

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.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

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

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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



St. Mary's Catholic Church

*1205 Old Mill Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060*

March 26, 2020

Parishioners of St. Mary's,

It is with disappointment that I inform you all that the St. Mary's Little Angels (SMLA) preschool and daycare programs will not be reopening for the Fall 2021 semester.

The primary obstacle to reopening SMLA is the ongoing challenge of maintaining the health and wellness of all of our students, teachers, and parents. With this in mind as our first priority, we cannot invite students back without knowing what form the circumstances of this evolving crisis will assume in the coming months.

Secondly, the increased cost of operating SMLA during the pandemic to ensure the safety of all students, teachers, and parents is presently an overwhelming challenge. To reopen SMLA at this time would require a significant increase in tuition, which we cannot reasonably expect families to afford. Alternatively, a sharp increase in enrollment numbers would be required, a goal which would be hampered by public health concerns. Despite how much the staff and I miss the joy and vibrancy of our preschool and daycare programs, these restrictions have ultimately impeded our efforts to safely reopen this fall.

We continue to hope to reopen in time for the Fall of 2022. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all navigate the impacts of this pandemic together.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John Asare
Pastor, St. Mary's Catholic Church

This Week's Announcements



2021 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Five weekends ago, we collected for the Diocesan annual appeal. In case you missed that opportunity, we will be collecting this weekend to support the many wonderful things that the Diocesan annual appeal affords for our parish, like the ability to support programs such as To Our House and the Caring Closet Food Bank. **This year, the parish target for St. Mary's has been set at \$32,130; we've reached 86%. We can only reach this goal with all of us working together, so please join us for this offering.**

EASTER SUNDAY MASS RESERVATIONS OPEN

Because of the high volume of parishioners who may wish to attend our Easter Sunday Masses, reservations are now open to ensure that you and your family have space reserved for you! Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, and can be made by calling the office at (540) 552-1091 or by visiting our reservation site found on the front page of stmarysblacksburg.org. A complete schedule for Holy Week can be found in the Worship Aid.



JOIN ST. MARY'S LISTSERV FOR UPDATES

Parishioners are encouraged to join St. Mary's email ListServ to receive updates and communication from Fr. John and the staff of St. Mary's. To sign up for the ListServ and stay connected with the parish, please send an email with the subject line "JOIN" to officestaff@stmarysblacksburg.org.



40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT

During Lent, our Knights of Columbus council is conducting a "40 Cans for 40 Days of Lent" program. The goal is for each family to put aside just one item of non perishable food every day of Lent and bring the seven items to Mass each weekend. The Knights will collect all donations and deliver them to St. Mary's Caring Closet Food Pantry. Here's what they need the most:

- Campbell's Soup
- 1lb Bags of Rice
- Canned Tuna and Chicken
- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Oatmeal, Cereal, or Other Breakfast Foods
- Spaghetti Noodles & Sauce
- Canned Veggies
- Coffee
- Peanut Butter



CURRENT TOTAL: 763 lbs / 1000 lbs goal

EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES AVAILABLE



Envelopes for Easter flower donations are now available in the Narthex as well as the front office of St. Mary's. These donations will help to beautify the church for Easter while honoring or remembering a loved one.

RECONCILIATION DURING LENT



Reconciliation times have been expanded during Lent! In addition to Fridays at 12:00 PM, Father John will also be hearing confessions at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays during Lent. On March 23rd at 7:00 PM, there will be a regional reconciliation at St. Mary's. Four priests will be available to hear confessions.

SMLA CLOSED FALL 2021

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, St. Mary's Little Angels will not be reopening for the Fall 2021 semester. For more information, see Father John's letter to parishioners (included in this week's bulletin).



Latest Ministry and Group Updates

CHICKEN SOUP MINISTRY NOW OPEN

Comfort food. Soul food. Have you ever had someone show up at your door with a home-cooked meal during a time of grief, illness, new baby, or after a surgery? There is a huge comfort in the love and care expressed when that meal appears. St. Mary's Chicken Soup Ministry is resuming bringing the tangible expression of Christ's love in the form



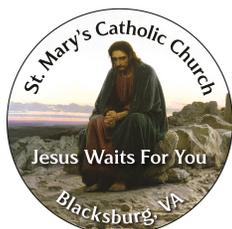
of meals. When there is a need within the parish, the need is brought to the attention of the Chicken Soup Ministry Coordinator. Referrals may come from family members, friends, or by contacting the Parish Office. The coordinator, working with the family in need, creates a schedule and passes the information onto the volunteer cooks.

New cooks are always welcome! There are no meetings involved! If you are interested, want to know more **OR** if you know someone who could benefit from a meal please contact:

Susan DiSalvo at dsalvo55@gmail.com or by phone (540)951-3121.

GLEAN TEAM SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Want to help provide nutritious food to those in need? The Glean Team provides fresh fruit and vegetables to over 40 food providers and low-income housing units throughout Southwest Virginia. We have a three-pronged approach: we grow food in large gardens, glean from local farm fields, and purchase bulk potatoes. We also provide free seeds to local gardeners and those in our twin parish in Savanette, Haiti. The ministry is in need of volunteers and donations (funds, equipment, refrigerators), and seeks local farms willing to donate excess fruit and vegetables. For more information contact John Galbraith at 540-392-1184.



ST. MARY'S CAR MAGNETS FOR EVANGELIZATION

The Evangelization Committee has prepared 4 car magnets (6" diameter) with an evangelization message, for distribution after the masses on Easter weekend and Palm Sunday. The car magnets will be on display on tables outside the church doors, and we encourage parishioners to help us promote St. Mary's Church and our faith tradition within Blacksburg and surrounding communities by placing one of these magnets on your vehicles. This is an opportunity to fulfill what Jesus commanded of each of us in Matthew 28: 19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES AT ST. MARY'S

The Lord is waiting to speak to you. You just have to open the Word. But you don't have to do it alone! Join the Women's Bible Study every Wednesday by Zoom, 10:30am-noon, as we explore the big picture of the Bible—and how its message applies to your life today. Get better acquainted with the heart of Jesus—and learn to love Him in return. For more info on our current study, "The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation" by Jeff Cavins, contact Glenda Canfield at 937-654-2559. Give Jesus time this Lent.



“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, March 27	5:00 PM	Jack Snider †
Sunday, March 28	8:30 AM	Trudy Harrington Becker
Sunday, March 28	11:30 AM	The Community of St. Mary’s
Wednesday, March 31	9:00 AM	Christian Rottgardt †
Friday, April 2	11:15 AM	The Community of St. Mary’s

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

Offerories 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 stmarysbleksburg.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.



HELP FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

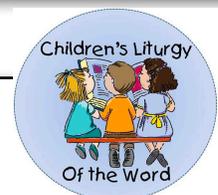
Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General’s Clergy abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064, and reach out to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-877-887-9603.

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



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