

Saint Mary of the Annunciation

10306 Ladysmith Rd. Ruther Glen VA 22546

May 3rd, 2020 4th Week of Easter

What's happening in the Parish?

- St. Mary Online Schedule
 - Finance Update
 - May Online Rosary
 - Security Assessment
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - Food Pantry Donations
 - Parish Digital Platforms
- Visit the Parish [Website](#) for more . . .



The [Website & Calendar](#) are being kept up to date with the latest schedule and information. Please check it for updates and details for Live Streaming and other News.

St. Mary Online This Week!

Live Streaming of the Mass and other church services are being offered via the [St. Mary Public Facebook](#) page. Have you visited? Please note that you don't need a Facebook account to participate.

We are also taking advantage of other online solutions. You can join in using the links below. This week look for the following:

- Daily: Readings & Homily
 - Fr. Muddu - sent via St. Mary Flocknote Group
- Nightly Rosary 7pm - (May 21st & 28th 6pm)
 - Fr. Muddu - The Rosary ([Join Online](#))
- Online Religious Education Classes
 - Details provided for each class by instructors
- Sunday 10am - Mass - Live Streamed ([Join Online](#))

Finance Update

In January we started hearing about a new disease that was causing serious concerns in China. By March, the first stimulus bill was passed, regulations were being put into place to try to restrict the spread of the virus.

On March 16 Bishop Knestout announced the suspension of all public Masses in the Richmond Diocese. Suddenly we were isolated from our jobs, friends, family, and our church. By the end of March there were 120,000 confirmed cases in the US. People were losing jobs, having their pay cut, and there was no end in sight. Fear, anxiety, confusion and anger abounded.

When the Payroll Protection Program was announced April 3rd, we applied. We also applied for a line of credit in case we did not receive the PPP Loan. We did everything we could to insure we would have what we needed for Saint Mary of the Annunciation to continue its mission.

But God is Good all the time! Our Faith kept us strong and encouraged us to move forward. With the power of the Holy Spirit working through us, we started live-streaming Masses, Stations of the cross, and Rosaries using Facebook and webinars. We continued our weekly bulletins and prayers for the sick via Flocknote. We posted daily homilies, scriptures, and other things on Facebook and Flocknote. We handed out Palms. We continued operating our Food Pantry. We went online for the Pastoral Council and Finance Council. We had webinars on how to use Formed. We have worked to move our Religious Education Classes to an online process using Formed. So many of the processes we put into place over the last 2 years (the new website, Flocknote, Formed) made our parish more prepared to continue our spiritual works.

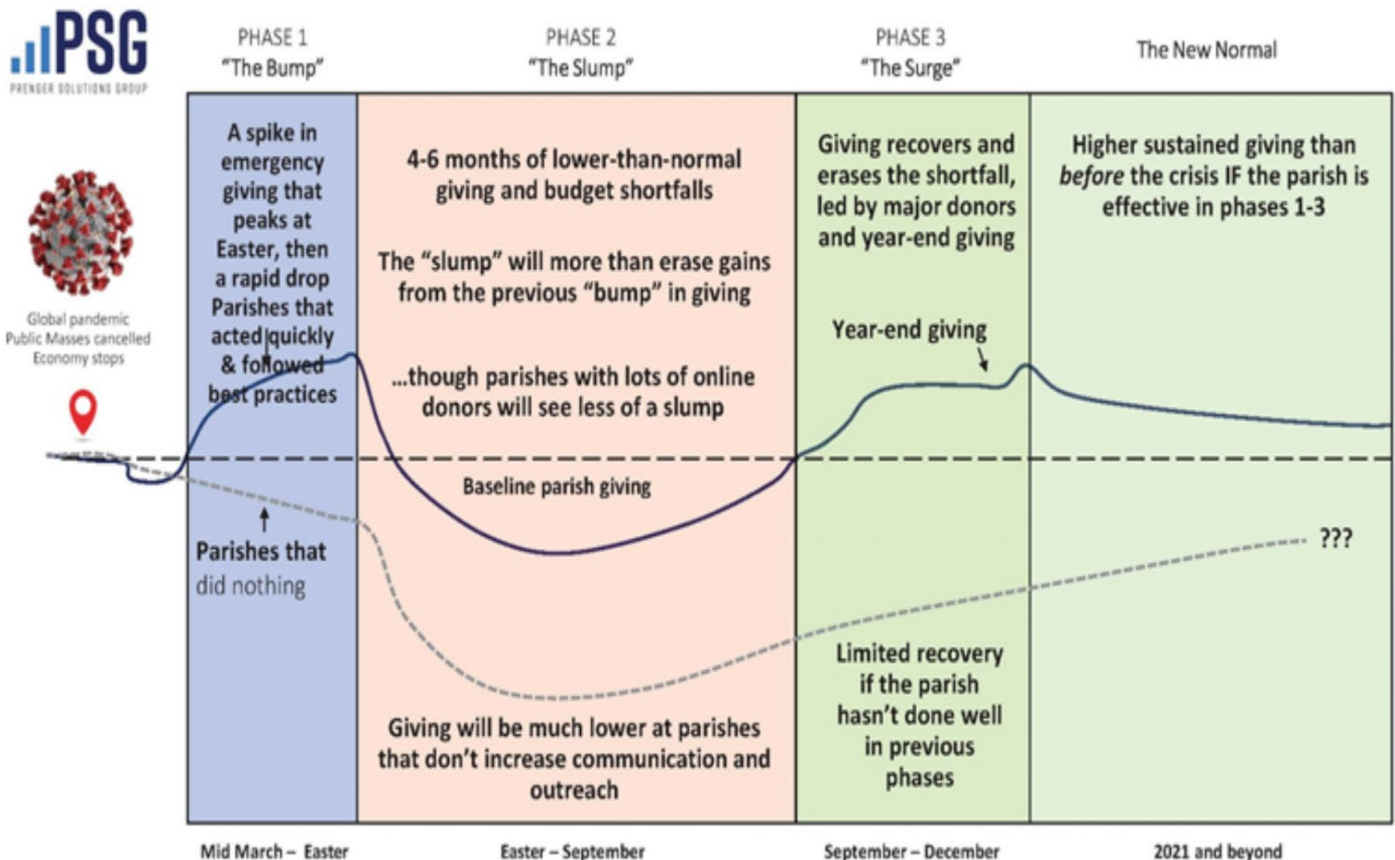
We are so grateful for our parishioners! We have benefited from your prayers and could not have accomplished all we have without them. We are humbled and thankful for all your financial support. Not only have people continued their financial contributions, we have had parishioners contribute significant gifts during the last weeks. A combination of decreased expenses since the suspension of Masses and the donations received, our financial situation is a better than what we expected when the Masses were suspended.

The following table details our donations over the last few weeks:

| WEEK | OLG | Offertory | total | Budget | Over/Under |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mar 16 to Mar 22 | \$ 1,745.50 | \$ 290.00 | \$ 2,035.50 | \$ 4,536.00 | (\$2,500.50) |
| March 23 to March 29 | \$ 1,931.70 | \$ 575.00 | \$ 2,506.70 | \$ 4,536.00 | (\$2,029.30) |
| March 30 to April 5 | \$ 5,211.95 | \$ 2,252.00 | \$ 7,463.95 | \$ 4,536.00 | \$2,927.95 |
| April 6 to April 12 | \$ 3,364.00 | \$ 2,295.00 | \$ 5,659.00 | \$ 4,536.00 | \$1,123.00 |
| April 13 to April 19 | \$ 2,643.00 | \$ 6,958.00 | \$ 9,601.00 | \$ 4,536.00 | \$5,065.00 |
| April 20 to April 26 | \$ 2,619.00 | \$ 808.00 | \$ 3,427.00 | \$ 4,536.00 | (\$1,109.00) |

Now as continue through to the reopening of society, we face an unsure future. We wonder when things will get better, when we can go out without fear, when can people get back to work, when will salaries get back to normal and a host of other unknowns

At the start of this crisis, the Diocese contracted with a consulting firm to aid us in communication, fund raising and ideas for helping parishioners with their spiritual needs. The chart below shows the usual response to donations during and after a crisis. Our parish has done well so far. Now we must try to mitigate the slump that may occur because of the ongoing crisis and the normal summer downturn as depicted below:



Last week we were informed that we have been approved for the Payroll Protection Program Loan which will aid us in the unknown future. With your continued support we can not only survive this difficult period but grow in our faith and devotion to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Moving forward as a parish, we will continue to bring the joy of the Risen Lord to each of us in this time of isolation and concern. As society starts to reopen, we will keep you informed as to what that means to Mass attendance.

Your support of our parish is greatly appreciated! Please consider contributing your weekly offering through our [Online Giving Page](#). Have questions? Email Sue Brim (sbrim@saintmarycc.org)

We are praying for a swift end of this crisis and a return to seeing everyone in Mass.

God Bless You All!

Live Stream of the Rosary

Nightly 7pm Throughout May

Father Muddu is leading us in a nightly Rosary at 7pm beginning May 1st. The Rosary is being Live Streamed on our [Public Facebook](#) page. Please see the website for details this week and join Father and the Parish in prayer (May 21st and 28th the Rosary will be prayed at 6pm)



Religious Education Online!

As announced over the last two weeks, to ensure that we are able to complete the Religious Education year, the classes have been moved online. Instructors are now working with the parents and children in their groups using content from the FORMED platform to conduct classes.



At the request of the Parish Pastoral Council, a Safety and Security Site Assessment was recently conducted at St. Mary's by the Caroline County Sheriff's Office.

In response, the parish is forming a small team to focus on safety and security issues. Some of the tasks the group will focus on are reviewing and prioritizing recommendations provided, working within Diocesan guidelines to establish relevant policies/procedures, potential training, and related

areas. If you have experience in this area and would be willing to help out, please contact Anne Bradshaw at ambonner@hotmail.com.

Prayer Shawls Available!

We have 10 blessed prayer shawls in the drawer for anyone who needs to a prayer shawl. They are now wrapped in plastic bags for the receivers safety. We always wash our shawls before placing them in the drawer. During this time we have sent out 8 shawls, 6 of them to Covid-19 patients, mostly nurses, a doctor & first responder. The shawl respondent doesn't need to have the virus. Anyone who is upset by being home or other illness are valid respondents for our shawls. Just come to church office during office hours 9-12 on Tuesday through Thursdays. Someone will show you where to pick a shawl out of prayer shawl file drawers in Little Church room. Please remember to sign the person receiving shawl on the sheet. Our prayer shawl community is unique in that we continue to pray for prayer shawl recipients.



Food pantry is still accepting food donations during this time. If you have any items for donation, please feel free to leave them in the food pantry bin in the narthex when the church is open during the day, or feel free to drop them off on Tuesday or Thursday evenings between 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Sign up for the [FORMED](#) platform and join our Parish Community for fantastic faith-based movies, books and more! A great way to share the faith with your families at home.

There are a lot of resources available through FORMED for kids, teens and adults. Join us for a brief Orientation to answer any of your questions.

FORMED - Netflix for the Faithful



If you know of someone in the Parish that hasn't subscribed to Flocknote let them know they can sign up via our [Website!](#)

Quick tip: A Blue Reply button will appear at the bottom of notes sent as emails. If you click on it, it will open up the note in a new page with a space on the right-hand side where you can type your response and click the green 'Post' button. You will always have the option to keep replies private by checking that little box in the bottom left of the text box when replying.

Prayer for the Sick

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness.
O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love,
and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden.

Dear God, we place our worries in your hands.

We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again.

Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do,
you do for the love of us. Amen.

Please pray for:

Eli Ames, Bob Arnold, Mike Arnold, Estelle Bareford, Donald Barker, Kevin Bera, The Biddulph Family, Annemarie Bockman, Maria Bridge, Daniel Clarke, Cindy Cook, Brandon Dineff, Levie Edmond, Deacon Dave Geary, Verde Halley, Celeste Henkel, Jean Johnson, Michael Johnson, Deborah Landsnes, Jennifer Leaming-Lyons, Cindy Lent, Dawn Long, Esther Luiggi, The Matekenya Family, Patrick Moore, Sam O'Shea, Donald Paradis, Marianna Porter, Mary Ann Pressman, Barbara Purks, Duane Riden, Wayne Scott, William Simulcik, Hadley Spacht, Faye Spartz, Mary Stella Summers, Scott Trice, Joan Williams

Please feel free to reply to this Flocknote to add or remove anyone from this list.

As always, prayer is an important way Catholics can respond to any crisis as we express our dependence on God. We continue to stand in solidarity with all those affected by the disease as well as those health care professionals who care for them. We ask parishioners to keep these people in mind in your daily prayers. God Bless!