

April 19, 2020

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

CONNECT WITH US

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

stmarysblacksburg.org



Sunday Mass
streamed via Facebook Live at 9:00am

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

BELIEVE

Then he said to Thomas,
"Put your finger here and see
my hands, and bring your
hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving,
but believe." —Jn 20:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



2nd Sunday of Easter

Fr. John's Reflection on the
Gospel John 20:19—31

The various apparitions of Jesus after his resurrection show that after his resurrection Jesus does not show himself in unapproachable majesty, but comes down among his disciples and radiates his divine love and mercy to them.

The Gospel speaks about two apparitions of Jesus to his disciples. The first one takes place in the evening of the day of his resurrection and the second, a week later.

In the second apparition, Thomas, who has been absent during the first apparition, is the main figure.

We read in the Gospel that Thomas refuses to believe the testimony of the ten when they tell him that they have seen the Lord. He wants visible proof.

So when Jesus appears to the disciples a week later he asks Thomas to touch his wounds to see for himself that his body bears the marks of the crucifixion.

Thomas then confesses: **"My Lord and my God"**

The point is after much doubting Thomas makes this profound confession.

It is said that Thomas stands here for all those, who have finally reached a new depth in their faith journey after times of darkness and doubt. In fact, all of us on our faith journey have to see and make Jesus truly our Lord and our God.

We make Jesus our Lord and God when we surrender ourselves and everything to him, when we see him as the one without whom our life has no meaning and the one who loves and shows mercy on us beyond all that we can express.

So as we approach Jesus' throne of grace to receive his mercy today let us allow him to heal our hurts and wounds so that we may be restored to the fullness of life.

As we receive his mercy let us pray that we may become his agents of love, mercy and healing always.

Let us continue to pray that he will heal the world of the coronavirus pandemic.

Easter is not only the greatest Christian feast; Easter Sunday symbolizes the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. Through His Death, Christ destroyed our bondage to sin; through His Resurrection, He brought us the promise of new life, both in Heaven and on earth. His own prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven," begins to be fulfilled on Easter Sunday.

For Catholics, Easter isn't just a single day of celebration—it's an entire season where we celebrate our new life in Christ. Just like Christmas, Easter is celebrated for an extended period of time—50 days to be exact!

The period from Easter Sunday through Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter Sunday) is an especially joyful time. The Catholic Church refers to these eight days (counting both Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday) as the Octave of Easter.

But the Easter season doesn't end after the Octave of Easter: Because Easter is the most important feast in the Christian calendar—even more important than Christmas—the Easter season continues on for 50 days, through the Ascension of Our Lord to Pentecost Sunday, seven full weeks after Easter Sunday!



Second Sunday of Easter – Apr 12

St. Mary's Community
Jack Snider †
P.F. Maher †



Now More Than Ever

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.

Online giving provides an easy opportunity to support St. Mary's parish even when not attending Mass.

Here's how you can **ENROLL**:

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

Please call the Office with any questions. Thank you for enrolling!

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make

reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.



Thank you to our parishioners

Fr. John **gratefully thanks** all who have enrolled in online giving as well as those who continue to donate to our parish offertory. We are in this together and by the grace of God we will come through this a stronger, more faithful parish!

St. Mary's is abundantly blessed with many people willing to help with our liturgical celebrations during Holy Week and Easter. This year was no exception. To all those who helped with our live-streamed liturgies we say **thank you!**

As you may recall St. Mary's Justice and Peace Ministry greatly supports the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Please see the following note from Barbara & Russell MacDonald, J&P Chairs for this ministry and help if you can.

The Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is running low on food. Funds are available, but Kroger and Food Lion are currently only able to provide about 30% of our normal food orders, and there have been no food drives.

How can you help? On Saturday, April 18th and 25th from 11:00am to 12:00 pm, we will be conducting a **Drive-by Food Collection** at the Food Pantry itself located at 706 Harding Ave. (the site of St. Mary's old church). There is a Food Pantry sign at the road and the driveway to the

Untied Methodist Church Annex is where to go. A collection spot will be at the top of the driveway.

Please drop off a few canned goods. The Pantry needs: canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meats (tuna, salmon, chicken, etc.). peanut butter and canned pasta.

Alternately, you can leave your donations in the Food Pantry box in the Narthex any time the church is open during the week for private prayer. Thank you for your help!



We're sorry for the
inconveniences



St. Mary's is saddened to report that **Vacation Bible School** (VBS) for the summer of 2020 is cancelled.

Watch for an opportunity in the fall to have a fun experience similar to VBS.

Find a multitude of online resources for prayer, Mass, children's religious ed and more ! Visit St. Mary's website:

stmarysblacksburg.org/online-resources

Online Catholic Resources



Prayer REQUESTS

Aaron Johnson
 Alex Sepoli
 Alison Maguire
 Amy Haugh Dodds
 Ann Martin
 Anthony Atkins
 Barbara Marino
 Baxter Perkinson
 Becky Glazener
 Becky Hepler
 Becke Chamberlin
 Ben Liuzzo †
 Bud Chamberlin
 Charlotte Joyce
 Clark DeHart
 Daniel Brooks
 Dennis Kilper, Jr
 Diane Folz
 Diane Merrix
 Dick Stewart
 Doug Whichard
 Baxter Perkinson
 Frank Baker
 Elaine Lutz
 Elina McCartney

Eva Kelly
 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 Castillo
 Mary Ann Barksdale
 Mary Claire Madera
 Mary Devens
 Mary Elaine Riley
 Mathias Baker
 Mike Chandler
 Nancy Aull
 Patty Carey

Paul Ringel
 Paula Lovett
 Robert Metz
 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
 Our Haiti Twin Parish & School
 Prayer and Support Group for
 the Promotion of Mental Health
 & Recovery

Our Military Families

Austin T. Leake
 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



CONNECT WITH US

info@stmarysblacksburg.org
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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.

