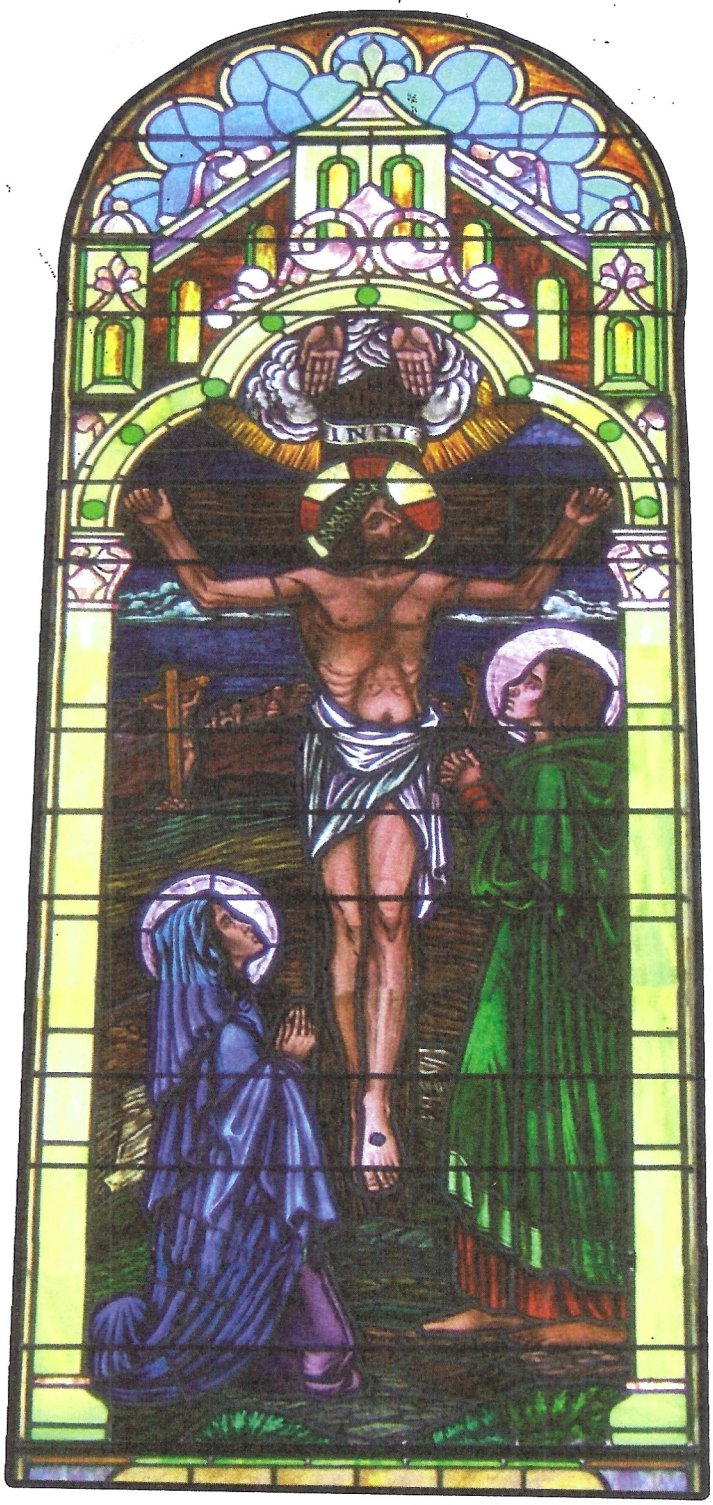
St. Mary's Catholic Church



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MASSES FOR SUNDAY
Saturday Vigil Masses: 4 pm and 6 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 12 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday – Thursday 8 am
Friday 9:30 am

CONFESSION SCHEDULE
Sundays: 9:30 – 9:45 am
Monday-Thursday 7:30 – 7:50 am / Friday 9:00 - 9:20 am
Saturdays: 3:00 - 3:45 pm

PARISH OFFICE
Hours of Operation: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Monday – Friday
Phone: 301-870-2220 or 301-274-3187 / Fax: 301-274-0253
Visit Our Parish Web Site: www.stmarysbryantown.com

Secretary
Lauren Balderson – smbassist@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant
Terri Cantor – smcasst@comcast.net

Bookkeeper
Lisa Shumaker – smcacct@comcast.net

Ministry to the Sick, Homebound & Bereaved
Sister Theresa Frere, IHM - SRTHERESA@comcast.net

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
Address: 13735 Notre Dame Place, Bryantown, MD 20617-2110
Phone: 301-932-6883 or 301-843-3387 / Fax: 301-274-0626
School Web Site: www.bryantown.org

Principal
Catherine C. Silverstone – silverstone@bryantown.org

Administrative Assistant
Penny Bailey – office@bryantown.org

OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Director Of Religious Education
Sue Wolfe – smcffp@comcast.net
Phone for Office of Religious Education: 301-274-3800

+ + +

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
This program involves preparation for and celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist for the Christian initiation of unbaptized adults, unbaptized children of catechetical age, as well as for welcoming baptized Catholics and non-Catholics into full communion with the Church. Please contact Father Conley for more information.

The Sacrament of Baptism
Baptisms are normally celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents seeking to have a child baptized at St. Mary's should contact the rectory office to make the necessary arrangements.

The Sacrament of Matrimony
Couples seeking to be married at St. Mary's are to call the rectory to make arrangements at least six months in advance of their intended wedding date. This should be done prior to any other reception or invitation arrangements so that the parish may suitably serve the couple.

The Sacrament of Anointing
Any Catholic who is facing serious illness or surgery is encouraged to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Please call Father Conley at the rectory office to arrange to receive this sacrament for yourself or for a family member.

Rev. Rory T. Conley, Pastor
frconley@comcast.net
Deacon Jeffrey R. Johnson
deacon@bryantown.org

New Parishioners
We welcome you to our faith community. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the church. Also you can call the rectory office or email smboffice@stmarysbryantown.com to have a form mailed to you.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
Dear Parishioners,

The following essay by a woman has much to say to both men & women about respecting our own dignity as persons and temples of the Holy Spirit.
With my prayers,
Father Conley

I Never Knew a Bikini Could Hide So Much
by Kaylin Koslosky

Do you know what's funny about dressing modestly? It is the hardest thing to start, yet then becomes impossible to stop. My journey with modesty has happened in stages, prompted by questions that I continued to ask myself. These questions came from an internal battle between wanting to fit in and be seen as attractive on the outside, and wanting to find love and be seen as beautiful for who I am on the inside.

One key moment within this journey occurred while lying at a pool sun tanning in my new bikini. I began to simply observe the scene that I was immersed in. Women of all shapes and sizes were walking around or lying out like me in bikinis. I noticed some girls walk by with their arms draped across their stomachs—an insecurity that I immediately related with despite my athletic build. Other young women strutted confidently along the pool edge looking as if they had just stepped off of a runway. It was easy to track the eyes of the men around them as they walked by.

Whether the women walked confidently, or insecurely, or somewhere in between, one thing struck me about each of them. Not once in my observations that day had I asked myself "I wonder what is on her heart today" or "I wonder what her personality is like" or "I wonder what she dreams of doing some day." Not once. All of my thoughts had been directed towards her swimsuit or her body. As a woman, that may just mean I am wondering where she got her suit or comparing my body to her body, but imagine what that is like for a man. It is hard to look at a woman barely wearing clothes and seek the beauty of her heart when it is the beauty of her body that she is broadcasting, and maybe even hiding behind.

So there I was, realizing all of this and yet laying there in a bikini myself. I knew that if I did catch the eye of a man, which I often thought I wanted, it would never be for any other reason then my body. I mean, how could it? He wouldn't know me. Something about that left me with an empty feeling. Even just in relation to other women, I realized that a lack of clothing leaves us vulnerable to hurtful comparisons between each other in a world so focused on looks.

As I continued to glance around the pool my eyes stopped on a beautiful young woman in a one-piece. It was easily noticeable because of the rarity of it. She had a child with her and her husband sat and laughed beside her as they talked.

I was mesmerized. For whatever reason, it was in this little family that I discovered one fundamental truth about modesty that I had been missing: *You do not veil yourself because you believe you are ugly, you veil yourself because you know that you are beautiful.* For so long I believed that a one-piece or tankini showed the world that I thought my body was ugly and I needed to hide it. So I stayed away from them at all costs to avoid judgment.

However modesty is not about hiding faults, it is about *veiling beauty*. In veiling her beauty, this young mother allowed me to notice other things about her—her smile, her adorable family, her nurturing heart… and this was all from afar!

Modesty veils physical beauty in a world obsessed with it, in order to reveal the inner beauty that is often overlooked. It prevents lust, harmful comparisons, and insecurity and gives rise to confidence and a greater capacity to love yourself and others by recognizing your own worth without needing the affirmation of each person that sees you.

For me, bikinis were just the start. It is hard to turn back once you discover the freedom modesty brings. Wherever you are at in this journey ask yourself this: What beauty am I revealing to the world, and is it leading me to the love my heart yearns for? But beware! You may be starting down a path of no return.

Are You or is Someone You Know Being Called to Full Initiation in the Catholic Church? Our faith formation class is offered on Mondays from 7 to 8:30pm beginning in September12 These classes are for those who wish to enter the Church, for adult Catholics who wish to receive all the sacraments of initiation, and for folks who would just like to learn about the Faith. Please contact Fr. Conley or Sue Wolfe if you would like more information.

Monday is the Feast of the Assumptions of the Blessed Virgin Mary-*But it is not a day of obligation.* Mass will be at 8am

PRAYERS FOR HEALING ANSWERED
From a parishioner
I wanted to share this amazing story about a good friend of mine. She was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer sometime in April. She attended the healing service at St. Mary's on April 24th. At that time, she had only received her first round of chemotherapy. If you had attended this service, you would remember her because she was so weak, she had to have help walking up to the altar. Her husband held her up on one side and her daughter on the other. It was a very sad sight to see.
In June she had her second PET scan. After receiving just 2 more rounds of chemotherapy, the scan shows that she is cancer free. She is not only feeling much better, but she is back to work full time. Her doctor was astonished and stated that he had only seen this happen to one other person in his lifetime. As a matter of fact, she feels that this is nothing short of a miracle. She is thoroughly convinced that she has been healed by the grace of God and the incredible power of prayer. She has a huge support team of family and friends praying over her daily. She wanted to share her inspirational story with others.

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY NEXT WEEKEND Prayer teams will be available after each Mass to pray for you and your loved ones for physical and spiritual healing

The Ladies of Saint Mary's Sodality are welcoming new members. Our main focus is to help ladies develop a deeper spiritual relationship with Jesus through Mary with prayers and services throughout the community. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the 3rd Grade classroom at 6:30 p.m. For further information, please contact Tanya Dorsey at (240) 346-6980 or email smbsodality@gmail.com

Save the Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022, The Ladies of St. Mary's Sodality will be sponsoring a bus trip to the Bible Museum. The cost is $30 and it will include transportation, admission and a guided tour. So come join us for a day of spiritual renewal.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY: Needs donations of Back to School Supplies. Drop-off supplies in Foyer of church **next weekend** August 20th & 21st. Supplies Needed: Backpacks, pencils, markers, highlighters, crayons, erasers, three-ring binders, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, calculators, tape, white glue, scissors. Band-Aids and first aid kits, and hand sanitizers. Thank You in advance

DISABLED PERSONS MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION TO MASS ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS If you are disabled and have Medicare / Medicaid you may qualify for VanGo services to and from your appointments and also church Mass on Saturdays. Please go to link below and follow the instructions in order to be considered for approval.
https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/transportation/vango-public-transportation
Customer Service contact number for VanGo is 301-645-064

MASS INTENTIONS FOR August 13 – Aug 19
SAT: 4 pm Wilson Goldsmith **6 pm** Charles Miller **SUN: 8 am** Don Freeman **10 am** Clyde Copsey **12N** Roy Parishioners **MON: 8 am** Joseph Sweetney**TUE: 8 am** Mary Louise Hill **WED: 8 am** Robert Lippert **THUR: 8 am** Mary Lavenia Sweetney **FRI: 9:30 am** Joanne Weingarden

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Joe Beale, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Dottie Chick, John Chick Jr., Barbara Cockerham, Lorraine Cook, Kendall Farrell, Sister Theresa Frere, James Gibson, Joseph Griffith, Carol Herskovitz, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Mark Otto, John Reeves, Mary Reeves, Melissa Rollins, Gail Schultz, Kenny Stewart, James Washington, Beth Weise, Billie Whittington, and Richard Windsor.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND: $10,220.25. $2,142.00 of that was received from people who contribute through online banking. The unidentified donations totaled $660.25. We received $385.00 for our Religious Ed. School Support.

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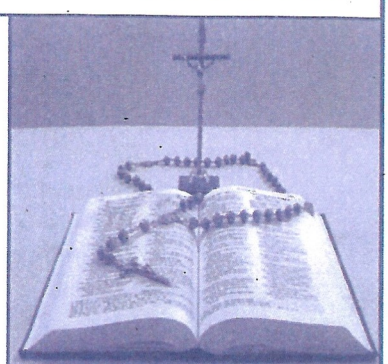

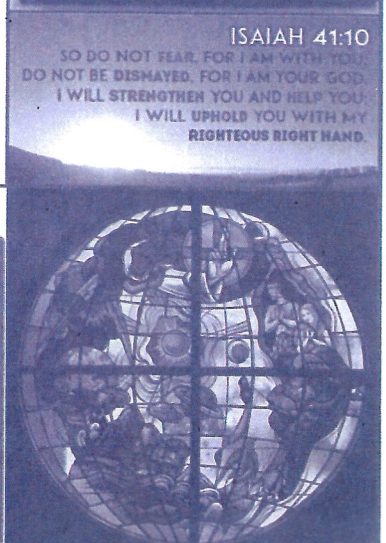

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