



St. Mary Catholic Church

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Welcome to St. Mary's Catholic Church and Merry Christmas to All!!

Thank You for attending Christmas Mass at the historical St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in Riverside, and celebrating this sacred and glorious time of year with us. The very first Mass at St Mary's church was held 110 years ago, on Christmas Day. During that inaugural Mass, a group of young parishioners had the honor of receiving their First Communion. Some of the most significant events of our lives, and the lives of many generations, have happened here at St. Mary's: baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, funerals, reconciliation, education, spiritual healing, and the beginning of lifelong friendships. For over a century, St. Mary's Church has silently helped shape who we are. As we look around this beautiful church and reflect upon the past 110 years, it is humbling to be a part of such a beautiful church.

Please look around and take in the exquisite art in our church, which has adorned the nave and sanctuary for over a century. The beautiful stained-glass windows which encompass the church, bathe the interior with many shades and hues of light. These stained-glass windows were originally donated by area families, many of whom are still active members in the community. Notice the intricate details of the altars and the Stations of the Cross. The choir loft houses the American Organ, which was installed in 1920, and has historical notation as being one of only three of its kind in the United States. While you are looking up, notice the beautiful fresco of St. Cecilia and the frescos of the Apostles that encircle the interior. When you step outside, gaze skyward and you will see the imported marble statue of St. Mary of the Assumption near the top of the steeple.

As we look to the future, it is time for us to contribute to the history and beauty of St. Mary's of the Assumption, and ensure that the sacrifice and legacy of our ancestors lives on. We would like to thank all St. Mary's Parishioners, and friends of St. Mary's who, throughout the years, have provided unending support to St. Mary's, our facilities and their upkeep. You have *always* risen to the challenge to maintain the beauty and integrity of this beautiful church. Please be proud of this magnificent structure and pray that we shall not take it for granted.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr David Brownfield
John Sojka
Cindy Michel

