

Dear Parishioners:

I am grateful that you are a part of the faith-filled community of St. Mary's. This packet of information has been prepared to better acquaint you with the activities and services of our parish.

St. Mary's, the fourth oldest Catholic Church in the colonies, consists of approximately 1,200 registered families. Our parish family is like a mosaic. Some families have been here all their lives. Others have moved here from different areas of the country. Some families live within the boundaries of our parish, while others travel a great distance to be with us. It is an incredible fact that about 40% of those who attend Sunday Mass do not live within the parish territory. When you are with us on Sundays, you experience various cultural backgrounds, different social classes and a multiplicity of ages. We are all energized by the Good News . . . to love God and to manifest that love in our relationships with each other.

An image that I like very much is that of an orchestra. There are many instruments, many players, but one purpose . . . play the music of the composer. At St. Mary's we consider Jesus the composer, and all of us are asked to play our instrument – big or small – loud or silent. When we play our instrument with Jesus as our composer and conductor, we find our place and our home in the midst of a truly dynamic and faith-filled community.

I encourage each one of you to examine the information in this packet and to become an active "musician" in our orchestra, perhaps even learn a "new instrument," and together, we will play God's music of love.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me.

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Goodman III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rev. Leo Goodman III
Pastor