

Saint Mary

of the Annunciation Catholic Church



BIENVENIDOS

ALL ARE WELCOME
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS
VŠETCI SÚ VÍTANÍ

VITANI

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 10, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

(Rhonda Pincombe)

SUNDAY 8:30 AM

(+Patricia Phillips requested by Jennifer Kost-Phillips)

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

(People of the Parish)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

Monday, March 11	OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday, March 12	9:00 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM MASS ; 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Wednesday, March 13	9:00 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM MASS
Thursday, March 14	9:00 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM MASS ; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, March 15	Church closed for cleaning in AM; 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross <i>(Obligatory day of abstinence)</i>
Saturday, March 16	4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM MASS ; 6:00 PM St. Patrick's Day Adult Dance
Sunday, March 17	5th Sunday of Lent - 8:30 AM MASS <i>(+William Bolecek requested by Gloria Bolecek)</i> ; 9:30 AM Religious Education; 9:45 AM Spanish Rosary; 11:00 AM MASS



Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving: The Three Pillars

Three key pillars characterize the Lenten season: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charity).

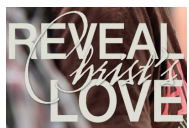
The [USCCB tells us](#) that during Lent, “we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting.”

While most Catholics are familiar with “no meat on Fridays” during Lent, fasting and abstinence are important components throughout Lent. This may look like giving up things like gossip, your favorite coffee order, or forgoing music in the car and replacing it with prayer.

Almsgiving reminds us of Jesus’s call to serve and connects us in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. This past vacation I visited Saint Joseph’s Aid Society in Uganda which takes care of the poor, abandoned, neglected and orphans. It was so touching to see that the home lacks beds, mattresses, blankets, and sheets for many of these children. How about giving alms for this cause? If you want to donate, make out a check to Saint Mary’s and put St. Joseph Aid Society Kigando Uganda in the memo line.



And lastly: Prayer. Formed is a great resource available free of charge for the parishioners to explore. Click on “FORMATION” on our website.



Our second collection will be for The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to this collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

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		
Jan 21 to Jan 27		YTD
Sat/Sun/Holy Days	\$ 2,362	
On Line Giving	\$ 1,295	
Total Actual Receipts	\$ 3,657	\$ 118,280
Budgeted Receipts	\$ 4,450	\$ 133,500
Over/Under	\$ (793)	\$ (15,220)



ST PATRICK’S DAY ADULT DANCE WITH DJ RON

FREE FREE FREE
March 16th 7-10 pm

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE (BYOB)
Bring an appetizer or dessert to share
LET’S ALL BE IRISH FOR THE NIGHT!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held after the 11:00 AM Mass on Easter Sunday. Donations of candy are needed. In the Narthex, there is a bin of Easter eggs. Please take some eggs to fill with candy and return filled eggs to the bin.

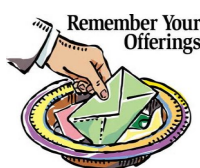
Assistance is also needed to set up on Easter morning around 10:00 AM. If you can help or if you have questions, contact Valerie Sparks at 804-572-1768.



FOOD PANTRY IS STILL IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:



MAC & CHEESE and INSTANT POTATOES



SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

MARCH 10—CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
MARCH 17—EASTER FLOWERS
MARCH 29—GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 31—EASTER

Lenten Schedule



The
Season
of
Lent

Every Friday, Feb 16th– March 22nd
Obligatory day of abstinence
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 22nd—**Lenten Reconciliation Service**
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Reconciliation Service

Sunday, March 24th - **Palm Sunday**
Regular Mass schedule for Saturday and Sunday

Thursday, March 28th -**Holy Thursday**
7:00 PM Mass
8:00 PM to Midnight Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament

Friday, March 29th -**Good Friday**
Obligatory day of fasting and abstinence
2:15 PM Stations of the Cross
3:00 PM Veneration of the Cross

Saturday, March 30th - **Easter Vigil**
8:00 PM Saturday Mass

Sunday, March 31st - **Easter**
8:30 AM Sunday Mass
11:00 AM Sunday Mass

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get ready for an exciting lineup of events brought to you by the Social Activities Committee at St. Mary's. Here's what's coming up:

International Family Picnic:

Date: Sunday, April 28

Time: 12 PM

Details: Celebrate our diverse community with international dishes, meet and greet tables, games, and a door prize drawing. Volunteer sign-ups are open to help make this event memorable!

Mother's Day Tea Party:

Date: Sunday, May 12

Time: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM & 12 PM - 1 PM

Details: Pamper and celebrate mothers with tea sessions, snacks, camaraderie, and heartwarming conversations. Don't miss out on this special occasion!

Save the Date:

Spring Yard sale on Saturday, May 4th - Details to follow.

Your participation and support make these events extraordinary. Let's come together, celebrate, and strengthen our community bonds. Thank you in advance for being a part of these special occasions. We can't wait to see you there!



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we may show our gratitude for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice by generously making sacrifices in our own lives.

VOCATIONS

"Whoever lives the truth comes to the light."

Your vocation is your sanctification in this life to lead you to sainthood in the next. Are you called to belong to Christ alone as a priest or through consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



BE RECONCILED TO GOD!

The Season of Lent is a traditional time when Catholics experience the Lord's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Here at Saint Mary of the Annunciation church, this Sacrament is available each Saturday from 4:00 PM to 4:50 PM.

On Friday, March 22nd, we will gather in our church at 7:00 PM for a Lenten Reconciliation celebration.

****PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM ON MARCH 22nd****

We begin with a brief Liturgy of the Word, and then there will be several priests available for individual confessions. Please join us during this holy season as we proclaim God's mercy!

WEEKLY MASS READINGS

11 MARCH 2024 : **Isaiah 65:** 17-21; **Psalms 30:** 2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; **John 4:** 43-54

12 MARCH 2024 : **Ezekiel 47:** 1-9, 12; **Psalms 46:** 2-3, 5-6, 8-9; **John 5:** 1-16

13 MARCH 2024 : **Isaiah 49:** 8-15; **Psalms 145:** 8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; **John 5:** 17-30

14 MARCH 2024 : **Exodus 32:** 7-14; **Psalms 106:** 19-20, 21-22, 23; **John 5:** 31-47

15 MARCH 2024 : **Day of Abstinence from Meat**
Wisdom 2: 1a, 12-22; **Psalms 34:** 17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; **John 7:** 1-2, 10, 25-30

16 MARCH 2024 : **Jeremiah 11:** 18-20; **Psalms 7:** 2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; **John 7:** 40-53

17 MARCH 2024 : **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Jeremiah 31: 31-34; **Psalms 51:** 3-4, 12-13, 14-15; **Hebrews 5:** 7-9; **John 12:** 20-33

Community/Diocesan Events

PILGRIMAGE TO MARIAN SHRINES WITH FR. CHARLES & FR. JOHN BOSCO
Lisbon, Fatima, Spain and Lourdes



September 23 – October 2, 2024

\$4,599 Per Person from Norfolk (ORF)

All Pricing Based On Double Occupancy
Leave from Any Airport - www.206tours.com/dodson



Fr. Charles



Jan Barger



Fred Barger



Fr. John Bosco

Your Trip Includes

- | | |
|---|---|
| † Round-trip airfare from Norfolk (ORF) | † Breakfast and dinner daily |
| † Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges | † Transfers as per itinerary |
| † 8 nights at centrally located Hotels as follows (or similar): | † Wireless headsets where needed |
| † 1 night: Sep 24 – Sep 25: Hotel Lumen, Lisbon, Portugal | † Transportation by air-conditioned private motor coach with free Wi-Fi |
| † 2 nights: Sep 25 – Sep 27: Hotel Santa Maria Jardim, Fatima, Portugal | † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary |
| † 1 night: Sep 27 – Sep 28: Hotel Abba Fonseca, Salamanca, Spain | † Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide(s) |
| † 1 night: Sep 28 – Sep 29: Hotel Abba, Burgos, Spain | † Mass daily & Spiritual Activities |
| † 3 nights: Sep 29 – Oct 02: Hotel Chapelle et Parc, Lourdes, France | |

Contact Jan Barger: jbarger@dreamvacations.com | Register Online - www.206tours.com/janbarger/

Scan here for more information about the Pilgrimage



Scan here to donate to the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal



Pray for the Sick of our Parish



Amber Wilber Anderson, David Arnold, Rosemary Baez, Thad (Pete) Beach, Susan Bennett, The Biddulph Family, Robert Bingaman, Joe Blackburn, Jr., Emily Bolecek, John Bolecek, Maria Bridge, Theresa Buchanan, Emilynn Butler, Barry Carrington, Aiden Christensen, Daniel Clarke, Nancy Coffield, Jack Cook, Doreen Distensa, Brian Eckert, Levie Edmond, Eleanor Elletson, Jack Frank, Jessica French, Andrew Fresler, Deacon Dave Geary, The Hannick Family, Laura Harris, Paula Hass, The Jayger Family, Alice Karkutt, Tony Ketrick, J. & Sketter Lambert, Deacon Frank Leaming, Nina Leaming, Barbara Litten, Dawn Long, Vikki Mahoney, Carly Max, Luke McFadden, Andrew Newchok, Peggy Opel, Eva Ortiz, Robert Pecht, Bill Pickett, Marge Polivka, Shirley Riden, Chole Rochester, Ritchie Rodebaugh, Christina Russell, Victoria Russell, Beverly Schnarrs, Cindy Schwind, Marjie Schwind, Helen Simulcik, William Simulcik, Diane Sinlock, Isabel Sipe, Rodney Smith, Laurie Snowman, Linda Stanton, Barbara Storen, Ron Summers, The Taylor Family, The Townsend Family, Janie Wagner, Pedro Welsh, Bethany Wheaton, The Wheeler Family, Joan Williams, Judy Yanas

As always, prayer is an important way Catholics can respond to any crisis as we express our dependence on God. 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. Thank you.

GOD BLESS



SPRING OPEN HOUSE: Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic High School is hosting its final Open House on Tuesday, March 19th, from 6pm-7:30pm. Come meet the teachers, take a tour and find out what it means to be a Warrior! www.saintmichaels.org/open-house

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.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00PM
Phone: 804-448-9064 ***Fax:** 804-448-5464 ***Email:** office@saintmarycc.org
 Rev. Alexander Muddu, Pastor.....804-448-9064
amuddu@richmonddiocese.org
 Deacon Dave Geary.....540-710-3364
djgeary4531@comcast.net
 Deacon Frank Leaming.....804-761-5714
fnleaming@aol.com
 Karen Weil, Office Bookkeeper.....804-448-9064
bookkeeper@saintmarycc.org
 Chris Nowark, Office Manager.....804-448-9064
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, *David Frank*.....540-295-7588
 Children's Liturgy of the Word, *Deacon Dave*.....804-448-9064
 Religious Education Coordinator, *Deacon Dave*.....804-448-9064
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
 Liturgical Ministries, *Deacon Frank Leaming*.....804-761-5714
 Social Activities Committee Chairperson, *Bette Moore*..703-371-9400
 St. Mary and Sts. Cyril and Methodious Cemetery Inquiries,
Gloria Bolecek.....804-633-4320
 Oliver 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.

Greetings fellow parishioners,

It has been a while since we shared updates on the progress of our capital campaign. There have been quite a few bumps in the road since our last communication. The parish and finance councils, along with our maintenance and renovation committee members, have been hard at work trying to find a viable, fiscally responsible solution to move forward with plans. Here is a brief overview of what has happened to this point:

Our initial feasibility study conducted by Greater Mission estimated that we would need a total of \$400,000 to meet the demand for a freestanding building for a food pantry, adult education space, and a nursery. Our pledges to date have met and even slightly exceeded this goal, but actual proceeds will take up to five years to fully achieve. We proceeded to work with a diocesan-recommended architect and contractor to begin the process of drawing up plans and estimating costs. The very modest building we proposed came in at nearly \$850,000. Obviously, this is not feasible, and there would be no easy way we could come back to you to ask for more money. We're not sure why the initial study by Greater Mission so greatly underestimated the price of traditional supplies, but this is the reality of what has happened. So we have been working these past five months to come up with an alternative plan.

Our first step was to reach out to the diocese for help as our feasibility study was obviously not realistic. The diocese suggested modifications to our plan, such as a phase A and B construction, asking for a second capital campaign, delaying construction - all things that we wanted to avoid. Even with modifications to the plan, reduction in square footage, and other bare-bones options, all of our stick-built or modular options were coming in at more than \$600,000. So we went back to the diocese and asked them to take a look at the Living Our Mission campaign one more time. We asked two questions: Could we eliminate the requirement for a "freestanding" building? Some paperwork from Father Biber, and corroboration from Deacon, does indicate that the freestanding nature of the campaign was not as "written in stone" as originally believed. The diocese agreed that we could modify that part if needed. The second question we asked was, can we divorce the three elements of the Living Our Mission campaign (Food Pantry, Nursery, Adult Formation Space) from one another? The diocese is also permitting us to do this.

So - with this new guidance, we began looking at creative ways to reduce costs. We looked for non-stick-built alternatives for building the structure. We reached out to a group called Morton Builders. They specialize in a different type of material that is much cheaper but not the type of typical "steel building" construction you may be familiar with. Here's what their website says:

Unlike commercial steel buildings, Morton Buildings utilizes post-frame construction, a highly engineered wood-frame building system that features large, laminated columns instead of wood studs, steel framing, or concrete masonry, and that meets local, state, and national building codes.

Halting our original plans meant reassessing the location of the building once more to ensure we didn't overlook something. So, we met with Morton's representative (at no cost) and walked the property to see where a building may work best.

- We looked at the kitchen side of the parish hall. The steep grading and significant brush and tree clearing would be a potential cost driver. In addition, with upcoming plans for access to our Oliver Cemetery in the rear of our property, it could conflict with plans that are already in the works for that side of the building. Is it possible? Yes. Is it ideal? Maybe not.

- Next we looked at the courtyard space behind the narthex between the double doors and the shed. Morton's rep felt this would be a great place for the building and would provide about 1350 square feet of space for our project with the right amount of space between the new building and existing building and we would not connect the roofline to the existing structure. It would stand by itself with only the double doors being modified to connect as a through-way to the new building. The problem is that Morton needs to bring in larger equipment to construct its buildings (we heard things like cranes and so forth), and current access to that area is problematic for larger machines. The rep said they could still get it done, but that the manual labor costs would increase dramatically as they would need more laborers using ladders and other types of alternatives to construct the building. In addition, attaching a modern building to an existing structure, even just by connecting it through the doorway as we were planning, could mean costly upgrades and updates to the existing structure to bring it up to modern codes and standards. Lastly, the throughway for food pantry access would create some traffic issues through the narthex - not insurmountable, but inconvenient. Once again, is it possible? Yes. Is it ideal? For cost reasons, maybe not.

- So then we looked at the area we originally planned. The Morton rep said the amount of trees to remove and grading in that area would be expensive. To save money on leveling, clearing, and access, we decided to take a look at the level section of ground where our playground currently sits. The playground is broken, dry rotted, and in need of replacement (more on that in a minute). If we reduce the size of the building to about 1,000 – 2,000 square feet and make it only a food pantry space, we can move the existing food storage (the need for which is continuing to expand) and pantry to a new building, on the current site of the playground and encroaching just a little into the forest area, all for about \$250,000-\$350,000, including site prep. Our earlier paid site research showed that we could tie into the existing sewage system. Our drain field sits on, pretty much, the entire field area next to our church sanctuary building all the way to the wood-line. With this proposed building site, grading will be minimal, and we can use the path of the existing sidewalk to create an asphalt drive and loop for cars to pull up in front of the building, gather their food supplies, and exit. We will share the proposed plan soon - Morton is currently in the process of creating those plans. The cost is \$5,000 for Morton to create all plans from the ground up, including plumbing, electrical, etc. which become our plans permanently whether we decide to move forward with them as our builder and general contractor or not. The good news is that we have site surveys and other geographic studies that have already been conducted and can be reused by Morton and incorporated into their plans. We hope to have the full plans back from Morton within the next few weeks so we can review and change/modify at no cost as needed.

So then, what about the nursery and classrooms? With the food pantry exiting our parish hall, we will reclaim several spaces fully as classrooms. We will have the funds to be able to do renovations to those spaces and potentially add classroom walls to the current cubicle situation in the hall. We should also be able to update the bathrooms which are in need of renovation. Current potential collection for the capital campaign will put us right around \$475,000 if all funds are collected as pledged (including the \$75,000 from the Living Our Mission campaign.) We will need to discuss whether a nursery is really something that we need currently. We need input on these two aspects - classrooms and nursery.

Circling back to the playground - we would have funds to purchase a playground replacement and could reuse the existing plastic border that designates the playground area to section off an area near the wood-line in the field for this purpose. Any memorials or other plaques currently located in the playground area would be moved to this new location.

Lastly - our plan includes another town hall meeting to be announced within the next several weeks. While we are doing our very best to ensure we meet the needs of the parish and remain fiscally responsible with the capital campaign plans, ultimately, we are here at your service. We want to represent your wishes and ideas so that we can build a lasting legacy both structurally and spiritually for the generations to come. And, if you wish to be a part of this capital campaign process, please step up and volunteer. We're doing the best we can with the knowledge and experience we have as volunteers. Please, if you have relevant knowledge and expertise, or want to be involved in any way, we need and welcome you.

In your service -

Your Pastor, Parish Council, Finance Council, and Renovation and Maintenance Committee members