

# Saint Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH of BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

*Established 1938*

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
September 12, 2021



## **CLERGY**

Rev. John Asare, Pastor  
Deacon Mike Ellerbrock  
Deacon Rick Furman

## **RECONCILIATION**

Friday: 12:00 PM  
Saturday: 3:30 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



## **CHILDREN'S ADORATION**

Please join us for Children's Adoration on Saturday, September 18th, from 10-10:30 am, here at St Mary's. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your children to the Catholic practice of Adoration - spending time with the Eucharistic Jesus - in a very kid friendly way. School age children, toddlers and babies all welcome, with their parents! Fellowship and snacks follow.



## **FOOD FOR THE POOR VISITING PRIEST**

Gather with us on October 2nd & 3rd to hear Father Joe Monahan speak about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Father Monahan will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.



## **MASS FOR HOPE & HEALING**

Bishop Knestout will be visiting Our Lady of Nazareth Church in Roanoke on Friday, September 17 at 7:00pm to hold a mass to pray for victim survivors of child sexual abuse and their families. Counselors will be available before and after mass.



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a FREE pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall following the 8:30a mass on September 19. This is a great time to connect with fellow parishioners. We invite you to stay after mass and eat in the parish hall or pick up a to-go box to eat at home. Donations appreciated!



## **RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN**

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](mailto: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 [nrwym.flocknote.com](http://nrwym.flocknote.com). Email or call Austin Mee with questions: [nrvym@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:nrvym@richmonddiocese.org) | 540.251.1754



## **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](mailto:tjleake@vt.edu) or Marie Castillo 540-315-0806; [mariemcastillo11@gmail.com](mailto: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 Everet, 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.

# Latest Ministry and Group Updates

NEW!

## GLEAN TEAM IS COLLECTING EGG CARTONS

Please consider donating your clean, used egg cartons to the Glean Team. The Glean Team is involved in an on-going project to distribute surplus eggs to people in the New River Valley who are experiencing food insecurity. There is a blue tub in front of the church for collection of egg cartons. Thank you for supporting this meaningful project.

NEW!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

Do you want to know God better? There's two ways:

(1) "Learn the heart of God in the words of God" (St Gregory the Great). So join the Women's Bible Study!

(2) Look at Jesus, because "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15).

The Women's Bible Study of St Mary's is focused on Jesus! Even when we study the Old Testament, as we are now in "The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation," we're discovering how Jesus is the fulfillment of every single verse! You're invited to join on Wednesday mornings in-person and by Zoom, as we explore what God wants to say to YOU, NOW. For info or materials, contact Glenda Canfield at 937-654-2559. Join anytime. You're always welcome!

NEW!

## JOIN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

No man is too busy to be an active Knight of Columbus. In fact, giving just one full day a year to Knights of Columbus activities can make an enormous difference in your life. By spending just 24 hours with us, you will be able to serve your parish and help those in need in our community, grow in faith, and access our exclusive, top-rated insurance program to protect your family. 24 Hours: 8 hours a year working with Father Fox Council 6747 on charitable projects for our Church and community. 4 hours a year enjoying one of our council social functions with your family. 4 hours a year attending council meetings either in-person or by Zoom to help plan future activities. 6 hours a year, only half an hour a month reading the Knights' magazine Columbia, visiting the Knights' website [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and the council website: <http://uknight.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=6747>. 1 hour a year meeting with our Fraternal Benefits Agent. 1 hour a year attending Mass together with Father Fox Brother Knights. We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Contact: Sir Knight Claude Steele, Chancellor/Membership Director @ [kofc6747@gmail.com](mailto:kofc6747@gmail.com).

## UPDATE ON OUR PRISON MINISTRY

Once the COVID pandemic began in 2020, all prisons in Virginia were closed to outside visitors for obvious reasons. The status now is that all prisoners and staff in the prisons who requested vaccination have received the vaccine. The state prison system in Virginia has tentatively scheduled to open the prisons to chaplains this fall and then to those involved in prison ministry, depending upon the pandemic situation at that time. Meanwhile, I thank the parishioners who continue to place greeting cards of various types in the card box on the credenza in the narthex. I am able to send nearly 15 lb of cards at a time in a USPS prepaid box to either Paulist Prison Ministries in Washington, D.C. for priests visiting federal prisons in the U.S., or to GraceInside in Richmond, VA for chaplains to distribute in state prisons.

## UPDATE ON OUR HAITI MINISTRY

The new academic year for children at our twin parish in Savanette will begin on September 6, and we have sent the first allotment of sponsorship money to support the 145 students at the primary school in the chapel of Bail. We also have sent \$2000 to support the seminarian Admind Noel from our twin parish in Savanette, who is attending a seminary in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. As a reminder, donations to the Haiti Box near the reconciliation room (confessional) in the sanctuary are used to support seminarians from our twin parish. Donations have fallen dramatically since COVID, so we are hopeful that the increase of parishioners at week-end masses also will result in an increase in these donations. Our thanks to parishioners who have continued to support our Haiti Ministry in good times and in bad.



“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, September 11	5:00 PM	The Community of St. Mary's
Sunday, September 12	8:30 AM	Maureen Cummings †
Sunday, September 12	11:30 AM	Tony Lopez †
Tuesday, September 14	9:00 AM	Theodora Rozolis-Wigle †
Wednesday, September 15	9:00 AM	Robert Caverly †
Thursday, September 16	9:00 AM	—
Friday, September 17	11:15 AM	Arlene Fraraccio †

## **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](http://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](http://bit.ly/StMarysCLOW)

## FAITH DIRECT®

**Faith Direct** is St. Mary's online offertory program. Here's how you can enroll:

- Visit [faith.direct/VA969](http://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 (9-5-21)**

Offertory	\$4,436.76
Debt Reduction	\$625.00



## **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

We need to get our bearings straight and properly lay life's cornerstone. Otherwise, the rest of our journey will be skewed, and our judgment clouded. We can recall Jesus' famous rebuke of Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Even he, as one of Jesus' closest friends struggles with understanding things and grasping the big picture. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) a renowned and learned French Jesuit priest often has these words attributed to him: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Whether they were actually from his lips, they certainly mimic his thought. These wise words orient us and capture the essence of who we really are.

Many people consider spirituality an option. It is no wonder that they come to this conclusion when they predominantly define themselves using human terms and concepts. Immersed in this world view, they struggle finding any semblance of God because God does not work according to human expectations! This is especially true when suffering and death enter life's picture. If we are only human beings having a spiritual experience, then we wrongly expect our spirituality to serve us as we desire. The human expectation is that my spiritual life is something that is useful in avoiding pain, hardship, and death, not something that gives the courage to live through it!

So, when we protest and get upset with God because our journey is becoming difficult, painful, treacherous, disappointing, and even pointing us toward death, Jesus rebukes us as he did Peter and gently reminds us how to see. It is God who inspires and opens hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, the true meaning of things is understood, and we receive a depth of insight and understanding that is not found following purely human paths. It is not our task to understand God, as God is beyond human understanding. Ours is the joyful privilege of simply resting in God's presence simply because God is God and we are who we are. As spiritual beings having an exciting and adventurous human experience, it is in our DNA to do so. Through prayer we can let go and let be. This is how we lose our lives but then save them.



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](https://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](mailto:rcia@stmarysblacksburg.org)

The Office: 540-552-1091

Leave contact information for:

Deacon Rick Furman

- Starts: Tuesday, Aug 31<sup>th</sup>, 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.