

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.



Catholic Diocese of Richmond
1820 Bicentennial 2020

The Closing of the Bicentennial Year

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



THE CLOSING OF THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR

As we close the 200th year in celebration of the Diocese of Richmond, our mass setting and liturgy for this weekend will be altered from the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings will be: Genesis 3:9-15, Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14, and John 19:25-34.

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.

AFFIRM THURSDAYS ARE RETURNING

Beginning on Thursday, Jan. 28th, we will begin a 3 night Zoom series on Pope Francis' Encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti on Fraternity and Social Friendship*. Deacon Mike will lead our discussions that will begin at 7pm on the evenings of Jan. 20th, Feb. 11th and Feb. 25th. Sue will send out the Zoom invite the week before to those who have signed up. This Adult Faith offering will include parishioners from St. Mary's and St. Jude parishes. Please register with Sue Ellerbrock at formation@stmarysblacksburg.org. Books will be available to purchase after Jan. 19th for \$10 each and available through Sue at the office of St. Mary's. You may purchase your own book as well.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR MLK JR. DAY

The St. Mary's Office will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Name of Small Christian Community	Location	Meeting Days and Time	Hosts	Leaders and Contact Details
Our Lady of the Transfiguration	Mt. Tabor Blacksburg	2nd and last Thursday of the month 7 pm – 8 pm	Rick & Jennifer Fenrich, 2344 Mt. Tabor Road, Blacksburg	1. Jennifer Fenrich, 540-250-6164 fenrich@comcast.net 2. Ginny Coluni, vcoluni@aol.com 5540-961-5014
Breaking Bread	Foxridge, Blacksburg	2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7:30 - 8:30	Will rotate	Minerva San Juan minervasanjuan15@gmail.com
Our Lady of Victory	120 Tula Circle Christiansburg	1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7-8pm	Carolyn and Walt Sandburg 120 Tula Circle Christiansburg, Va. 24073 Tele	Carolyn Sandberg Carolyn412@yahoo.com # 540-818-9872
Holy Family	Blacksburg	1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, from 4 to 5pm.	Will rotate	Marvin Addison marvin.addison@gmail.com 540-641-2930

Meeting days and times are subject to change, please contact the SCC Leaders for confirmation of days and times

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

St. Mary's Catholic Church has five small Christian communities but only four are active at the moment. These are groups of parishioners that come together twice per month for prayer, Scripture reading, catechesis, and discussion on human and ecclesial problems with a view to a common commitment.



Mass INTENTIONS

“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, January 16	5:00 PM	The Community of St. Mary’s
Sunday, January 17	8:30 AM	Richard Wheeler †
Sunday, January 17	11:30 AM	Lizzy Tamer †
Wednesday, January 20	9:00 AM	Emma & Kenneth Doughton †
Friday, January 22	11:15 AM	Charlotte Joyce †

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS



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

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



MASKS ARE MANDATORY

Face coverings must be worn by everyone older than 5, 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.

CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE

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



MASS FOR HIGH-RISK GROUPS

Reserved for 65+ and immunocompromised parishioners on Friday at 11:15 AM.

Latest Ministry and Group Updates

THANK YOU FROM TO OUR HOUSE

The week that St. Mary's Hosted and Supported the To Our House TOH) shelter, December 26 to January 2, 2021, was the most challenging week we have had in the 10 years we have volunteered for TOH. St. Mary's usually hosts and supports the shelter for two different weeks. Because of Covid 19, we decided to do both of these together in one week partly because TOH needed to move to the Knights of Columbus building in Christiansburg with safety measures in place. This meant we could not truly socialize with the guests as we had in the past.

The sign ups for volunteers, which Liam in the office of St. Mary's handled, were small in number; yet, all the jobs were covered. The lead volunteers did an outstanding job of seeing that each night had a person to host, a person to spend the night, a person for laundry, and volunteers to serve all the meals for the 10 guests that week. St. Mary's volunteers are to be applauded for their generous help under these trying circumstances. Carol Johnson, Director of TOH, said St. Mary's provided the most volunteers on site so far in this year, 2020-2021! Well Done! Thank you for your service to TOH and its guests!

VOLUNTEER FOR POTATO DROP

The Glean Team is in need of volunteers to sort and fill 10-lb bags of potatoes at their 10th Potato Drop on Jan. 15 and 16th at the Montgomery County Christmas Store parking lot. During the two half-days, over 24 food providers will pick up 38,400 lbs of Yukon Gold, White, Russett, and Red (New) potatoes. The event will be held outdoors with masks on and appropriate spacing of volunteers to avoid danger of virus transmission. Please consider signing up for one or two shifts at: <https://forms.gle/fAgYPvzZHiKUwF7j7>

SEEKING NEW MENTAL HEALTH LEAD

The St. Mary's Mental Health group is in need of a new lead! If you are interested in filling this role, please send an email to Liam Watson at: officestaff@stmarysblacksburg.

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



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 at 1-877-887-9603.



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