

Saint Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH of BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Established 1938

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 29, 2021



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." - Mk 7:14-15

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

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: 9:00 AM
Wednesday: 9:00 AM
Thursday: 9:00 AM
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



RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

Religious education classes begin on Sunday, September 26th! Registration forms, along with additional details, are now available in the Narthex as well as on our website at <https://stmarysblacksburg.org/formation>.

We are still in need of several catechists for all grades! If you have ever thought about being a catechist and feel a call to working with children or teens, please contact Sue Ellerbrock (formation@stmarysblacksburg.org) to discuss the possibility of you being a Catechist!



YOUTH MINISTRY KICKOFF

New River Valley Youth Ministry (NRVYM) at St. Mary's will be kicking off *Wednesday Sep. 15th* from 6:30-8! This event is for teens 9th-12th grade. Middle school will begin at a later date. Text "NRVYM" to 84576 to receive youth ministry updates or connect at nrvym.flocknote.com. Email or call Austin Mee with questions: nrvym@richmonddioocese.org | 540.251.1754



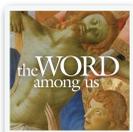
SECOND COLLECTION FOR HAITI ON AUGUST 28th & 29th

On August 16th, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck the nation of Haiti, which was immediately followed by Tropical Storm Grace, leading to widespread destruction and loss of life. The Bishop has requested that a second collection on August 28th and 29th benefit the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund.



FACE MASK GUIDANCE UPDATED

The Bishop has updated Diocesan COVID-19 safety protocols to officially recommend that all persons gathering indoors resume wearing a face mask, regardless of vaccination status. Thank you.



WORD AMONG US BOOKS AVAILABLE

Word Among Us Daily Meditation books are now available for sale in the Narthex! For a \$6 donation, you can grab your copy this weekend to carry with you in prayer as we seek to find new ways to encounter the Lord in our daily life.



ST. MARY'S PARISH PICNIC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! St Mary's Parish Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, 12 September 2021 after the 11:30 Mass and will be held on the parish grounds. Parish Ministry's are encouraged to actively participate and sponsor a station / table to promote their ministry and support the success of our Parish Picnic! Sign Up sheets will be available after all masses two (2) weeks prior to the picnic for parishioners to sign up to bring their favorite side dish to share! POCs for the Picnic Planning Team Tim Leake (540) 808-5959; tjleake@vt.edu or Marie Castillo 540-315-0806; mariemcastillo11@gmail.com.



"PURIFIED" CHASTITY SEMINAR

Confused about why the Church holds to chastity teaching? How do we live purity in our culture? What about same-sex attractions? You are invited to hear Jason Everett, nationally-known speaker, clarify with humor and humility all of these questions. Don't miss this rare opportunity! Bring family and friends Sept 19th from 6-8pm to St Mary's Catholic Church, Blacksburg, Va.



MONEY COUNTERS ARE STILL NEEDED

St. Mary's once again needs weekly money counters! If you're interested in helping St. Mary's bookkeeping efforts, please contact Liam Watson at officestaff@stmarysblacksburg.org.

Latest Ministry and Group Updates



JOHN GALBRAITH INDUCTED INTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HALL OF FAME

On Monday, August 23, the Glean Team's John Galbraith was inducted into the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Hall of Fame. The Chamber of Commerce recognized Galbraith as a "community leader who has changed our DNA and improved the quality of life through his actions in our community." Galbraith wishes to pass along his gratitude to the rest of the Glean Team: "we have helped people eat better quality food, and to have free access to that food. That is a winning formula for people's physical and mental health in multiple ways. So I am raising a toast to each and every one of you, and to the rest of the volunteers who have made the Glean Team the success that it has become. Thank you."

ZAMBIA MINISTRY SEEKS KNITTING/CROCHET NEEDLES AND YARN

The Women's Bible Study will be shipping these supplies to **Kasiya, Zambia** so that the parishioners can make sweaters for their families while listening to Bible Study simultaneously! A **shipment of goods** (clothing, shoes, etc) will be sent by ocean, leaving Blacksburg **August 28**. Contact Glenda Canfield and Felistus Mukuni for more info at 937-654- 2559. WBS continues to sponsor **hospital construction** there. The surgical room, X-ray, and laboratory sections are nearly complete. The rest of the hospital (pediatric wards, etc) are next. If you'd like to contribute towards this exciting work of mercy, checks may be made to St Mary's, with Zambian Ministry on the memo line

UPDATE ON OUR HAITI MINISTRY

The Haiti Committee is working with the new priest at our twin parish in Savanette to repair the church, supplement the salaries of teachers at one of the chapel schools, and provide funding to purchase musical instruments to enhance the worship service on Sunday. The new school year begins on September 6. The former pastor, Fr. Nicolas Floreal, was reassigned by the bishop to manage the Beck Hotel in Cap-Haitien, a home for retired Haitian priests. The political situation remains unstable, as both Haitian and U.S. law enforcement investigate the multi-national conspiracy in the assassination of the former president.

GLEAN TEAM NEEDS EGG CARTONS

The Glean Team is in need of egg cartons again. The YMCA will be collecting them for us and storing them. So everyone that is interested in collecting egg cartons for the Glean Team if you could drop them off at the YMCA Thrift Store on Main Street. Thank-you to everyone that contributed before.

NEW TOH MINISTRY LEADER NEEDED

It has been 10 years since St. Mary's first hosted in 2001 the winter homeless shelter, **To Our House**. The name was taken from the initials, TOH, of a homeless man who in 2001 on a cold winter night was found frozen to death on a Blacksburg park bench. This ministry was born out of that tragic event, and its mission is to welcome homeless people during winter months to sleep and eat a hot meal in the warmth of a hosting church in Montgomery County. This year St. Mary's is looking for a **Parish Lead Contact** for the TOH Ministry, who will organize and sign up parishioners to volunteer for the various tasks necessary to have the guests come, for a week, to sleep and eat a meal at St Mary's Church. Because of our preschool schedule, the best time for St. Mary's to host is during the Christmas holidays, usually the week of New Year's. The **Parish Lead Contact** will have access to the records from previous years which will help facilitate the week of hosting. Suzi Austin, who has been the Lead Contact for 10 years, has offered to help the new person through the organizing and signing up process of the volunteers if this would be wanted. Please consider taking this position. There are a fair number of parishioners who look forward to serving this ministry in various capacities and will gladly sign up for the tasks!



“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, August 28	5:00 PM	Rev. Mr. Stephen McKimmie
Sunday, August 29	8:30 AM	Jack Snider †
Sunday, August 29	11:30 AM	Christina Zajicek † & Halina Ciecierska †
Tuesday, August 31	9:00 AM	The Community of St. Mary’s
Wednesday, September 1	9:00 AM	Liam Farrell †
Thursday, September 2	9:00 AM	The Glassman Family
Friday, September 3	11:15 AM	Eileen Sreenan

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

MASKS ARE MANDATORY FOR THE UNVACCINATED, RECOMMENDED FOR ALL

Face coverings *must* be worn by everyone unvaccinated, but they may be removed briefly to take communion. *All* persons gathering indoors are recommended to resume wearing a face mask, regardless of vaccination status.

NO PHYSICAL WORSHIP AIDS

Worship aids and Father John’s homily can be found online at stmarysblacksburg.org.

STAY HOME IF YOU’RE ILL

The Bishop has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass those who are ill, have reason to believe that they were recently exposed to COVID-19 or another serious or contagious illness, are confined to their home, a hospital, or nursing facility, or those with serious underlying health conditions.

EUCCHARIST ONLY SERVED IN ONE SPECIES

The Eucharist will only be served as the Body of Christ.



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

FAITH DIRECT®

Faith Direct is St. Mary’s online offertory program. 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

Last Week’s Collection (8-22-21)

Offertory	\$23,431.52
Debt Reduction	\$180.00
Faith Direct	\$8,172.50
Faith Direct Debt Reduction	\$390.00



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.

A MEDITATION ON THE GOSPEL

Albert Einstein said that the “true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.” Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demands creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God’s children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God’s compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God’s word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn’t just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That’s why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It’s risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That’s why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.



Last quarter, St. Mary’s earned \$961.05 from Kroger. You can help raise this number by linking your existing Kroger Plus Card with St. Mary’s by visiting: [kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards)



By joining the Amazon Smiles program, St. Mary’s will receive 0.5% of the profit from all your Amazon purchases!

Sign up now at:
smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

**No pressure, no hard-sell,
no commitment required to attend!**

Have you asked someone to
“Come and See” ?

CONTACT:

email: rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org

The Office: 540-552-1091

Leave contact information for:

Deacon Rick Furman

- Starts: Tuesday, Aug 31th, Tuesday Nights
- When: 7pm – 8:30 pm (sometimes until 9pm)
- Where: St. Mary's / St Jude / Holy Spirit
- Who: Adults in the following categories -
 - The Curious, the Uncommitted, the Skeptical
 - The Unbaptized and the Baptized from other Faiths
 - Baptized Catholics who seek to receive First Eucharist And/or Confirmation
 - **Parishioners** who want to help others learn the faith (and who want to update/upgrade their faith!)
- What: Get to know Jesus. Get to know his Church
 - Get to know **what** the Catholic Church teaches and **why**
 - Fall in Love with Jesus for the first time or deepen your relationship with Him.
 - After that . . . the Heavens are the limit!

Permanent Diaconate INQUIRY Sessions

Planned for the Fall.

Are you interested in becoming a permanent deacon?

What is the process for expressing interest?

What are the basic qualifications to enter formation?

If you believe you might have a calling to ordained service, contact Fr. Asare. He must submit your name and contact information to the Diocese by Sept 24. You are also advised to read the Catholic Virginian article of August 9.

Qualifications for formation include but are not limited to:

- A Roman Catholic for a minimum of 5 years
- A Registered parishioner within the Diocese of Richmond for 5 years at the time of application, and active in the parish community.
- Between the ages of 30 and 59 at the time of application
- Committed to and living out values of justice, charity, and service.
- Demonstrates grateful fidelity to all that the Church teaches, openness to formation and has demonstrated leadership.