

Reverend Vincent De Rosa
Parish Priest



Schedule of masses

Monday

11:30 novena and 12:05pm Mass

5:15pm – Mass.

No evening Mass and Novena on holidays.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

12:05 pm – English Mass

Friday

8:00 am – Tridentine Mass

12:05 pm – English Mass

Saturday

First Saturdays: 9:00 am Tridentine Mass

5:00 pm – Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday

9:00 am – **Tridentine Mass**

Second Sundays - 5:00pm- High Mass

(not during the months of July and August)

10:30 am (English)

11:30 am – (Cantonese)

1:00 pm – English

7:30 pm – (English)

Staff

Parish Secretary: Soraya Strobach

Custodian: Jimmy Vines

Director of Music: Bray McDonnell

Priests in Residence:

Fr Garrett O'Brien

Fr Vincent Rigdon

St. Mary Mother of God Church

727 5th Street NW – Washington DC 20001

202 289-7771

Dear Friends,

In just barely a month, we will celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: the moment when Mary was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven. It's a day marked by one of God's most wonderful gifts, hope. In view of what her son Jesus would do, Mary was born without the stain of original sin, a perfect vessel to bring the Christ into the world. Because she was without sin, at the moment of her death, she did not have to wait for her body and soul to rise together to heaven. What's the practical upshot of all this theology? For you and me it's a preview of what we *hope* for ourselves... our ultimate resurrection, body and soul into the presence of God forever. If Mary, a human being could do it in light of the mercy of Christ, we can too! I don't know about you, but it makes me smile inside to think about it.

Starting our relationship together, priest and parishioners, can we ask God for the gift of hope in a very particular way on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15?

Let's ask him for hope for our parish, for continued growth, life, and peace together as a family here in DC.

Let's ask him for hope for perhaps the most hopeless among us: the hungry... Over the next month you can bring canned food to bins in the back of the Church. On the Assumption, we will give our gift to the John S. Mulholland Family Foundation, which runs several parish food banks in the poorest parts of our city. I used to lead one of these food banks and I can vouch for their Catholic Spirit and practical efficacy.

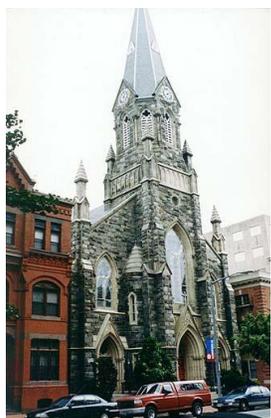
Finally, I ask you to pray for hope in my own ministry: this summer marks my 10th anniversary of ordination and so I want the gift of hope to go on for another ten years... heck, another fifty! Given the timing of my move to St. Mary's, I wasn't able to celebrate with my previous parish family, I *hope* we can celebrate and pray over this happy moment together.

On the Feast of the Assumption, two masses will be offered at St. Mary's: 12:05 in English and 7:30pm in Latin. Let us beg for, give and celebrate the gift of hope together!

New Parishioners We welcome new members to our parish community. Please register by filling out a Census Form available at the Rectory office or at the back of the church. Or send us an email at stmarys20001@gmail.com and we will assist you.

Visitors: You are welcome here at historic Old St Mary's!!! Please feel free to visit and stop by for some coffee and donuts in the Parish Hall, every Sunday!! After the 9:00 am Mass.

Our Lady Of China Pastoral Mission: Celebrate Mass in Cantonese and Mandarin each Sunday at 11:30 am – Sacrament of Reconciliation before Mass. For more information contact Fr John Ming Ruan (301) 738-2459 or Clare Tang (301) 251-7831 The Mission Center is at 1001 Grandin Ave. Rockville, Md 20851



Sacraments at Saint Mary Mother of God Catholic Church

Marriages: Preparations require arrangements be made at least 6 months before the date of the wedding. Please call the Rectory or send an email stmarys20001@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Baptisms: Call the Rectory (202) 289-7771 or send an email to stmarys20001@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Sacraments of Penance:

Weekdays at 11:30 am before the 12:05 pm Mass.

Saturdays at 4:30pm before the Sunday Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm Mass.

Sundays at 8:30 am before the 9:00 am Mass and Sundays at 7:00pm before the 7:30 pm Mass.

Sacrament of The Sick: Please contact the Rectory concerning parishioners who are ill.



The way to financially support your parish. Sign up at www.faithdirect.com Our church code: DC347

Schedule of Masses

Sunday July 29th

9:00am- Carlos Perez (D)
10:30am – Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)
1:00pm- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.
7:30pm- Ronda Henson (D)

Monday, July 30th

12:00pm – Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)
5:15pm – Margaret Tinto (L)

Tuesday, July 31st

12:00pm- – Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)

Wednesday, August 1st

12:00pm- – Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)

Thursday, August 2nd

12:00pm -- Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)

Friday, August 3rd

8:00am – Sister Maria Carmen of Christ (L)
12:00pm – Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)

Saturday, August 4th

9:00 am: Beatrice Szele-Szechenyi (L)
5:00pm- Edward Pawlukiewicz (D)

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Remember to honor your loved ones, alive and deceased, or just for any special occasion.

They will be grateful to you for all eternity. Fill out the provided envelopes in the church and put it in the collection basket. A beautiful card of Saint Mary's for whom the Mass is requested is included upon request.

Collection for Catholic Communications and Human Development.

On **August 4-5**, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up the Catholic Communications and Human Development second collection, providing funds for both the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Funds for the CCC support various communications initiatives of the Church - at the local level, the national level, and in developing countries. Funds for the CCHD support non-profit groups, locally and in other parts of the country, working to help the poor and disenfranchised. Thank you for your generosity.

Make a Difference for Christians in Syria

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, DC is part of the Franciscan Custody (province) that has served the people and shrines in the Holy Land for 800 years. Please keep the Franciscan friars and parishioners in Syria in your prayers as they struggle to keep our Catholic faith alive in the midst of the war that has engulfed this second cradle of Christianity, the place of St. Paul's conversion.

Learn more at myfranciscan.org/Syria or call 202-526-6800, x895.

Give the Gift of Service

Catholic Charities DC encourages you to give back by taking advantage of a variety of volunteer opportunities available in Washington, DC and southern Maryland. For more information on volunteering with Catholic Charities, or to register to volunteer, visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer

Volunteering at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land

The Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild is seeking one or more persons who can commit to a few hours each week to provide administrative support for this important community outreach program that feeds hundreds of those in need each year. Hours are flexible. Persons with organizational and clerical skills who are interested in helping the friars grow this program are encouraged to contact Ann Jones at ann@myfranciscan.com or 202-526-6800, x852.

Volunteering at the National Shrine

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith and extend that gift to others through your personal witness and service to the Church? The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception invites you to become a Docent (Tour Guide) or Tour Desk Receptionist. Hours and days are flexible and training will be provided. Anyone interested should please contact Dee Steel, Director of Visitor Services, at 202-526-8300, x111 or dsteel@bnsic.org. Thank you for your interest in this special volunteer ministry.

Run or Ride for Vocations! Register NOW!

Registration is open for these two fun opportunities to help support our seminarians and vocations to the priesthood. The "Run for Vocations"/Marine Corp 10K will be held on **Sunday, October 28**. The "Ride for Vocations"/Southern Maryland Century bicycle ride will be held on Monday, September 3. Visit www.DCpriest.org/promote for more information and to register for either of these events. It is not necessary to be part of a parish team to run or ride. Plan to register soon, as the races fill quickly. All funds raised will support vocation promotion and seminarian formation in the Archdiocese of Washington. Please email RFV@adw.org with any questions.

Fr. De Rosa's Column

Praying this past week, I came across these words from Psalm 95: *Annuntiate inter Gentes gloriam eius, in omnibus populi mirabilia eius.* "Proclaim among the nations his glory and among all peoples his marvels." It seems to me this is a great starting point for meditation on what the Lord calls parishes to do.

A parish is a community of God's People called together by the Lord in a particular place to announce his glory and marvels to their neighbors. 'sounds pretty simple, right? But if we accept this basic premise, it directs us down a deep and beautiful path.

First - We know that our announcement, our praise of the Lord's wonders isn't just *any* announcement: it must be shaped by the model of Jesus himself who announced and praised the Father on earth... and does so forever in heaven. So we are called to announce him on earth (i.e. out in the Mon.-Sat. world) and in heaven (i.e. our experience of Holy Mass each Sunday). In the world we do this through acts of friendship, service, teaching, healing etc. At Church we do this through sacred worship.

Second - We don't just follow Jesus' example... we identify with him... we become "other Christ's" that is, Christians. In the world this identity with Christ gives sacred depth and character to our acts of service. In Church it means we follow the events of his life through the Readings and through the Feasts; each feast acquainting us with another dimension of Christ's personality and mission.

Third - We don't just follow Jesus' life enshrined on a static page (Scripture), but also in the lived experience of the saints which we call [capital "T"] Tradition. Each saint's life shows how we can adapt the one Life of Christ to the changing historical circumstances in which we live. They also provide us with a breadth of methods of worship. Here at St. Mary's we see this beautifully in our three worshiping communities, the Ordinary Form Mass (English), the Extraordinary Form Mass (pre-conciliar Latin), and the Chinese Mass. Each group follows the legitimate example of the saints in offering worship as Christ himself does to the Father.

During these summer months I'm praying a lot, trying to listen a lot to what the Lord wants us to be as a parish community in downtown DC. We're obviously not your typical suburban church. There are so many beautiful sides to St. Mary's... and that's before you even get to the regular presence of so many visitors from other parts of our diocese and even from across the US. It can be tempting in such a constantly shifting, multifaceted environment to act less like a parish and more like a shrine. In a shrine, autonomous communities worship, as it were, by appointment. Each comes in to do its thing, perhaps even a very good thing... but then they go home never knowing each other. Beyond that, what I'll call the "shrine" mentality *tempts* us to ignore parts of Jesus' life. By way of example, I once served in a parish where very few people went to Easter mass. You see the neighborhood emptied out each holiday as folks returned to their home states to visit family. It prompted one parishioner to ask, "Maybe we should just not offer mass that day?" It's an absurd example, of course we offered mass on Easter... but how different it is from folks who've told me, "Father don't expect to get readers and servers at the Sunday masses; people here are just to transient to commit to that." Or... "Father we can't have a Latin mass for mid-week feasts like The Motherhood of Mary." (Which is our Patronal Feast by the way) "People will have trouble parking." To both sides of our parish, I'd say look to the third facet of St. Mary's, the Chinese: their families suffer under atheistic communist domination. Still they worship. If the Church in China can observe all the feasts and find people to read, serve, and even enter seminary often under threat to their lives, I think we can announce and praise the wonders of the Lord to our neighbors. Over the course of time, volunteers can be found, parking can be arranged, and musicians can be trained. For Catholics all things are possible with God's help. It might be a little bumpy, but our goal is worth it: to live as one parish announcing Jesus to our neighbors until one day we journey together to heaven.

In the coming months I hope you'll pray and open your hearts to a few initiatives we're trying out here at St. Mary's. For the Ordinary Form worshippers, we're going to make a constant drive to build up a reader, server, and usher corps. For the Extraordinary Form community: we're going to work toward celebrating ALL the major feasts with Latin masses, it's not just for Sunday anymore. And for ALL Parishioners: we're working to get a contract with local underground parking for free/largely subsidized parking. St. Patrick in Metro Center does this to great effect; I think we can too! Finally, we're going to work to build a Parish Pastoral Advisory Council so that all parishioners can more effectively contribute to the life of worship here at St. Mary's. Please pray for me. Even with good intentions, and surrounded by good people, this won't be easy, but I'm confident it'll be good for all of us in the long run.

World Apostolate of Fatima: Mass and Healing Service

On Saturday, **September 15**, the Archdiocese of Washington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima will have a Mass and healing service celebrating the division members' Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. This event will be held at St. Catherine Labouré Church in [Wheaton, MD \(11801 Claridge Rd.\)](#), with Fr. Thomas Morrow as the celebrant. Confession at 9:30am and Mass at 10am will be followed by the Rosary and individual prayer for healing. All are welcome and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Monica at 301-949-5710.

Help for Marriages in Trouble

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue? Have you stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information about or to register for the upcoming program, beginning with a weekend on **September 14-16**, please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, call 443-400-7017, or email 3015@retrouvaille.org.



Let's Talk About Faith and Life

Through Sunday, September 23, a series of talks on various topics concerning the dignity of human life will be held each Sunday evening (except Labor Day weekend) from **6:30-8:30pm at St. Dominic Church** in [Washington, DC \(630 E Street, SW\)](#). Co-sponsored by the parish and the archdiocesan Department of Life Issues, topics include abortion, just war, foster care and adoption, persons with disabilities, the sexual revolution, euthanasia, poverty, sex trafficking, capital punishment, racism, and immigration. The talks will take place in the Parish Meeting Room, and please bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner.

For more information, please email prolife@adw.org.

- July 29th: The Sexual Revolution's impact on the Life Issues.
- August 5th: If you have a Right to Life, do you have a Right to Die?
- August 12th: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"
- August 19th: Sex trafficking in Our Own Back Yard.
- August 26th: Belonging Starts Here: Inclusion of People with Disabilities.
- September 9th: Catholicism and Capital Punishment
- September 16th: The Challenge of Racism Today
- September 23th: "Who is My Brother?" immigration as a Life Issue

