

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
8:30am and 11:30am
Tuesday-Thursday
9:00am
Friday
11:15am

RECONCILIATION

Fridays
12:00pm
By Appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
10:00am-2:00pm
Friday
9:00am-1:00pm

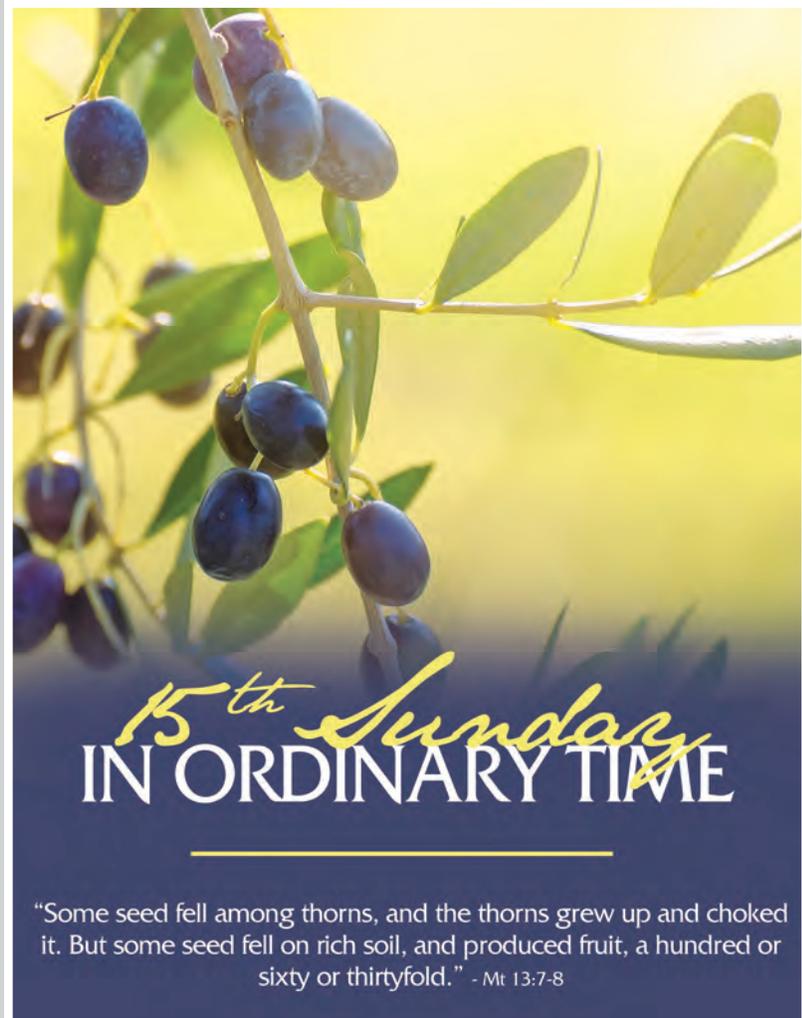
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stmarysblacksburg.org



[stmarysblacksburg](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg)



Mass at 5:00pm, 8:30am* and 11:30am
New Mass Guidelines Inside
***Live-streamed**



This weekend across the Diocese we commemorate the **bicentennial anniversary** of our founding as the **Catholic Diocese of Richmond** on July 11, 1820.

We will give thanks to God for the perseverance of all those who came before us to establish our faith and the glorious life of this Church we celebrate today.

Please read the letter from the Bishop at the end of the bulletin.

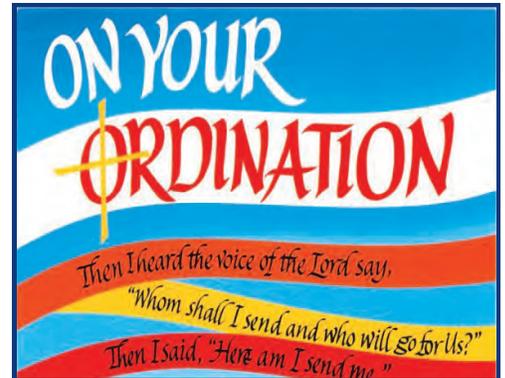
Congratulations !



Join us via live-stream for the ordination of Mr. Tom Lawrence to the transitional diaconate along with two other men being ordained to the priesthood.

Saturday, July 11 at 10:30 am
at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
in Richmond.

richmonddiocese.org/livestream/

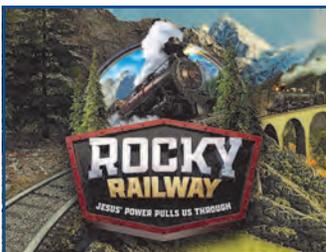


Vacation Bible School will be online this year so get ready for a cool, new opportunity for your child. Please register each child online bit.ly/VBS2020RR All the info you need to know will be sent via email so you can follow along at anytime.

If you opt to order a complimentary Supply Pack (which includes craft supplies and a VBS themed t-shirt), we will need your registration by July 17 to make sure they arrive in time.

Supply packs will be available for pickup Saturday, July 25 from 10:00am-12:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm outside at the main church doors.

VBS will run Monday, July 27th through Friday, July 31st and can be viewed at your own pace. A Padlet link and instructions will be sent via email. Contact us, formation@stmarysblacksburg.org, with any questions.



“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul.” –L. Burbank

St. Mary's flower garden is in full bloom—so look for **flower sales this weekend outside the main church doors**. Flowers will be sold for \$10 a bouquet. Sales will be grab-n-go style with payment made 'on your honor'! Contact the Office with any questions.





D MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 11	5:00pm	<i>The Community of St. Mary's</i>
Sunday, July 12	8:30am	<i>Tom Lawrence</i>
Sunday, July 12	11:30am	<i>Scottie Ellerbrock †</i>
Wednesday, July 15	9:00am	<i>available</i>
Friday, July 17	11:15am	<i>Elaine Gaines †</i>

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!



You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in us!



ST. MARY'S IS OPEN FOR MASS

Mass times: Saturday at 5:00pm and
Sunday at 8:30am & 11:30am
(Please note new early Sunday morning time)

Here's what you need to need to know:

Additional Diocesan reopening guidelines
can be found [online here](#)

✚ Even as we reopen, all those as defined by the Virginia Health Department as more vulnerable, i.e., 65+ years of age, those with compromised immune systems, those with underlying health conditions and *especially those who are ill* are strongly encouraged to stay at home.

✚ Until further notice, Bishop Knestout continues to dispense all of the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. Mass will continued to be live-streamed on Sundays at 8:30am via Facebook Live.

✚ Friday daily Mass at 11:15am is reserved for those in a high risk category.

✚ **Please arrive 30 minutes ahead of time to allow for screening and seating.**

✚ Parishioners will know acknowledge that they can pass the health screening prior to be seated in the Worship Area. There is new signage that must be read upon entering the church. Contact information will no longer be collected from those attending Mass.

✚ Everyone over 10 years old will be required to wear a face covering throughout Mass *except for the brief moment when you consume Communion*. You will need to provide your own face covering. Extra face coverings will not be available at church.

✚ Specially trained ushers will seat families, couples or individuals in approved spots.

✚ Mass attendance will be limited based on 6 feet of space between families, couples or individuals. Once 50% of capacity at safe social distancing has been reached, parishioners will be asked to attend another Mass.

✚ Once Mass has started the church doors will be locked so that unscreened individuals do not enter. If this happens to you, please plan to attend another Mass.

✚ There will be no hymnals or worship aids. Parishioners can download the worship aid to a smartphone or tablet and bring it to church. You are also encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer.

✚ Collection baskets for your weekly offering will be located in the Narthex, please drop your envelopes as you enter or exit the Narthex.

✚ The church will be thoroughly disinfected according to the CDC and Diocesan requirements prior to each Mass and our approved reopening plan will be strictly followed.

✚ Changes to Mass will be reviewed, but please refrain from physical contact, such as holding hands during the Our Father and shaking hands during the Sign of Peace.

✚ Six feet of social distance should be maintained from others who are *not* from the same household at all times while in the church or on church grounds. Families must stay together as a group.

✚ As we gather once again to worship as faith community, let us be thankful for and respectful of those working to keep us safe.



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!

Please be on time for Mass. The doors are locked promptly at the start of the liturgy as we are not able to seat people once Mass is started. Thank you for helping with this aspect of our new guidelines.

We are only at about half of our allowed social distancing capacity and the worship area is sanitized after each Mass. *Fr. John looks forward to seeing you when you are able to join us!*

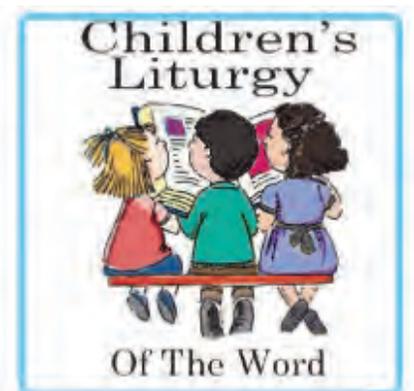


Daily Mass Summer Schedule

- Daily Mass will only be celebrated on Wednesday at 9:00am and Friday at 11:15am
- Wednesday daily Mass will continue to be live-streamed via Facebook Live
- Friday daily Mass is designated for those in a high-risk group to attend

Children's Liturgy of the Word is now online!! It is accessible through a link using Google Slides. Our virtual CLOW can be used in several ways to help your children learn more about the Gospel each week. We envision you either watching as a family after Mass or having your children view the Virtual CLOW during Mass online.

View the CLOW presentation online at bit.ly/CLOWjuly12



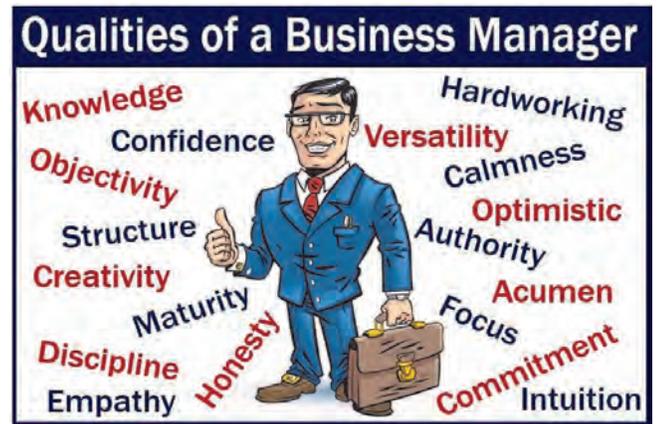
St. Mary's Church in Blacksburg is seeking a dynamic Business Manager initially for a 25 hours/week position to evolve into 40 hours/week as the finances of the parish allow.

The ideal candidate will have very strong accounting, information technology and supervisory skills. The Business Manager is an administrator in support of the Pastor with responsibilities to the entire parishioner community and is a steward of the physical, financial and personnel resources of the parish. They will also interact with all Diocesan offices, the local deanery and nearby parishes.

Required knowledge and skills: computer literacy; accounting principles; management capabilities and understanding of basic building management systems.

A [diocesan application](#) with resume can be emailed to Fr. John Asare, pastor@stmarysblacksburg.org and Randy Phipps, businessmanager@stmarysblacksburg.org

Come join our great team!



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.**

Please contact Sue Ellerbrock (formation@stmarysblacksburg.org) with any questions.

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

Please also copy the three NRV priests on your application

Fr. Anthony O. Senyah (asenyah@richmonddiocese.org)

Fr. John Asare (pastor@stmarysblacksburg.org)

Fr. Charles Ssebalamu (cssebalamu@yahoo.com)

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
 Bob Wheeler†
 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
 Elaine Tedesco

Elina McCartney
 Eva Kelly
 Frank Partsch†
 Jace Baab
 Jackie Fore-Dye
 Janice Steele
 Jen Austin
 Jessica Moore
 Jim Armstrong
 John Bianchi
 Josefina Cerezo
 Kathy Kelly
 Kathy Hummel
 Isaac Hummel
 Leslie Pittges
 Lisa Lavery
 Lisa Walters
 Lori McDaniel
 Lou Cotroneo
 Lucy Agnes Foster
 Marie & Vivianne Castillo
 Marie Armstrong
 Mary Ann Barksdale
 Mary Claire Madera
 Mary Devens

Mary Elaine Riley
 Mathias Baker
 Mike Chandler
 Nancy Aull
 Patty Carey
 Nelson 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
 Wayne Petersen

Seminarians:
 Accilien Ponge
 Admen Noel
 Theragin Putercin

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
 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

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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.





Diocese of Richmond

Office of the Bishop

July 11, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Richmond,

Today we commemorate the founding of our local Church two hundred years ago, and we recognize the Catholic presence in the Central Vicariate of our diocese.

The Catholic Church in Virginia experienced a period of turmoil that led Pope Pius VII to establish the Diocese of Richmond on July 11, 1820. Our founding document states that this diocese was created in order to resolve a formal division of believers that had arisen in Norfolk over the ownership of Church property and the appointment of pastors.

According to the text of our charter, “Since it seems to be very expedient for the extinction of the schisms which have arisen in it... We...have established and decreed that... a new... Church... be erected at Richmond... and that it should embrace the whole State of Virginia.”

Over the course of the next two centuries, Catholics in the Diocese of Richmond achieved some triumphs and successes, but they also experienced adversity and failure. Throughout this time, the Church persevered. Our bicentennial jubilee is a shrine to that witness of Catholic faith.

The fact that the diocesan bicentennial is taking place at a daunting time reminds us that we are part of this tradition of faith. In the past several months, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has gripped the world. More recently, calls for racial justice have resounded in our country amid social upheaval. In both cases, the Church continues to proclaim the Gospel of Christ’s death and resurrection, which impels us to alleviate suffering and hopelessness, and to uphold the dignity of all persons.

This weekend’s ordination of two priests and a transitional deacon is a hopeful sign that the work of the Church is ongoing. With gratitude for the establishment of our diocese, and for two hundred years of Catholic witness, I have asked that a special Mass formulary from the *Roman Missal* (For Giving Thanks to God) be used throughout the diocese this weekend.

Like those who have gone before us in faith, may we carry out the work God has entrusted to us, bringing to fulfillment the words of our bicentennial motto: “Shine like stars in the world, as you hold fast to the word of life” (Phil. 2:15–16).

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

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