

October 25, 2020

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You shall love the Lord,
your God, with all your
heart, with all your soul,
and with all your mind."
- Mt 22:37

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](https://www.facebook.com/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 fall comes to the New River Valley! 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



FALL WORKDAY FORMAT CHANGED

We will not be gathering for annual St. Mary's Fall Workday due to our COVID-19 safety precautions. However, much work still needs to be done around the church! Parishioners are encouraged to contact Matt Wheeler, our business manager, at businessmanager@stmarysblacksburg.org if they're interested in taking part in our special dispersed fall cleanup.

FIREWOOD FROM ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's is looking to give away free firewood to anyone who is in need for this winter. Please contact Business Manager Matt Wheeler (businessmanager@stmarysblacksburg.org).



ST. MARY'S ANGEL TREE ONLINE

St. Mary's Angel Tree will look a little different this year! The Angel Tree will move to an on-line format. Due to COVID-19, we are having a "no contact" Angel Tree. You will be able to go on-line, view a child's wish list and sponsor them, shop on-line, and have the gifts shipped directly to Catholic Charities or Valley Interfaith Child Care. The website will launch in early November so keep watching for information!

ALL SOUL'S DAY PHOTO REQUEST

All Saint's Day falls on Sunday, November 1st, and will be celebrated at all of our weekend masses.

Due to pandemic restrictions, we will not be holding our traditional candlelight vigil for All Soul's

Day, but our photo display of loved ones lost this past year will be included in a special virtual presentation in the narthex. If you would like to include a photo of your loved one, send it via email along with their name and date of death, to liturgy@stmarysblacksburg.org no later than Thursday, October 29th. The Book of the Names of the Dead will also be placed at the baptismal font and all those entered will be remembered throughout the month of November through our intercessory prayers. Alternatively, you may email any names to liturgy@stmarysblacksburg.org.





"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 24	5:00 PM	Juan Carlos Avalos Gomez †
Sunday, October 25	8:30 AM	Robert Drischel †
Sunday, October 25	11:30 AM	The Community of St. Mary's
Wednesday, October 28	9:00 AM	Jack Snider †
Friday, October 30	11:15 AM	Joanne Brandt



A Meditation on This Week's Gospel

For some reason, it is easier to genuflect in reverence to the presence of Christ in the tabernacle of a church, than to genuflect in reverence to the same presence of Christ in another person's soul. We wrongly believe that God divides himself, placing himself in one place in preference to another. It doesn't work that way. Love of God and love of neighbor are intimately and inseparably connected because the essence and spark of God's very presence is in all creation. God's presence is just as real in the one who is good, as in the one who is bad, and the one who is just, and the one who is unjust.

Our brains get in the way of truly contemplating the awesomeness of this truth. We like to separate things into boxes, the sheep from the goats and the deserving from the undeserving. But, with God there are no distinctions such as this. Our human classifications, subdivisions, and definitions hold no power or have any weight in God's eyes. Sadly, we relate to God and to each other as if they do.

We cannot be deaf to the world's pain. It is not about having, hoarding, accumulating, acquiring, securing, storing, protecting, owning, claiming, or any of the other human terms we use to distinguish mine from yours. We put so much power in these words and that power, even though we may not always realize it, can cause those words and the distinctions they carry to wound and hurt others. We have the whole order of things wrong, but we are so set on preserving this order that we are absolutely afraid to do it any other way. We go through hoops trying to convince ourselves why the perils of the person seeking a new place to call home are not our perils that we turn our back and justify closing our doors. It makes perfect sense to us. Yet, it makes no sense in terms of our faith. It doesn't square with any of the words found in Sacred Scripture or in any time-tested teaching of the church.

We have it all reversed. We know that we do because when Jesus speaks about such things and the words of the Old Testament prophets ring out again, we start to feel uncomfortable and anxious. What we do, directly or by omission, to one of the least of these little ones we do to God. It is quite possible that some of what we are doing personally, economically, politically, globally, and even religiously is doing more harm than good. Let's ponder that a bit.

COVID-19 UPDATES

We are OPEN!

Our custodial staff actively cleans the parish thoroughly.



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.



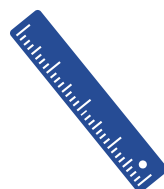
MASKS ARE MANDATORY

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

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Pope Francis invited Catholics to rediscover the beauty of the rosary prayer this month, encouraging people to carry a rosary with them in their pockets.

"I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries. I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Savior with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations. In some evenings we can feel useless and lonely. It is then that prayer will come and knock on the door of our hearts. And even if we have done something wrong, or if we feel threatened and frightened, when we return before God with prayer, serenity and peace will return as if by miracle."

— October 7, 2020, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

Pope Francis Rosary Prayer for Mary's Protection in the Time of Pandemic (to be recited at the conclusion of the Rosary)

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 united 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.**

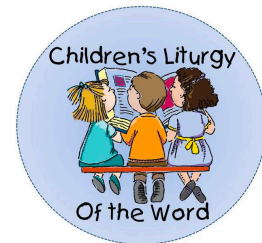


BICENTENNIAL PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

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.



Catholic Diocese of Richmond
1820 Bicentennial 2020



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