Saint Mary's

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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

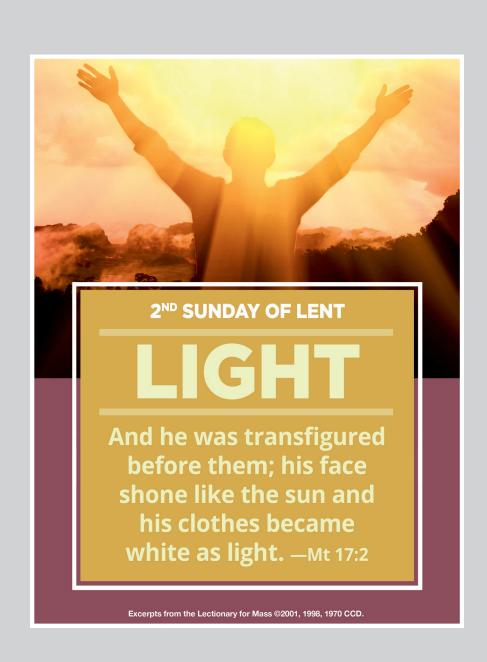
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1205 Old Mill Road Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-1091

stmarysblacksburg.org



stmarysblacksburg





Stations of the Cross will be offered every <u>Friday during Lent at 7:00pm</u>. This devotional will be lead at various times by Fr. John, Deacon Mike, or Deacon Rick. Join us for this special prayer service that offers witness to Jesus' Passion and Death.

40 Cans or \$40 for Lent—the Knights of Columbus sixth annual event during Lent is underway in the Narthex. A little over a ton of food (2,255 lbs) along with \$4,702 has been collected over the last five years to benefit St. Mary's Caring Closet Food Pantry. Food or funds will be collected all during March and the first weekend in April. Please consider this opportunity for part of your Lenten almsgiving.





Write your Lenten prayer intentions and leave them in the prayer jars located at the baptismal font and the statues of St. Mary, St. Anthony and St. Thérèse (in the Narthex.) We will offer a decade of the rosary for these and other intentions at daily Mass and remember them at each Sunday Mass throughout the season. Lent is also the perfect time to join **Partner in Prayer Ministry**, our bi-weekly prayer chain via email. Registration cards are also available at each prayer jar.

"Let us open our hearts more fully to what this holy season offers us through the graces of prayer, fasting and almsgiving." - Fr. John, Ash Wednesday homily

Help us **prepare to welcome Easter visitors** with a booklet describing **the beauty of the Eucharist**, with stories compiled from parishioners—like YOU! Our parish theme this year is "*Alive in the Eucharist*." We are part of the Body of the Christ, belonging to Christ—and He shares His very Self with us at each Mass. What a joy and privilege!

Guidelines for this booklet include: 1)Content: Your encounter with Christ; How you appreciate the Eucharist; How the Eucharist has changed your life; 2) Length: Variable, Can be brief (2 or 3 paragraphs) or longer narrative form; 3) Who can contribute: Children and adults of all ages; 4) Can be submitted anonymously or with author's name included and 5) How will it be used? A booklet of testimonies will be compiled for distribution at all Easter Masses. Thank you for pondering your love of the Eucharist and sending your story to the Evangelization Team: Joseph Mukuni at jomukuni@gmail.com or Glenda Canfield at glenda.canfield@gmail.com.





Have you ever given much thought to who you were really created to be? Our lives are the product of various circumstances, choices, predetermined scenarios, and a whole host of events and inherited baggage. All of these components come together and form the person we understand ourselves to be. Jesus knew who he was and who he was becoming. He showed his transfigured self to his disciples on a high mountain and revealed to them who he was really meant to be. The weaknesses, imperfections, fears, and impressions that we carry with us often color our choices and hinder us from really seeing the greater picture of who we are. What do you imagine your transfigured self to be? Jesus promises a new life in heaven. Have you ever given much thought to what that may mean for you?

CALENDAR

Saturday – Mar 7

3:00-4:15pm Reconciliation - WA 5:00pm Mass ~ *Juraj Gracanin* ♥

Sunday – Mar 8

8:45am Mass ~ Vivianne Grace Castillo & Family

10:00am – Faith Study Group - Lib

10:00-11:15am – Elem Religious Ed (preK-5) - CR

11:30am Mass ~ Patrick Scanlon ♥

12:30-2:30pm - Youth Ministry (6-10) - CR

1:00pm - VIRTUS - HCR

Monday – Mar 9

**No Daily Mass

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 - Mercy Mass - WA

Tuesday - Mar 10

9:00am Mass ~ Alberto Cerezo 🕈

7:00-8:30pm – Boy Scout Troop 706 - HCR

7:00-8:30pm – RCIA at St. Mary's

Wednesday - Mar 11

9:00am Mass ~ Thomas Thornton, Sr. &

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 – Mar 12

9:00am Mass ~ intention available

9:30-11:00am – Homebound Eucharistic Ministers - HCR

11:30am-1:30pm - St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - PH/N

7:00-8:30pm – Middle School Youth Ministry - RR

7:00-9:00pm - Young Adult Group - Lib

Friday – Mar 13

11:15am Mass - Liz Merritt

7:00pm – Stations of the Cross

Saturday – Mar 14

2:00-8:00pm - Youth Lent Retreat - PH

3:00-4:15pm Reconciliation - WA

5:00pm Mass ~ Tom Anthony ♥

Sunday – Mar 15

8:45am Mass ~ James Black ♥

10:00am – Faith Study Group - HCR

10:00-11:15am - Elem Religious Ed (preK-5) - CR

10:00-11:00am – 1st Communion Parent Meeting - Lib

11:30am Mass ~ Micheal Olsen 🕈

11:30am Mass ~ Scout Sunday - WA



Next Session

Tuesday, March 10th - 7:00pm at St. Mary's

Topic:

Vocations

Presenter:

various speakers

rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org for more info!



March 12

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon | 11:30am-1:30pm

March 13

Stations of the Cross | 7pm

March 14

Youth Ministry Lent Retreat | 2-8pm

March 20

Soup Supper | 6pm Stations of the Cross | 7pm

March 21

Spring VBS | 9am-12pm

April 1

NRV Reconciliation at St. Jude | 7pm

Spring Workday

April 4 | 9am-12pm

Easter

April 12 | Mass 8am, 10am & 12pm

May 2

First Communion

Christian Formation

Religious Ed Class Calendar (Elementary, Middle and High School)

March 8, 15, 22, & 29 Regular class

March 15 No Youth Ministry-Retreat on March 14 instead

March 15 1st Communion Parent Meeting March 29 Stations of the Cross—Elementary

Regular Class, Elementary April 5

April 5 No Class, Middle & High School

April 12 No Class--Happy Easter!

April 19 & 26 Regular class

May 2nd 1st Communion Mass



Elementary Religious Ed Lenten Service Project

St. Mary's Religious Education invites all parishioners to join us for a very special act of charity this Lent. Together we can support the work of Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Virginia (RMHC-SWVA) as they help our parishioners, the Castillo family, and care for little baby Vivianne Grace.

During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating to the poor and performing other acts of charity - one of the three pillars of Lenten practice." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462).

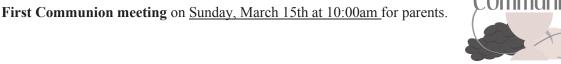
We encourage each family to fill one Ronald McDonald paper house with tab tops from your soda, beverage or soup cans. When aluminum tab tops are collected and recycled in exchange for money, collectively the tiny tab tops can help raise thousands of dollars to support the families of seriously ill or injured children receiving medical treatment in local Roanoke Valley area hospitals. It's that simple! Our whole parish can participate. Drop off your tab tops bundled in the provided paper houses or any clean dry container to the marked collection box located in the Narthex any time or to Pre-K Catechist Kim Dowdy in the Orange Room on Sunday mornings. We will deliver the tabs to Roanoke as a gift from St. Mary's Parish after Easter.



Sign-up now in the Narthex for our **Spring VBS** for children ages 4 yrs - 2nd Grade Saturday, March 21st from 9:00am - 12:00pm.

It is the first in a series called "Peace Lab" where we will discover God's Peace for ourselves and for the world. Youth and adults are welcome and needed to help us for this special experience with our children. Contact Sue Ellerbrock with any questions.

There will be a **First Communion meeting** on Sunday, March 15th at 10:00am for parents.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Our **Teen Lent Retreat** is Saturday, March 14 from 2:00-8:00pm. This year the retreat will feature nationally-renowned Catholic speaker Dan Harms, as well as speaker and VT College Campus

Minister Millie Griesemer. Our theme is "Oasis" - let this retreat be an oasis for YOU this Lent, especially if you've just been Confirmed. Get recharged and ready to tackle the second half of Lent and come out on the other side of Easter 100% holy and awesome. There will be music, games, food, Adoration, and more! Register now online at: bit.ly/nrv lent

St. Patrick's Day Movie Night Tuesday, March 17 is the Feast Day of St. Patrick and at 6:30pm the Regal Cinema in Christiansburg is showing a new movie about the life of this much-beloved Saint called "I Am Patrick". Parents, teens and families are encourage to attend and meet us there. General Admission is \$12.50. Signup online: bit.ly/patrick nrv

Youth Group "Escape Room" Trip Our March 20 youth activity is a trip to a local Escape Room, Puzzlr in Blacksburg. We will meet at 700 N. Main at 7:15pm. This event is open to teens in 8th-12th grade and is \$20/each. Sign up now: bit.ly/stmary escape

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE—March 2020

OPERATIONAL & DEBT REDUCTION INCOME

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

	Operational	Debt Reduction
	Income	Income
March 1st	\$ 19,994	\$ 1,650

 Total Need*:
 \$ 42,575
 \$ 4,435

 Total Collected:
 \$ 19,994
 \$ 1,460

 Surplus(Deficit):
 \$ (22,581)
 \$ (2,975)

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal-Building Our Family of Faith

Thank you...

...to everyone who contributed or pledged to this year's appeal.

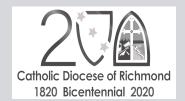
If you haven't had an opportunity to participate, please look for pledge cards on the table in the Narthex. Pledge cards can be put in the regular offertory or dropped at the Office.

You can also donate online:

richmondcatholicfoundation.org/giving/annual-appeal/

To date, we have raised **\$6,520** on a target of \$34,270 putting us at **19%** of our target.

If you have already made your 2020 Appeal gift, please accept our sincere gratitude for your commitment



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Psychology has taught us a great deal about family dynamics and how we have come to be the person we find ourselves to be. We are comprised of such a mixed bag of blessings and obstacles with their graced moments and sinful ones. Think back on the journey of your life and how the many different and varied choices that you made influenced the direction your life. If you didn't go on that first date with your spouse, who would be beside you today? If you chose to be in one place rather than another, what would have happened to the course your life has taken? We are on such a wonderful, exciting journey. What is most incredible and awesome is that we are not alone! God is with us. He inspires, heals, opens doors, and calls us every moment of our lives. The very life we have is due only to Him.

We can all sit down and list adjectives describing who we are. One may find him or herself more artistic than another or quicker with wit. We have unique gifts and talents and have the great gift of free will, which we treasure. Our histories come with more baggage for some and less hurdles for others, but we all have to find our way through the path we are on. However, have you ever given much thought to who you *really* are? That question has more merit than may at first appear.

We know ourselves as we live out our earthly journey. But do we know our heavenly self? What we know here is only one small part of who God has made us to be. The disciples really thought they knew Jesus until they went up the mountain. We also may think we know our true selves, too. We know that in eternal life we shall not only see God, but become like Him. Who will you be? What surprise do you think God has for you?

Little Angels Preschoolers and Parent's Morning Out celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with our traditional tasting of Green Eggs & Ham! Did you know that Seuss' editor bet him that he could not write a book

using no more than 50 words?? Thus, "Green Eggs and Ham" was the result and Seuss won the bet! The moral here is sometimes less is more.



"Sam, I am. Do you like green eggs and ham?"

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



^{*}Anticipated need based on average historical expenses for the month plus 2.5%



The Holy Spirit Prayer Group invite you to the next **Mercy Mass** on <u>Monday, March 9th at 7:00pm</u>. 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.

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The **Young Adult Group** of St. Mary's and Catholic Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech is back! Join VT students, young professionals, singles and/or young couples for a Lenten Bible Study. <u>Thursdays at 7:00pm at St. Mary's in the Library</u>. Contact Natalie Duncan, nbduncan@vt.edu for more info. Just come and check us out!

Registration for both the **Men's and Women's Cursillos** is open! Cursillo is a 3-night, joy-filled Catholic retreat weekend. The <u>Men's weekend will be April 23-26</u> and will be held at Camp Alta Mons in Shawsville. The <u>Women's weekend will be held May 28-31</u> at Jubilee House in Abingdon, VA. Transportation is provided for both weekends. Registration materials can be found in the Narthex. For more details, contact Stephanie Addikis 540-257-1363, steph.addikis@gmail.com.

The **Nursery is now open** <u>during the 8:45 and 11:30am Masses</u>. Children can be dropped-off 10 minutes before Sunday Mass and picked-up 10 minutes after. Located in the Orange Room in the Preschool hallway, the Nursery can accommodate children age 18 months to 4 years old. Please bring your own snack (no peanuts) and diapers if needed. The nursery holds a maximum of 8 children on a first come basis. Stop by to meet the care-givers, Kathryn Herrick and Heidi Hahn. If you need more info, please contact Sue Ellerbrock, formation@stmarysblacksburg.org.

Bicentennial Commemorative Books celebrating the Dioceses of Richmond's 200th anniversary are now available for purchase. 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. Books are **on sale now** in the Lourdes Gift Shop and the Church Office. They would 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. Don't miss out—supplies are limited!!

Link your Kroger Plus Card to St. Mary's Church and earn easy money for the church. *This is a yearly process and must be repeated each year!* We have earned nearly \$17,000 from the Kroger Community Rewards program since it's start. Call Kroger Customer Service, 1-866-221-4141, with your Kroger Plus card in hand and ask them to enroll you in the program using St. Mary's organization number of 82264.

The St. Mary's Prayer & Support Group for the Promotion of Mental Health and Recovery will hold its annual **Book & Bake Sale** in June. As you down size and spring clean, *please* keep us in mind. We will have bins in the Narthex for collection after Easter. If you have any questions, please contact Irma at irmasilvabarbeau@yahoo.com. You have been very generous in the past and we count on your support.

Save the Date. St. Mary's **Spring Workday** is <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 4.</u> We will be joining forces with students from Virginia Tech's Big Event to tidy up the grounds—just in time for our Easter celebration. Please come out to help for a few hours with your family and friends! Breakfast goodies and lunch provided. Contact Randy Phipps for more info.

Save the date! St. Mary's summer **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** will be held <u>July 13-17</u> with this year's theme: "*Rocky Railway—Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through*". Registrations start this spring.



Alex Sepoli Alison Maguire Amy Haugh Dodds Ann Martin Anthony Atkins Barbara Marino Baxter Perkinson Becky Glazener **Becky Hepler** Charlotte Joyce Clark DeHart Daniel Brooks Dennis Kilper, Jr Diane Folz Diane Merrix Dick Stewart Doug Whichard Baxter Perkinson

Frank Baker

Elaine Lutz

Eva Kelly

Elina McCartney

Jace Baab
Jackie Fore-Dye
Janice Steele
Jen Austin
Jessica Moore
John Bianchi
Josefina Cerezo
Kathy Kelly
Kathy Hummel
Isaac Hummel
Leslie Pittges
Lisa Lavery
Lisa Walters
Lori McDaniel
Lou Cotroneo
Marie & Vivianne C
Mary Ann Barksdal

Lisa Walters
Lori McDaniel
Lou Cotroneo
Marie & Vivianne Castillo
Mary Ann Barksdale
Mary Claire Madera
Mary Devens
Mary Elaine Riley
Mathias Baker

Mike Chandler

Nancy Aull Patty Carey Paul Ringel Paula Lovett Rodney Allen Richard Kelly Rita Sullivan Stephen Orr Suzi Vass-Gal Thaddeus Baker Theresa Liuzzo 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 Ryan C. Curran Vincent Vitiello Zack Mayo

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.

Catholic Diocese of Richmond
1820 Bicentennial 2020

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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