

Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH



February 16, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

MASS

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 8:30 AM

(+David Phillips req. by John and Joan Kost)

AND 11:00 AM

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday, February 17, 2020: JAMES 1:1-11; PSALMS 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; MARK 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 18, 2020: JAMES 1:12-18; PSALMS 94:12-15, 18-19; MARK 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 19, 2020: JAMES 1:19-27; PSALMS 15:2-5; MARK 8:22-26

Thursday, February 20, 2020: JAMES 2: 1-9; PSALMS 34:2-7; MARK 8:27-33

Friday, February 21, 2020: JAMES 2:14-24, 26; PSALMS 112:1-6; MARK 8:34-9:1

Saturday, February 22, 2020: 1 PETER 5:1-4; PSALMS 23:1-6; MATTHEW 16:13-19

Sunday, February 23, 2020: LEVITICUS 19:1-2, 17-18; PSALMS 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (8a); 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-23; MATTHEW 5:38-48

WEEKLY SCHEDULE / Office Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Monday, February 17, 2020	
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	9:00 AM - 10 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM Mass ; 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6:00-7:30 PM Food Pantry
Wednesday, February 19, 2020	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Adoration; 9:30 AM Mass ; 7:00 PM Scout Pack 1421
Thursday, February 20, 2020	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Adoration; 9:30 AM Mass ; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, February 21, 2020	Church closed for cleaning in AM
Saturday, February 22, 2020	4:10 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM Mass
Sunday, February 23, 2020	8:30 AM Mass (+George and Ruby Speck req. by Holly Nguyen); 9:45 AM Religious Education; 11:00 AM Mass

Upcoming Parish News/Events

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

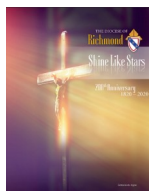
Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

The first reading today, from the Book of Sirach, a wisdom book, tells us this: "If you trust in God, you too shall live." In the second reading, from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul tells us: "We speak a wisdom to those who are mature." And the Gospel from Matthew today reminds us that it is not external behavior that determines everything, but what is more important is what is happening in our hearts and the external behavior that flows from what is happening in our hearts.

God's Word is challenging us today to deep conversion in our lives. God's Word reminds us over and over that to follow God is not only about external behavior but about the conversion of our hearts and our way of living because of a deep, personal relationship with God. To follow God is a commitment to a living relationship with God and from that relationship comes our external behavior.

The Book of Sirach tells us: "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." Life and death! We choose one or the other with our daily lives. We know that we can talk a lot about God and not do His will. We can observe rules without giving our hearts to the Lord. But our God is a consuming fire and wants us to give ourselves completely to Him. We cannot fool God!

The Diocese of Richmond's beautiful commemorative book, which highlights our 200 year history with text, pictures, and profiles of our nearly 150 parishes, is available for \$35. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.



VOCATIONS

"It is loyalty to do His will." Are you considering following the will of God in the consecrated life or priesthood? Call Father Brian Capuano 804-359-5661 or e-mail: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal:

Building Our Family of Faith

In honor of this landmark year for our Diocese, Bishop Knestout has announced a special **Bicentennial Challenge to raise \$5 million through this year's Annual Appeal.**

Reaching this challenge will allow the Diocese to fund three key priorities: the education for our youth, care for our elderly poor and support for our mission parishes. In addition, this success will flow back to all parishes and provide significant boosts to all the ministries supported by the Appeal.

It is with these goals in mind that we hope all our parishioners will join with us this year in making a generous pledge to the Appeal to help us launch our Diocese into the next 200 years.

Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays throughout Lent starting on 2/28/20. Soup is at 6pm; Stations of the Cross start at 7pm. Join us as we retrace the final journey of Christ to Calvary. Sign up sheets for soup and bread are in the Narthex. For questions, call Valerie Sparks at 804-572-1768.



The Catholic Woman's Club
Est. 1914

BOOKS IN BLOOM!

The Catholic Woman's Club of Richmond invites you to celebrate five Richmond authors March 14, 2020 11:30 am at the Hermitage Country Club. Meeting the authors, book signings and a luncheon are included in the ticket. Reservation: Send check for \$35 to Joan Walton 300 Burnwick Road, Richmond, VA 23227 or pay on-line at www.CWCRVA.org For more information about event, authors, payment and directions go to www.CWCRVA.org.

Please bring all Palms and Blessed articles in need of disposal to church no later than February 23rd. These items will be burned after the 11:00 AM Mass on the 23rd to make ashes or to be buried.



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

Because Palms have been blessed by a priest and therefore are holy objects, the palm branches used for Catholic Church services, especially those used on Palm Sunday, should not be disposed of in the regular fashion. Once an object is blessed, it is considered to be in the service of God and should be treated with respect. Therefore, it is considered sacrilegious to throw a holy item in the garbage, where it might end up in a sewer or a landfill. Holy palms should be returned to nature. The Catholic priests take all of the collected palms and burn them. They save the ashes to use for the Ash Wednesday service. Palms are not the only objects routinely blessed by the Catholic Church. Holy water, oils, rosaries and relics also have a special religious significance. Churches typically have a special sink that runs straight into the ground where holy water, oils and blessed wine is discarded. Combustible items may be burned, everything else should be buried in an area where people are not likely to walk, such as under a tree.

Need to use Church Facilities? Get signed up!

St. Mary's is initiating the use of an Event Approval Form, which is required by all parishioners who want to use parish space for both parish and non-parish events, activities, and meetings. The form can be found on the parish website in the **Parish Life section** or requested in hard copy form in the church office. ALL parish events require an approved event request, even those regular, recurring events and meetings that are currently being hosted in parish facilities. This new process will help streamline scheduling of parish events and meetings, ensure that the use of parish facilities is documented, displayed on the online church calendar and advertised (if requested) via Flocknote and the Website. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

FAQs

What parish spaces require a reservation/approved event form?

ALL parish spaces – conference room, classrooms, the parish hall, the kitchen, the Narthex, the sanctuary, the BBQ and pavilion, the parking lot, and all other outdoor spaces.

What exactly is an “event”?

Anything happening in the parish is an event – a meeting, a fundraiser, a luncheon, a ministry get-together, a practice, etc. If you are using parish space, you are hosting/participating in an “event.”

If my group/ministry is currently using parish space on a regular basis, do we have to complete a form?

YES, please. This ensures that your regular meeting time is placed on the church calendar and reserved for you.

A form like this has never been necessary before. Why now?

Our church is very busy! This form ensures the pastor has oversight for all activities taking place in parish facilities, and it provides data on facility usage that is necessary for planning purposes. The electronic form will also notify the parish's communications team about upcoming events so that your meeting or event can be appropriately advertised to the parish.

What happens after I complete and submit my form?

When completed, the office is alerted, the request reviewed and forwarded to Fr. Alex for approval. Once the review is complete you will be contacted by the parish office as to whether or not your request was approved.

What if someone from outside the parish wants to use our facilities?

We are currently working on finalizing a facility usage policy for non-parishioners, which will use a separate Event Approval Form.

THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE

Winter is officially here and we have had some very cold weather. We are starting our annual Thermal Underwear Drive to help those who are homeless as well as those at Thurman Brisben who have to walk to work at five in the morning. Underwear is needed for both men and women. Sizes from medium to extra, extra large are needed. There will be a bin in the Narthex. Thank you for your help.



Thank you to our **Polar Bear Plungers** for coming in 3rd place and raising **\$5,231.00** for our food bank!!!



Michelle Moore
Joseph LaMontagne
Robert Bingaman
Travis Bingaman
Melanie Squires
Thomas Biddulph

Our first year plungers:

Jack Frank
Butler Frank
David Lackey
Carmen Lackey
Dominic Lackey

Also to Joan Cormier, Joanne Casper, our counters, and Gail Bingaman for the bake sale



Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Bob Arnold, Mike Arnold, Estelle Bareford, Donald Barker, Kevin Bera, The Biddulph Family, Maria Bridge, Daniel Clarke, Cindy Cook, Brandon Dineff, Levie Edmond, Dave Frank, Peter Frank, Deacon Dave Geary, Verde Halley, 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, Richard Wassels, Jonathan Webb, Joan Williams



St. Mary's is hosting a pasta dinner for all of our parish's **Polar Bear Plunge participants and their families** on **Saturday, February 29th at 6:00 p.m.** Please RSVP via text to Maria Bridge at 804-867-6721 and include name and number of attendees. If more convenient, please RSVP by commenting on the pasta dinner post on our parish's Facebook page.




Community/Diocesan Events

Catholic Diocese of	Richmond Bicentennial	Event Calendar
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday, May 9, 2020	Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Knestout	Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore
Saturday, July 11, 2020	Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Knestout to commemorate the founding of the diocese (July 11, 1820), and in recognition of the Catholic presence in the Central Vicariate	Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond
Saturday, July 11 to Sunday, July 12, 2020	Diocesan-wide Masses to commemorate the founding of the Diocese of Richmond	All parishes
Sunday, September 27 to Sunday, October 4, 2020	Diocesan Octave of Service	All parishes
Saturday, September 26 to Sunday, September 27, 2020	Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul (diocesan patron)	All parishes
Sunday, September 27, 2020	Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul (diocesan patron) celebrated by Bishop Knestout in recognition of the Catholic presence in the Western Vicariate	Saint Andrew, Roanoke
Friday, November 6 to Saturday, November 7, 2020	Eucharistic Congress	Greater Richmond Convention Center
Saturday, November 7 to Sunday, November 8, 2020	Diocesan-wide Masses to commemorate the conclusion of the Eucharistic Congress	All parishes
Saturday, January 16 to Sunday, January 17, 2021	Closing of the Bicentennial Year	All parishes

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL
That our faith grows and we generously share out of love and not out of obligation.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” MATTHEW 5:20
The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it’s the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee

 “Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Learn the tools of forgiveness and healing on the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** on Feb 21-23, 2020 in VIRGINIA BEACH, VA and Mar 20-22, 2020 in FAIRFAX, VA Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/> or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org or 757-690-1369.

PARISH OFFICE

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Phone: 804-448-9064 Fax: 804-448-5464 Email: office@saintmarycc.org
Rev. Alexander Muddu, Pastor..... 804-448-9064
.....757-707-6626
.....frmuddu@saintmarycc.org
Deacon Dave Geary.....540-710-3364
.....djgeary4531@comcast.net
Deacon Frank Leaming.....804-761-5714
.....fnleaming@aol.com
Sue Brim, Office Bookkeeper.....804-448-9064
.....sbrim@saintmarycc.org
Chris Nowark, Office Manager.....804-448-9064
.....office@saintmarycc.org
Pastoral Council Chairperson, Anne Bradshaw.....540-273-9201
.....ambonner@hotmail.com

Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony (a minimum of 6 months preparation is typical), and **Anointing of the Sick**, or to receive a home visit or home blessing, Fr Muddu.....804.448.9064.

Finance Council Chairperson, Ron Wisniewski.....804-448-4348
Food Pantry, Joanne Casper.....804-867-5822
Knights of Columbus, Ron Wisniewski.....804-448-4348
Weekly Bulletin.....804-448-9064
.....office@saintmarycc.org
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Annette Jewell.....804-305-7566
Religious Education Coordinator, Deacon Dave.....804-448-9064
.....djgeary4531@comcast.net
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Sarah LaMontagne...412-848-0639
Arts & Environment, Katie Boltz.....804-448-9339
Music Ministry, Valerie Sparks.....804-572-1768
RCIA, Deacon Frank Leaming.....804-761-5714
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Penny Geary.....honeybepenny@comcast.net
Liturgical Ministries, Deacon Frank Leaming.....804-761-5714
Collection Counters, Joan Cormier.....804-466-0458
.....white dovejec@gmail.com
Cemetery Inquiries, Gloria Bolecek.....804-633-4320