

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.



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"

- Mk 1:23-25

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

Annual Parish Financial Update

Fellow Parishioners,

The past year has been unprecedented in anything we have encountered in our personal, professional, and religious lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has naturally impacted the financial well-being of our parish. It has canceled many of the activities and celebrations we took for granted as a people celebrating our shared faith and beliefs, and limiting all but essential aspects of the role of the Catholic Church in our daily lives.

The personnel of St. Mary's have done an excellent job the past year curtailing costs to ensure our church's ability to keep the building operational. I want to complement our past business manager, Randy Phipps for his diligent management of the church's finances, and the new manager Matt Wheeler for continuing the oversight on our finances, as well as Becky Meisner, our bookkeeper. All St. Mary's staff have taken a reduction in hours to reduce payroll, but still keep essential services available.

Donations from parishioners have been lower, as expected. However, because so many of you have signed up for online giving and regularly mailed checks, we have managed to stay solvent. It is wonderful to see how important our church is to our community. As the Chair of the Finance Committee, I personally thank each of you.

Based on a recommendation from the finance council and approved by the Parish council, Fr. John closed the church's Little Angels preschool program and the Parents Morning Out program to curtail expenses and keep our parishioners healthy. Our biggest expense this past year has been for cleaning supplies, and paying maintenance people to clean and sanitize the church after every Mass or event. Safety is the number one priority of everyone on staff, and we have had no COVID-19 outbreaks.

Last spring, we received a PPP loan through Freedom First Bank for \$77,000. This loan has been a lifesaver for us. For our fiscal year that ended last June 30, our income was down 20% over previous year, and down 23% over our budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This current fiscal year, July 1st through December 31st, we are close to matching where we were last year, thanks to the generous contributions for the Christmas offertory. However, expenses are down by 18%. As conditions improve and the church is able to slowly open up again, personnel costs will increase to handle the activity. We hope with increased church attendance, in person offertory will increase to cover the additional costs.

A special thanks to Aileen Anthony for her outstanding service in broadcasting the 8:30 Mass every Sunday on Facebook. Her dedication to providing this service has allowed us to experience the celebration of the Eucharist live with the congregation actually attending Mass. A special donation in December will allow the church to purchase a permanent video broadcast system that we can use for many events besides Mass.

We have weathered a terrible period in our parish's history better than we first projected last April. This was due to your prayers, and generous sharing of your earthly treasure. Please continue remembering St. Mary's in your charitable giving, and register our church as your charitable designation for Kroger's and Amazon purchases. Every cent is important for the financial well-being of our church. I look forward to the day when we can all see each other's smiles again, as we celebrate our shared faith together.

Jerry Diffell
Chair, Finance Council

Annual Parish Financial Update

Annual Report (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Income	Totals
General Operations	\$ 608,608
Liturgical	\$ 1,560
Formation	\$ 8,041
Charity	\$ 231,962
Preschool	\$ 102,062
Facilities	\$ 89,798
Actual Income:	\$ 1,042,031

Parish Income Includes: Weekly Offertory, Donations, Preschool Tuition, Debt Reduction, Fundraising, Charitable Giving, Weddings and Stole Fees

Expense	Totals
General Operations	\$ 220,995
Liturgical	\$ 85,024
Formation	\$ 85,207
Charity	\$ 241,437
Preschool	\$ 121,533
Facilities	\$ 346,162
Actual Expenses:	\$ 1,100,358

Mortgage as of:

July 1, 2019: \$924,527.94

June 30, 2020: \$813,402.99

Paid FY19-20: \$111,124.95

Parish Expenses Include: Salaries, Utilities, Church and Rectory Maintenance/Repairs, Cleaning Supplies, Preschool (Salaries and Expenses), Facilities (Includes interest paid on mortgage)

This Week's Announcements

2021 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

The 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal is fast approaching. This year, the parish target for St. Mary's has been set at \$32,130. We can only reach this goal with all of us working together, so please join us for this offering on the weekend of February 20/21, 2021.



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, book studies, catechesis, and discussion on human and ecclesial problems with a view to a common commitment. You can find your group's contact below!

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. 28th, 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.

Name of Small Christian Community	Location	Meeting Days and Time	Leaders and Contact Details
Our Lady of the Transfiguration	Mt. Tabor Blacksburg	2nd and last Thursday of the month, 7 pm – 8 pm	Jennifer Fenrich, fenrich@comcast.net Ginny Coluni, vcoluni@aol.com
Breaking Bread	Foxridge, Blacksburg	2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 pm	Minerva San Juan minervasanjuan15@gmail.com
Our Lady of Victory	120 Tula Circle Christiansburg	1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7-8pm	Carolyn Sandberg carolyn412@yahoo.com
Holy Family	Blacksburg	1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, from 4 to 5pm.	Marvin Addison marvin.addison@gmail.com

HAITI COMMITTEE FUNDRAISING UNDERWAY

The Haiti Committee has begun our yearly fundraising drive to sponsor students at our twin parish in Savanette, Haiti. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to implement our sponsorship campaign as in previous years. Therefore, we ask whether you would be willing to sponsor a student for the 2021- 2022 academic year. The cost of a full sponsorship remains at \$200, which includes the cost of tuition (\$100) and a hot lunch each school day (\$100). If you are unable to provide a full sponsorship, then perhaps you would consider a half-sponsorship at \$100. We have 145 primary school students in need of sponsorship and we are anxious to meet our goal this year; your sponsorship would have more impact than ever. The following forms of payment are accepted: Online via Faith Direct, use "Haiti" category and indicate "Student Sponsorship" in the notes OR check payable to St. Mary's with "Haiti Sponsorship" in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to the church, dropped off at the parish office, or placed in the collection basket.



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

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Saturday, January 30	5:00 PM	Jack Snider †
Sunday, January 31	8:30 AM	Richard Abondolo †
Sunday, January 31	11:30 AM	The Community of St. Mary’s
Wednesday, February 3	9:00 AM	Mary Louise Holland †
Friday, February 5	11:15 AM	Bob Canfield, Sr. †
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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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021!

You're invited to gain a big perspective of the ENTIRE Bible by taking apart 14 books that capture the essence of the 12 periods of Salvation History. Life application will be a big part—because Jesus wants to be the center of your daily life, here and now. Learn the role of the Holy Spirit, so present from the very first verses of Scripture. God's loving intention for each of us is transformation and the "abundant life."

We'll be using *The Great Adventure: The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* by Jeff Cavins. In-depth workbooks are still available which give access to online lectures by Cavins. For now Bible Study will be conducted by Zoom. Contact Glenda Canfield at 937-654-2559 for more info/ the Zoom link.

If you've ever wondered about readings you hear at Mass, wonder no longer! This study will cover all the major people and events of the Bible, and the salvation story told there continues in Blacksburg, Va. today. Find your place in the story of His glory!

BLACKSBURG INTERFAITH PANTRY

The BIFP has made significant operational changes during the pandemic. It has converted to a drive-through operation versus the previous more leisurely personal super-market experience with a shopping cart accompanied by a volunteer. Therefore, all but one of our current 14 volunteers are temporarily "laid off." A reduced number of volunteers run shopping carts of preloaded food to the Client's vehicle and load it in their trunks with no close contact with the client. Also, the Food Pantry is open only 4 versus 5 days/week. The BIFP continues to rely on contributions of both cash and in-kind donations of food, but due to COVID restrictions on Mass attendance, in-kind donations have necessarily dropped off. We encourage your continued support with your in-kind donations, which can be dropped in the Food Pantry drop box any time the church is open (9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. M - F).

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