

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.



27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The stone that the
builders rejected
has become
the cornerstone.”
- Mt 21:42ab

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



Join us on Facebook for
live-streamed Masses and
parish updates!
[@stmarysblacksburg](#)

1205 Old Mill Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

(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



**SCAM
ALERT**

SCAM ALERT

The office at St. Mary's Catholic Church has received notification that some scams are invoking the name of our parish and of our pastor. Please note: neither Father John, nor the staff of St. Mary's, will EVER reach out directly to ask for cash, gift cards, or wire transfers. Report all instances of scam/spam contacts invoking the name of our parish or of our pastor to the church's office.

RELIGIOUS ED AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Forms for Religious Ed registration and Confirmation registration are available in the Narthex!



OCTAVE OF SERVICE CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND

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 27, 2020

Soup

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Peanut Butter



SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Cranberry Sauce

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Instant Potatoes



OCTOBER 1, 2020

Canned Green Beans

OCTOBER 2, 2020

Canned Mixed Vegetables

OCTOBER 3, 2020

Cans of Pumpkin

OCTOBER 4, 2020

Boxed Stuffing



OCTAVE OF SERVICE FOOD DRIVE UPDATE:

It is never too late to make donations to St. Mary's Caring Closet! We always need more food to adequately serve our community, and we will be pleased to accept any food pantry donations at any point during the year. Be sure to check the St. Mary's Bulletin next week to see the total weight of all food donated! Any donations given before next Friday will be included in the final count!



“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



Saturday, October 3	5:00 PM	Helen Podgorski
Sunday, October 4	8:30 AM	Helen Podgorski
Sunday, October 4	11:30 AM	The Community of St. Mary’s
Wednesday, October 7	9:00 AM	Helen Podgorski
Friday, October 9	11:15 AM	Helen Podgorski



A Meditation on This Week’s Gospel

Do you ever wonder why things never seem to come together? We see glimpses of consistency, equity, justice, peace, harmony, and wellbeing, but it always falls short. Human life is still expendable and manipulated, people are used for personal advancement, countries are at war, the economy continues to face turbulence, anger and frustration are widespread, and happiness is the possession of just a few and not the many. Could it be that we are serving the wrong kingdom? We keep trying to make our kingdom work and find ourselves still scratching our heads after repeatedly failed attempts to do so. It is almost as if people are saying, “we’ll get it right this time if we do ...,” as if some new and secret innovation has yet to be tried.

We serve God’s kingdom. We may not like hearing that, but it is true. God did not make only a few of us. God made all of humanity and all of humanity is called into service. How often do we defer any of our decision making to God? Secular leaders enjoy winking at the Sacred Scriptures and using them when they advance a cause, but are they really listened to? Even those who consider themselves believers tend to sift through God’s Word, taking what seems to fit and apply and discarding the rest. After all, if we were really serving God’s kingdom, we would see an abundance of fruit testifying to this fact. But what’s growing on the vine is anything other than good Gospel-centered fruit.

Nothing in this world or the next belongs to us. We have such a hard time believing this and live our lives as if everything belongs to us. And, the fruit does not lie. Trees that are neglected and not properly fertilized reveal that fact. They cannot keep these deep secrets from being discovered. If God’s kingdom was really being served, then life would have looked much differently after the crucifixion. By now, there would be plenty of fantastic fruit to harvest in abundance: faith, hope, love, prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude. Do we see these in abundance around us? Why not?

Still we grapple with ownership, privilege, status, and the protection of our rights. It’s all about us and what we want, think we need, and expect to acquire. When did this change of focus occur? We may be struggling with this since humanity’s day in the garden and have never understood that the focus cannot be on us and the apple but on God and God’s justice. Maybe the only answer is that the Kingdom be taken from us and given to someone who is willing to do a better job. Is that the fate we really want?

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.



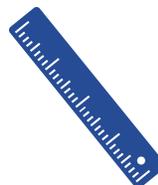
MASKS ARE MANDATORY

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



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

FAITH DIRECT®

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



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



LEAD CUSTODIAN

27 hours/week

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

St. Mary's Catholic Church Blacksburg is hiring for a Custodian and Maintenance position. This position requires an individual who is a self-starter and able to complete tasks with a minimum amount of direct supervision. Seeking an individual with experience in the areas of commercial cleaning, light maintenance and grounds work.

This is a part-time position (25 hours/week) that includes weekend hours. Please submit your resume or diocesan application to Matthew Wheeler, businessmanager@stmarysblacksburg.org

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

An update from the Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry

The Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry has remained very active during the pandemic, serving clients on a "drive-by" basis but providing essentially the same amount of food to our clients. However, the number has increased by about 23%, Parishioners responded generously last March and April when there was a special request for in-kind donations due to shortages of food to purchase at Krogers and Food Lion. Your individual food donations remain as important as ever. Drop them in the "Food Pantry" box in the narthex before any Mass or anytime during the week when the church is open. Financial contributions are always welcome as well. Make your checks out to St. Marys and indicate the Food Pantry in the memo portion of the check. Also, you can make your donation through Faith Direct. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Barbara and Russ MacDonald, St. Marys Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry Coordinators

An update from the Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study will convene every Monday evening from 7-8:30 PM via Uberconference. This is an interdenominational study, and this year we will be covering Joshua and Judges in the Old Testament. The book to be used is Engaging God's Word: Joshua and Judges, in the Engage Bible Studies series, with questions to be answered and discussed at each session. This paperback can be purchased new or used from multiple sources. Anyone interested in participating in this bible study can send his email address to me (mussel2@verizon.net), to receive the link for the Monday night discussions.

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

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