

# Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH



BIENVENIDOS

ALL ARE WELCOME  
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS  
VŠETCI SÚ VÍTANÍ

VITANI

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**OCTOBER 1, 2023**

## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY 5:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY 8:30 AM**  
**SUNDAY 11:00 AM**  
*(People of the Parish)*

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(Office Hours 9 AM - 1 PM Tuesday - Thursday)

Monday, Oct. 2	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> ; 7:00 PM Religious Education for 10th Grade
Tuesday, Oct. 3	9:00 AM Adoration; <b>10:00 AM MASS</b> ; 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Wednesday, Oct. 4	9:00 AM Adoration; <b>10:00 AM MASS</b>
Thursday, Oct. 5	9:00 AM Adoration; <b>10:00 AM MASS</b> (+Wayne Scott requested by Carol Scott); 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, Oct. 6	Church closed for cleaning in AM; <b>7:00 PM Adoration</b>
Saturday, Oct. 7	10:00 AM Blessing of the Animals; 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Confessions; <b>5:00 PM MASS</b> (+Harvey C. Eckert requested by the Nowark Family)
Sunday, Oct. 8	8:00 AM Rosary in front of Mary's statue, weather permitting; <b>8:30 AM MASS</b> ; 9:30 AM Religious Education; 9:45 AM Spanish Rosary; <b>11:00 AM MASS</b> ; <b>Noon - Church Picnic</b>



## OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). **The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.** All of us live busy and distracted lives – whether we are a student, working from 9-5 (or longer), or if we are retired. No doubt, you are now reading this post from your computer or smartphone. All of us need to step back to retreat from the busyness and distractions of our day, switch off the phone, and social media, and quiet our minds. Take a moment this month of October to pray the Rosary. Offer it for a friend or family member, for peace of mind, for peace in the world. Praying the Rosary allows us to encounter Mary and to enter the mysteries of Jesus Christ. From his Incarnation to the Cross, to the Resurrection, we come to understand that God has revealed himself and saved us. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, continue to inspire us to a life of discipleship.

**JOIN US AT 8 AM BEFORE MASS THIS OCTOBER TO PRAY THE ROSARY IN FRONT OF THE MARY STATUE OUTSIDE, weather permitting**

\*\*\*\*\*

### SILENCE BEFORE MASS: A REMINDER

As a pastor, I am faced with a pull from two sides: I regularly hear from one group of parishioners that they find the noise before Mass distracting and even damaging to their spiritual growth.

If I talk about silence, I hear from (or are gossiped about by) other parishioners as making the church “unfriendly.” I know there is no pleasing everybody, and there is some truth in both perspectives (except gossip, which is toxic and sinful).

So how can we encourage what Christ prayed for at the last supper, unity among his disciples?

Can we agree together that catching up with one another in conversation is acceptable as people gather? (After all, especially for seniors, church may be their only chance to meet face-to-face during the week.)

But can we also agree together that we can have conversations at the end of Mass in the Narthex or outside the church.

I know that many people find silence “empty” and uncomfortable.

Let me say a word about that; First, there’s no denying some part of the discomfort. We meet our deeper selves — our consciences, our fears, our hopes, the word of God within us — only when we are silent, and most normal human beings flee from that encounter rather than encourage it.

But there is an unnecessary degree of discomfort because we don’t know anything that can make silence useful for our spiritual growth. So here are a few things to do with that time before Mass.

Read — or reread — the scriptures for the Mass that’s about to begin; listen for the voice of God in what you read; think over any word or phrase that strikes you.

Think back over the week just passed; ask God to uncover for you where you succeeded in being his voice, his hands, toward others over the past week.

Consider the needs of the church communion — locally and worldwide — and choose some special intention to pray for at the Mass about to begin.

Think about the suffering of people in the news — in the neighborhood and around the world — and choose to offer your prayer at Mass for some way and place in which God’s will needs to be done.

Ask God to uncover for you some place where you’re blind to His will, or stuck in your own desires, so that you can pray and work on changing that.

Pay attention to your breathing, as a way of gently putting aside the tensions and worries of the past and future, so that you can be fully attentive to what is about to happen when God comes in his word and sacrament.

Pray that someone unknown to you in the congregation will be helped through a great struggle or moment of crisis by your prayer.

There are too many things to do; choose one, and experiment with how it changes your experience at Mass. In every case, recognize that your seriousness about your spiritual life is bound to have a good effect on the other people you worship with.

Just as conversation can distract and keep people from praying, silent attention opens the gates to God’s grace.




### Religious Education Aides Needed


We are in need of 2 aides for Religious Education. We have such a high enrollment that we've had to split Grade 2 and Grade 6. We need an aide for 2nd Grade and an aide for 6th Grade.

Please contact Kari Campbell at [religioused@saintmarycc.com](mailto:religioused@saintmarycc.com). Thank you

### Blessing of the Animals



Blessing of the Animals will be held on Saturday, **October 7, at 10:00 AM** in the circle in front of the parish hall. This commemorates the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who loved of all of God's creatures. All animals are welcome from goldfish to horses! All animals must be under strict control and any necessary cleanup is the responsibility of the owner. In case of inclement weather, cancellation of the Blessing will be necessary.

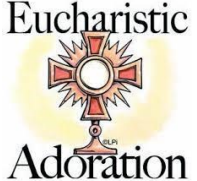


### SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Sept. 30—Oct. 1— Learn to Lead Campaign  
 October 1—Repair and Maintenance  
 October 22 —Mission Sunday

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This coming Friday, **October 6th, at 7:00 PM** we will be having our **First Friday Adoration.**



### Church Picnic Scheduled for October 8!



Our annual church picnic is now scheduled for October 8 immediately after the 11am mass. Come enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and chips and bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with your fellow parishioners. We'll have pumpkin painting, apple grabs, a pie eating contest, cornhole, music, and more! We still need volunteers! If interested in volunteering, please contact Maria Corson by phone or text at 804-867-6721.



Thank you to Anna Porter or Mark Sander for picking up the food at St. John's Food Distribution. We appreciate it. Thank you

### FOOD PANTRY IS STILL IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:



**MAC & CHEESE and INSTANT POTATOES**




### Trunk or treat! Sunday October 29th at NOON



**Trunk or Treat is Back!**

Bring the kids and come on out for trunk or treat Sunday October 29 after the 11am mass.



The Knights Of Columbus is holding an Italian/Spaghetti dinner on October 14th to support their scholarship for high school and college students. The dinner will include silent auction items. Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex after each Mass. Please note this will be held at ST ANN'S in Ashland. Please call or text David Frank at 540-295-7588 if you have any questions.

Don't have kids? Bring your car and some candy and decorations and make it fun for the young people of St. Mary's.


The Details:

Event begins at 12:30pm with a hot dog lunch and trick or treating begins at 1:00 pm.

Costume guidelines: Father has asked that children change into their costumes *after mass*. Please make sure that costumes are fun and festive and not gory or scary. This is a family friendly event.

Questions....call Debbie Frank at 540.295.7587 or email [debbietavikfrank@aol.com](mailto:debbietavikfrank@aol.com)

### ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL FOOD LOVERS



In the interest of creating a social committee and setting up an organized calendar of events, we are postponing the International Night event so that we can better plan and prepare for this event and others in the near future. Please stay tuned for more information. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the social committee, please contact Jim Lepp at [leppfamily@gmail.com](mailto:leppfamily@gmail.com).

# Community/Diocesan Events

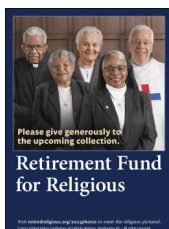


## Learn to Lead Capital Campaign Special Collection Weekend: September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>

Bishop Knestout invites your participation in the *Learn to Lead* Capital Campaign that will strengthen the extraordinary ministry of our Catholic schools. Our Catholic Schools shape the lives of more than 7,000 young people – helping them realize their greater purpose – succeeding and serving God, their families, churches, and communities. If you have been blessed by a Catholic education or believe in the importance of its mission, please make a generous gift. To learn more about this campaign or to make a secure online gift now, please visit [learntoleadcampaign.org](http://learntoleadcampaign.org) or scan the following QR code. Thank you!



**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, “We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion.” God bless you for donating.



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, Jennifer Sloan at 1-877-887-9603.



## Pray for the Sick of our Parish



*Amber Wilber Anderson, David Arnold, Rosemary Baez, Thad (Pete) Beach, Monica Bell, Susan Bennett, The Biddulph Family, Robert Bingaman, Joe Blackburn, Jr., John Bolecek, Maria Bridge, Barry Carrington, Aiden Christensen, Daniel Clarke, Nancy Coffield, Doreen Distensa, Brian Eckert, Levie Edmond, Eleanor Elletson, Michael Fisher, Jessica French, Andrew Fresler, Deacon Dave Geary, The Hannick Family, Laura Harris, Paula Hass, The Jayger Family, Alice Karkutt, Tony Ketrick, Deacon Frank Leaming, Nina Leaming, Barbara Litten, Dawn Long, Carly Max, Michael McFadden, Andrew Newchok, Peggy Opel, Eva Ortiz, Tony Osman, Robert Pecht, Jeff Perry, Bill Pickett, Marge Polivka, Anna Porter, Makayla Prevost, Shirley Riden, Chole Rochester, Ritchie Rodebaugh, Beverly Schnarrs, Marjie Schwind, John Signor, Helen Simulcik, William Simulcik, Isabel Sipe, Rodney Smith, Laurie Snowman, Linda Stanton, Barbara Storen, Ron Summers, The Taylor Family, Julian Thomas, The Townsend Family, Janie Wagner, Pedro Welsh, The Wheeler Family, Joan Williams, Judy Yanes*

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 COVID 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.

*Names will be removed after 6 months. If you would like to add/remove someone to the Sick of our Parish list, please call Chris Nowark at 804-448-9064 or email her at [office@saintmarycc.org](mailto:office@saintmarycc.org). Thank you. **GOD BLESS***

## PARISH OFFICE

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00PM

Phone: 804-448-9064\*Fax: 804-448-5464\*Email: [office@saintmarycc.org](mailto:office@saintmarycc.org)

Rev. Alexander Muddu, Pastor.....804-448-9064  
.....[amuddu@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:amuddu@richmonddiocese.org)  
Deacon Dave Geary.....540-710-3364  
.....[djgeary4531@comcast.net](mailto:djgeary4531@comcast.net)  
Deacon Frank Leaming.....804-761-5714  
.....[fnleaming@aol.com](mailto:fnleaming@aol.com)  
Karen Weil, Office Bookkeeper.....804-448-9064  
.....[bookkeeper@saintmarycc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@saintmarycc.org)  
Chris Nowark, Office Manager.....804-448-9064  
.....[office@saintmarycc.org](mailto:office@saintmarycc.org)

Pastoral Council Chairperson, *Jim Lepp*.....540-841-2346  
Finance Council Chairperson, *Tina Sebak*.....540-842-4608  
Food Pantry, *Barbara & Don Logan*.....804-449-1811  
Knights of Columbus, *Ron Wisniewski*.....804-448-4348  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, *Annette Jewell*.....804-305-7566  
Religious Education Coordinator, *Deacon Dave*.....804-448-9064  
.....[djgeary4531@comcast.net](mailto:djgeary4531@comcast.net)  
Music Ministry, *Valerie Sparks*.....804-572-1768  
RCIA, *Deacon Frank Leaming*.....804-761-5714  
Prayer Shawl Ministry, *Penny Geary*.....[honeybepenny@comcast.net](mailto:honeybepenny@comcast.net)  
Liturgical Ministries, *Deacon Frank Leaming*.....804-761-5714  
St. Mary and Sts. Cyril and Methodious Cemetery Inquiries,  
*Gloria Bolecek*.....804-633-4320  
African American Cemetery Inquiries, *Joan Cormier*....804-466-0458  
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. Call the office at 804-448-9064.