

Pastor

Fr. Vince Mesi, O.F.M.

Associate Pastor

Fr. Alonso de Blas, O.F.M.

Parish Manager

Jerome Doris

Christian Formation Director

Sr. Anthony Poerio, I.B.V.M

Music Director

Gordon Stevenson

Administrative Assistant

Camela Barraza

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Vigil 5:00 p.m. Saturday
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Weekday's 12:00 p.m.
Holydays Noon and 5:15 p.m.

Civic Holidays
7:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Holy Hour, Thursday
11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Basilica
231 North Third Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Phone
602.354.2100

Fax
602.354.2060

Website
Stmarysbasilica.org

Parish Center Hours
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Basilica

A Catholic Faith Community

Franciscan Friars



Parish Mission Statement

As Children of a loving Creator, baptized into Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Mary's Faith Community believes in the power of the Sacred Liturgy which challenges us to faithfully live out Gospel values of peace and justice.

Following the example of Mary's openness to God's call and in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi we minister with courtesy and compassion to all people, especially the poor and marginalized.

Reflecting God's all-inclusive love, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm the whole diversity of God's people.

Our commitment includes educating and forming ourselves into a community that joyfully celebrates our oneness in Christ.

Acknowledging that all gifts come from our Creator, we seek to become good stewards of all God's gifts.



Dear Friends,

Peace and all Good!

Sometimes what we hear in the Gospel sounds strange to our modern ear. Today we will hear words from Jesus that probably sounded strange 2000 years ago. "Blessed are the poor and woe to the rich" has always sounded strange. We might ask ourselves: "What happiness is there in being poor or hungry or sad? Is Jesus praising the poverty, hunger and sadness of our world? Certainly not! Rather, when we believe in Jesus and embrace his words and his way, the Lord's promise will be fulfilled. Here and now, in our poverty we are rich, in our hunger we are satisfied, in our weeping we have happiness and in our persecution we have joy. This is a mystery. But, ask

people who are suffering how they get through and you will hear a story of inspiration. Despite their trials, when they have Jesus, they are truly blessed.

In today's bulletin, you will find a flyer featuring noted Hollywood film and television producer, Mr. Gerard Straub. In 1997, Gerard entered the St. Francis Inn in the darkest section of Philadelphia to work with the Franciscans in their outreach to the poor. This changed his life. He says, "I learned about prayer, and I learned what it means to be totally dependant upon God for everything." Everyone is invited to attend this special presentation, "Poverty and Prayer", on next Sunday afternoon. I can tell you that Gerard is an amazing man filled with the Spirit of Jesus. You won't want to miss this inspiring film presentation.

Lent is approaching! On each Wednesday evening of Lent, Sr. Anthony and I will be offering a "Soup and Supper" series called "The Spirit of Vatican II". We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with some delicious homemade soup and then continue at 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with the presentations. The Second Vatican Council has been called the greatest event in the Roman Catholic Church in the last 400 years! All are invited to attend these Lenten presentations as an excellent way to grow in our faith.

Last weekend, Mr. Gordon Stevenson, our music director, announced a thrilling new project, the installation of a pipe organ for the Basilica! Years ago, the pipe organ in the Basilica was removed because of serious and very expensive repairs. At that time an electric organ was purchased for the church and has served us well for over 20 years. This is about the life expectancy of this type of instrument. It seems appropriate that the Basilica have a magnificent musical instrument for our liturgies and also for other concert series. A pipe organ could only enhance the musical and liturgical tradition of the Basilica. Gordon will be playing an Organ Marathon this Friday afternoon and all are invited to stop in. If you would like to make a donation toward the Marathon, you may do so on line at stmarysbasilica.org or in the Via Assisi Gift Shop.

Finally, many thanks to those who are helping us reach our goal in the Charity and Development Appeal. At present, we have reached \$31,000 toward our goal of \$49,065. If you have not made your pledge or one time contribution, pledge cards are in the pews for your convenience.

Love

Fr. Vince

February 11, 2007

“LIVING” THE BEATITUDES
Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Did you ever stop to think what a truly blessed life would be for you? You often hear the phrase... “count your blessings”. Perhaps, we don’t do that nearly enough. In today’s society in which new material things, and new gadgets that are offered, tempt people into the mentality that they must build their “must have” list of possessions. But they purchase these and guess what?...they soon are yearning for something else to make them happy. Today’s gospel, the promise of beatitude, confronts believers with decisive moral choices and teaches us that true human happiness is not found in worldly wealth, comfort, power, science, and art, however good these realities may be.

The beatitudes reveal the ultimate goal of the human person and of our acts: to enter into the full communion of the love of God. This vocation is offered by God to each individual and to the Church as a whole. The challenge is to hear the voice of God over the world’s voice offering happiness in ways contrary to the gospel. It’s the challenge to overcome the complacency of being “cafeteria Catholics”, choosing which of these teachings we will follow and which ones will merit a deaf ear. But how can we ever surmount the values and attitudes of today’s society? Maybe by keeping in mind that we must be open to God’s prophetic work in transforming our values and challenging our perceptions that may be a little “out of focus”. God does the work; we just need to let Him!

We might wonder how literally Jesus meant what he said. Luke is rather clear in reminding us that the outcasts, the outsiders, the oppressed will be the first to have access to the reign of God. The “haves” will be out, the “have-nots” will be in. That’s not exactly what we are used to hearing. He is very strict on the expectations of discipleship. The beatitudes describe and define Christian moral behavior. The hard question is whether this call to the “blessed life” is compatible to the way we are living our lives. The beatitudes were not just suggestions; they were expectations. So where does that leave us in in our way of living in 2007?

As individuals we change as we move through life. We know our world has changed tremendously over the past fifty years or so. Communication, the media, technology has overwhelmed us and possibly affected our values and attitudes. However, we are adults in a world of change, without sure guidelines for the future. Because we are adults who can learn, who can grow, who can choose a future we can begin to live it “NOW”. As Christians, the only sure guideline, the only guaranteed future comes with “Gospel Living”.



2007 CDA
One Family in Christ

The annual Charity and Development Campaign (CDA) is underway. Thank you to everyone who has made a commitment of financial and prayerful support to the CDA. Each and every gift is important.

Ann came to the Life Choices Woman’s Clinic, which receives CDA funding, hoping for a miracle. She indicated that if pregnant, she was considering abortion. The clinic showed her pictures of her 10-week baby, complete with fingers and toes. Looking at her baby on the ultrasound screen, Ann and her boyfriend began to make plans to progress as a family.

Our Parish Goal is 100% participation and \$49,065.00. We currently have \$31,075.00 toward our goal. Please take some time to prayerfully discern your gift to our One Family in Christ. Donor cards are available in the pews and in the back of the church. If you are unable to make a financial gift, please consider a commitment to prayer. Thank you for your support of the Charity and Development Appeal.

“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”



**St. Mary's Basilica
Annual St. Patrick's Day
Dinner Extravaganza**

March 10, 2007
6:00 pm
In the Social Hall

Music by the Irish Folk Band
Oceans Apart

&

A special engagement performance
by the
McTeggart Irish Dancers of Phoenix

Cost is only \$20.00 per person
All Proceeds will go to the
St. Vincent de Paul Society



Don't miss this wonderful evening
full of Fun, Friends, food and
entertainment!

Tickets go on sale TODAY in the
Gift Shop!

**STILL INTRESTED
IN GOING TO ITALY?**

Fr. Vince Leads
St. Mary's in a
Joy filled Pilgrimage to Italy
And Sicily!!!
September 7th -26th, 2007



There are still some spaces left for any one
wanting to go on this spiritual journey to Italy
and Sicily.

If you are interested, please call Fr. Vince for further
information! 602.354.2072

Pipe Organ Fund Drive

for St. Mary's Basilica

Begins with a
6 Hour Organ Improvisation Marathon
By St. Mary's Basilica
internationally
acclaimed organist

Gordon Stevenson
Friday
February 16, 2007
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Sponsorship forms are
in the

Vestibule, Via Assisi Gift Shop,
the Parish Office and online at
www.stmarysbasilica.org

Watch the Bulletin for dates and times of
our upcoming Concert
Series from our Music Program.

A New Parish Pictorial Directory



It's that time again!
With all of our new
parishioners, why
wouldn't we do an
updated Parish Pictorial
Directory?

Next Weekend, February 17th and 18th, we will
begin making appointments after each Mass if you
would like to have your picture taken for the
Pictorial Directory.

Appointments are now being taken on line at
www.stmarysbasilica.org.

“Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied.”

STEWARDSHIP



Weekly Offering

February 4, 2007

was \$8,772.96

Thank you!

“In the Name and Spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, our material gifts as an outward sign of the Treasure we hold in Jesus.” Amen.

(Stewardship Prayer)



World Marriage Day
February 11, 2007

The symbol for World Marriage Day is two candle-like figures joined by a heart. The hope is that couples will be reminded of their calling as married couples to enlighten the world by being life-giving to one another.



The Spirit of Vatican II

**All are welcome to join this educational/spiritual opportunity to
“enrich your Lent!”**

A five-week course, “Soup and Study” on Wednesday evenings,
February 28, March 7, 14, 21 and 28th.
6:00 p.m. Soup / 6:30 p.m. Study

Given by Fr. Vince and Sr. Anthony

Registration forms are available in back of the church

A Little Bit of St. Mary’s History

At the dedication of St. Mary’s in 1915, the east wall of the nave was adorned with four confessionals. These were constructed by the Franciscan Brothers in St. Louis and delivered during the construction of the upper church. During the restoration phase of the 1990s, three of these confessionals were converted to shrines under the leadership of Fr. Nevin Ford, the provincial artist of the St. Barbara Province.

The first shrine honors St. Joseph holding the infant Jesus.

The center shrine displays St. Francis and the Crucifix. This is a reproduction of a statue inspired by the painting by Murillo (1618-1682). This statue was brought to St. Mary’s by the Franciscans when they assumed pastoral responsibility in 1896.

The third shrine honors Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Phoenix. This depiction replaced the statue of St. Anne holding the infant child Mary. The statue of St. Anne has been relocated to the chapel.

One confessional was retained. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is administered from this confessional each Saturday.

Beatitudes of Christian Life

*Loving God, my life is filled with so many
good things with challenges at work,
with opportunities at home,
with possibilities to learn and grow.*

*I thank you for the gifts I have received
and ask you for the wisdom to manage them.*

*Help me to resist the temptation to pile on
more and more good things until what I
truly love is lost from sight*

*Give me the courage to throw out the things
I do not need, so that I may in time uncover
my own true self and my deepest happiness
which is you!*

