



Veritas

Parish Newsletter • Fall 2021

GRAND OPENING

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Cover Photo:
The Newly Renovated
Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P. Community Center

Saint Dominic Catholic Church

info@saintdominics.org • (323)254-2519 • www.saintdominics.org

A Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Dominic's,

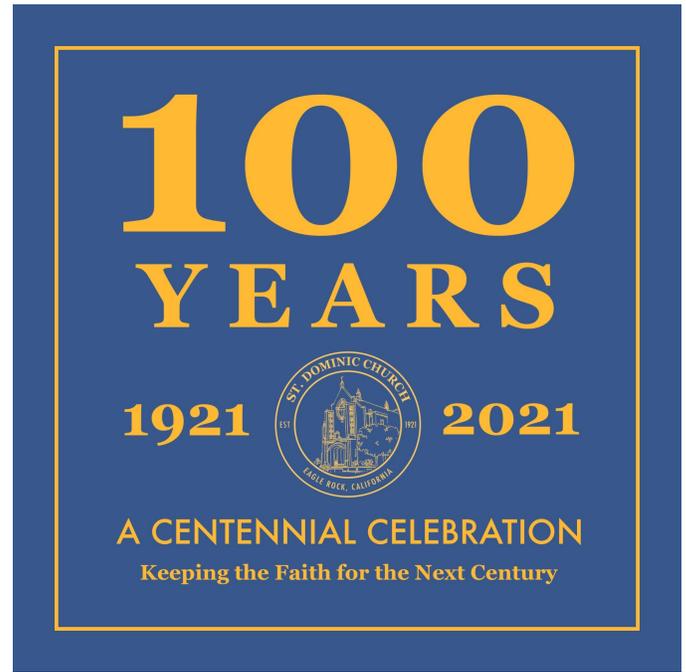


I hope you received the letter I sent to all parishioners a few weeks ago about our celebrations of St. Dominic's centennial, beginning this September and lasting until June. Our parish will have many opportunities to praise God and to celebrate the blessing that this parish has been to us and to so many people for 100 years. The theme of our centennial is

"Keeping the Faith for the Next Century." This edition of our parish newsletter is intended to give you some more specific details about our celebrations.

We will begin on **Sunday, September 12, with a grand opening of the completely remodeled Fr. Paul Scanlon Community Center.** There will be an official "ribbon-cutting" ceremony at the Center at approximately 10:30 a.m., and additionally, there will be an open house at the Center from after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 3:30 p.m. This will give you a chance to see firsthand how your donations to our capital campaign the last several years have helped us create a beautiful space for community celebrations for generations to come.

Because of the recent surge in the pandemic, we unfortunately had to cancel our annual parish carnival. It was a difficult decision, but I feel we must do our best to keep parishioners and others safe until we are finally done with the pandemic. However, in place of the carnival, our planning committee has come up with a great alternative that will bring together our parish and school communities in a safer way while still having lots of fun and raising some money for our needs. Therefore, **we will have a "color run Saturday" on September 25.** This is an event similar to a jog-a-thon where participants – from children to adults – get sponsors to donate toward their efforts to jog or walk along a certain course (we are thinking of using our church parking lot). We will have several color runs that will be spread out over the morning and afternoon hours that day according to age groups. Participants wear white clothing to begin with and then, at certain points of the course, the participants are sprayed with different colored non-toxic and water-soluble powders. Non-participants are welcome to come and cheer for the participants. We will offer some simple foods like hot dogs and hamburgers. All in all, it should be a fun time. More details will be forthcoming.



On a more serious note, this centennial year we also want to help you grow in your faith and provide some opportunities to deal with the sufferings you have experienced the last couple of years because of the pandemic and other challenges you might have faced. So, on **Saturday, October 9, from approximately 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will offer a day of reflection entitled, "Encountering God in Challenging Times."** During this retreat we will see how God meets us and helps us grow in the midst of life's difficulties. The retreat will be given in both English and Spanish in different locations that day.

Then, in November, the month of All Souls, we will offer an opportunity for those who have lost loved ones in the last couple of years to celebrate their lives and mourn their loss at a **Memorial Mass on Sunday, November 7.** Once again, more details will be forthcoming.

Our biggest celebration of the year will be a Centennial Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gomez on Sunday, February 20, at 10 a.m. The Mass will be bilingual and will be followed by a luncheon. Please save the date.

So, as you can see, we have big plans for this coming year. I ask you to pray for the success of these events, especially that we can overcome the pandemic to be able to fully enjoy the opportunity to gather as a community.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Roberto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Roberto



Children's Faith Formation

Registration is open for St. Dominic's Children's Faith Formation (Sacrament Preparation).

1st Year fee \$80.00

2nd Year fee \$90.00

Continuing Formation Fee \$50.00

Zoom Classes begin on Saturday October 2, 2021

Register online at

www.saintdominics.org/religious-education



Called to Be a Catechist?

Without the time and talents of our Core Team, our ministry would not be successful. Core Team members are young adults and adults who care about the faith lives of children and wish to build positive Christ-centered relationships with them. We are currently seeking young adults and adults to be Catechists.

If you are interested, please contact:

Christina Garcia: christina@saintdominics.org

Michelle Perez: michelle@saintdominics.org

This poem, written by one of our long-time parishioners, Rudy Vadillo, is a vibrant expression of the uniqueness of each of us in God's eyes, the capacity we each have to make a difference, and the responsibility we have to use well what God has given us. Thank you, Rudy, for the many ways you have made a difference here at St. Dominic's through the years.

– Fr. Roberto

I Am Somebody Special

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Poem by Rodolfo Vadillo

I am somebody special. In the entire world, there is no one just like me. From the beginning of time there has never been another person like me. Nobody has my smile, my eyes, my nose, my hair, my hands, my voice. I am somebody special. There is nobody with my writing. Nowhere has there been anyone with my taste in food, clothes, music and art. Nobody sees things the way I see them. Never has there been someone who laughs like me or cries like me, and what makes me laugh or cry will never generate laughter or tears identical to somebody else's.

I am the only one in all creation who possesses my abilities. There will always be someone who would excel in one of my abilities. However, no one in the whole universe could reach the combined quality of my talents, ideas, abilities and feelings that I possess as a whole. In a room full of musical instruments, some instruments may dominate by themselves, but no one instrument can equal the symphonic sound that all the instruments together make in a symphony.

Throughout eternity, nobody will shine, talk, walk, or do the things the way I do.

I am special... I am unique. In all uniqueness, there exists great value. Because of my great value, I have no need to imitate others. I accept and celebrate my differences.

I am special and I realize that this is not a coincidence. I am starting to realize that God created me with a special purpose in mind. He must have a job for me that nobody else can do like me. Among the billions of applicants, only the eligible, only one has the correct combination to qualify for the job.

That is me, because...I am somebody special.

**Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P.
Community Center**
SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

GRAND OPENING



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

1921  2021

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Keeping the Faith for the Next Century

Grand Opening

Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P. Community Center

Sunday September 12, 2021

Open House 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

To kick-off our year of Centennial Celebrations we begin with the Grand Opening of the Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P. Community Center on September 12th.

Grand Opening Activities:

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (Following 9am Mass)
- Ministry Fair in the Upper Hall (All Day)
- Self-Guided Tours
- Children's Activities
- Refreshments
- Parish Merchandise for Sale

Student's Art Contest

Centennial Celebrations

Deadline: November 1, 2021

All Students (K - 8th Grade)

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate in the Student's Centennial Art Contest this fall at Saint Dominic Church. Winners will be selected in three age ranges, (K - 2nd Grade), (3rd - 5th Grade), and (6th - 8th Grade).

For rules and entry form, please visit our website:
www.saintdominics.org/centennial

Or contact the parish office:

Telephone: (323) 254-2519

Email: communications@saintdominics.org



Student's Centennial ART CONTEST

Contest Theme:

What will St. Dominic Church
look like 100 Years in the future?

ART CONTEST PARTICIPATION

Children (K - 8th Grade) are invited to participate in the Student's Centennial Art Contest this fall at Saint Dominic Church & School.

For Contest Rules & Entry Form, please contact the Parish Office. Phone: (323)254-2519
Email communications@saintdominics.org

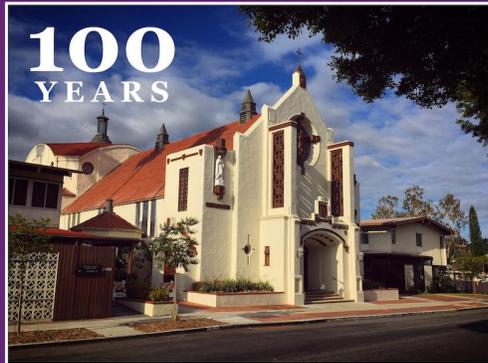
Contest Deadline: **Monday November 1, 2021.**

1921  2021

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Keeping the Faith for the Next Century

**SAINT DOMINIC
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
EAGLE ROCK, CALIFORNIA

CENTENNIAL MASS



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2022



Centennial Mass

Saint Dominic Catholic Church

Sunday February 20, 2022

One Mass Only at 10:00am (Bi-lingual)

One hundred years ago, Catholics gathered in Eagle Rock to celebrate Mass in a tent. As the population grew, Saint Dominic Parish was founded by the Dominicans on February 19, 1921.

In celebration of the 100th Birthday of the Parish, a Centennial Mass will be held on Sunday February 20, 2022, presided by Archbishop Jose Gomez.

Special commemorative booklet programs will be made for the event. Participants and parishioners are invited to purchase ads for the commemorative booklet, and to personalize messages of congratulations to the parish with family or ministry photos, and fun quotes or inspirational messages.

A Year of Celebrations

Centennial Calendar of Events

Grand Opening:	September 12, 2021
Student's Art Contest:	Fall 2021
Color Run:	September 25, 2021
Parish Retreat:	October 9, 2021
Memorial Mass:	November 7, 2021
New Year's Eve Dance:	December 31, 2021
Centennial Mass:	February 20, 2022
Photo Directory:	Spring 2022
Parish Time Capsule:	Spring 2022

More info about the Centennial is available at:
www.saintdominics.org/centennial

Telephone: (323) 254-2519

Email: communications@saintdominics.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING	Sept. 12, 2021
COLOR RUN	Sept. 25, 2021
STUDENT ART CONTEST	Fall 2021
PARISH RETREAT	Oct. 9, 2021
MEMORIAL MASS	Nov. 7, 2021
NEW YEAR'S EVE DAPPER DANCE	Dec. 31, 2021
CENTENNIAL MASS	Feb. 20, 2022
PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY	Spring 2022
PARISH TIME CAPSULE	Spring 2022

WWW.SAINTDOMINICS.ORG/CENTENNIAL



SCAN THE **QR CODE**
TO ACCESS THE
CENTENNIAL WEBPAGE



“The Other” St. Dominic Church

By Fr. Isaiah Mary Molano, O.P.



I arrived at St Dominic's in Eagle Rock on June 21, wide eyed and excited to begin this new chapter in my life and vocation, and I could not be happier!

The other Saint Dominic's in San Francisco, was my home for almost eight years, where I worked with an energetic and talented pastor, a dedicated and passionate staff, and lived with seasoned

veterans of the Dominican Way of Life as well as our first year students, the novices, as they begin their journey of faith as Dominicans.

At our Saint Dominic's here in Eagle Rock, I find a home with an energetic and talented pastor, a dedicated and passionate staff, and yes, indeed, seasoned veterans of our Dominican Way of Life, brothers-in-arms seeking holiness for ourselves and salvation for those we encounter.

I find myself in a *year of new*, a first time local superior of my Dominican brothers, but also living in a new part of California, a new parish, and a time of renewal as we enter into our Centennial Celebrations. I look forward to falling in love with our community, to discover and begin friendships with our parishioners, to see the children play during recess across the way, to learn more phrases of Tagalog, and to help us all grow in faith, hope, and love, as the one family of God.

Summer Break in Eagle Rock

By Br. Athanasius Thompson, O.P.



During this past summer of 2021, I and my fellow student brother Br. Patrick Rooney had the wonderful opportunity to live at St. Dominic's in Eagle Rock as we spent the summer studying Spanish through an online program offered by a school in Mexico. The summer was a wonderful experience for the both of us!

Having grown up in Southern California, my parents and younger sister still live in Orange County, and I was able to visit them quite a bit. I frequently went jogging at the Rose Bowl and at Occidental College, and of course enjoyed the fellowship of the Dominican friars in our Eagle Rock priory. And last, but certainly not least, the parishioners at St. Dominic's were a true joy to meet and spend time with! Every Sunday after each mass we had the wonderful opportunity to meet and greet the parishioners, who offered us their prayers and encouraged us on our Spanish studies (and also corrected our grammar from time to time).

It was an amazing summer, and I am truly grateful to the friars and to the people of St. Dominics for their generous hospitality. I definitely hope to spend more time in Eagle Rock in the future!



Summer Break in Eagle Rock

By Br. Patrick Rooney, O.P.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have lived for two months at St. Dominic's in Eagle Rock. Br. Athanasius and I took online Spanish classes with a school in Mexico called "Olé." A typical class day included a two hour class on Spanish grammar (e.g., irregular verbs, word order of indirect object pronouns, etc.) and a one hour class on Mexican culture (e.g., Quinceañeras, the Guadalupe-Reyes Marathon, etc.).

Br. Athanasius and I both have family members in the area, so on non-class days, I would often go to visit my family. One evening, I came back from a family visit around 10:30pm only to find that the property gates had already been locked up for the night. I walked around the property, and found no other way in. So, I decided to climb over the fence. First, I looked around to make sure no neighbors were watching who might call the police. I then tried to make a friendly wave to the security camera, hoping that might somehow diminish the chances of setting off an alarm. I then climbed over the fence, trying to be as discreet as possible. The following day, I told the friars excitedly, "I climbed over the fence last night!" Their response was, "Didn't you know you have a gate clicker in your car?" Apparently, I had a gate opener all along, and I never knew it!

It was a real blessing to live with the Dominican community at St. Dominic's; and I would like to give a special shout out to Fr. Jude Eli for his wonderful cooking. I also loved visiting with parishioners on Sunday. During my first week, I even had the opportunity to do some unicycle/juggling for the kids at St. Dominic's school. This parish community has been tremendously welcoming, and I would love to return again sometime in the future.

The Joy of Volunteering

By Chaplain Art Alvarez

"For even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

My ministry career started as a volunteer, in 1996, I served at CRDF (Central Regional Detention Center) After that I started as a Chaplain at TTCF (Twin Towers Correctional Facility), and have been there for the last 10 years.

To work as a volunteer in jails is not a simple task; it requires us to free ourselves from prejudice. We volunteers offer our friendship, our faith in the service of those who need and request them. We're not there to judge, nor to solve all the problems a person may have, we are another tool, a means, to help them find a new way inside and outside of jail.

At the Office of Restorative Justice, we celebrate, promote and appreciate all of our volunteers who work day after day. We know that our mission is to be next to the one who is suffering, the one who needs us, and the one who is deprived from his or her liberty and those affected by it - and our volunteers walk that path.

...How can they call him, if they do not believe ?

...How can they believe, if they have not heard?

...How can they hear, if the message is not proclaimed?

...How can the message be proclaimed, if not by you?

At TTCF, we are also offering the Pen Pals 4 Christ program to bring the word, hope and love of Jesus Christ through letters. We are blessed with St. Dominic's Parish volunteers to serve our inmates in this ministry. Please contact Bernadette Corpuz for more details on how to become a Pen Pal 4 Christ: (323)547-6618 or Email: bcorp1114@gmail.com



If you're interested in being a volunteer in person, please contact our office at (213-893-5054). We welcome your gifts and will help you put them in service of others.

Health Ministry Corner

By Mary Lynne Knighten, DNP, RN
Health Ministry Director

I recently saw this image posted on social media, and it immediately brought to mind how our Catholic community works to support and uplift the body of Christ.



Image credit: The Presbytery of Milwaukee

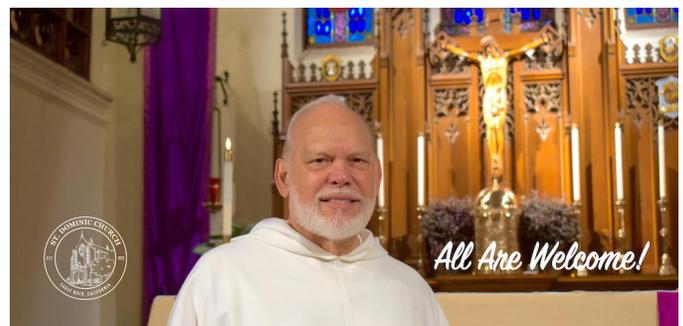
During this global COVID-19 pandemic, that seems to have no end in sight, the Church has provided a mechanism to ensure we have spiritual nourishment with live stream Mass, Mass outdoors, Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, and other important faith practices; despite a “shutdown” of gatherings for many months. At St. Dominic, Fr. Roberto, the friars, staff, and ministry leaders have created a very safe environment in which to practice our faith and gather for ministry events. Individually and collectively, this is an important part of whole person health that our spirit is attended to. Much has been done by volunteers to make phone call check-ins, screen parishioners early in the return to in-person Mass, clean the church, enforce the “restrictions” that keep us safe—wearing masks properly, sanitizing our hands, and distancing.

Many of us have delayed or deferred taking care of our health, and coming out of social isolation is a little scary. I have seen firsthand how hospitals, physician offices, and clinics are employing strict safety procedures, so I encourage you to resume your primary care visits and preventative health measures such as mammograms, prostate or colon cancer screening, and

blood pressure checks. It is now again time to get vaccinated against influenza.

Please watch the bulletin and website for the resumption of QueensCare Parish Nurse services in September. Vons/Albertsons will be providing free flu and COVID vaccines (including boosters for immunosuppressed persons) in September or October (exact dates TBD). While there has been some resistance to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops made this statement: “Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good” (USCCB, Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines, 2021, August 16).

“Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philipians 2:4

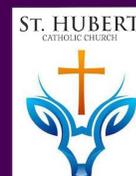


FR. JUDE ELI, O.P. ZOOM PREACHING SERIES 2021

PLEASE JOIN US ON ZOOM!
LINKS AVAILABLE AT
www.saintdominics.org/fr.jude



ST. HUBERT - LANGLEY, WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER 20 - 23, 2021



9:00 AM MORNING MEETING
Webinar ID: 825 2632 4501

7:00 PM EVENING MEETING
Webinar ID: 844 9830 7288

Passcode: theology

MORNING AND EVENING ZOOM MEETINGS DO NOT REPEAT

WWW.SAINTDOMINICS.ORG/FR.JUDE

Join Fr. Jude on ZOOM, September 20 - 23, 2021

The Blessings of Aiden

By Petra Martinez-Ali

Jesus instructed us in His Gospel to be holy. If you're pursuing holiness as Jesus instructs us, you learn to recognize that there are two modes of operation. In Latin they are modo umano vs modo divino, which means that we go back and forth between operating in our humanity, based on our own will, and then, by grace, operating in God's will.

I was raised a nominal Catholic and always was a believer in Jesus, and I knew that He loved me, but I had no practical application for accessing that love.

Before I was gifted with the birth of Aiden, I was plagued by my responding to life out of my mere humanity. This took the form of addiction, pursuing success according to the world, and looking for love in all the wrong places. As a result, my Catholic faith was like a yo-yo. I could never stay in a state of grace.

After Aiden was born, as a new mother committed to responsibly loving and caring for my child, I felt I had no choice but to set the world's false promises aside and respond to the needs of my son. This is the key phrase: to set the world aside! With God's grace, in order for Aiden to thrive, I had to stop my self-centered and self-seeking ways. I plunged into the river of divine operation, learning what sacrifice and carrying the cross really meant, for Aiden, and offering all my suffering for love in the Cross!

Now, every day in my response to Aiden's needs, I get to look inside and let go of the things that get in the way of God's plan. Through the gift of parenting a special needs child, I have been able to garner a practical application of what God has been trying to teach me for years. For example, Aiden's condition requires that he eats whole, low fat food. Contrary to my personal proclivities as a food addict, I'm required to buy, cook, and eat food that is truly loving.

In addition, due to Aiden's myriad of issues, we are blessed to have a staff 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Living with Aiden and having people in my home all day, every day, is like having a mirror held up to myself. I sometimes feel like I live in a fish bowl. There can be no secrets in this house with Aiden who is wide open and honest with everyone. The way to respond to that situation is to not live in darkness. Being able to

operate in the light is only by God's grace. It's only by a reliance upon God and a daily examination of conscience, that I become right-sized and able to recognize my personal challenges, to face life with trust and perseverance.

Surprisingly, as a result of being given this gift of Aiden, I have learned to have charity and hope for myself. I used to think, "If I can just love myself enough, then I can learn to love God." But experience has taught me it's actually the opposite. God truly knew what He was doing when He told us to love Him first, and our neighbors as ourselves, because it is in the practice of loving Him through others, that we learn how much God loves us and... self-love becomes less and less important. Paradoxically, I have been granted better self-care because I live in His love. You see, we can forget ourselves and still be taken care of, as St. John of the Cross teaches.

Aiden is loving others through his service to God, which he also chooses daily and in each moment, by striving for holiness. He is also a gift to us all in his openness and innocence, ever trusting and childlike: *"Unless you become as children, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven."* - Mt 18:3. This openness and simple trust in faith is what Jesus was referring to, which saints possess, even the most scholarly ones.

Every day I get to be of service to God, through Aiden. Together we serve God and His Church for the salvation of souls.

"Be holy where you're planted." Br. Juan OCDS



Our Lord's Merry Maids

Blessed Sacrament Confraternity

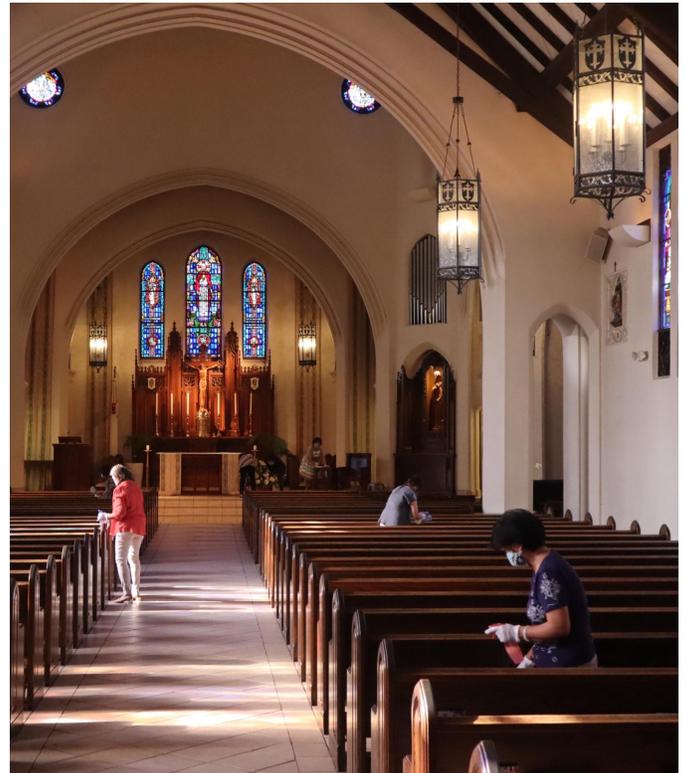
By Luisa Tan

"Our Lord's Merry Maids" are like Daniel from the movie *The Karate Kid*. In this movie, Daniel was told to "wax on, wax off" his mentor's car. The circular hand movements were actually training for self-defense.

The Merry Maids are cleaning volunteers at St. Dominic's. Armed with cleaning towels, Pledge or oil-vinegar-filled spray bottles, and long cleaning poles, the Maids diligently clean the altar, pews, glass windows, and other surfaces. They also observe COVID safety by wearing facemasks and disposable gloves.

The Merry Maids do the same chore every Tuesday after the 8 am mass. On these days, when you see a group of women walking towards the sacristy, you'll know that they are about to get their cleaning tools. Parishioners will be requested to move to the back to continue praying or join the rosary group. In a few minutes, the Maids will soon spread out and start to "wax on, wax off" the church.

From a distance, the cleaning duty of the Merry Maids seems insignificant. On the contrary, it is a spiritual training for humility, service to the church and most of all – it is their offering to God.



House Cleaning Project

Centennial Facilities Committee

This summer, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Centennial Planning Committee successfully cleaned the church loft and storage area in preparation for renovations to those areas of the church.



Volunteers worked for two days, cleaning and clearing space in the church. Environment Committee decorations were sorted and stored in plastic bins, temporarily housed on the Parish Hall stage.



Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who made the House Cleaning a success. A special thank you to the Key Club of Eagle Rock High School for helping us!



Music Ministry Notes

By Rudy Acosta

The music ministry will continue to restrict our choirs to smaller-than-normal size for the time being as we maintain social distance and masking for the safety of our parish.

On Sunday September 12, 2021, choir will return to Mass for the kick-off of the Centennial Celebrations. More information to come as we navigate the Pandemic this fall.

Please enjoy these photographs looking back to the February 2004 Music Ministry trip to Italy. The choir sang at the Vatican and at St. Francis' crypt in Assisi.



Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P. Community Center

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

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Do you or your ministry have news to share in **Veritas**?
Contact us: communications@saintdominics.org



Veritas

Parish Newsletter

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