

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Faith QUEST

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE ✚ GROW IN HOLINESS ✚ HAVE FUN



Welcome to Faith Quest at St. Mary's of Piscataway

Catholics have lived and worshipped on and near the grounds of St. Mary's since 1640. In 2015 the parish will celebrate its 375th anniversary!

Our story begins with the missionary work of Fr. Andrew White, S.J., who was the first Catholic priest to preach to the Piscataway Indians who lived in this area. Look at the beautiful painting above our baptismal font.

1) Why do you think we placed the painting in that spot? _____

Make your way over to the Pastors' Wall. Here you will see frames with the names of every pastor who has served at St. Mary's beginning with Fr. Andrew White, S.J. On the back of the frame is the name of the pope who was serving the universal Church at the same time.

2) Match these pastors with their popes:

Msgr. R. Paul Repetti

Pope Leo XII

Fr. Angelus J. O'Dwyer, O. Carm.

Pope Pius XII

Fr. Andrew White, S.J.

Pope Pius VII

Fr. Edward D. Fenwick, O.P.

Pope Alexander VII

Msgr. George A. Dougherty

Pope St. John Paul II

Fr. Casimir Losinski

Pope Gregory XVI



Move to the center aisle of the church. Can you count the number of diamond-shaped stones that you see? Each diamond has a symbol of an important part of our faith story. In the word search puzzle on the next page find the name of the seven symbols.

Our Lady’s Chapel

Make your way to the chapel. This building sits on a footprint of a chapel that dates back to 1838 – the first Catholic chapel in Prince George’s County. Look above the door. There is a plaque with a Bible passage from Matthew 11:28.

3) What does it say? _____

This present chapel was built in 1904. Before you go inside, move around to the back side of the chapel and look for a small plaque in the gables. It is inscribed with the sign of the Jesuits:

4) ____ ____ ____

5) Who was the first Jesuit pastor of the parish? _____.

Make your way to the altar and look for another inscription at the bottom of the altar. It reads “J.A. Healy.” Bishop Healy was the first Roman Catholic priest and first bishop of African descent in the United States. When you have a minute, do an internet search for “James Augustine Healy” and learn about his siblings. They are a family of firsts!

Thank you for coming to visit St. Mary’s of Piscataway!

To share your experience here with other Faith Questers, send photos, posts, and tweets to www.facebook.com/groups/faithquesters or Twitter @WashArchdiocese.

And remember to update your status on the leaderboard at www.adw.org/FaithQuest!

Before you leave, stamp your passport. You’ll find the stamp in a small wooden box on the vestibule table here in the chapel.

Symbols of Our Faith

Look for the names of the symbols you see inside the diamonds.

D H

O G O Z

G Z N L J S

F L F O Y L L A

O F U S E S V V C W

B W X K X Z P C T P Q C

M O Y J E H G I W R U W N H

A B V V S Y O G R F W S D K S R

L H U J O H N V Y I J Y O G W I C C

Q P G G S U O V M A T T H E W O U R K D

S G X Y D C W P J C C R C X G P D S P T

N U X Y B C J T M O C T E P M K N Q

P Q L X B S B I P T M V Z R P N

B C L E C Z D G L W W A C E

I B R F X U Z S Z M Z Q

A G M C I I V Z W E

S D H Z B I W L

C S M X E U

G I K U

P A

Faith Quest Answers

1) In the painting, Fr. Andrew White is baptizing an Indian chief. Today, the baptismal font is where we baptize new members of the church.

2) Popes and pastors

- Msgr. Paul Repetti and Pope St. John Paul II
- Fr. Angelus O’Dwyer and Pope Leo XII
- Fr. Andrew White and Pope Alexander VII
- Fr. Edward Fenwick and Pope Pius VII
- Fr. George Dougherty and Pope Pius XI
- Fr. Casimir Losinski and Pope Pius XII

3) “Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will refresh you.”

4) I H S, a monogram of the name of Jesus

5) Fr. Andrew White, S.J.

Word Search: Did you find the following words?

- Lamb of God
- Holy Spirit
- God
- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John