

St. Mary Parish History continued...

The first permanent Catholic church in Anacortes was established in 1910 as St. Mary Catholic Church with a congregation of some 30 families and Father Gustav Treunet as its first pastor. Over the years there have been 10 Pastors and the parish has grown to nearly 500 registered families.

Our tenth pastor, Father W.R. Harris. Under his leadership, parishioners of St. Mary together renovated the Church at present. Some additions were a beautiful Tabernacle, the four Gospel pillars, a narthex or vestibule in the Church, baptismal font, beautiful stain glass windows, renovated statues, the Great Doors, Icon of St. Mary, the new Altar, Stations of the Cross, and most especially a Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

St. Merryfest and St. Nicholas Advent Festival

During Fr. Harris' pastoral care, St. Mary Parish hosted the St. Merryfest and St. Nicholas Advent Festival not only to provide entertainment for the community, but they are also parish fundraisers. These events and others are the results of the efforts of St. Merrymakers, a group of dedicated parishioners. For the past several years, the month of June is St. Merryfest time.

St. Mary library

St. Mary Parish also provides a library full of excellent resources for spiritual growth and catechesis on the Roman Catholic faith. The video library contains videos on the saints and Christian morals as well as many popular family oriented commercial videos. The library has over 3000 books and 1000 videos for parishioner usage.

All Saints Day

All Saints Day is celebrated with Mass in November followed by a Christmas Party put on by the youth of the Parish and our Faith Formation Teachers and Volunteer parents.

The Annual Ethnic Dinner

The Annual Ethnic dinner is a youth group fundraiser for our youth to attend the World Youth Day. The Annual Ethnic dinner comes with a variety of foods, and music and entertainment from different ethnicity.

Semi-Annual Rummage Sale

The semi-annual rummage sale is a significant fundraiser for St. Mary Parish liturgical needs. It is also an opportunity for the community to recycle their "treasures", and the needy of our community are particularly assisted.

Time, Talent and Treasure

Usually in the month of October, efforts are made to encourage parishioners to play a more active role in the life of the Church. The Time and Talent weekend begins with a witness speaker at mass and different Apostolates set up tables to inform parishioners at large of the ministry at St. Mary.

Stewardship of Treasure also begins with a witness speaker at mass to encourage the parishioners at large to give the first fruits that they have received to sustain the work of God within the local parish.

Outreach

St. Mary Parish takes up a food collection on the last weekend of the month for the needy in the parish and the larger Anacortes community. In addition, the Parish gives a percentage portion received towards the St. Vincent de Paul society, our outreach program.

Music

St. Mary Parish, under the leadership of Mr. John Fahey, provides parishioners an opportunity to worship God using traditional chant music, and beautiful polyphonic music. Some of the members of the parish have come together to form a Chant Choir, St. Cecilia choir, St. Mary Bell Choir, and St. Mary Choral Cantors.