



Msgr. Mike's Blog | All In The Family

June, 2016



What an incredible weekend we had here at St. Mary's as we celebrated with Diego Buritica at his Ordination to the Priesthood on Saturday at St. Paul's Cathedral. That experience of joy grew as Father Diego celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving in a packed St. Mary's Church on Sunday at 11:00 am followed by a Reception in the parish hall. And what a special grace it was for us to be able to welcome Diego's

parents (his father is 93 years young), brothers & sisters, nieces & nephews, and other relatives and friends from Colombia for these celebrations.



It's been quite a long time since a newly ordained priest celebrated his First Mass at St. Mary's – Fr. Ed Chalmers in November of 1979 and Fr. Ed Nicolls in May of 1974. Both Fr. Ed's are native sons of our parish. Diego became part of our parish community in January of 2014 as he came to the U.S. to complete his theological studies and formation for the priesthood. He was a welcomed weekend visitor

until he headed to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD. Diego returned last summer for his final parish internship before being ordained a deacon in December.



Over the past two days, Fr. Diego and his family returned to Colombia to prepare for another First Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish in [Medellin](#). After completing the necessary immigration requirements to change his student visa to a religious worker's visa, Fr. Diego will return to our Diocese in mid-July where he will begin his first assignment as Associate Pastor at St. Leo's Church in Leominster. We wish him well and hold him in our prayers knowing that St. Mary's Parish will always be a special "home" for him.

