

Saint Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH ❖ EST. 1938



We are a sacramental people, serving as the visible presence of Jesus Christ in our community.

CLERGY

Rev. John Asare, Pastor
Deacon Mike Ellerbrock
Deacon Rick Furman

MASS

Saturday
5:00pm

Sunday
8:45am and 11:30am

Tuesday-Thursday
9:00am

Friday
11:15am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday
3:30-4:15pm

OFFICE HOURS

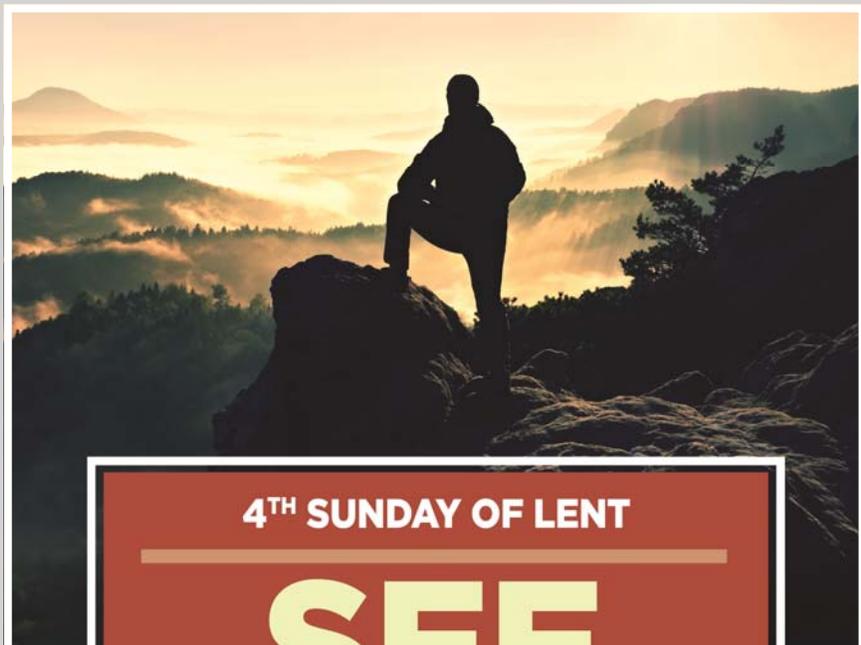
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-3:00pm

Friday
9:00am-12:00pm

CONNECT WITH US

1205 Old Mill Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-1091

stmarysblacksburg.org



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SEE

So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." —Jn 9:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Online Mass Opportunities and Best Practices

- ◆ catholictv.org
- ◆ mass-online.org
- ◆ hearofthenation.org
- ◆ ewtn.org
- ◆ mass-internet.org
- ◆ wordonfire/daily-mass
- ◆ cicdc.org/sacraments/#mass



- ◆ Before Mass, review the readings of the day to prepare (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>)
- ◆ Spend a few moments, too, to think what you are to thank the Lord and for what to offer to him this Mass
- ◆ Remember that you are praying this Eucharist with many other fellow Catholics not only in your parish but all over the world.
- ◆ During the online mass, Catholics are encouraged to stay in reverent gesture, and stand and sit properly.
- ◆ It is also an opportunity to make online Masses a family activity. They could watch online mass together and join in the prayers, responses and singing; and during communion, make the spiritual communion.
- ◆ After the online Mass, in a moment of silence, reread the scripture readings and reflect on how to live God's Word that day.



Spiritual Communion Prayer

“My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

“Is the Lord in our midst or not?” Have you ever found yourself asking this question? Finding God's presence and truly encountering God are not always easy tasks. When we seek God only with our minds, we risk reducing God to simply an idea rather than meeting him as someone who is real and actually present to us. We all have to wrestle with who we are and what gives our lives purpose and meaning. We can often get confused and misunderstand not only who we are, but who God is. Even the disciples and the Samaritan woman at the well missed the point Jesus was trying to make. There is only one person who can satisfy the deepest yearnings and longings of our hearts. Only Jesus can lead us to truth and provide the water that can quench our thirst. Each of us, not only with our heads but with our hearts, must come to see that Jesus is the Savior of the world. It is only when we can honestly make this confession that we will know God is truly present.



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Communion by Desire (Spiritual Communion)

The Fathers and Doctors of the Church teach that the effects of the grace of the Eucharist can be obtained not only from sacramental reception of Holy Communion but also from a fervent desire to receive the Sacrament.

So, whenever we cannot attend Mass or receive Holy Communion we can still frequently offer the sacrifice of the altar in a spiritual way on the altars of our hearts, uniting ourselves to all the sacrifices of the Mass celebrated throughout the world. In a similar way, we can make frequent spiritual communions throughout the day.

Pope Pius XII praises the practice of spiritual communion. According to him, when we cannot easily receive Holy Communion we should do so at least by desire, so that with renewed faith, reverence, humility and complete trust in the goodness of divine redeemer, we may be united to Him in the spirit of the ardent charity.

Pope St. John Paul II also speaks of the great value of spiritual communion. He says in *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, (paragraph 34) that unlike any other sacrament, the mystery of communion is so perfect that it brings the ultimate goal to heights of every good thing: here is the ultimate goal of every human desire, because here we attain God and joins himself to us in the most perfect union. Precisely for this reason, he continues, it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist

Again, St. Teresa of Avila earnestly recommends the practice of spiritual communion in *The way of Perfection*. She says that when we do not receive Communion but hear Mass we can make a spiritual communion. Spiritual communion is highly beneficial because through it we can recollect ourselves in the same way after Mass, for the love of this Lord is thereby deeply impressed on the soul. If we prepare ourselves to Him, He never fails to give in many ways which we do not understand.

Finally, St. Alphonsus Liguori strongly recommends the practice of spiritual communion. He encourages the faithful to make a visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every day. He recommends that the visit to the Blessed Sacrament be accompanied by a spiritual communion and offers the following prayer:

“My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

However, it is said that no particular form of words is required for a spiritual communion. It consists essentially in the fervent desire of the heart to be united with Jesus in a deep and intimate way.

(The write up is compiled from: *The Eucharist: Mystery of Presence, Sacrifice, and Communion* by Lawrence Feingold)





Now More Than Ever

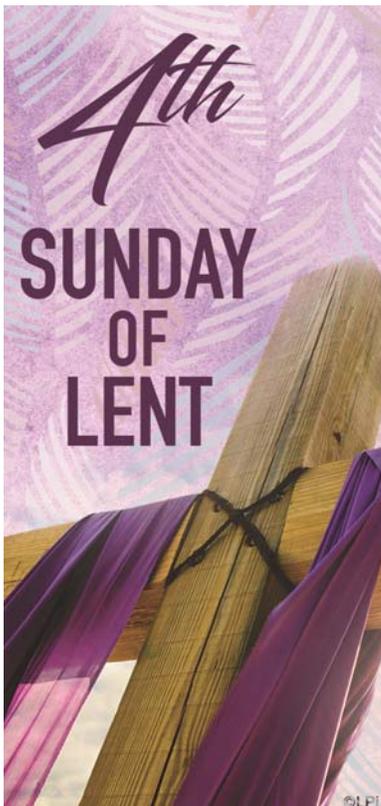
Faith Direct is St. Mary's **online giving program** that allows parishioners to *conveniently and consistently* make church contributions through either direct debit from a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card.

Online giving provides an easy opportunity to support St. Mary's parish even when not attending Mass.

Here's how you can **ENROLL**:

- type **faith.direct/VA969** (directly into a browser or search window)
- call Faith Direct, **1-866-507-8757**
- text "**ENROLL**" to (540) 274-2005 (and follow the prompts)
- complete & mail an **enrollment form** (available in the Narthex)
- visit St. Mary's website and click on **Faith Direct button**

Please call the Office with any questions. Thanks for enrolling!



GOSPEL MEDITATION

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God's kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God's children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

Prayer REQUESTS

Alex Sepoli
Alison Maguire
Amy Haugh Dodds
Ann Martin
Anthony Atkins
Barbara Marino
Baxter Perkinson
Becky Glazener
Becky Hepler
Charlotte Joyce
Clark DeHart
Daniel Brooks
Dennis Kilper, Jr
Diane Folz
Diane Merrix
Dick Stewart
Doug Whichard
Baxter Perkinson
Frank Baker
Elaine Lutz
Elina McCartney
Eva Kelly

Jace Baab
Jackie Fore-Dye
Janice Steele
Jen Austin
Jessica Moore
John Bianchi
Josefina Cerezo
Kathy Kelly
Kathy Hummel
Isaac Hummel
Leslie Pittges
Lisa Lavery
Lisa Walters
Lori McDaniel
Lou Cotroneo
Marie & Vivianne Castillo
Mary Ann Barksdale
Mary Claire Madera
Mary Devens
Mary Elaine Riley
Mathias Baker
Mike Chandler

Nancy Aull
Patty Carey
Paul Ringel
Paula Lovett
Rodney Allen
Richard Kelly
Rita Sullivan
Stephen Orr
Suzi Vass-Gal
Thaddeus Baker
Theresa Liuzzo
Tom Heintzman
Vera Genua
Vin Liuzzo
Von Brannock
Watt Shields
Seminarians:
Accilien Ponge
Admen Noel
Theragin Putercin
Tom Lawrence

Our Haiti Twin Parish &
School
Prayer and Support
Group for the Promotion
of Mental Health &
Recovery

Our Military Families

Austin T. Leake
Christopher Abrahamsen
Daniel Milauskas
George Zolovick III
Grace Milauskas
John Harvey III
John Milauskas
Justin Laatz
Diana & Mathew Halferty
John Newman
Michael Canfield
Michael Quinn, Jr
Ryan C. Curran
Vincent Vitiello
Zack Mayo

CONTACT US

(for anything)

info@stmarysblacksburg.org

•
(540) 552-1091

•
1205 Old Mill Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

•
www.stmarysblacksburg.org



Help for Victims of Abuse

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.

BICENTENNIAL PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND (1820-2020)

Father of lights, the radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap.

Grant that the nearness of your Son may dispel the darkness of our sins, so that as our love increases more and more, we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word.

Holding fast to the word of life, may we shine like stars in the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

