



St. Dominic Church

December 31, 2023

Pastoral Staff

Father George P. Schommer, O.P., Pastor
 Father Bede Shipps, O.P., Parochial Vicar
 Ms. Maggie Friedmann, Pastoral Ministry Intern

Parish Staff

Pastoral Associate - Margaret Maxwell
 Business/Facilities Manager - Ed Von Hagel
 Music Director - Denny Layendecker
 Assistant to the Music Director - J.C. Cantrell

Parish Pastoral Council

Philip Clarke	Doris Stukes
Jules Hurst	Susan Timoney
Tim Lang	Carrie Traverso
Maggie LaPrairie	

Parish Finance Council

Thomas Bolger	MJ Morrow
Jim Courtney	Carol Pica
Michael Grace	Scott Warady

Celebration of Holy Mass

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.; 5:00 p.m. (Vigil of Sunday)
 Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
 Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
 (8:00 a.m. **only** on a Federal Holiday)

Holy Days: See Bulletin or Website

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday-Friday: 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
 Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
 Saturday: 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

* Or by appointment through the Parish Office

Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hour

Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Devotions—Rosary Shrine of St. Jude

Rosary: 11:45 a.m. Monday-Friday
 (not on Federal holidays)

Scriptural Rosary: 9:45 a.m. Saturday

Administration of the Sacraments

- **Baptism**
 Please contact the Parish Office.
"Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks."
 (Code of Canon Law, 867§1).
- **Matrimony**
 Please contact the Parish Office.
 A minimum of six months preparation is required by the Archdiocese.
- **Holy Eucharist at Home**
 Please contact the Parish Office.
- **Anointing of the Sick or Prayers for the Dying**
 Please contact the Parish Office.

Church & Parish Office Addresses & Hours

Church — 501 6th Street, SW
 Parish Office/Priory — 630 E Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20024
 Phone: (202) 554-7863
 Fax: (202) 554-0231

Web address — www.StDominicChurch.org
 E-mail — Office@StDominicChurch.org
 FaceBook — [stdominicchurhdc](https://www.facebook.com/stdominicchurhdc)

Parish Office Hours
 Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Church Hours
 Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Saturday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Sunday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Federal Holidays: 7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Community Fellowship with Coffee & Donuts

Each Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Mass,
 in the parish meeting room
 (unless otherwise noted).
 All are welcome.



Today is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – a family whose life “revolved” around the person of Jesus. Because of him and through him, Mary and Joseph discovered the will of God for their lives and continually learned to depend upon God’s Providence as the vocation and mission of Jesus unfolded. Their lives were intertwined with his. A continual focus upon the person of Jesus enabled them to cooperate with God’s plan for the redemption and salvation of humanity.

The Feast of the Holy Family offers us the opportunity to renew our focus upon the person of Jesus and to engage our life with his. We have today the opportunity and grace to reorient our attention so that our lives revolve around his. The life of holiness does not mean that our lives are without sin, trials, or weakness; rather, the life of holiness means that we live each day with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of our faith (cf. Heb 12:2). St. John Henry Newman wrote, “to the end of the longest life you are still a beginner. What Christ asks of you is not sinlessness, but diligence.” From him we discover and experience that he is Emmanuel – God is with us. By his triumph over sin and death, he is more powerful than all the evil in the universe, all the trials of daily life, and all the weaknesses in ourselves and in others. He is our hope.

The Second Vatican Council provides the following insight and teaching in the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity:

Since the Creator of all things has established conjugal society as the beginning and basis of human society and, by his grace, has made it a great mystery in Christ and the Church (Eph 5:32), the apostolate of married persons and families is of unique importance for the Church and civil society. Christian husbands and wives are cooperators in grace and witnesses of faith for each other, their children, and all others in their household. They are the first to communicate the faith to their children and to educate them by word and example for the Christian and apostolic life. They prudently help them in the choice of their vocation and carefully promote any sacred vocation which they may discern in them.

Family life is the communion of persons who strive to learn all the practical and daily ways of living according to the will of God in his love. There are many mysteries to be

discovered in one another – gifts, talents, thoughts, emotions, and personality – to name a few. In the family context, especially when Jesus is at its center, we learn to love God with all our heart and soul, mind, and strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Regular prayers to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can obtain for us all the graces we need to live in the high calling of family life.

Thank you to all who helped to make our celebration of Christmas joyful, meaningful, and beautiful. An expanded choir of voices accompanied with organ and a string quartet raised minds and hearts to God in a glorious way. The homilies were thoughtful and engaging. The decorations added to the nobility of the feast, with generous donations for the Christmas flowers. May the Lord bless all who have given gifts of time, talent, and treasure so that we may worthily celebrate the Christmas feasts. These are occasions when we can invite and welcome visitors to our parish. We had an increase in attendance over last year at all the Masses for Christmas. A hopeful sign as we continue to rebuild and renew the parish after the pandemic.

Remember that the celebration of the Christmas season continues through the feast of the Epiphany and concludes with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. While the world around us may return to “normal,” our daily prayer and reflection helps us to remember the coming of Jesus into our lives. The new “normal” for Christians is that Jesus is now and remains at the center of our lives. The new year is a great opportunity to make a resolution to live our Catholic faith more intentionally. Jesus is God-with-us, always near to us. Let us not exclude or ignore him from any facet of our lives.

Let us love one another and pray for each other,

Fr. George, O.P.

George P. Schommer, O.P.
Pastor

Monday January 1	Tuesday January 2	Wednesday January 3	Thursday January 4	Friday January 5	Saturday January 6	Sunday January 7
A.A. Meeting 12 p.m. <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>	A.A. Meeting 12 p.m. <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>	A.A. Meeting 12 p.m. <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>	A.A. Meeting 12 p.m. <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>	A.A. Meeting 12 p.m. <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>	Scriptural Rosary 9:30 a.m. <i>Church</i>	Modern Well- Married Saints & Holy Couples 9:15 a.m. <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>
		Music Ministry Rehearsal 7 p.m. <i>Church</i>	Holy Hour 7 p.m. <i>Church</i>	Sant'Egidio 6 p.m. <i>St. Stephen Martyr Church</i>	Becoming Catholic 10 - 11:30 a.m. <i>Parish Conf Room</i>	Donut Social after the 10:30 a.m. Mass <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>
						Solemn Vespers 7:00 p.m. <i>Church</i>
						Epiphany Reception following Solemn Vespers <i>Parish Mtg Room</i>
					Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center Baby Item Collection all weekend.	

Sanctuary Candle



For the universal respect of the human person and that the culture of life will transform every human heart.

Arrangements to donate the Sanctuary Candle for a week for \$15 or a Mass Intention for \$10, can be made in the Parish Office.

Let Us Pray For...

THE SICK AND THE HOMEBOUND:

Frank & Phyllis Chesley, Nora Courtney, Eileen Maturi, and Frances White.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICES:

All those serving in our country and around the world.

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mrs. Cecile Tchong, mother of Maria Moy, and all our beloved dead.

This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 31

- 5:00 p.m. (Vigil)
- 8:00 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. People of the Parish
- 5:00 p.m. Rosary Shrine of St. Jude Benefactors

Monday, January 1

- 10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

Tuesday, January 2

- 8:00 a.m. St. Jude Novena in honor of New Year
- 12:10 p.m. Joyce K. S. Babiak

Wednesday, January 3

- 8:00 a.m. Thomas F. Bailey
- 12:10 p.m. St. Jude Novena in honor of New Year

Thursday, January 4

- 8:00 a.m. St. Jude Novena in honor of New Year
- 12:10 p.m. Isabelle Spellmon

Friday, January 5

- 8:00 a.m. † Poor Souls
- 12:10 p.m. St. Jude Novena in honor of New Year

Saturday, January 6

- 9:00 a.m. St. Jude Novena in honor of New Year

ALL ARE INVITED
Solemn Vespers
 on
Epiphany Sunday
 January 7th
 7 PM

*Reception immediately following
 in the parish meeting room*



St. Dominic Church

Request a Blessing
 of Your Home

The Church offers an Order of Blessing of Homes during the Christmas season, especially the feast of Epiphany, which will be celebrated this year on January 7, 2024.

Contact the parish office to schedule for a priest to come to your home. There is a 2-week scheduling window from January 2 through January 14.



UPDATED

Flocknote — Keeping in Touch with Us

The parish uses a service by the name of *Flocknote* to create and send our weekly electronic parish bulletin (and other notifications when needed).

We now currently have **THREE** groups — “Everyone,” “News for Parishioners” and “Cenacle—Zoom.” When you sign up, you will automatically be added to the “Everyone” group where you will receive general emails. If you are a parishioner, you’ll want to be sure and click “News for Parishioners” as well to receive the weekly parish bulletin and other specific information of importance to parishioners. Those interested in participating in the Cenacle via Zoom on Monday evenings, should select that one. You will be able to unsubscribe, join another group or change your email at any time.

To sign up, visit our website at www.StDominicChurch.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the graphic that looks like the banner below.

Keep in touch with us
 VIA EMAIL USING FLOCKNOTE.



Church History

The three windows to the right of the St. Cecilia Rose Window (above the Choir loft) are best seen standing in the far South (E Street side) aisle near the front of the church. Collectively, the windows are entitled “Under Our Lady’s Mantle.” The rainbow above Mary reminds us of the covenant between God and “every mortal being that is on the earth.” (Genesis 9:17)



~ Courtesy of Mary Moran

Offertory

Week Ending December 24, 2023

Received	\$2,655.00
Budgeted	\$3,846.00
Deficit/Surplus	(\$1,191.00)

Christmas Offertory

Ending December 25, 2023

Received	\$4,935.00
Budgeted	\$6,000.00
Deficit/Surplus	(\$1,065.00)

Electronic Giving Options



Poor Box



Donations to the parish Poor Box can be made by using the envelope in your packet, Faith Direct, dropping it off at the Parish Office, Venmo or by giving it to one of the priests. Your generosity enables the parish to assist the poor with one-meal gift cards, rent assistance, utility assistance, and other important, local social concerns and organizations.

Mass Intentions Availability

Plenty of 2024 dates available! Or, if the date of your Mass intention isn't important, nor does it need to be mentioned during the Mass or in the bulletin, "unannounced" Masses are also available.



Contact the Parish Office, at (202) 554-7863 or email



SAINT PAUL
STREET EVANGELIZATION

Taking the Catholic Faith to the Streets!

St. Dominic Church is partnering with the St. Paul Evangelization Institute to bring the Gospel of Jesus and the faith of the Catholic Church to our neighborhood and city. The mission of the Institute is to **Train, Equip** and **Mobilize Catholics** for the urgent work of evangelization.

Why evangelize? Consider that 41% of those baptized and raised as a Catholic leave the Church permanently; 69% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist; and for every 1 person that joins the Catholic Church, 6 people leave. Beyond the Catholic realm, about 3 in 10 US adults are now religiously unaffiliated, some identified as "nones" - people who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics or "nothing in particular" when asked about their religious identity.

Considering that God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth," there is an imperative for the disciples of Jesus to give witness to the love, mercy, forgiveness, and new life received from a personal relationship with Christ.

The training program, with Father George in attendance, begins on Sunday, January 28, 2024. All interested person are invited to contact the parish office for information and registration. (office@stdominicchurch.org or (202) 554-7863)

Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found is located in the Parish Office. To inquire about a lost item, please call the Parish Office at (202) 554-7863 or email us at office@stdominicchurch.org. Items are donated or discarded quarterly.



Visit St. Dominic's website!



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A weekly, continuous reading of the Article on the Sacrament of the Eucharist:

1397 The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren:

You have tasted the Blood of the Lord, yet you do not recognize your brother,... You dishonor this table when you do not judge worthy of sharing your food someone judged worthy to take part in this meal.... God freed you from all your sins and invited you here, but you have not become more merciful.

1398 The Eucharist and the unity of Christians. Before the greatness of this mystery St. Augustine exclaims, "O sacrament of devotion! O sign of unity! O bond of charity!" The more painful the experience of the divisions in the Church which break the common participation in the table of the Lord, the more urgent are our prayers to the Lord that the time of complete unity among all who believe in him may return.

1399 The Eastern churches that are not in full communion with the Catholic Church celebrate the Eucharist with great love. "These Churches, although separated from us, yet possess true sacraments, above all - by apostolic succession - the priesthood and the Eucharist, whereby they are still joined to us in closest intimacy." A certain communion in sacris, and so in the Eucharist, "given suitable circumstances and the approval of Church authority, is not merely possible but is encouraged."

1400 Ecclesial communities derived from the Reformation and separated from the Catholic Church, "have not preserved the proper reality of the Eucharistic mystery in its fullness, especially because of the absence of the sacrament of Holy Orders." It is for this reason that, for the Catholic Church, Eucharistic intercommunion with these communities is not possible. However these ecclesial communities, "when they commemorate the Lord's death and resurrection in the Holy Supper . . . profess that it signifies life in communion with Christ and await his coming in glory."

1401 When, in the Ordinary's judgment, a grave necessity arises, Catholic ministers may give the sacraments of Eucharist, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick to other Christians not in full communion with the Catholic Church, who ask for them of their own will, provided they give evidence of holding the Catholic faith regarding these sacraments and possess the required dispositions.

Sant'Egidio First Friday, January 5th

"I was hungry and you gave me food." (Mt. 25:35)

Serve Christ in those in need.

SANT'EGIDIO

On the First Friday of each month, join St. Dominic Parish and the Community of Sant'Egidio to bring food and conversation to our friends living on the streets.

When: First Friday of Every Month | Gather between 6:00-7:00 pm | Distribute food between 7:00-8:30 pm

Where: Meet at St. Stephen Martyr Church | 2436 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037

If you can say "hello" and hand someone a sandwich, you'll do great at this ministry—please join us!

For more info, contact Tim Lang at timlang700@gmail.com.



"Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favorable light at all times and under all circumstances."

—St. Vincent de Paul

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

The parish pastoral council convened for its monthly meeting on December 17, 2023. Some members were excused because of illness or holiday travel, but there was a quorum to continue. After an opening prayer asking for the help of God’s grace, the minutes from the November meeting were unanimously approved.

Father George reported that a small group of interested parishioners met on December 10 for the beginning of the training modules for the St. Paul Street Evangelization. The group soon discovered that the training process is a larger commitment than initially anticipated, requiring about 12 hours of time over a course of modules. Father George will promote the opportunity in the parish. The training sessions will begin on January 28. The target date to begin going out to evangelize is Pentecost (May 19, 2024).

The home cenacle groups continue to meet albeit on a smaller scale. One group and the “Zoom” group are meeting regularly with good attendance. Another group is struggling with attendance, and a third group discontinued at the host leader’s decision because of a lack of participation. Nevertheless, the council members were grateful that some success had been achieved. Father George proposed that the next series be “Bread of Life” from the Augustine Institute. This will continue the formation in the Eucharistic Revival. Additional people are welcome to join the existing cenacle groups.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) continues to meet every Saturday morning. There is a strong bond among the candidates who ask great questions and keep up with the reading assignments. Two were welcomed into the Order of Catechumens, and another two were welcomed as candidates to complete their sacraments of initiation after Baptism as Catholics.

Three parishioners and Father George are registered to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July. Registration remains open.

The parish website needs updating with recent photographs. Digital photos can be sent to the parish office. Administrative access to Facebook has been regained. Work will need to begin to revamp the parish’s presence and use of Facebook.

The council members expressed gratitude for the generosity of parishioners and friends of the parish who helped raise over \$35,000 on Giving Tuesday.

The Dominican community has expressed an interest in helping St. Dominic’s become a center of prayer and preaching in accord with the Order’s charism. One idea is to make the Liturgy of the Hours more accessible to the wider community. A second is to celebrate special liturgies throughout the year in observance of liturgical or civic dates. Other ideas are being considered. Further discussion is needed within the Dominican community and with the pastor to determine what is feasible and sustainable. The council members were enthusiastic about a greater involvement of the Dominicans in the life of the parish.

There will be an Epiphany party after Solemn Vespers on Sunday, January 7 to recognize and thank the many volunteers that make the life of the parish possible.

There being no further business, Father George closed the meeting with a prayer. The next meeting is on January 14, 2024.

 <p>KALAS FUNERAL HOME <i>Celebrating Life's Journey</i> Serving St. Dominic Church since the 1940s.</p>	<p>6160 Oxon Hill Road Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745 (301) 567-9424 www.kalasfuneralhomes.com</p>
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St. Dominic Church is a Christ-centered, Roman Catholic, and Dominican parish for the people of Southwest, DC and beyond.

Our mission is to preach the Gospel and make disciples, and glorify God through the Eucharist and the other Sacraments, build up the communion of the Church, and serve others through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.