

## DID YOU KNOW?

- St. Mary's Catholic Church was dedicated on October 27, 1867 by Archbishop Joseph S. Alemany, the first archbishop of the San Francisco diocese
- The local population raised \$3,000 for the construction of the Church
- One of the secrets to the longevity of this building is that it is constructed of redwood (probably old growth) that was harvested and milled locally
- On Christmas Day, 1926 a windstorm blew down the steeple and knocked the building off its foundation. According to local historians, the damage was soon repaired
- Over the years, St. Mary's has been a mission church of several different Marin County parishes including Petaluma, Sausalito, Olema, Novato, and, eventually, Lagunitas
- During the 1940's, St. Mary's was actually known as Our Lady of Loretto because it was served by the priests from Our Lady Of Loretto Church in Novato. The name was restored to St. Mary's in the 1970's
- In 1967, the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West installed a plaque on the cairn in the churchyard commemorating the dedication of the Church in 1867 and designating St. Mary's a historical landmark
- In 1978, the building underwent a substantial renovation which included a new foundation, electrical work, and strengthening the bell tower
- Incidentally, the bell in the tower was originally from the Sonoma Mission. It was cast in England in 1858
- In 2017, the church will be 150 years old. We intend to do additional renovations between now and then to honor this vital part of the life of Nicasio



Do you want to be a part of the living history that is St. Mary's Church? Consider donating to our Capital Campaign that kicks off in September.