

Commercial-grade solid cork offers a long service life, supported by durable finishes that can be renewed rather than requiring replacement of the flooring.

Responsible Choice

Cork is a rapidly renewable material harvested from the bark of the cork oak without cutting down the tree. Zandur's solid cork construction—not a thin cork veneer—provides material throughout the product, supporting durability, renewability, and long-term use.