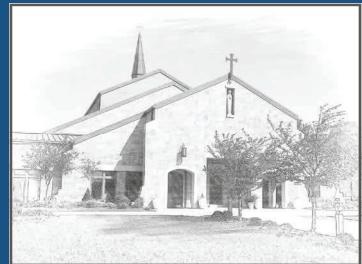


# Saint Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH ♦ EST. 1938



*We are a sacramental people, serving as the visible presence of Jesus Christ in our community.*

## CLERGY

Rev. John Asare, Pastor  
Deacon Mike Ellerbrock  
Deacon Rick Furman

## MASS

Saturday  
5:00pm  
  
Sunday  
8:45am and 11:30am  
  
Tuesday-Thursday  
9:00am  
  
Friday  
11:15am

## RECONCILIATION

Saturday  
3:30-4:15pm

## OFFICE HOURS

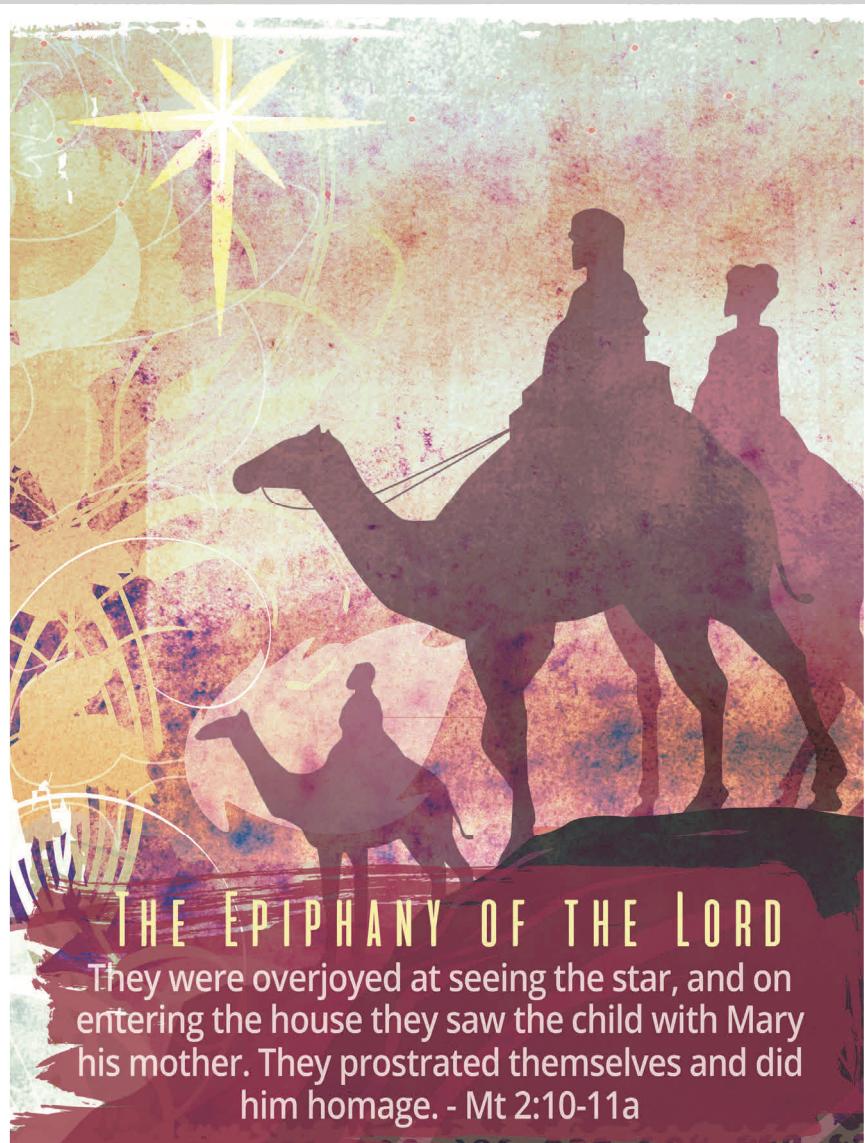
Monday-Thursday  
9:00am-3:00pm  
  
Friday  
9:00am-12:00pm

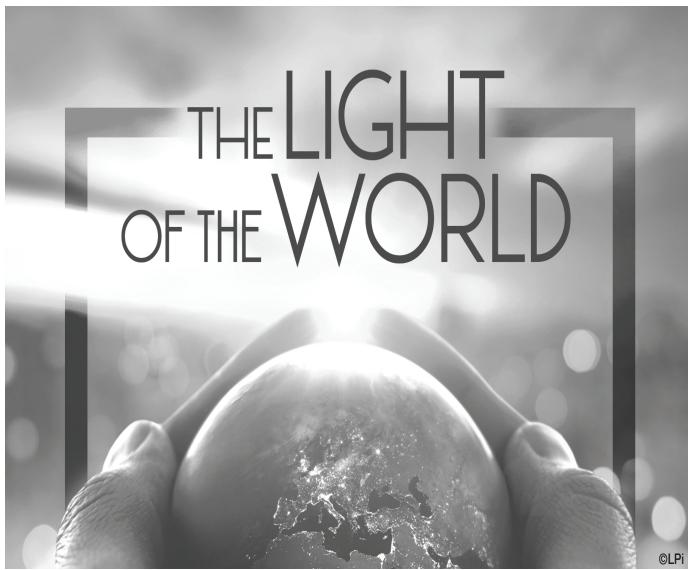
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Have you ever experienced a time in your life when everything came together and became abundantly clear? You may have been confused about something, in the dark, at a point of doubt, or unclear as to how to act. You may have questioned someone's motivation and found yourself coming to the wrong conclusion. Then out of nowhere, the insight came and reality dawned. You experienced an epiphany of sorts! Today, we celebrate Christ's manifestation to all of the nations of the world. Has it dawned on you yet that Jesus Christ is the answer humanity has been seeking? Jesus is truly the beginning and end of all things and the key to understanding God's presence in every human heart. Once this real Epiphany dawns on us, we can never see God, ourselves, or one another in any other way. The Divine Light illuminates everything and connects the dots.

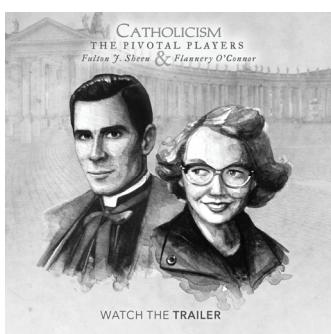


**Christmas does not end on the 26th.** The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 12th. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him including that the fact that he was born to die for us.

*Epiphany of the Lord*—Sunday, Jan. 5th

*Baptism of the Lord*—Sunday, Jan. 12th

St. Mary's will be joining St. Jude and Holy Spirit for the annual **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 24th. Buses will be departing from the Park & Ride at I-81 Exit 118 at 6:00am and return that evening. If you would like to attend the March for Life, please contact Bob Canfield (canfieldra@gmail.com). Watch for sign-ups in the Narthex soon! Whether you plan on attending the march or not, please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of the bus.



**AFFIRM Thursday's** presents Bishop Barron's DVS Series, **Pivotal Players**. The series will resume January 9th with Fulton Sheen and finish on January 16th with Flannery O'Connor. There will be facilitated discussions after each presentation.

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group invite you to the next **Mercy Mass** on Monday, January 13th at 7:00pm. This simple but powerful Mass opens with a testimony, includes adoration and worship music led by the Holy Spirit Prayer Group. Contact Joseph Mukuni, jomukuni@gmail.com for more info.



# January 5, 2019 - The Epiphany of the Lord

## CALENDAR

### Saturday – Jan 4

2:00pm Wedding - WA  
John Noon & Rebecca Dworak  
3:00-4:15pm Reconciliation - WA  
5:00pm Mass ~ *Janet Caverly* †

### Sunday – Jan 5

8:45am Mass ~ *The Community of St. Mary's*  
9:45am – Donut Sunday  
11:30am Mass ~ *Ed & Louise Spinelli* †  
12:30pm – Donut Sunday

### Monday – Jan 6

\*\*No Daily Mass  
2:00-4:00pm – Stephen Ministers - Lib  
6:00-7:30pm – Cub Scout Pack 706 - PH  
6:00-7:00pm – Families Anonymous - HCR  
7:00-8:30pm – Men’s Bible Study - Lib  
7:00-8:00pm – Holy Spirit Prayer Group - WA  
7:00-8:30pm – Haiti Committee - HCR

### Tuesday – Jan 7

9:00am Mass ~ *intention available*  
7:00-8:30pm – Boy Scout Troop 706 - HCR

### Wednesday – Jan 8

9:00am Mass ~ *intention available*  
9:30-11:00am – Women’s Bible Study - Lib  
5:00-7:00pm – Prayer and Support Group for the Promotion of Mental Health & Recovery - HCR

### Thursday – Jan 9

9:00am Mass ~ *intention available*  
9:30-11:00am – Homebound Eucharistic Ministers - HCR  
7:00-8:00pm – AFFIRM Thursday: Pivotal Players - Lib  
7:00-8:30pm – Middle School Youth Ministry - RR  
7:00-8:30pm – NRV Confirmation at Holy Spirit Church

### Friday – Jan 10

11:15pm Mass ~ *Elaine Johnson* †

### Saturday – Jan 11

3:00-4:15pm Reconciliation - WA  
5:00pm Mass ~ *Emily & Charles Marchiori* †

### Sunday – Jan 12

8:45am Mass ~ *Michael Overstreet* †  
10:00-11:15am – Elem Religious Ed (preK-5) - CR  
10:45am – Elem Religious Ed Christmas Play - PH  
11:30am Mass ~ *Dr. Jerry Goldschmidt, Sr.* †  
12:30pm – Youth Ministry (6-10) - CR



### Next Session

Tuesday, Jan. 14th - 7:00pm  
at St. Mary's Church

### Topic:

Ten Commandments

### Presenter:

Deacon Rick Furman

[rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org](mailto:rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org)  
for more info!



Catholic Diocese of Richmond  
1820 Bicentennial 2020

*Churches across the Richmond Diocese will celebrate Mass the weekend of January 18 & 19 to commemorate the kick-off of a year long celebration of the Diocese's 200th anniversary !*

*There's much in store for the anniversary year:*

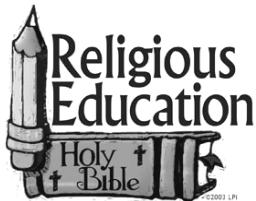
- Singing the bicentennial hymn
- Buying a coffee table book
- Praying the bicentennial prayer
- Learning the history of our Diocese
- Visiting historic churches
- Serving our fellow man
- Attending the Eucharistic Congress

*Learn more at:  
[2020.richmonddiocese.org](http://2020.richmonddiocese.org)*

# Christian Formation

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

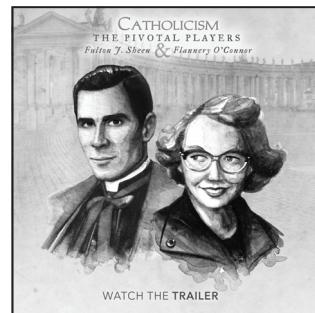
The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."



All Elementary, Middle and High School Classes  
resume Sunday, Jan. 12th



The next **NRV Confirmation Class** will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9th from 7:00-8:30pm at Holy Spirit Church in Christiansburg.



## Adult Faith Formation

**AFFIRM Thursday's** presents Bishop Barron's DVS Series, **Pivotal Players**. The series will resume on Jan. 9th with Fulton Sheen and finish on Jan. 16th with Flannery O'Connor. There will be facilitated discussions after each presentation.

Sue Ellerbrock•Director of Religious Ed, Youth Ministry & Adult Education•[formation@stmarysblacksburg.org](mailto:formation@stmarysblacksburg.org)  
William Yearout•Coordinator of Youth Ministry•[youthministry@stmaryblacksburg.org](mailto:youthministry@stmaryblacksburg.org)

[richmonddiocese.org/child\\_protection\\_virtus](http://richmonddiocese.org/child_protection_virtus)

**Little Angels Preschool and Parent's Morning Out** has been closed for Christmas break. Class resumes Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Little Angels hopes everyone had a Joyous Christmas and Blessed New Year!



If you wish to register your child, please contact Kim Keesee or Amy Lawrence at 540-951-0916 or [littleangels@stmarysblacksburg.org](mailto:littleangels@stmarysblacksburg.org)



## PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE—December 2019

### OPERATIONAL & DEBT REDUCTION INCOME

Does not include SMLA/PMO, Lourdes Gift Shop, Church Ladies, Haiti, Parish Charities or Diocesan Collections.

	Operational Income	Debt Reduction Income
December 1	\$ 17,852	\$ 903
December 8	\$ 15,329	\$ 5,863
December 15	\$ 16,370	\$ 1,524
December 22	\$ 4,601	\$ 2,060
December 29	\$ 24,160	\$ 6,772
 <b>Total Need*:</b>	<b>\$ 54,267</b>	<b>\$ 3,953</b>
<b>Total Collected:</b>	<b>\$ 78,312</b>	<b>\$ 17,122</b>
<b>Surplus(Deficit):</b>	<b>\$ 24,045</b>	<b>\$ 13,169</b>

\*Anticipated need based on average historical expenses for the month plus 2.5%

*Faith Direct* is St. Mary's **online giving program** that allows parishioners to *conveniently and consistently make church contributions* through either direct debit from a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card. Here's how you can **ENROLL**:

- type **faith.direct/VA969** (directly into a browser window)
- call Faith Direct, **1-866-507-8757**
- text "**ENROLL**" to (540) 274-2005 (follow the prompts)
- complete an **enrollment form** (available in the Narthex)
- visit St. Mary's website and click on **Faith Direct button**

Please call the Office with any questions.  
Thanks for enrolling!



### St. Mary's first-ever Marriage Retreat!

Join married couples from our parish, Saturday, Feb. 15, for an afternoon retreat lead by Deacon Mike Ellerbrock that will conclude with Mass. The evening will continue with dinner followed by a Sweetheart Dance.

More details to follow, but be sure to *save the date* to spend some quality time with your sweetheart !

### Gospel Reflection

We may walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn't coming for them, not in the minds of Jesus' contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they'd never met, one they couldn't be sure truly existed. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Who do you know seeks God so tenaciously?

"Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem," the Gospel tells us. Who are the seekers in your own life? Maybe it's your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or your desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they're not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. But they may well be seekers of truth in ways we didn't expect. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give directions when appropriate.

The magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God's truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself, "God, do I know you as well as I should? Would I journey as far as the magi to meet You, if I could? Do I journey to meet You daily in prayer? What do those answer say about me, and about our relationship?" Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be "overjoyed" at seeing the Light of the World.

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

Liturgical Ministers are asked to please enter their availability in Ministry Scheduler Pro for the month of February and March. If you need help accessing the online scheduling system, please contact Beth Shaver.

The **next potato drop** sponsored by the NRV Glean Team will be January 17 & 18 at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. To sign up for a two-hour shift, go to this site: <https://tinyurl.com/v6nzfvq> If you have helped before, we will contact you with the signup form.

They are here! The greatly anticipated **Bicentennial coffee table books** which celebrate in pictures the Dioceses of Richmond's 200th anniversary. Each book is a handsome hardcover edition featuring stunning photos from all the churches across the Diocese along with a historical recap of each parish. Look for these books on sale in the Narthex, the Lourdes Gift or stop by the Office any time. These books will make great gifts for current and former parishioners so spread the word. For \$45 you will enjoy 391 pages of Catholic history across Virginia, including removable prayer cards and writings from past bishops and clergy of the Diocese.

Each year your Haiti Committee conducts a **Tuition Sponsorship Campaign** for the Haitian children who attend the primary school in Bail, preschool to grade 6, at our twin parish in Savanette. Because parents cannot afford schooling for their children, we have provided the money for tuition and lunch for each student during the 9-month school year. The tuition provides a uniform for the student and pays the salaries of the teachers, and the lunch consists of a hot meal of beans, rice, and pasta each day and 2 hard-boiled eggs per week.

Due to dramatic inflation the cost of food has risen significantly such that Fr. Nicolas, the pastor in Savanette, has advised us that the lunch program for each student is not sustainable at last year's rate, but needs to be \$100 per student. The full sponsorship of a child for the next academic year will be \$200. This campaign begin on January 25.

**St. Mary's Prayer and Support Group for the Promotion of Mental Health and Recovery: Rebuilding Lives Through Christian Faith, Hope & Love**, Invites all who think that they might benefit from attending to be a part of this group. Come discover strategies and information for living successful, happy and fulfilled lives by making new connections. We are a caring, supportive and **highly confidential group** who believe that support groups and a robust prayer life are important steps on the road to wellness. All are welcome at no cost. The Group is peer-to-peer with facilitation and meets every Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Haiti Room of the church. Entrance through the Preschool door at the far left of the building.

**Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry** donations address a continuing community need.. Please consider regularly donating food items as part of your charity. Non-perishable food items—canned goods (fruits, vegetables, meats, spaghetti sauce), packaged goods (pasta, cereal, crackers, etc.) and ad dried goods (beans, rice) —can be put in the Narthex donation box. Monetary donations are also accepted—please make checks payable to St. Mary's with IFP in the memo line. Contact Barbara MacDonald, [rbmacd@verizon.net](mailto:rbmacd@verizon.net), for more info about the pantry.

**His Hands Ministry-Minor Home Repair.** If you are a parishioner who is elderly, disabled or financially challenged and are not sure who to call for minor home repairs, St. Mary's 'His Hands' Ministry may be able to help. Contact Rick DiSalvo, 540-250-2232 or [richard.disalvo@gmail.com](mailto:richard.disalvo@gmail.com). Participants who are able are asked to pay for materials. Donations are welcomed to support our work for those in need.

The **Catholic Campus Ministry** (formerly known as Newman Community) **at Virginia Tech** is looking for you –our Catholic Hokie friends! We want to update you on all our activities and to find out what you have been up to since you graduated from VT. We'd love to know what your experience at VT was like for you. Please contact Patti Connors at [newmanddvt@gmail.com](mailto:newmanddvt@gmail.com). We can't wait to hear from you!





Please contact the  
Office to help  
update this list  
for 2020!

Alex Sepoli  
Alison Maguire  
Amy Haugh Dodds  
Ann Martin  
Anthony Atkins  
Barbara Marino  
Baxter Perkinson  
Becky Glazener  
Becky Hepler  
Charlotte Joyce  
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Suzi Vass-Gal  
Tom Heintzman  
Vera Genua  
Vin Liuzzo  
Von Brannock  
Watt Shields  
Seminarians:  
Accilien Ponge  
Admen Noel  
Theragin Putercin  
Tom Lawrence  
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Prayer and Support Group for  
the Promotion of Mental Health  
& Recovery

#### Our Military Families

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Christopher Abrahamsen  
Daniel Milauskas  
George Zolovick III  
Grace Milauskas  
John Harvey III  
John Milauskas  
Justin Laatz  
Diana & Mathew Halferty  
John Newman  
Michael Canfield  
Michael Quinn, Jr  
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## CONTACT US (for anything)

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#### **Catholic Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech**

203 Otey St., | Blacksburg, VA 24060

540-951-0032 | vtcatholic.com

**Fr. David Sharland, Chaplain |** fatherdavid.vtccm@gmail.com

#### Fall and Spring Semester Mass Schedule

Sunday @ 10:00am, 12:00pm, 8:00pm - War Memorial Chapel  
Monday-Friday @ 5:30pm - Newman House Great Room  
Wednesday @ 12:30pm - Newman House Chapel  
Thursday @ 9:00pm - Newman House Chapel  
Saturday @ 9:00am - Newman House Chapel

#### Help for Victims of Abuse

Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064, and reach out to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jennifer Sloan at 1-877-887-9603.

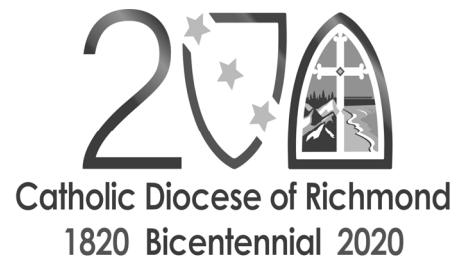
#### **BICENTENNIAL PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND (1820-2020)**

Father of lights, the radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap.

Grant that the nearness of your Son may dispel the darkness of our sins, so that as our love increases more and more, we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word.

Holding fast to the word of life, may we shine like stars in the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.





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