

FAREWELL MASS: A CELEBRATION OF HISTORY

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



INTRODUCTION AND FAREWELL

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY PARISH IN TACOMA was founded in 1891 by the city's immigrant community of German-speaking Catholics. They raised the money to purchase the land and build the first wooden church. At the request of those first pioneers, Bishop Ægidius Junger of Nisqually offered the parish to Abbot Bernard Locnikar, O.S.B. of Saint John's Abbey of Collegeville, Minnesota, who came out personally to inspect the new church. On July 16, 1891 Fr. William Eversmann, O.S.B. arrived in Tacoma as Holy Rosary's first pastor. The school was started in 1892, and the current school building was finished in 1911. By 1912, growth in the parish required the construction of a new, larger church building. The old wooden church was closed, and liturgies were held for nine years in the school auditorium. Construction of the present church building began in 1920, and it was dedicated the following year. Holy Rosary church dominates the Tacoma skyline and is a landmark structure on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places. The tower rises to more than 200 feet high; it was originally topped by a gold leaf and glass cross. The cross, lost in the 1965 earthquake, was replaced by a large aluminum one manufactured by students at the Tacoma Vocational and Technical Institute in 1966.¹

Now, after almost 130 years, our school has been moved, our parish is closed, and our final Mass here will be celebrated today. It is a sad time indeed, and it seems somehow fitting that the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is less than a week away.

For more than a century, Holy Rosary parish was served by the monks and sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict. It's perhaps worthwhile to reflect on the last vision of Saint Benedict. Shortly before his death, the great saint had a vision that his monastery would be destroyed, but that the monks would be saved. While of course he wept over the lost buildings, he rejoiced for the saved monks. As we lose our beloved parish, we should be like those monks and cling closely to the Lord and to the Salvation He offers. We will weep over our parish, but we must rejoice for all of our parishioners who will now bring the spirit of Holy Rosary to new parishes all over the Archdiocese. Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, pray for us!

PASTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH

1. Rev. William Eversmann, O.S.B. 1891–1899.....(†1935)
2. Rev. Demetrius Juenemann, O.S.B..... 1899–1904 (later Prior of Saint Martin's; †1948)
3. Rev. Oswald Baran, O.S.B..... 1904–1914 (later Abbot of Saint Martin's; †1928)
4. Rev. Mark Wiechmann, O.S.B..... 1914–1935..... (†1973)
5. Rev. Anthony Hack, O.S.B. 1935–1951.....(†1951)
6. Rev. Lawrence Piotrkowski, O.S.B. 1951–1965.....(†1965)
7. Rev. William Maat, O.S.B..... 1965–1968 (†2005)
8. Rev. Felix Wirth, O.S.B. 1968–1981 (†1984)
9. Rev. Richard Cebula, O.S.B..... 1981–1998..... (†2004)
- 10..... Rev. John Wilkie.....1998–2009
11. Rev. Tuan Nguyen.....2009–2011
- 12..... Rev. Jacob Maurer..... 2011–2015
- 13..... Very Rev. Nicholas Wichert 2015–2017
- 14..... Rev. Michael Wagner..... 2017–2018..... (†2018)
- 15..... Rev. Mr. Jim Fish 2018–2019
Rev. Martin Bourke, Parish Priest 2018–2019
Rev. Michael Radermacher, Priest Moderator.....2018–2020

1 Adapted from "Sacred Spaces: Tacoma's Historic Sacred Places" by Historic Tacoma.

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prelude: *Ave Maria* (J.S. Bach)

Introit: *Da Pacem Domine*

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Sirach 27:30–28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for He remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?

Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

Responsorial: Psalm 103(102):1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

The LORD is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless His holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits.

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

He will not always chide,
nor does He keep His wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does He deal with us,
nor does He requite us according to our crimes.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is His kindness toward those who fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He put our transgressions from us.

The LORD is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7–9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Alleluia

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.

Gospel: Saint Matthew 18:21–35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Antiphon: *Domine Deus*

O God of Israel, preserve this good intention, O Lord and God.

Communion Antiphon: *Tollite hostias*

Bring offerings, and enter His courts;
worship the LORD in His holy dwelling.

Communion Hymns

Father Michael's Song

Totus Tuus

Closing Rites

Prayer to Saint Michael, the Archangel

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl throughout the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

MINISTERS OF THE SACRED LITURGY

- Celebrant: The Most Reverend Paul Etienne, *Archbishop of Seattle*.
- Concelebrants: The Reverend Tuan Nguyen, *former Pastor of Holy Rosary*.
The Reverend Jacob Maurer, *former Pastor of Holy Rosary*.
The Reverend Nicholas Wichert, *former Pastor of Holy Rosary*.
The Reverend Martin Bourke, *former Parish Priest of Holy Rosary*.
The Reverend Michael Radermacher, *Priest Moderator of Holy Rosary*.
- Lector: Mr. Gary Rose
- Music: Ms. Amy Gallwas, *Choir Director*.
Ms. Janice Berntsen, *Organist*.
- Sacristan: Mrs. Francine Mastini, Obl.S.B.
- Master of Ceremonies:
Mr. Thom Ryng, Obl.S.B.
- Altar Servers: Abigaile Hygema Wayne Hygema Claire Hygema



Ut in Omnibus Glorificetur Dei.

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SAFETY INFORMATION

Thank you for coming to this celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Due to the restrictions imposed on us by the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you **please refrain from singing**.

In this time of pandemic, it is important to stay safe, and to remember to practice courtesy and safety, keeping a special eye open for those who are elderly or whose health is in some way compromised.

- Please read and follow the posted signs. They contain important health and safety information.
- Please follow the instructions of our Safety Volunteers. You can recognize them by the reflective vests.
- Please stay inside the designated areas and maintain a six-foot distance between yourself and anyone who is not in your household. There are markings on the ground to help you maintain appropriate social distance.
- Please keep your mask or face covering ON while you are here. Instructions for receiving Holy Communion will be given immediately prior to Communion.
- If at any time during the next two weeks you suspect that you have been exposed to COVID-19, please inform the Tacoma/Pierce County health department at (253) 798-6500. If you are severely ill or unable to reach a public health nurse, please call your personal health care provider. Testing is available; please go to the Tacoma/Pierce County website for details:
<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/testing-information/>

The restroom in the CMC building is open. Safety rules require that only one person at a time use the restroom. Parents may accompany small children.

When you are leaving the parking lot today, you may use either gate to exit.

Lead Safety Volunteer:

Mr. John Baker

