

# Saint Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH of BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

*Established 1938*



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



## 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

- Mt 18:21-22

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

### **CLERGY**

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

### **RECONCILIATION**

Friday: 12:00 PM

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Fri: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

### **MASS TIMES**

Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM  
Monday: No Daily Mass  
Tuesday: No Daily Mass  
Wednesday: 9:00 AM  
Thursday: No Daily Mass  
Friday: 11:15 AM



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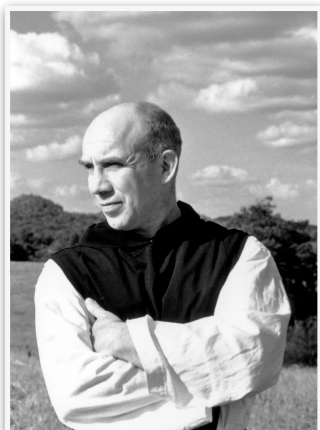
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(540) 552-1091

# This Week's Announcements

## WELCOME TO ALL NEW PARISHIONERS!

St. Mary's is very fortunate to have gained so many new parishioners as the summer comes to an end! To all new parishioners: we welcome you to Blacksburg, to the St. Mary's community, or to the Catholic faith. If you wish to register with our parish, please visit: [stmarysblacksburg.org/parish-registration](http://stmarysblacksburg.org/parish-registration)



## A NOTE FROM DEACON MIKE ABOUT THOMAS MERTON

“Several parishioners asked me about Merton books after Mass. I recommend you try *Seven Storey Mountain* (his classic autobiography that made him famous, which he later declared was too negative), *Sign of Jonas* (his monk's Journal of his 1st 5 years at Gethsemane, beautifully written), *No Man Is an Island*, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* (which I shared in my homily), and *Seeds of Contemplation*. Also, you might wish to read wonderful paperbacks about Merton by his many spiritual disciples, particularly Fr. Henri Nouwen, Fr. James Martin, and Monica Furlong. There are also two beautiful coffee-table books about Merton with lots of powerful pics, stories and quotes by James Forest - *Thomas Merton: A Pictorial Biography* and John Howard Griffin - *A Hidden Wholeness*.”

## RCIA CLASSES TO BEGIN ONLINE

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? Would you like to be Baptized and/or Confirmed in the Faith? If so, the RCIA Program is the program of the Catholic Church through which you can receive these sacraments and learn more about the Adult Catholic Faith. Our remote classes this year will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM. Our introductory meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Deacon Rick Furman at [rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org](mailto:rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org) or Sue Ellerbrock at [formation@stmarysblacksburg.org](mailto:formation@stmarysblacksburg.org).



## OCTAVE OF SERVICE TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

The Diocese's bicentennial celebration of an Octave of Service has been complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which largely prohibits the parish from joining together in prayerful acts of service. However, many in our community find themselves in need. Our Caring Closet food bank continues to be strained as we slowly approach the Thanksgiving holiday during this time of great uncertainty. For these reasons, our parish's Octave of Service will be an 8-day food drive! We invite you to join us in the selfless service of others by using our octave donation calendar to fill our pantry with regular goods and special Thanksgiving items:



### SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Soup

### SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Peanut Butter

### SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Cranberry Sauce

### SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Instant Potatoes



### SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

Canned Green Beans

### SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Canned Mixed Vegetables

### SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Cans of Pumpkin

### SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Boxed Stuffing







**"We have a Lord who is capable of crying with us, capable of walking with us in the most difficult moments of life."**

**— Pope Francis**

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|                                |                 |                                    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, September 12</b>  | <b>5:00 PM</b>  | <b>The Community of St. Mary's</b> |
| <b>Sunday, September 13</b>    | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>Scottie Ellerbrock †</b>        |
| <b>Sunday, September 13</b>    | <b>11:30 AM</b> | <b>Marian Stahl †</b>              |
| <b>Wednesday, September 16</b> | <b>9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Maureen Cummings †</b>          |
| <b>Friday, September 18</b>    | <b>11:15 AM</b> | <b>Bev Shull</b>                   |

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### **A Meditation on This Week's Gospel**

What right do we have to limit the amount and degree of forgiveness we show to others when we are so desperately in need of it ourselves? In not wanting someone who hurt us to downplay or forget the gravity of their wrong, we cling to anger, resentment, and wrath as a way of maintaining control. It is a way to acknowledge and express our deep hurt. We fail to realize that in doing so we hold ourselves hostage to these destructive feelings and actually become mired in the bondage of sin. All we gain is further alienation from ourselves, others, and especially God. We are no longer free but tethered to all of this unresolved negativity. Don't we really want to let it go? The fact is that we need to.

A good self-reflective posture will quickly show us that when the shoe is on the other foot and we are the ones in need of forgiveness, we desire it above anything else. This is especially true with our relationship with God. It is hypocritical to want one thing for ourselves and something else for another. Yet, many act in precisely this way.

Perhaps we think that in offering forgiveness, even for the most grievous of wrongs, somehow excuses the person of their wrong and makes it almost acceptable. This is what makes revenge, retaliation, and punishment so attractive. We see forgiveness as being an eraser that easily wipes away the offense without consequence. Or, we may believe that in offering forgiveness I must somehow forget the wrong and open myself as a victim of even greater possible hurts in the future. In fact, forgiving my sister or brother of their wrongful actions or attitudes involves none of this. It does not erase anything or position me vulnerably as a doormat to be walked on.

Forgiveness is an act of freedom that restores honest dialogue, shares true, and heartfelt feelings and acknowledges the consequences of an action. It admits that the wrong has caused a hurt that must be healed and squarely positions responsibility on the offender. The act of forgiveness recognizes our sinfulness and brokenness. It also admits that the most saintly among us is capable of doing very grave and deep harm to another person. It sees that we all can be victims of our passions and works in progress that deserve unlimited chances to get it right. With forgiveness, I release myself from the bonds of negativity and pursue a path of restoration, wholeness, and healing. I do not forget the wrong nor do I dismiss it. Sometimes, we have to stay far away from the one who hurt us. But we can still heal internally and be free.

For the one who wants to be forgiven and the one who needs offer forgiveness, the journey can be an adventure in learning what brought us to this place and what is needed to move forward. This is exactly how God treats us. Why would we not want to do the same for others?

# **COVID-19 UPDATES**

## **We are OPEN!**

There are 0 reported cases of COVID-19 among St. Mary's parishioners.



### **ARRIVE TO MASS EARLY**

Arrive 30 minutes early to mass to allow time for seating and screening.



### **DOORS LOCK PROMPTLY**

To ensure proper socially-distant seating, the doors will lock at the start of mass, so arrive on time.



### **WORSHIP AREA CLEANED**

The worship area is cleaned after the celebration of every Mass, in accordance with CDC guidelines.



### **COLLECTION IN NARTHEX**

Offertories can be placed in the collection baskets in the Narthex, or given through Faith Direct.



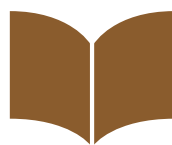
### **CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE**

If your temperature is above 100.4°F, please stay home to protect your fellow parishioners.



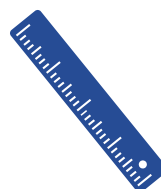
### **MASKS ARE MANDATORY**

Face coverings must be worn, but they may be removed briefly to take communion.



### **NO PHYSICAL WORSHIP AIDS**

Worship aids and Father John's homily can be found online at [stmarysblcksburg.org](http://stmarysblcksburg.org)



### **MAINTAIN 6 FEET OF DISTANCE**

Ushers will seat you and your family 6 feet away from others. Please maintain this distance after mass.



### **STAY HOME IF YOU'RE ILL**

The Bishop has granted all Catholics in the diocese a dispensation from the obligation to attend mass.

### **JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL MASS**

*Live-streamed on Facebook*

Wednesday: 9:00 AM

Sunday: 8:30 AM

### **MASS FOR HIGH-RISK GROUPS**

*Reserved for 65+ and immunocompromised parishioners*

Friday: 11:15 AM



# At the request of Pope Francis:



## THE 2020 PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

is to be taken up  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

*because it was not possible to take up the Good Friday Collection dedicated to supporting Christians living in the Land of Jesus, Pope Francis has accepted the request to move this gesture to September 13, 2020.*



### COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

25 hours/week

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

The Coordinator for Youth Ministry will provide primary leadership for the design and implementation of each of the youth ministry programs at St. Mary's, Blacksburg, VA, St. Jude, Radford, VA and Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, VA. 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.

To learn more about this opening, to find the diocesan application, or to submit your completed application, visit: [www.stmarysblacksburg.org/hiring](http://www.stmarysblacksburg.org/hiring)



### LEAD CUSTODIAN

27 hours/week

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

St. Mary's Catholic Church is hiring a lead Custodian and Maintenance worker. This position requires an individual who is a self-starter and is able to complete tasks with a minimum amount of direct supervision. We are seeking an individual with experience in the areas of commercial cleaning and light maintenance. They will also be responsible for some grounds work.

This position provides regular, part-time work. The projected wages will be between \$14 and \$16 per hour, commensurate with experience.

To learn more about this opening, to find the diocesan application, or to submit your completed application, visit: [www.stmarysblacksburg.org/hiring](http://www.stmarysblacksburg.org/hiring)

# FAITH DIRECT®

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Faith Direct is St. Mary's online offertory program that allows parishioners to conveniently and consistently make church contributions, with a credit/debit card, or a direct debit from a checking/savings account. Online giving provides an easy opportunity to support St. Mary's, even when not attending Mass.

Here's how you can enroll:

- Visit **faith.direct/VA969** in any web browser
- Call Faith Direct at **1-866-507-8757**
- Text "**ENROLL**" to (540) 274-2005
- Visit **St. Mary's website** click Faith Direct

## BICENTENNIAL PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

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.



## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

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/StMarysCLOW](http://bit.ly/StMarysCLOW)

# Prayer Requests

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*  
Matthew 7:7

|                   |                  |                           |                |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Aaron Johnson     | Dick Stewart     | Isaac Hummel              | Paul Ringel    |
| Alex Sepoli       | Doug Whichard    | Leslie Pittges            | Paula Lovett   |
| Alison Maguire    | Baxter Perkinson | Lisa Lavery               | Robert Metz    |
| Amy Haugh Dodds   | Frank Baker      | Lisa Walters              | Rodney Allen   |
| Ann Martin        | Elaine Lutz      | Lori McDaniel             | Richard Kelly  |
| Anthony Atkins    | Elaine Tedesco   | Lou Cotroneo              | Rita Sullivan  |
| Barbara Marino    | Elina McCartney  | Lucy Agnes Foster         | Stephen Orr    |
| Baxter Perkinson  | Eva Kelly        | Marie & Vivianne Castillo | Susan Kramer   |
| Becky Glazener    | Frank Partsch †  | Marie Armstrong           | Suzi Vass-Gal  |
| Becky Hepler      | Jace Baab        | Mary Ann Barksdale        | Thaddeus Baker |
| Becke Chamberlin  | Jackie Fore-Dye  | Mary Claire Madera        | Theresa Liuzzo |
| Bob Wheeler †     | Janice Steele    | Mary Devens               | Tom Heintzman  |
| Bud Chamberlin †  | Jen Austin       | Mary Elaine Riley         | Vera Genua     |
| Charlotte Joyce   | Jessica Moore    | Mathias Baker             | Vin Liuzzo     |
| Clark DeHart      | Jim Armstrong    | Mike Chandler             | Von Brannock   |
| Daniel Brooks     | John Bianchi     | Nancy Aull                | Watt Shields   |
| Dennis Kilper, Jr | Josefina Cerezo  | Nancy Close               | Wayne Petersen |
| Diane Folz        | Kathy Kelly      | Patty Carey               |                |
| Diane Merrix      | Kathy Hummel     | Nelson Carey              |                |

## SEMINARIANS

Accilien Ponge  
Admen Noel  
Theragin Putercin

## OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

Austin T. Leake  
Christopher Abrahamsen  
Daniel Milauskas  
Gabriel Milauskas  
George Zolovick III  
John Harvey III  
John Milauskas  
Justin Laatz  
Diana & Matthew Halferty  
John Newman  
Michael Canfield  
Michael Quinn, Jr.  
Ryan C. Curran  
Vincent Vitiello  
Zack Mayo

## OUR HAITI TWIN PARISH & SCHOOL

PRAYER AND  
SUPPORT GROUP  
FOR THE  
PROMOTION OF  
MENTAL HEALTH &  
RECOVERY

## 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.



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