

Saint Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH of BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Established 1938

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 3, 2021



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them in reply,
"What did Moses command?"
They replied, "Moses permitted a
husband to write a bill of divorce
and dismiss her." But Jesus told
them, "Because of the hardness
of your hearts he wrote you this
commandment. But from the
beginning of creation, God
made them male and female."
- Mk 10:3-6

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
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



BLACKSBURG REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

NEW!

Following the collapse of the Republic of Afghanistan, refugee families are being resettled all over the world. In Blacksburg, we have the opportunity to welcome two families (and a third later on), all of whom greatly need our support. They most urgently need: Silverware settings, Plates, Bowls, Drinking glasses, Teas cups/coffee mugs, Pots and pans, Baking dishes, Mixing/serving bowls, Kitchen Utensils, Cutting Board, Knives, Can opener, Scissors, Dish towels, Serving dishes/platter, Cookie sheet, Pressure Cooker, Tea Kettle, Drying Rack, Iron, Ironing board, Bath Towels, Wash Cloths, Hand towels, Alarm clock, and Vacuum Cleaner. All of these items can be brought to St. Mary's Main Office (contact: officestaff@stmarysblacksburg.org or 540-552-1091).

They also need **5 twin beds**, a **crib** (for a one-year-old), and a **carseat** (that meets safety requirements for a one-year-old). These larger items can be stored at Janis Torgerson's home. Her email is janis.torgersen@gmail.com and phone number is 919-690-4102. Thank you!!



DONUT SUNDAY RETURNS!

NEW!

Carol Lee donuts will be served in the Parish Hall following the 8:30am and 11:30am Masses this weekend. Join us!



FOOD FOR THE POOR VISITING PRIEST

NEW!

Join us this weekend as Father Joe Monahan speaks 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.



RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION CONTINUES

NEW!

Registration Continues for Religious Education. Forms are available in the classroom hallway. We are a safe environment with all Elementary and Middle and High School students wearing masks. Our 1st Confirmation Class will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 13th at 7pm at St. Mary's. Please contact Sue Ellerbrock if you have any questions.



WINTERIZING HELP NEEDED

NEW!

As the growing season for **St. Mary's Flower Garden** fades into fall, ministry coordinator Angelika Huber invites willing volunteers to put in a few hours in the next few weeks to help winterize the garden plot. Cultivating, harvesting and designing the beautiful bouquets for the altar and to sell for fundraising each spring and summer takes year-round work and creativity. If you're as sad as we are to see this season end, please help to ensure we keep St. Mary's Flower Garden growing next season. Angelika can be reached by emailing geli.huber.kucera@googlemail.com. Special thanks to all the gardeners who helped out in 2021, and for everyone who purchased a flower bouquet in support of parish projects.



FATHER JOHN OUT OF TOWN

NEW!

Fr. John will enjoy a long-delayed and joyfully-anticipated trip home to Ghana from October 20th through November 18th. We welcome back our friend Fr. Jay Biber, retired priest from Lexington, who will celebrate Sunday masses with us during that time. We pray that God blesses your vacation with happy reunions and safe travels, Fr. John! There will be no daily masses held at St. Mary's during Fr. John's absence, except on Wednesdays. Fr. Biber will hear confessions Saturday afternoons at 3:30 pm only. Daily masses at Virginia Tech's Newman House Chapel, 203 Otey Street, are Monday-Fridays at 9:00 am; Wednesdays at 12:30 pm, and Thursday evenings at 9 pm. Saturday daily mass is at 9 am.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Parishioners are invited to visit the Blacksburg Christian Church on October 15th from 1pm to 6pm for a Red Cross Blood Drive. If you, or anyone you know would like to sign up for an appointment to give blood, you can do so by visiting: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=2670>

Latest Ministry and Group Updates

NEW!

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC HOKIE ALUMNI!

The Catholic Hokies of the Catholic Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech (CCM@VT) are looking forward to reconnecting with you. We would be honored to host you for one or more of our special Homecoming events! Join us on Friday, October 15, at 7:30pm at the Newman House for a **Wine & Cheese social**. Park in our lot and **tailgate with us** on Saturday before the VT vs. Pitt game (spaces are limited so contact us soon!). If you do not have tickets to the VT vs Pitt game, no worries! An anonymous benefactor has gifted our ministry with two football tickets to raffle. Who would like **free football tickets**? To enter, just scan the QR code at the end of this announcement and fill out the raffle form. (Please note that the winner of the raffle may not resell the tickets.) Then, before returning home, **celebrate Mass with us** on Sunday at 10am, noon, or 8pm in the War Memorial Chapel. All are welcome to Mass. To reserve your space for the Friday night social or Saturday tailgate parking, kindly RSVP to Melissa Philen, ccmatvt.dd@gmail.com or call 540-951-0032.

NEW!

SANCTITY OF LIFE BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Every life (including yours!) is a gift from God. Today the Church celebrates Respect Life Sunday to remind us that life is to be cherished and protected—all ages, all the time. In this Year of St Joseph we particularly look to this hard-working, humble father who protected and loved Mary and her son throughout the turbulent time of the unplanned pregnancy that saved us all, through Christ's earliest years as a refugee in Egypt, childhood in Nazareth, and apprenticeship as a carpenter.

What can you do to promote the sanctity of all life? Two opportunities to help your local Pregnancy Resource Center of the New River Valley (with two locations in Blacksburg and Radford) are: (1) Take an empty baby bottle from the Sanctity of Life table in the Narthex next Sunday, Oct 10, and return it Oct 24, filled with your loose change or checks. The **Annual Baby Bottle Campaign** proceeds enable hope, counseling and medical services, education, and material support to be provided to those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy in your community. Explore presupport.com. (2) Looking ahead: Attend or host a table at the **PRC's Annual Fundraising Banquet Nov 1-2, 2021 at The Va Tech Inn** and hear the life story of music artist Nicole Mullen, the first African-American female to win Songwriter of the Year with "Redeemer."

For more info on these or future SOL activities, contact Glenda and Bob Canfield at 540- 951-1298.

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.

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.



YOUTH MINISTRY HAS BEGUN

New River Valley Youth Ministry (NRVYM) at St. Mary's has begun. Text "NRVYM" to 84576 to receive youth ministry updates or connect at nrwym.flocknote.com. Email or call Austin Mee with questions: nrwym@richmonddiocese.org | 540.251.1754



“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, October 2	5:00 PM	The Community of St. Mary's
Sunday, October 3	8:30 AM	Lorraine Brunelle †
Sunday, October 3	11:30 AM	—
Tuesday, October 5	9:00 AM	—
Wednesday, October 6	9:00 AM	Jeffery Baer †
Thursday, October 7	9:00 AM	—
Friday, October 8	11:15 AM	—

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

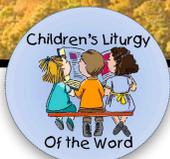
Worship aids and Father John's homily can be found online at stmarysblacksburg.org.

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 (9-26-21)

Offertory	\$2,401.50
Debt Reduction	\$150.00



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

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "It takes three to make love, not two: you, your spouse, and God." Apart from the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, nothing speaks better of God's incarnate love than marriage. God designed it this way. We place great value on love and rightly so. What we fail to realize, however, is that love, its very presence and place in our lives, is not simply part of the human package deal. Love comes from God. It is one of God's greatest gifts to human beings. When we begin to realize that our very ability to love is sacred, it changes up how we see the essence of life, and purpose and sanctity of marriage.

God is love. It stands to reason then that if we follow the path of unconditional, self-emptying love we will then stumble upon God. It is precisely this intimate wedding of God with love that gives such eloquence and honor to the love between husband and wife. As a living sign of Christ's love for the Church and for humanity, husbands and wives speak volumes of God's unconditional incarnate love for all of his children! The Divine power that brings unity and life to marriage is so strong that once joined, it really cannot be separated.

Admittedly, marriage covenants can be extremely difficult to negotiate and, at times, very painful to experience. God's perfect divinity always meets our broken and imperfect humanity. God is okay with this setup as he created it this way. Our loving is never as unconditional as God's and often tainted by our own imperfections, needs, memories, hurts, sinfulness, and weakness. All of this baggage negatively impacts even the most well-intentioned marriages, causing them to be hurtful and empty. We are love works in progress. God can succeed in perfecting our love only if we keep our eyes fixed on him as the source of that love. That's why marriage is always about three and not just two.

The Divine intimacy at the heart of marriage is what can make them celebrations of great union and happiness. Couples who are still madly in love with each other after many years, still looking at each other with that timeless twinkle in their eyes, best tell the story of God's oneness with humanity. Honor, celebrate, and support those who have accepted a vocation to marriage. Living in a world that easily pulls relationships apart, may they find hope and inspiration from their faith companions who are on the same journey!



Last quarter, St. Mary's earned \$964.05 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