

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is [easy also on the internet](#) to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist
—Pope Francis

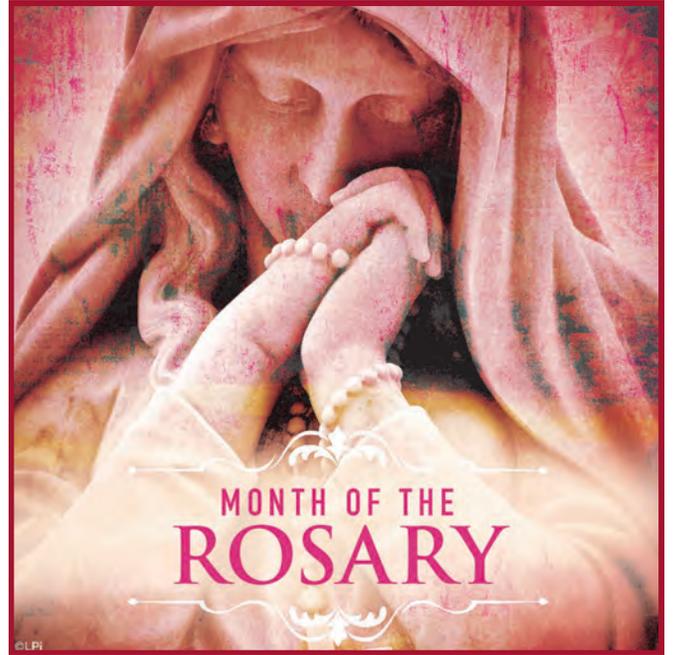
FIRST PRAYER

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were untied with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith.

Protectress of the Roman people, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



Learn how to pray the rosary [online here](#)

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

Overview

| Parish Finance Update for Month of April 2020 | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| *as of 4/23/2020 | | |
| Income Totals: | | 44,864 |
| Expense Totals: | | 29,292 |
| Surplus/(Deficit)* | | 15,572 |
| Approved Federal PPP Loan: | | |
| Held in Reserve | | \$77,352.50 |
| Annual Appeal Update* | | |
| | | % of Goal |
| Parish Goal | \$34,270 | |
| Cash & Pledged | \$32,365 | 94.4% |
| Remaining | -\$1,905 | 5.6% |
| | | 100.0% |

- ◆ Parishioners using Faith Direct for online giving has doubled since November to 102 now enrolled.
- ◆ Monthly giving using Faith Direct has increased 33% and weekly giving has increased 88% from March to April. Many generous donations have also been mailed to the church.
- ◆ Staff hours will remain at 50% for the foreseeable future
- ◆ Overall the parish should be in reasonable financial shape until October while keeping current staffing levels and provided donation income and expenses stay the same
- ◆ We are able to draw from a new Diocese credit facility already in place, if needed.
- ◆ Additionally, the Diocese has reduced parish payments of Cathedraticum tax, parish sharing and Catholic Virginian costs for April by 75%. This lowered our payment from \$8,250 to \$2,914.

My Dear People of God,

Thank you for your generous support of our parish during this pandemic. Please continue to send in your offerings. Know that you are in my prayers daily. By God's grace, I pray that we come through these extraordinarily challenging times a strong and healthy faith community.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John



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**

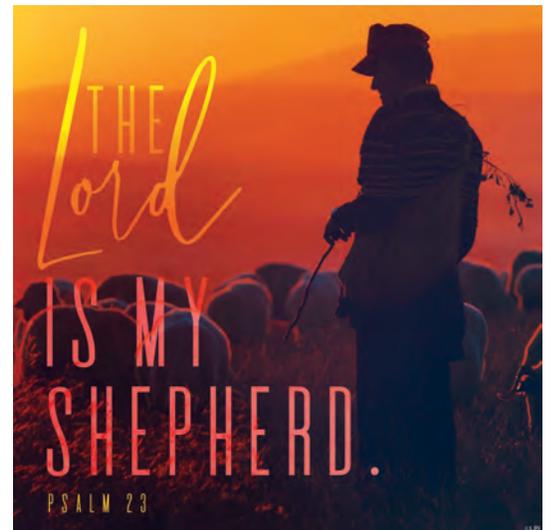
Please call the Office with any questions. Thank you for enrolling!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.



Daily Mass live-streamed via Facebook Live

Join us Wednesday and Thursday mornings for daily Mass at 9:00am with Fr. John and Beth.

Like or Follow us on Facebook or

Watch *without* a Facebook account at [Facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg)



YOUTH MINISTER SEARCH



St. Mary's, Blacksburg, VA, St. Jude, Radford, VA and Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, VA are currently **seeking a Part Time Coordinator of Youth Ministry** (25 hours per week).

The Coordinator for Youth Ministry will provide primary leadership for the design and implementation of each of the **parish's youth ministry programs**. A **creative, energetic and charismatic leader** whose focus will be to support the growth of youth programs in the three Parishes is needed.

Must be an active, practicing Catholic, with knowledge/ability to share Catholic faith to youth. **A bachelor's degree in a related field is preferred. Travel will be required for certain events.**

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and Diocesan Application to: jobs@richmonddiocese.org The Diocesan Application can be found [online here](#).

Copy to: Fr. Anthony O. Senyah (asenyah@richmonddiocese.org)
Fr. John Asare (pastor@stmarysblacksburg.org)
Fr. Charles Ssebalamu (cssebalamu@yahoo.com)

Thank you to those who donated to the drive-by food collection, brought food to the pantry box in the Narthex or sent in a monetary donation. A little over \$1,300 in goods and cash was collected! Please continue to drop-off your food items at church from 9a-3p Mon-Thu or Fri 9a-1pm. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Virtual Young Adult Cooking Class: All young adults are invited to register for our first-ever virtual cooking class with Father Joe Goldsmith! Friday, May 1 at 6:00pm.

Once you register, you will get an email with the **ingredient list for our first dish... risotto!** Register at bit.ly/frjoerisotto.

Theology on Tap Online, hosted by the Richmond TOT committee, will be on Monday, May 4 for Trivia Night! 7:20pm virtual doors open, 7:30pm trivia begins. Join us at: bit.ly/OnlineTOT

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
 (540) 552-1091
 stmarysblacksburg.org

1205 Old Mill Road | Blacksburg, VA 24060

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)

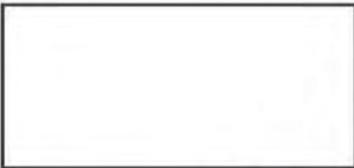
Father of lights, the radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap.

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.





GREG VIDMAR - REALTOR
COLDWELL BANKER
 www.BlacksburgAreaHomes.com
 vidmar@yahoo.com
 540/320-3241 / EHO

UPGRADE TO A VIBRANT ad
 Contact us for details
800-477-4574

Patrick K. Moore, PC
 Attorney at Law
 1100 South Main St. **953-1100**
 • Real Estate Closings
 • Wills & Powers of Attorney
 • Catholic-specific Living Wills
 (Member of St. Jude Parish)

Ameriprise Financial
 Smith & Associates
 Brian & Christine Smith
 540-443-9143 Blacksburg

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

McCoy FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 with Crematory
 150 Country Club Drive, S.W.
 Blacksburg, VA • 540-552-3211



Medical Associates of Southwest Virginia
 Gregory C. Beato, D.O., Parishioner
 Maggie C. Belton, DO • Carol N. Ballard, RN, FNP, CDE • Nicole L. Crowder, FNP, CDE
 Now accepting new patients | 810 Hospital Dr. • Blacksburg, VA 24060
 (540) 951-3311 | medicalassociatesswva.com

A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND
ST. ANDREW'S CEMETERY
 Start planning today:
 Cemetery | Cremation Niches | Family Estates
 (804) 381-5820 | cfcsrichmond.org
 Call to receive your Advanced Planning Parish discount

cfcs
 Living Our Mission
 CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES

4LPi WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES

Join our team

- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT
 careers@4LPi.com
 www.4LPi.com/careers

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Lorne Searight** to place an ad today!
 lsearight@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6460

ADT-Monitored Home Security
 Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

1-855-225-4251

SALE'S JR. NEW YORK STYLE PIZZERIA ITALIAN RESTAURANT
 Walmart Shopping Center
 7401 Pepper's Ferry Blvd. • Fairlawn
 540-639-2600 • www.salsjr.com
 10% OFF with this Coupon

catholicmatch Virginia

CatholicMatch.com/VA

NEW RIVER OFFICE SUPPLY
 OFFICE SUPPLIES, FURNITURE, & PROMO ITEMS
 2605 Research Center Dr., Blacksburg, VA
 540.552.6611
 www.newriverofficesupply.com
 Mike Burnop, Owner & Parishioner

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

EASY WAY PACKAGING CENTER FedEx ups
 UPS & FedEx authorized Shipper
 International Shipping, Boxes & Moving Supplies,
 Fax, Notary Service Copies & Mail Box Rentals
 610 N. Main St. • Blacksburg 540.951.4351

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO BILLED QUARTERLY
 PLUS SPECIAL OFFER

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772 • WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

Too Sick for Mass?
 SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!
 www.parishesonline.com



JAMES C. TURK, JR.
 Board Certified Civil & Criminal Trial Advocate,
 National Board of Trial Advocacy
Harrison & Turk, P.C., Attorneys at Law
 1007 East Main St. • Redford, VA
 (540) 639-9065 (Ext. 1)
 JTURK@HARRISONTURK.COM • JIMTURK@AOL.COM
 WWW.HARRISONTURK.COM

Local Catholic Cemetery at Memorial Gardens
 OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY
 2551 North Main Street • Blacksburg
 540.552.7800
 www.memorialgardensnrvc.com

This Space is Available