

Sunday, May 30th, 2021
Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

Dear St. Mary's Parish,

This Sunday, the Archdiocese makes public the new assignments of priests. At your 9:00am Mass, Msgr. McGready will announce that our archbishop, Cardinal Gregory, has appointed me the next pastor of St. Mary's in Newport. Though I will not arrive until July 7th, the day when new assignments begin, I want to take the opportunity now to introduce myself.

My name is Fr Matt Fish. I was born and raised on the west coast, in the Seattle area. After high school, I moved out east to Ohio, where I attended Franciscan University. After college and a few years of graduate school, I taught literature and theology in high school in a number of places in the eastern United States, eventually moving out here to Maryland. Most recently, I taught and coached at DeMatha Catholic High School before entering seminary in 2009. After studies at Catholic University and the North American College in Rome, I was ordained a priest in 2015. After just two years as a parochial vicar in Bowie and in College Park, I was named administrator of Holy Family Church in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, where I have served these last three years.

Six weeks ago, I was surprised to learn that the Cardinal was moving me to Southern Maryland, to St. Mary's in Newport!

While all of my time as a priest so far has been spent in Prince George's County, I have a number of good priest friends down this way whom I often visit. I've always enjoyed driving the back roads in Charles and St. Mary's Counties, as I love the country (even if I did grow up in the city!). I'm also a bit of a history buff, and I've done a good bit of reading over the years about the early history of our Archdiocese in Southern Maryland.

How happy I was then to learn that I would be headed to (by my accounting) the third oldest parish in our Archdiocese, a bucolic setting nestled among farms and woods near the Wicomico River!

But as we say, it's the people that make a parish. Already I've been told of your close community and your love for your parish. That's a sure foundation that any pastor would be happy to build on!

I very much look forward to meeting all of you in a little over a month. Until then, I ask that you keep me in prayer; and please know that you will be in my prayers every day.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Matt

Pastor, St Mary's in Newport (effective July 7th, 2021)