

CELEBRATING  
142 YEARS

BEHIND THE SCENES  
OF THE EUCHARISTIC RALLY

VOCATIONS  
AT ST. MARY'S

# THE ASSUMPTION

ST. MARY'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

BRINGING THE  
BODY OF CHRIST  
TO THE WASATCH BACK

+ SINCE 1881 +

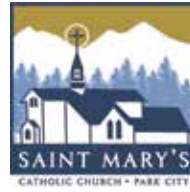
2023 ISSUE

# IN 1881...

God gave a small group of miners a mission to bring to the mountains of Park City the world's greatest treasure: the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Eucharist, and the Faith, Hope, and Charity that flow from Him.

For those miners that treasure became the light that guided them into the mines. It was the beacon that drew them home at the end of each day. And, ultimately, their path towards salvation.

Today, God's mission for St. Mary's has spread from the streets of Old Town Park City, to the meadows of White Pine Canyon, to the Heber Valley and beyond. St. Mary's seeks to evangelize, catechize, give back in Charity, and enrich the community through the Catholic Faith and its intellectual, artistic, and cultural traditions. To bring all the treasure of Jesus Christ, for the salvation of souls, and the Greater Glory of God!



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# CELEBRATING 142 YEARS

## FAITH, FAMILY, FUN, AND THE ASSUMPTION



OVER the course of its 142-year history, several fires have plagued our parish of St. Mary of the Assumption. One of the most famous of these occurred in January 1950, when our beloved church building at 121 Park Avenue caught fire, destroying the roof and much of the interior.

At that time, with the mines largely closed, Park City was in depression and the town's population small. Convinced that the community was fading, the Bishop of Salt Lake City was set to close the parish, leaving the local Catholics without a church.

However, the St. Mary's family never lost faith. Led by prominent Parkite and parishioner Jim Ivers, the unemployed miners of St. Mary's quickly rebuilt the roof, restored the Church building, and convinced the Bishop to keep St. Mary's open.

Later that same year, His Holiness Pope Pius XII promulgated *Munificentissimus Deus*, "The Most Bountiful God." The apostolic consultation defined the Assumption of Mary as dogma of the Catholic Church. The declaration, which the parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption always knew to be true, brought a renewed sense of hope to the local Church of Park City.

By 1991, more than 40 years later, St. Mary's remained not only open, but bursting at the seams. With new families struggling to all fit into the church building at 121 Park Avenue, parishioner Jim Ivers once again led the way.

With his wife Sally, Jim donated land in the meadow of Park City's entry corridor for a new church. In 1997, the new church was completed and dedicated on August 15th, the feast of St. Mary of the Assumption.

Every August since then, St. Mary's has held a 4-mile procession from the church at 121 Park Ave (now the Old Town Chapel) to our new church in honor of the Assumption of Mary.

The procession has evolved into a day-long celebration beginning with a "pre-party" at the Old Town Chapel to decorate and adorn the statute of Our Lady with flowers. Then followed with a "Miners' Latin Mass" in the Old Town Chapel in honor of those dedicated miners who started it all, a Mass at the same spot and in the same way they would have worshiped in 1881 and 1950. Then continued with the procession itself, including public recitation of the Rosary in Spanish, English, and Latin, along with bagpipes, Mexican horns, and drums. And finally concluding with a bilingual Mass and party at the main campus to unite the St. Mary's family.

The day-long Assumption celebration embodies the spirit of St. Mary's. With Mass in three languages at three locations and countless fun traditions such as overnight parties for Our Lady of Guadalupe and Posadas and the candlelit traditional Latin *Rorate* Mass in honor of Mary . . . no matter what someone finds most attractive in their spiritual life, Saint Mary of the Assumption offers it.

Without so many people incorporating themselves into the Body of Christ here at St. Mary's and giving back to God in so many ways, this growth in Faith, Hope, and Charity, would not be possible.

*Thank you for your support, and happy Feast of the Assumption!*

"WEIGHED DOWN BY EVER SO MANY CARES, ANXIETIES, AND TROUBLES... WE ARE GREATLY CONSOLED TO SEE THAT... PIETY TOWARD THE VIRGIN MOTHER OF GOD IS FLOURISHING AND DAILY GROWING MORE FERVENT, AND THAT ALMOST EVERYWHERE ON EARTH IT IS SHOWING INDICATIONS OF A BETTER AND HOLIER LIFE."

~ Pope Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus*



Firefighters battle the flames that engulfed the St. Mary's Old Town Chapel in January of 1950. (Historical archive photo)

# A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

AND THE DARKNESS COULD NOT OVERCOME IT

*Photos from St. Mary's 2023 Easter Vigil Mass beginning on Saturday, April 8. That vigil would welcome 25 new members into the Catholic Church, the RCIA program's largest number ever.*

THE EASTER VIGIL is always a joyous occasion for the Church. Not only does it begin the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, but also the entry of Christ's light into the darkness of our lives - even for those not yet Catholic. It is traditionally in this liturgy that one witnesses the reception of brand new catechumens into the Catholic Faith. Unfortunately, effects from the COVID-19 pandemic persisted for long after the disease went away, leaving many churches unable to recover their catechetical programs and leaving many prospective converts in the dark.

At St. Mary's, however, the 2023 Easter Vigil saw its largest number of converts on record.

The process all started with the St. Mary's RCIA program, run by Deacon Tom Tosti and his wife, Nancy. An experienced couple that had taught RCIA at another parish in Idaho about 30 years ago, they eventually came to Park City to help the late Sister Karen Stern, SHF, revitalize St. Mary's offerings.

"That was really the foundation of my entire ministry, my entire vocation I think, was RCIA," Deacon Tosti said.

After some thought, Tosti realized that not only did he have the skills to make a unique program, but also the heart to share his faith and get people to fall in love with Christ.

"I want you to fall in love with Jesus," he said. "If you don't have an emotional connection to Jesus, I don't think you can, not just be an effective Christian, you can't remain a Christian."

Deacon Tom set up the program not only to convey basic information, which often did not bring lasting results on its own, but also to get groups of converts to be able to understand Jesus, trust Him, and then, love Him. The Tostis managed this through not only in-class instruction, but also one-on-one conversations and hosting retreats where they could take time to figure out where

the catechumens were at emotionally and to make them feel like a family.

"They form into a small Christian community; that's the goal," Tosti said. "A lot of them will hang out together and stay in contact with each other even though a lot of them move away and you see them truly change."

“ I WANT  
YOU TO  
FALL  
IN LOVE  
WITH JESUS  
- DEACON TOM TOSTI ”

The care the Tostis have put into each and every disciple they form helps the newly-initiated continue in the faith. Many still remain in contact with their groups, becoming godparents for their friends' children, mentoring others in the program, and coming back to the St. Mary's community.

"You look every Sunday, and there are so many of our former catechumens that are there," Deacon Tosti said. "I think we're pretty successful at getting them to become disciples."

The Tosti's would have to prove their method through trials, however. When the COVID pandemic hit, RCIA programs and sacraments across the state were shuttered. Despite this, St. Mary's program continued to attract people from all over Utah. One family, formerly Mormon and from Vernal, wanted to go through RCIA but was turned down because the closer parishes were unable to offer classes during the lock-downs.

"They didn't have [an RCIA program]," Tosti said. "There were so many parishes that just stopped everything. We just kept going."

By staying ahead of the curve and securing county approval to open doors and not being afraid to transition to online classes when necessary, St. Mary's became a shining beacon in the darkness of a world without the sacraments, attracting people seeking the faith despite massive obstacles in the way. It built a reputation as a parish committed to making followers of Christ and being open to all.

"No other church they'd ever been to was welcoming," Nancy Tosti said.

The effort St. Mary's put in to staying open allowed the couple from Vernal and many others to participate in the Scrutiny rites before Easter to spiritually prepare.

"They would drive the two and a half hours on the Sundays that we had the rites because none of the churches even close to them were open," Deacon Tosti said.

But, the built momentum during COVID years was worth it for everyone. Culminating in the Easter Vigil, the program and liturgies take on a whole new dimension, resulting in joyous expressions after baptism. Every year, Nancy Tosti is able to stand on the other side of the baptismal font to offer towels after the catechumens are baptized, placing her in a prime spot to see their reaction.

"To see those adults come through the water and have such elation on their face is awesome," she said.

With the record number of 25 catechumens initiated into the church and remaining steadfast in the Faith, St. Mary's will continue to shine for many years to come.

"We do it the way it's supposed to be done: the way it's been done for centuries," Deacon Tosti said.



# GOING ON VOCATION

## DISCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD AT ST. MARY'S

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG MEN  
DISCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD

EVERYONE knows Park City's reputation as the prime vacation destination in Utah: an incredible resort town offering endless year-round activities. Yet, in recent years, St. Mary's has itself become a kind of prime destination . . . a prime *vocation* destination for young men to selflessly serve the church and discern the priesthood.

St. Mary's is the place these men learn, hands-on, alongside Fr. Christopher Gray, what it is like to be a priest, a pastor, and how to lead a parish. Over the last four years, the parish has welcomed men such as Brian Schumacher (now studying in Rome as a seminarian for the diocese), Deacon Anthony Shumway (to be ordained a priest for the diocese in a year), John Shackelford, and most recently, Will Roundy for this one-of-a-kind opportunity.

But for Michael Weight, a former LDS church member turned atheist, the experience was particularly transformative.

As an evolutionary anthropology researcher and teaching assistant at the University of Utah, Weight befriended members of the St. Catherine Newman Center on campus. Eventually, he was invited to his first Masses, which opened a whole new world for him.

"[It was] in that formation of attending Mass that I think the initial seeds of a priestly vocation were sown," Weight said.

Intrigued by the Mass and the insights of the Catholics Weight met, including St. Mary's parishioner (and now seminarian) Brian Schumacher, he decided to go to the Newman Center for a talk by Fr. Gray. For Weight, the deep questions needing to be wrestled with drew him in during his search

for truth and he started attending the Latin Mass at St. Mary's with Schumacher, which resulted in a feeling of inspiration.

"I remember looking up at the altar and thinking, 'I need to be up there,'" Weight said.

Seeing the Eucharist being made present by the priest and the start of understanding the Passion enflamed the spark of love for the Divine Logos that was trying to express itself in Weight's mind.

"Not only do I need to, I really want to be up there," Weight said, "I need to say these words; I need to do whatever is happening here."

It was after Mass that Weight was able to start talking with Fr. Gray some more.

"I came to know of [Fr. Gray] and St. Mary's and for whatever reason he and I hit it off on a personal level very quickly and we became pretty good friends," Weight said.

Weight told Fr. Gray of his inclinations to the priesthood, but was a little hesitant.

"I recognize that this is absurd because I'm not baptized yet," he remarked.

Nevertheless, Fr. Gray welcomed his earnestness and suggested that he read some books from the great writers of the Church to challenge him to see if the priesthood was right for him.

"Reading those volumes [of books] literally changed my life," Weight said. "You know, it's difficult to articulate the actual effect that those books had on me at that time."

Not deterred by the great responsibilities of priestly life, Weight joined Brian Schumacher, who had already...

*Continued on page 10.*

*Michael Weight, serving at the Cathedral of the Madeleine on June 30, 2023. Weight, who discerned at St. Mary's rectory, will be going off to seminary for the diocese this year.*



**JOHN SHACKELFORD**  
24, FORMER GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
MANAGER

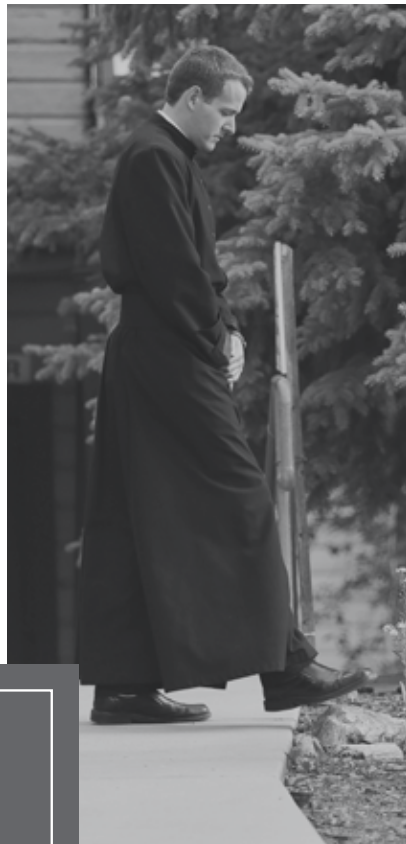
"Working and living at St. Mary's has been a huge help in discerning my vocation and in general my formation as a Catholic man. I get to directly participate in our liturgies and learn about all the behind-the-scenes work involved. Not only have I learned a lot about our faith and everything liturgical, but I also been able to gain an understanding of the ins-and-outs of running a parish. My formation is all thanks to the constant exposure I receive from the Blessed Sacrament. Surrendering myself daily to Mary and the sacraments allows God to slowly form me into a man that knows how to receive and give love better than the day before."



**WILL ROUNDY**  
26, FORMER CONTRACTOR

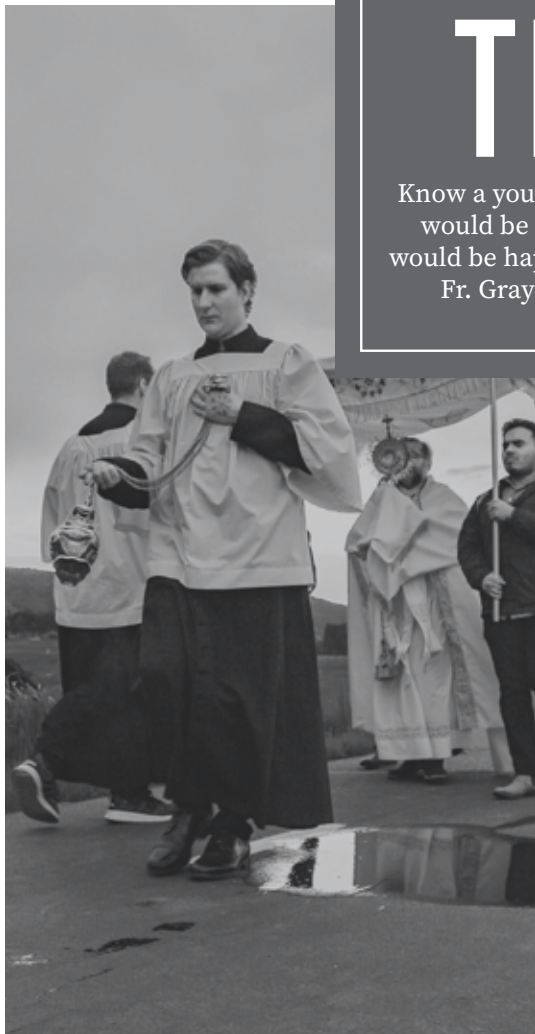
"I, like many, began my discernment as an idea. It was something I'd sit and think about from time to time and talk about, but it was all conceptual. Discernment, truly, is something that must be lived out. It cannot stay in the realm of thought or idea; it has to be put into action. It goes without saying that prayer is fundamental to that process and I don't know where I would be today without an intentional prayer life. St. Mary's has also been instrumental in my discernment process. From meeting the parishioners, who are some of the most devoted and caring people I have met, to working alongside Fr. Gray and all the staff, I cannot express how special this community is. It is an honor each and every time I can serve Mass. I have learned much, and there is much more to learn, and I feel incredibly blessed that I get to do that here."





# ANSWER THE CALL

Know a young adult discerning the priesthood and who would be interested in helping out at St. Mary's? We would be happy to offer more details! Get in contact with Fr. Gray by visiting [StMarysParkCity.com/frgray](http://StMarysParkCity.com/frgray).



*Continuing from page 7.*

... been living and discerning at St. Mary's. Together, they served in a variety of ways, helped to re-open the parish during the late spring of 2020, and practiced serving at the altar.

"[It was] working with Fr. Gray and his willingness to allow me to participate that this passionate love affair with the liturgy began," Weight said.

By Pentecost of 2020, Weight was baptized and confirmed, allowing him to live even deeper in the spiritual way of life he was exploring. Yet, his initial love still had to be tested.

During COVID, with less parish staff physically present, Weight took on all sorts of tasks for St. Mary's. He would help maintain the boiler, arrange the altar, assist at liturgies, teach Confirmation classes, and more. And as Weight took on this additional physical work, he became ever more aware of the work his own soul still needed.

"Each and every weakness you have comes to the forefront," Weight explained.

Weight battled conflicting emotions and habits that he never knew even existed while doing his daily duties.

"The whole time, you know, there are spiritual

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## EACH AND EVERY WEAKNESS YOU HAVE COMES TO THE FOREFRONT

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- *Michael Weight*

wounds that have been festering" Weight said. "You know, that was hard. It's always hard to confront."

Frequenting the sacraments and encountering the supportive St. Mary's community, Weight was able to focus on the love and glory of God, something he thinks would not have happened were it not for St. Mary's and his formation here.

"Being loved is healing," Weight said. "Because I [had] a lot of these things that I thought were virtuous, but were very much not. I don't think I would have identified or diagnosed them in another context."

After a few years of formation at the rectory, Weight matured in his spiritual life.

"I started to see these really interesting, really concrete, really definite, transformative healings," he said. "It's hard to over-exaggerate just how different I am than I was before."

Thanks to the parish community, Weight felt increasingly more mature and ready for his vocation. With much happiness, after being deemed ready by



*Photo: Michael Weight, acting as thurifer, recesses out of the church during a liturgy on March 25, 2022.*

the bishop, he will attend Mount Angel Seminary for the Diocese of Salt Lake City starting August 19.

For those considering the priesthood, Weight advises them to think hard, stating that the mere desire to be a priest is not sufficient.

"If you have a desire to become a priest, then begin with a brutally honest assessment of where that desire is coming from," Weight said. "But, know that mere desire is not enough."

A true vocation is hard work but will bear fruit in the person and for others.

"If you are interested then, yeah, come up here [to the rectory] and at the end of the day, see what the work actually does to you," Weight said. "A call to the priesthood must be interrogated, and St Mary's is the best place in the diocese to do so."

# HANDING IT DOWN

“THIS IS REALLY IT. THE  
HOLY SPIRIT HAS TAKEN OVER”



Deacon Anthony Shumway raises the chalice at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer after being ordained by Bishop Oscar Solis at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City on June 30, 2023.

FOR MANY CATHOLICS, there seems to be a common story as one grows older: grow up Catholic, go to school, drift away from the Faith, and find a good job, often forgetting one's family ties. For Anthony Shumway, the script was followed. Even with a family active in the church and being an altar server, Shumway began to fade away from religious life in high school until he stopped practicing altogether.

After going to college in Oklahoma and then heading to SpaceX in Los Angeles to be a Quality Assurance Lead, why would one go to church? The concept of being able to “pray from anywhere” seems liberating and of no consequence, at the time, making it a difficult cycle of reasoning to break. That doesn't mean the Holy Spirit can't lend a helping hand, however.

Later, becoming dissatisfied and feeling without purpose living the “good life,” Shumway returned

to his family in November of 2013 to consider his options. The one catch: whoever lives under their roof has to go to church.

“[Going to church is] just in the rules any time I visited,” Shumway said.

Reintroduced to church, Shumway began to experiment with going to daily Mass at his long-time parish, something he had never done before. Eventually, he would be praying in the evenings after work, and just a few months later, decided to participate in giving up things for Lent.

“It was at one of those times during prayer that I had seen a poster that said ‘are you called to the priesthood,’” Shumway recalled. “After much dismissal, I finally called the diocese and asked for information on what it would be to become a priest.”

After a recommendation from his pastor,

Shumway entered the seminary in 2015. Yet despite many years there, the interruption from the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions made learning difficult and nonsubstantive.

When Shumway heard he had the option of learning through hands-on experience at St. Mary's, he jumped at the opportunity.

“I've known Fr. Gray since I entered the seminary and so I knew he was somebody I could trust, somebody I could talk with, [and] we get along really well together,” he said.

St. Mary's was also a place where Shumway could grow in all the areas needed to be a deacon and priest.

“I knew it was a community where I could be challenged in many ways,” he said.

While of course Shumway learned about chant, music, and liturgy, being at a physical parish allowed him to sit in with grieving parishioners as well as witness what it means to be a servant and member of the community, which ultimately is what prepared him for his ordination day on June 30.

“It really wasn't until the day of that it finally hit me that I'm about to give my life, finally,” he said.

Still, the magnitude of Shumway's new life-path was hard for him to wrap his head around, even in the middle of the ordination at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. But when he felt the support of the bishop and all the clergy around him, that began to change.

“It was about the point [Bishop Solis] laid his hands on my head that everything went calm,” Shumway said.

After being officially ordained, Shumway was reminded one last time of the love, support, and ideal role-models he met at St. Mary's. As a special request, Shumway asked long time St. Mary's deacon Tom Tosti to place the dalmatic, the vestment of the deacon, over his head.

“Deacon Tom is one of the deacons I've really grown to admire,” Shumway explained.

After much time at St. Mary's, Shumway was able to witness the care Tosti showed to entire generations of parishioners, who remembered baptizing everyone and witnessing their weddings. He was always friendly and looking out for the authentic good of everyone who showed up to him for advice.

“It's that that I want to be able to have as a characteristic of what I want to be as a deacon, as well

as a future priest,” Shumway said.

After being vested and finishing the Mass, Shumway processed out of a packed cathedral as a deacon, being watched by tons of St. Mary's parishioners who helped form him for this moment in his vocation.

“This is really it,” he said. “The Holy Spirit has taken over.”



Deacon Tom Tosti embraces Anthony Shumway after vesting him during the ordination ceremony at the Cathedral of the Madeleine on June 30, 2023.



## FOR UTAH & FOR MANY

Looking behind the scenes of the  
2023 Eucharistic Rally in  
Salt Lake City

**I**N JUNE OF 2022, on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops officially launched the Eucharistic Revival, a determined effort to reignite faith and love in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

As a grass-roots call, the bishops of the United States desired that the entire country become re-engaged with the Eucharist not only in one's heart, but also at a diocesan, parish, and national level, in order to enable a momentous change in the spiritual lives of Catholics.

At a time when declining faith in the Real Presence was ubiquitous, every diocese was asked to implement a plan to reach out to all members of the Body of Christ and effectively evangelize with the true love of Christ Himself and to prepare them for a national Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

**For the Diocese of Salt Lake City, this incredible task was entrusted to a team from St. Mary's...**

*Photo: Bishop Oscar Solis of Salt Lake City hugs and thanks St. Mary's pastor Fr. Christopher Gray for putting together the 2023 Eucharistic Rally for the entire state of Utah at the Mountain Expo Center on July 9, 2023. The rally saw 10,000 Catholics as they attended numerous talks, Adoration, and Mass throughout the day.*

## THE PLAN

Fr. Gray was chosen early on by Bishop Solis to lead the project. Fr. Gray, who was made aware of it at a priest meeting in 2020, had to begin to think of a plan that would be appropriate for the mission. Then, he was reminded of a childhood memory. As a child, Gray remembered seeing an old picture at a local church of a giant Mass.

“There was a picture of some big thing, some big old Mass that we had and I wondered what that was,” Fr. Gray explained.

It turns out that the picture was of a giant state-wide Mass in 1976 to celebrate the bicentennial of Catholicism in Utah in a convention center. Immediately, Gray knew that would be the basis for the Salt Lake City revival.

“It was interesting to see us doing something different, different than Sunday Mass in churches,” Gray said. “So, part of it was to plan something that would be representative of the church in Utah.”

The goal would not only be to strengthen people’s belief in the Real Presence, but to show it as well. Everyone would have to see it as a giant celebration of the whole Body of Christ and what it is all about. For nearly 50 years there hadn’t been an event like the rally so it was critical to show everyone the Catholic Faith.

“The whole point of it, the reason why to do it, the beginning and end of it is simply Jesus,” Gray said.

Thus, the plan was set for a rally at the Mountain America Expo Center. The diocese needed to bring together the entire state of Utah in a celebration of Christ that made everyone aware of what the Body of Christ is as a sacrament and as a visible, united church. After being approved by the bishop, Fr. Gray had to make it all work.

“The first step was to build out a committee to flesh out the vision and turn it into reality,” Kim Tosti said.

Tosti, experienced in the ways of organizing committees and getting things done, was trusted by Fr. Gray to implement his entire vision.

## THE RALLY

The most essential part of the rally’s vision was having a sacred space. That’s where St. Mary’s deacon Tom Tosti came in. Put in charge of the interior of the convention center, Tosti brainstormed what he could



## Bishop Oscar Solis



Bishop Oscar Solis opened the Mass with a simple “wow,” gazing at the thousands of faithful spread out all around the altar set up in the middle of the expansive Expo Center. The chuckles quickly turned to applause as Solis made a declaration that would sum up the point of the rally.

“It’s about time the Catholic community in the state of Utah and the Diocese of Salt Lake City... show that Catholics are still alive...”



Above: Scenes from the Rally which was put on with the help of countless people from Saint Mary’s, including Anthony Jewett (left), Nancy Tosti (middle), and Fr. Gray (right).



Left: A choir and orchestra provides music for the diocesan-wide Mass, composed of Catholics from all over the state of Utah, including St. Mary’s parishioners Joe and Marianne Demers, Jan Zinn, Mara Dooley, Larry Iram, Chuck Hodell, John Schultz, and Sandy Foley, at the Mountain America Expo Center on July 9, 2023.

Right: St. Mary’s very own Deacon Anthony Shumway proclaims the Gospel at the diocesan-wide Eucharistic Rally at Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy, Utah, on July 9, 2023. Shumway was just ordained a deacon on June 30.



do to make the space visually striking when a thought came to him.

“Why don’t we recreate the cathedral to whatever extent we can?” Tosti asked.

Some of the necessary materials were already there. Local high school Juan Diego had massive banners of some artwork and stained glass windows in the cathedral stored away. Then, photographs of the lovely artwork in the apse of the cathedral were made as a backdrop. Tosti just had to recreate two more things: the bishop’s chair and the altar, which required some mechanical and artistic ingenuity. Thankfully, Tosti works in carpentry and was able to make a portable look-a-like altar.

“[The altar is] in pieces; you assemble it,” Tosti explained. “And so I not only made it all in panels, but I made a crate it goes in.”

The resulting design was something quick and easy to transport and set up at the convention center.

“You just take it out, screw it together, and put the top on,” Tosti said.

To make it look extra realistic, Tosti hired St. Mary’s parishioner Edo Bernasconi, an expert in church restoration who studied in Milan. Close-up photographs of the cathedral’s altar allowed Bernasconi to paint a faux-marble finish on Tosti’s altar, making a convincing recreation.

**I HOPE THEY WERE INSPIRED  
TO BE MORE JOYFUL, HOPEFULLY  
INSPIRED TO BE MORE REVERENT**

*- Fr. Christopher Gray*

“A large amount of the stone and marble work you see in cathedrals and churches, even in Europe, is not real stone,” Tosti explained. “It’s painted. It’s an art form called ‘faux-finishing.’”

With an authentic replica of the altar and a remake of the broken original cathedra of the diocese, the convention center floor was transformed into an amazing focal point of diocesan imagery and history.

“People just kept coming up saying, ‘wow, it’s amazing how you made this huge place look like a worship space,’” Nancy Tosti remarked. “People just couldn’t get over how it looked like a sacred space.”

Special care and attention to detail was also given to the Family Zone, which included a walk-through pilgrimage for kids featuring decorations and history of all the parishes all over Utah. Those involved came

up with the idea just a few months before the rally, but the concept was so great they were willing to work overtime to make it happen.

“Production was behind and needed a helping hand to get back on track,” Kim Tosti said.

Kim Tosti logged over 100 hours to build the scenery, plan the zone, and even hand-paint some of the larger decorations with her husband. The entire day required lots of coordination to pull off and not wanting to let Fr. Gray down, the Tostis hoped everything would go well.

“As the doors opened July 9th we all collectively held our breath,” Kim Tosti said. “After months of preparation and over 14 hours setting up the day before, we weren’t sure who was going to show up. It was in God’s hands.”

There must’ve been a collective sigh of relief when the doors opened, however. All the spaces from the speaker sessions to the family zone were busting at the seams early in the morning.

“Our expectations were blown out of the water,” Kim Tosti said.

The day perfectly matched the vision Fr. Gray had when he first thought of the rally idea.

“I hope that they were overwhelmed by how big it [was],” Gray said. “I hope they were inspired to be more joyful, hopefully inspired to be more reverent, hopefully inspired to really appreciate just how important a thing this Church is and the Blessed Sacrament is and that the faith in Jesus we have as Catholics is not some kind of small or particular thing but really real and big.”

With fun activities for kids teaching about other parishes all over Utah that every Catholic in the diocese is united to, Adoration, and Mass, the rally truly showed what the Body of Christ in Utah was all about.

“I’m hoping... we can be a little more cognizant or aware, or intentional, of who we are as a church,” Fr. Gray said.

Fr. Gray felt the unique idea really set the rally apart.

“There aren’t really a lot of examples of dioceses doing what we did,” Fr. Gray said.

St. Mary’s parishioners also helped out in other ways, such as in the choir, fundraising, and more. Leading up to the rally, reflections on the Eucharist and the Mass read on certain Sundays in every church were made possible by Director of Evangelization Anthony Jewett, who was tapped to lead that initiative. Fr. Gray explained that every detail was thanks to an incredible pool of talent and knowledge found at home.

“This whole thing was very much a St. Mary’s production,” he said. “Kim Tosti almost single-handedly implemented my vision for the Rally.”

## THE RESULTS

The hard, non-stop work put in by the St. Mary’s crew was well worth it. The rally saw over 10,000 Catholics total attend. At the end of Mass, Bishop Solis emotionally thanked Fr. Gray for leading the revival initiative for the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

“I’m hoping that people went away with memories, with a good experience, of what the church together is like,” Fr. Gray said.

The event without a doubt made a lasting im-

pact. Numerous people reported being inspired and drawn back into the church. Nancy Tosti encountered a couple individuals and families that had been away from the church for so long but decided to come back. One person who hadn’t been practicing Catholic anymore was going around Salt Lake City saw a big sign for the Rally. Intrigued, he decided to pop in and see what exactly was going on.

“He saw it Sunday morning,” Tosti said. “He was in shorts and a T-shirt and he came in. He [said], ‘I’m back.’ He watched the whole thing.”

*Below: Bishop Oscar Solis elevates the chalice at the diocesan-wide Eucharistic Rally at Mountain America Expo Center on July 9, 2023. The altar and artwork were specifically commissioned of St. Mary’s Deacon Tom Tosti to resemble the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City.*



# END OF YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY ST. MARY'S CHURCH

YEAR END 6/30/2023

Through the continued generosity of you, our parishioners and visitors, our year-to-date revenues of \$2,930,771 are significantly ahead of our year-end projection. This is due, in large part, to a \$1 million charitable bequest made to the parish's general fund. This extremely generous and inspirational legacy was left by a parishioner who had grown increasingly close with the St. Mary's family in recent years. Also contributing to the increase in revenue is the IRS tax credit (non-recurring) of \$205,200 we are to receive for retaining employees during COVID-19.

We are extremely grateful to the parishioner and family for graciously helping to ensure St. Mary's can continue to welcome and bring the Body of Christ to all, for generations to come. 10% of the bequest (\$100,000) has immediately been placed in our charity fund to support assistance to those in need. Additionally, with nearly \$1 million expected in needed parish facility renovations, much of the bequest has been placed in savings in preparation for these costs and any unexpected expenses.

Our year-to-date expenses of \$2,174,800 are slightly over budget by 4%, primarily due to an increase in charitable assistance. The need remains great in our community, with rent relief programs ending and increased monthly rent increases coupled with a reduction in work hours for many. With the incredible amount of snow this past winter, we incurred higher than expected costs for hauling snow out of our parking lots. All other expenses for the year were managed well within budgeted levels.

We continue to invest in repairs at both churches and have completed the Old Town Chapel roof replacement at a planned and fully funded cost of \$216,000. In conjunction with that effort, we have established an endowment to cover large building maintenance expenses and we welcome everyone's donations to increase such fund. The Parish financial position remains stable, thanks in large part to consistent participation in on-line giving and several large donations. We thank our parishioners and visitors for their continued generous support of the parish and its ministries.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Foley, Parish Administrator, and the Parish Finance Council

## ST. LAWRENCE MISSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY

YEAR END 6/30/2023

Throughout the past year, we've had many memories filled with fostering community! The Fall Festival, in particular, was a resounding success, drawing in so many as well as a remarkable fundraising income of \$13,000, doubling previous years' results. Additionally, our offertory showed significant growth, rising from \$114,000 to \$127,000, surpassing the budget projections set for the fiscal year. This upward trend in offertory for the Mission is a direct result of the community's invaluable and generous contributions. We have seen the community truly come back together, providing for and enjoying gatherings both old and new to our community.

This spring, the Bishop asked that we place a hold on raising funds for the new church. The entire diocese is going through an evaluation to enhance strategic planning in addressing the needs and the future of the Catholic Church here in Utah. Until we have further direction from the diocese, building fund donations may still be collected with this understanding, though we are no longer soliciting them. This past year, building fund donations brought in \$24,000...



SCAN TO READ  
THE FULL REPORT

YEAR END 6/30/2023

## ST. LAWRENCE THRIFT STORE FINANCIAL SUMMARY



SCAN TO READ  
THE FULL REPORT

The St. Lawrence Thrift Store has had a successful year. We continue to receive high quality goods at the Park City, Old Town, Donation Center and have picked up gently used furniture two to three times a week for most of the year. June through November is our busiest time for collections. However, we continue to receive donations throughout the year and store sales remain steady. We have a large following of locals who shop the store several times during the week looking for that amazing thrift find. Our customer base continues to grow. We have been advertising in the Heber Valley Guide for over a year and this has helped new Wasatch County residents as well as visitors find our cute store.

We maintain an active presence on Facebook and Instagram and post pictures of store merchandise regularly. This has proven successful and has brought in customers. Many have inquired on social media or have called directly for more information or to purchase over the phone. The Thrift Store, along with St. Mary's recently launched an online store through Square Online. We have...

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Simply scan the QR code to the right or go to [MyCatholicWill.com/MaryPC](https://MyCatholicWill.com/MaryPC).

*Already have a will but interested in now making a bequest to St. Mary's? Please contact Killian Beeler via email at: [kbeeler@stmarysparkcity.com](mailto:kbeeler@stmarysparkcity.com).*



*Fr. Martin Burke with newlyweds Will and Audrey Sullivan outside St. Mary's Old Town Chapel c. 1940.*



# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

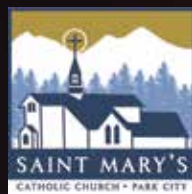
Since Bishop Solis named me pastor of St. Mary the Assumption Catholic Church in August 2018, I have never felt more grateful, blessed, and excited to teach and share the Truth of the Catholic Faith. This beautiful community, our wonderful parish, has such a rich story rooted in that Truth!

WE SEEK TO BRING ALL THE TREASURE OF JESUS CHRIST, FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS, AND THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD!



At St. Mary's, there is so much going on that it is hard to fit into one report! With monthly **Summits** with renowned guest speakers, **Hispanic Ministry**, and a robust **Religious Education** program, spreading the faith never stops. Check out all we do on our website and social media! If you want St. Mary's to continue its amazing work for years to come, please support St. Mary's with a gift through the QR code above. Thank you!

- Fr. Christopher Gray



*The Assumption* is an annual publication from  
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