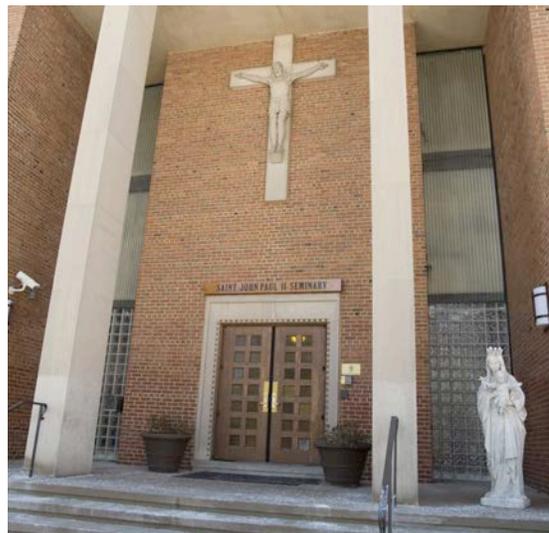


SAINT JOHN PAUL II SEMINARY

Forming a New Generation of Priests in our Nation's Capital



- In 2011, the Archdiocese of Washington opened its new Blessed John Paul II Seminary at 145 Taylor Street, N.E., in Washington, D.C., with an inaugural class of 20 seminarians studying to be the next generations of priests who will serve the people in this area.
- The seminary strives to instill the pastoral charity and priestly witness modeled by its patron, Saint John Paul II. Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who founded the seminary and who in 1986 was ordained as a bishop by Pope John Paul II, has said that in a special way, the future priests there would represent a living legacy to Saint John Paul II, who through his life and ministry carried the faith to the ends of the earth, and who “called us to open wide the doors of our hearts to Christ.”
- Located next to the campus of The Catholic University of America, the seminary prepares college-age men and young adults for entrance into major seminary and eventual ordination to the Catholic priesthood. The seminarians residing there attend classes at Catholic University.
- In 2014, about 10 weeks before that April’s canonization of Saint John Paul II, Cardinal Wuerl blessed the seminary’s new wing, D’Aniello Hall, which includes 20 additional student rooms, an expansive library and reading room, an enlarged classroom space, a new common room and an exercise room.
- On the weekend of Saint John Paul II’s canonization that spring, the signs above the seminary’s front entrance and at the entrance to its driveway changed to reflect its new name – Saint John Paul II Seminary. “He’s our patron and our model, and we’re excited to change the name in front,” said Msgr. Robert Panke, the seminary’s rector.
- The chapel at Saint John Paul II Seminary has two relics of the new saint on display – an amice, a liturgical vestment worn by the pope; and the blood of John Paul II stained on the cassock he was wearing when he was shot and critically wounded during an assassination attempt in Saint Peter’s Square in 1981. The priests there also use a chalice once used by their patron saint at Mass.
- The chapel also includes the altar used by Pope Benedict XVI at his 2008 Papal Mass at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. In the table of the altar is an altar stone used by Archbishop John Carroll, the first Bishop (later Archbishop) of Baltimore, and the first Bishop in the United States. The stone contains the relics of two early martyrs whose identities are not known.
- Today, the expanded Saint John Paul II Seminary is filled to capacity and is home to 47 seminarians – 29 from the Archdiocese of Washington, and 18 from other dioceses.

*For more information on the Saint John Paul II Seminary or on priest vocations
in the Archdiocese of Washington, go to www.dcpriest.org*