

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWPORT

RHODE ISLAND'S FIRST ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH
HONORED AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SHINE

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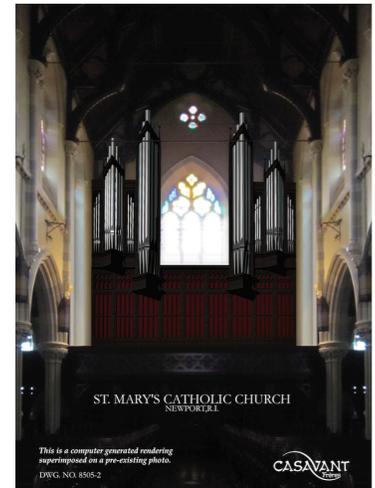
MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: Highly anticipated arrival of the Church's massive pipe organ after being fully restored by the Casavant Frères Company in Quebec, Canada. The media is invited to attend and witness this major spectacle and once in a lifetime event.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 19th. The organ will be delivered to St. Mary's Church at 8 a.m. (a section of the street will be blocked off). The church will be closed for two weeks while a team of experts reassembles the organ, piece by piece, back to its original splendor.

WHERE: St. Mary's Church, 12 William Street, Newport, RI.

WHY: After nearly 60 years of delivering magnificent sound to each weekly service, and thousands of weddings, baptisms, funerals, concerts and holiday liturgies, St. Mary's Church massive pipe organ was disassembled, piece by piece, in September 2016 and completely refurbished by its original builder, the Casavant Frères Company in Quebec, Canada.



Refurbishing the organ and its 30,000+ individual parts was done by hand, using historic techniques by skilled craftsmen. During its absence, St. Mary's Church rebuilt the choir loft space to ensure that upon the pipe organ's return on Wednesday, the environment is structurally sound, aesthetically pleasing and perfectly matched with the Church's remarkable and historic 188-year-old Gothic Revival architectural style. The restoration project is part of the St. Mary's *Souls In Harmony* campaign to raise \$1.2 million to preserve the Church building and choir loft, restore the 1958 pipe organ and expand the music program into the community.

To create the unique St. Mary's Church instrumental sound, specially trained "Casavant voicers" will be on-site as the organ is being re-installed over the next two weeks to expertly test and tune each pipe. Their work will ultimately create the beauty and majesty of the sound and tonal quality of the original 1958 organ that is unique to only St. Mary's Church and its liturgy and acoustics. The first Choral Mass with the newly restored pipe organ will have its first musical performance during Sunday Mass on May 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

*The mission of St. Mary's Parish is to continue the work of Jesus Christ through
Worship, Education, Stewardship and Service*

ABOUT ST. MARY'S CHURCH: St. Mary's Church was built in 1848. For two centuries, it has held a prominent place in Rhode Island's history as the state's first Roman Catholic Parish, and in American military history as the Church that served as the U.S. Navy Academy's chapel during the Civil War (1861-1865). The Church has gained international acclaim as the location where President John F. Kennedy (then Senator) married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier on September 12, 1953.

In 2008, it was named to the National Register of Historical Places. With its majestic landmark steeple and presence in Newport – a worldwide tourist destination – St. Mary's Church is an important part of our nation's heritage and the City of Newport's illustrious culture. Thousands of visitors come to St. Mary's throughout the year for liturgical services, and to admire its stunning architecture and 42 breathtaking stained glass windows or to attend special music events and performances by its choirs and guest musicians.

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