

St. Mary Catholic Church, Newport

Est. 1674

October 16, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

I am Father Woods, the Pastor of St. Peter's in Waldorf, the Dean of Charles County and now, the newly appointed Administrator of St. Mary's in Newport. I am honored by the trust that Archbishop Gregory has placed in me to provide for your pastoral care and the administration of your parish. Unlike the Pastor, the Administrator does not initiate much of anything, but keeps the ship afloat and sailing in the right direction. My presence allows the Archdiocese of Washington time to find an appropriate and permanent Priest for the Parish. I welcome this opportunity to be of service to the Church.

Born in St. Mary's County (Leonardtown), my home parish is St. John's in Hollywood. My first priestly assignment was Sacred Heart in La Plata and I spent twelve years as Pastor of St. Joseph's in Morganza. For the past four years I have been the Pastor at Waldorf. I am a Southern Marylander through and through. Though the years I've celebrated Mass in your lovely parish church on several occasions.

Over the next few weeks, we will get the lay of the land and set up mechanisms for my involvement. No doubt we will rely on other Priests to help with the celebration of Holy Mass and the Sacraments as I also have my duties at St. Peter's. We will always be available to take care of things! St. Mary's is grateful to Father George Wilkinson for coming to spend two weeks covering the parish during this transition.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families through the intercession of the glorious Mother of God and St. John Vianney, Patron of Parish Priests. Begging God's blessings on you, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Woods

Father Keith A. Woods
Administrator

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