

# Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH



BIENVENIDOS

ALL ARE WELCOME  
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS  
VŠETCI SÚ VÍTANÍ

VITANI

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY 5:00 PM**

**SUNDAY 8:30 AM**

*(+Debbie Brooks requested by Suzie Tatham)*

**SUNDAY 11:00 AM**

*(People of the Parish)*

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

Monday, Sept 18	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Tuesday, Sept 19	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, Sept 20	9:00 AM Adoration; <b>10:00 AM MASS</b> <i>(+Debbie Brooks requested by Chris &amp; Mike Nowark)</i>
Thursday, Sept 21	9:00 AM Adoration; <b>10:00 AM MASS</b> ; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, Sept 22	Church closed for cleaning in AM
Saturday, Sept 23	4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Confessions; <b>5:00 PM MASS</b>
Sunday, Sept 24	<b>8:30 AM MASS</b> ; 9:30 AM Religious Education; 9:45 AM Spanish Rosary; <b>11:00 AM MASS</b>



DEAR PARISHIONERS,

As we look forward to the fulfillment of the capital campaign goal of expanding our building capacity through the creation of a freestanding building on our grounds, I've been reflecting on the existing structure we share as parishioners of St. Mary of the Annunciation and the spaces within, which allow us to fulfill so many different ministries: Our beautiful church sanctuary where we are nourished by the Word of God, our food pantry which services the hungry, our religious education classrooms that educate the next generation of Catholics, the conference room which hosts multiple meetings to help us conduct the business of the church, the narthex which allows us time to prepare ourselves for the reverence needed in the sanctuary where our Lord resides, and our kitchen which has provided so many wonderful meals to our faith community at our most joyful times and in times of deepest sorrow. I am grateful for the many different spaces we have available in this parish. But as I reflect on these spaces, I have some concerns that I want to share.

I have watched as some of these spaces have devolved into areas of territorial possession and of boundaries. Instead of being a place where "all are welcome," they have become a personal sphere where cliques develop and outsiders are shunned, where the resources that are meant to be enjoyed by all parishioners are jealously guarded by the few. This is not aligned with the spirit of this parish. We need all parishioners to feel that the spaces within our building are welcoming and serve their intended purpose, and more importantly, that fellow parishioners are welcomed joyfully into those spaces. We should not be deciding that only some parishioners are worthy of our attention and our love and others are not. While there will always be personality conflicts, we should constantly strive to lift each other up, mend our differences, and help build a stronger community of faithful servants of Christ.

In addition, specifically regarding our kitchen space, this area has the ability to impact the health and safety of our parishioners if neglected or used improperly. We must keep this space sanitary and uncluttered so that we can avoid any legal health concerns or hazards and so that we can ensure the longevity of the equipment that occupies that space. We must clean it thoroughly after every use and ensure that any appliance that is not working properly, develops mold, or is in need of a more professional cleaning, is reported to me, our maintenance committee chairman, Jim Kuh, our parish council chairman, Jim Lepp, or our finance council chairwoman, Tina Sebak. The kitchen is a shared resource and a shared responsibility, but ultimately, I am held accountable to safeguard that area and to ensure it is being used and maintained properly. If I wish to look at the equipment in the space, or bring a person into the space to look at the condition of a piece of equipment and to make recommendations to me, it is no one's responsibility to try to prevent that from occurring or to make anyone feel uncomfortable for doing so. No one person owns or can lay claim to any of the shared resources in the kitchen. To sow seeds of division, anger, and doubt is not helpful to this parish community and is working actively against our mission and our purpose as Catholics. It undermines the spirit of unity that we are trying to build, and demonstrates to our young parishioners, and to any community members who may be visiting or contemplating becoming a Catholic, that this place is unfriendly and unwelcoming.

I do hope that you know I appreciate all who volunteer in service to our church and our community. I am deeply grateful for your passion and commitment to your ministries and to this parish that has relied on the mission spirit of its parishioners to keep it going for multiple decades.



### 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

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we recognize everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, including our very own lives.

### Parish Picnic Postponed

The parish picnic tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 24th, is being postponed. We are hoping to bring you an even greater fall celebration. Stay tuned for more information.



### Saint Mary's Weekly Giving Report

Thank you for your continued support of our community. To give on line go to the St Mary Online Giving website. God Bless You All

Saint Mary of the Annunciation		
Weekly Offertory Summary		
Aug 6 to Aug 12		YTD
Sat/Sun/Holy Days	\$ 2,755	
On Line Giving	\$ 2,690	
Total Actual Receipts	\$ 5,445	\$ 24,106
Budgeted Receipts	\$ 4,450	\$ 26,700
Over/Under	\$ 995	\$ (2,594)



### SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Sept. 24– Retirement for Religious  
Sept. 30–Oct. 1– Learn to Lead Campaign

## THE HOLY MASS EXPLAINED

The Holy Mass could be described as the ritual celebration of what Jesus fulfilled only once in history: The Last Supper on Holy Thursday, His Death on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The celebration of the Mass can be divided into four parts:

Gathering rites

Liturgy of the Word of God

Liturgy of the Eucharist or Meal sharing

Rite of Commissioning: sending out to live our experienced in the Mass.

### Part Three: Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Following the Presentation of the Gifts, which symbolize our heart & soul and our entire life in the form of bread and wine, we move to the next stage, which is the central and most important part of the Holy Mass.

### The Eucharistic Prayer:

The long prayer forms the heart of our faith. There are four Forms of the Eucharistic prayer. Considering the time factor, we generally use the second Form, which is the shortest, for the daily Mass and sometimes for the Sunday Mass. The other three Forms are a little longer and they are used for solemn and festive days. Even though they differ in length, all have the same structure: We call upon God to remember all the wonderful saving deeds in salvation history; We recall the central event fulfilled by Jesus Christ and in particular the memorial he left us on the night before he died. Thus, we recall his passion, death, and resurrection; and After gratefully calling to mind all the wonderful saving acts, God has done for us in the past, we petition God to continue those deeds of Christ in the present: we pray that we may become one body, one spirit in Christ. The Eucharistic prayer begins with the Preface, with a kind of dialogue between the presiding priest and the assembly. First, the priest greets the people saying, "The Lord be with you". He, then, asks the people to approach the table of the Lord with the invitation, "Lift up your hearts" and the people respond, "We lift them up to the Lord". Again, the priest asks the people to give thanks to the Lord and the people respond, "it is right and just".

The preface introduces us into the central part of the Eucharistic prayer, concluding with the joyful and enthusiastic words, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God ..." With faith and fervor we join the Angels and Saints in praising God with these words, for the marvelous gift, He is going to give us at the Eucharistic table.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." – ROMANS 14:8*

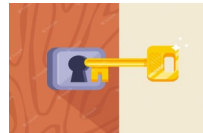
This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

## Second Collection for next Sunday, September 24th, is for the Retirement Fund for Religious

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.



## ATTENTION:



We have changed the **FRONT door and OFFICE door locks**

If you currently have a key to an exterior door, please contact the office.

If you have a key to the office, please contact either Father Alex or the office. We will be implementing a new system to grant access to the office.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO RECEIVE A NEW KEY.**

You can contact the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at 804-448-9064 or

at  
[office@saintmarycc.org](mailto:office@saintmarycc.org).

## St. Mary's International Night

### International Potluck



Join us on Saturday, October 21 starting at 6:00 pm for an international night potluck dinner! Please bring a dish that represents your cultural or family heritage to share with your fellow parishioners. Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex starting this weekend.

# 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!



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



### PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

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, 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.