



St. Mary's Church, Newport

SOULS IN HARMONY

a campaign to restore our pipe organ and choir loft

SUMMARY & DONOR REPORT

thank you

Together, we reached our \$1.2 million goal!

Historic St. Mary's Church of Newport, RI is pleased to announce that its Souls In Harmony campaign has achieved its \$1.2 million fundraising goal. The campaign was officially launched in late 2016 following the dismantling of the church's nearly 60-year-old Casavant pipe organ – a 33,000 piece instrument that is historically meritorious for its ingenious engineering and mechanics, and a sound that is unique only to St. Mary's Church. The project drew national attention due to the nearly 200 years of history of the church and its status as a national landmark. More than 600 parishioners, community members, local organizations and corporate donors have contributed to the campaign's success.

for your support

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Gratitude & Blessings

Many of you will recall when our organ fell silent on Christmas Eve in 2015. Later we learned that our one-of-a-kind Casavant Op. 2462 was structurally unsafe and that some of the parts required to properly repair the nearly 60-year-old instrument were obsolete. While these issues were of grave concern, we also learned that fire and public safety hazards existed in our choir loft space. To address these very costly conditions, we initiated our St. Mary's Church Souls In Harmony campaign to preserve and protect the remarkable St. Mary's Church.

With your generosity we fulfilled our goal of raising \$1.2 million. Thanks to the entire community of hundreds of donors, we have:

- † Preserved our church building and its assets
- † Restored our choir loft and surrounding area
- † Refurbished our Casavant OP. 2462 1,900-pipe organ
- † Expanded our music ministry programs, and
- † Fulfilled our mission to continue the work of Jesus Christ through worship, education, stewardship and service

Your support made this all this possible. We could not have done it without your generosity or the leadership of our Souls In Harmony campaign committee. St. Mary's is a treasured community place that has been an integral part of its heritage, traditions and cultural vitality for almost 200 years. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have given to our Parish so that the wonderful story and splendorous sounds of St. Mary's Church lives on for generations to come.

In Christ,

Father Kris

Rev. Kris von Maluski



Celebration of Past, Present & Future

For generations, music has played an important role in the life of our parish and the many people who call St. Mary's their spiritual home. Through restoring and preserving our historic choir loft and pipe organ, we have made a long term investment in the musical talents and gifts of our parishioners and friends.

In the year since this project was completed, St. Mary's has become home to nearly fifty singers of all ages and backgrounds in three choirs. Of particular pride to our parish is St. Mary's Youth Choir program, which provides unparalleled opportunities for musical development and formation in a faith environment. In addition to our choral program which serves our parishioners from week to week, we have opened our doors and built relationships with a host of musical organizations. From the choirs of Providence College to the Newport String Project, we have welcomed more than one-hundred singers and musicians into our church, enriching our liturgies and parish life with their unique talents and skills.

As we look to the future, my hope is that music at St. Mary's will continue to grow. I personally look forward to watching our youngest singers continue to find their voices and grow both as musicians and people in our choir family. I look forward to exploring new and creative ways to preach the peace of God through music. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and friends, Music at St. Mary's has transformed into a program which helps our parish to fulfill the mission of the Church – to bring God's people together in the service of Jesus Christ. With your on-going support, I hope Music at St. Mary's will continue to be a vital and fruitful asset to our parish and community.

Cody Mead
Director of Liturgical Music



A Shining Example

14-year-old Amory Kirwin wakes up every morning to a song. As a talented singer musician with an extraordinary gift, this young lady has music on her mind whatever the time of day! She has been singing since she was seven or eight years old, she recalls. Two years ago, she joined St. Mary's Church Youth Choir. The experience has been exceptional for voice training and learning about music theory. "It's when I began to understand the different types of music, how and why music composers do certain things and when." She credits Cody Mead, St. Mary's Director of Liturgical Music, for his "meticulous" attention to voice training and music interpretation.

But there is more than just the music that attracts her to the choir. "I have definitely grown leaps and bounds as a musician and it has made me realize that being a musician is what I want to do with my life." Equally as exciting to Amory, who is the daughter of Ryan and Kelli Kirwin, are the new friendships she gained. "We're like a family," she explained. "There are so many opportunities as a singer and musician and for making new friends."

The choir is not the only performing Amory has on her growing resume. Her first musical performance was in third grade at Cluny School in Godspell JR. She met Cody Mead in 2016 when he was directing *Into the Woods* with the Newport Children's Theatre.

There are really certain moments when you hear a sound and when you learn a new piece that is inspirational," Amory explains about her love of music. "St. Mary's has so much history and to be able to learn and sing in a place like St. Mary's is so wonderful. It's a safe place and I personally love being there."

She is very grateful for all the people who donated to the successful St. Mary's Souls In Harmony campaign that raised \$1.2 million to restore the choir loft and refurbish the pipe organ. "It gives me and others the opportunity to sing beautiful music in a beautiful place."



About St. Mary's Casavant Op. 2462

Music is without boundaries or borders. Its magic can unite, uplift our spirit and inspire. Of course, the greatest musical instrument is the human voice. But, the mightiest of musical instruments is the pipe organ. Called a "watershed invention" at the time it was created 246 years before the Christian era by the "father of pneumatics," Ctesibius of Alexandria, the pipe organ has a fascinating history dating back to the gladiator contests in ancient Rome.

Through the ages, the pipe organ's magnificence and grandeur gained much acclaim by church leaders. The Second Vatican Council in the 1960s emphasized its contribution for creating the sound that "powerfully lifts up men's minds to God and higher things."

For a grand, historic church like St. Mary's, the Casavant Op. 2462 pipe organ is the deserving match. St. Mary's organ was installed in 1958 by its builder, the Casavant Frères Company of Quebec, Canada. It was one of the last (if not the last) organs the company built under the tonal direction of Stephen Stoot, who was renowned for the beautiful tone of his organs.

When Cody Mead arrived at St. Mary's, he reviewed years of records about the condition of the pipe organ and its need for repairs. As a professional musician, vocalist and accomplished organist, he knew that if the instrument was to survive and serve St. Mary's for decades more, its restoration had to become a priority.



After nearly 60 years of delivering magnificent sound, St. Mary's massive pipe organ was disassembled, piece by piece, in September 2016 to be 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 the environment is structurally sound and perfectly matched with the Church's remarkable and historic 188-year-old Gothic Revival architectural style.

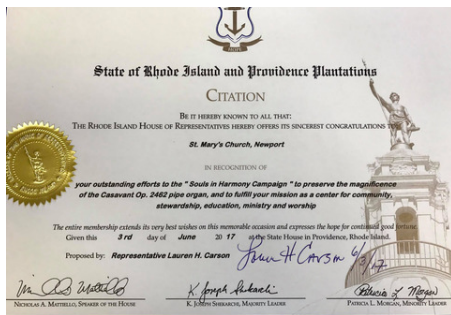
During renovations of the choir loft space, a nearly 200-year-old "Forgotten Woman" was uncovered in St. Mary's Church. The rare and precious finding dates back to 1848 when the church was built by Newport's Irish immigrants and may be the face of Mary Magdalene.

After much anticipation and seven months of restoration, the Pipe Organ n 30,000 pieces was delivered from Canada in April of 2017. To create the unique St. Mary's Church instrumental sound, specially trained "Casavant voicers" were on-site as the organ was being re-installed to expertly test and tune each pipe. Their work ultimately created 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.



Festival of Pipes

In June of 2017, St. Mary's Church hosted "Festival of Pipes," a celebration to mark the unveiling and premiere performance of the fully refurbished Casavant Op. 2462. The event was open to the public and included a Lecture/Recital: "The Art of the Organ Restoration and the Role of the Pipe Organ in the Catholic Church," presented by guest speaker Simone Couture, Vice President, Casavant Freres, Quebec, Canada, with the premiere performance of the newly refurbished pipe organ. In addition, the event marked the first mass with the restored organ, featuring members of St. Mary's Parish Choir, Youth Choir, and prominent guest singers. Proudly, St. Mary's Church also received a Citation from the Rhode Island House of Representatives for their preservation efforts and vision for expanding their music program.





“ *Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.* ”

Leadership Gift

A LOVE STORY BECOMES A LEGACY GIFT OF

\$100,000

TO ST. MARY'S SOULS IN HARMONY CAMPAIGN

A spark of hope and lots of prayers were needed for St. Mary's when the church staff discovered that its nearly 60-year-old pipe organ that had blessed the church with music since 1958 had seen better days, and that the restoration work required to save the instrument would take a complete and very costly overhaul.

But God works wonders. Their prayers were answered when parishioner and choir member Frank Furtado stepped forward to volunteer on the Leadership Committee and made a \$100,000 pledge that helped seed the St. Mary's Church Souls In Harmony campaign and electrified an entire community of donors to successfully raise \$1.2 million to not only refurbish the 1958 Casavant Op. 2462, but restore the entire choir loft, both of which allowed St. Mary's to expand its music programming and music education activities.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Mark Horan
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Maureen Maurer
Rick O'Neill
J. Timothy O'Reilly
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Kevin P. Stiles

“ We owe our sincere gratitude to every member of the Leadership Committee for their time and assistance with this important project. ”

Leadership Gift

Frank had joined the Parish Choir in 2015 under the direction of Cody Mead, organist, vocalist and St. Mary's Director of Liturgical Music. When Frank learned about the near demise of the organ and the initiative to raise money for the restoration project, in his humble style, he spoke with Cody about the campaign and how he might help. It was after that discussion that Frank extended his generosity to St. Mary's to honor his beloved wife, Barbara, who loved him to sing and had filled his life with wonderful excitement, adventure and joy during their 38 years together before her passing in 2011.

With Frank's gift to the Souls In Harmony campaign in celebration of his loving wife's legacy, the Parish is forever grateful to him for his leadership that helped launch the campaign so to achieve the fundraising goal of \$1.2 million for all those individuals, like Frank, who love to sing would get a chance to share their talent as a choral member or as a participant in another music program, accompanied by a now refurbished 1,900-pipe organ with its splendid one-of-a-kind sound in the historic and remarkable St. Mary's Church.



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“ Each time the organ is played, you can be proud to know you helped
keep the magnificent sound alive for future generations. ”

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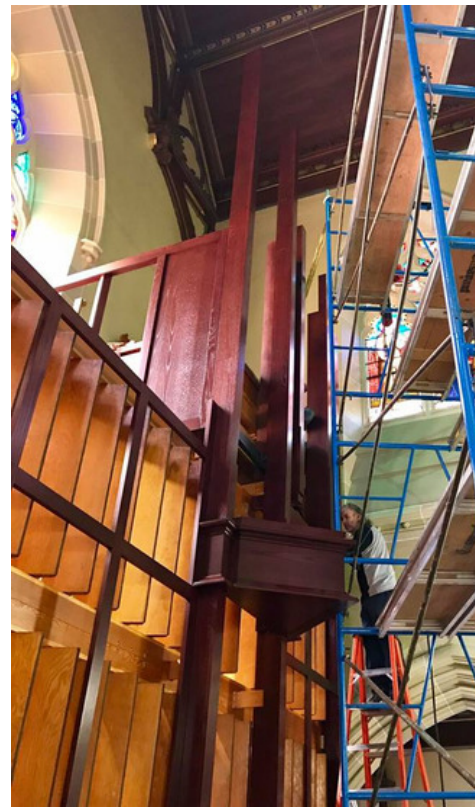
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“ *Every donation helped St. Mary's Church to achieve its vision of creating a more vibrant music program for the community.* ”

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James Wilcox Soldano
Charles H., Jr. and Katherine M. Spencer
Joseph and Kathleen Sousa
Jean A. and Sturgis Lewis
George B. Sullivan
Margaret C. and Charles G. Taylor
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Patricia M. and Terrence Toppa
Brian and Mary J. Torello
Barbara L. and Joseph A. Tortolani
James Trahon
Paul and Esperanza Valentine
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Elizabeth B. and Joseph E. Vendittelli
Sheila J. and John L. Ventura
David R. and Alexis F. Vogelgesang
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William M. and Karen Weikert
Glenn E. and Elizabeth L. Whisler, Jr.
Rian M. and Susan A. Wilkinson
Sheila M. Winter
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Raphael Aryeh Yaakov
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Anonymous (8)



Foundations & Corporate Gifts

Foundation Grants

Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
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ExxonMobile Foundation (employee matching gift)

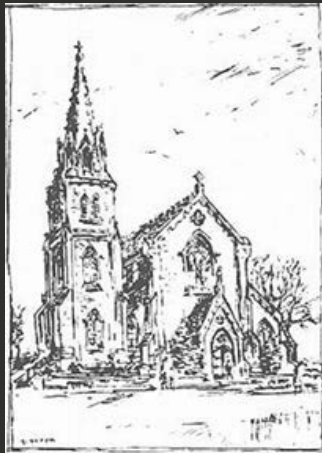
Corporate Support

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Newport Tent Company
The Mooring Restaurant





St. Mary's is Rhode Island's First Roman Catholic Parish, established in 1828. The church, in its present location, was built in 1848. For two centuries, it has held a prominent place in Rhode Island's history and U.S. military history as the Church that served as the U.S. Navy Academy's chapel during the Civil War (1861-1865). The Church gained international acclaim as the location where President John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier on September 12, 1953. In 1975, St. Mary's was included as a contributing resource for Newport Historic District's recognition in the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2008, St. Mary's was singled out as an American treasure when it was named to the National Register of Historic Places.