

# 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

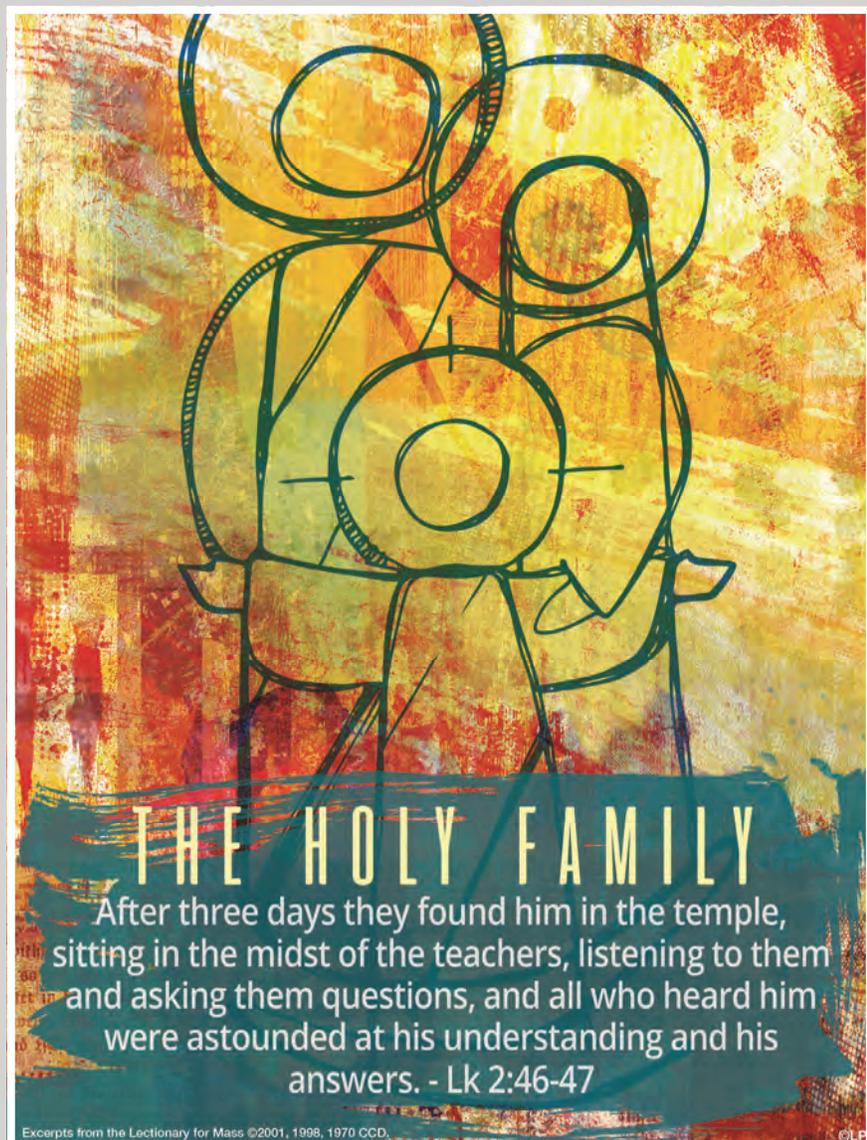
## OFFICE HOURS

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](http://stmarysblacksburg.org)





### New Year's Day—Mary, Holy Mother of God

12:00pm Mass on Tuesday, January 1st for the Holy Day of Obligation

Why does Mary have so many titles? Isn't Mother of God enough? We all have many different roles to play, and each title we have is based on a relationship. For instance, a person might be a daughter, mother, wife, cousin, niece, employer, boss, friend, sponsor, and customer all in the same day! Our titles identify who we are at a given moment.

Mary is the same way. Certainly Mother of God is her greatest title. Because of her trust in God and in the message of the angel, Jesus was born, becoming one of us. But all of Mary's titles are important. Each title highlights an aspect of her unique relationship with Jesus, with the Church, and with each of us. She is wife, mother, intercessor, patroness, God-bearer, and a host of other roles. Sometimes her title is one given by a local community of faith. Other times, the universal church gives her a title that all recognize. Above all, it is her faith and her willingness to say yes to God's plan that places her in a special place of honor among believers. In her humanity, she shows us how we, too, will be filled with grace, as we say yes to the Lord's plan for us. We believe that what happens to Mary will happen to us. She is our model, our mother in faith.



**Christmas does not end on the 26th.** The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 13th. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him including that the fact that he was born to die for us.

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph—Sunday, Dec. 30th*

*Epiphany of the Lord—Sunday, Jan. 6th*

*Baptism of the Lord—Sunday, Jan. 13th*

St. Mary's will be joining St. Jude and Holy Spirit for the annual **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 18th. Buses will be departing from the Park & Ride at I-81 Exit 118 at 6:00am and return that evening. If you would like to attend the March for Life, please contact Bob Canfield (canfieldra@gmail.com). There will be sign-ups in the Narthex the weekends of January 6th & 13th. Whether you plan on attending the march or not, please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of the bus.



The Church Offices will be closed December 24-Jan 1 with no daily Mass celebrated. The regular schedule will resume on Wednesday, January 2.



### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Do you practice good stewardship with your family? Stewardship is about more than offerings to a church or charity. It is about continually giving of ourselves in a way that gives glory to God. Sharing our gifts with those in our immediate family honors God and is evidence of your gratitude for these people in your life.

How can we effectively accomplish this? One way is to reflect on how the 6 characteristics of an Everyday Steward are present in our family relationships. Are we mindful when we are with our family members? Do we focus on them and their needs rather than our phone or TV? Do we hold up our family in prayer? Their concerns should be our concerns. Do we find ways to show how grateful we are for having them in our lives?

When we find ourselves lacking in gratitude, we should reflect on what life would be like without them. Do we help one another without being asked because we have a gracious heart? It is easy to take for granted those we see all the time. Hospitality is not just for the stranger or guest. Are we committed to a life of stewardship that not only serves as a good example, but also helps our relatives thrive? Using our gifts without wisdom might mean we have little to give to those we love. Finally, do we hold each other accountable for our decisions and shortcomings?

We are on the journey of life together, and no one exists in the Body of Christ alone. Stewardship is about the entirety of our lives. Our faith life is not reserved to Mass on a Sunday. It all begins and ends with those we love.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

# December 30, 2018 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## CALENDAR

### Saturday – Dec 29

3:30-4:15pm Reconciliation - WA  
5:00pm Mass ~ *Tom Anthony* †  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Sunday – Dec 30

8:45am Mass ~ *Betty Fore* †  
10:00am Dodson Children Baptism - WA  
11:30am Mass ~ *Tom Lawrence*  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Monday – Dec 31

Offices Closed  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Tuesday – Jan 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Offices Closed  
12:00pm Mass ~ *The Community of St. Mary's*  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Wednesday – Jan 2

9:00am Mass ~ *Our Twin Parish in Haiti*  
2:30-3:30pm – Staff Meeting - HCR  
5:00-7:00pm – Mental Health Prayer & Support - Lib  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH  
7:00-8:30pm – Church Ladies - Lib

### Thursday – Jan 3

9:00am Mass ~ *The Physically & Mentally Challenged*  
2:00-4:00pm – Stephen Ministers - Lib  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Friday – Jan 4

9:00-11:00am – Eucharistic Adoration - WA  
11:15am Mass ~ *Janet Caverly* †  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Saturday – Jan 5

3:30-4:15pm Reconciliation - WA  
5:00pm Mass ~ *William Arp* †  
5:00pm-7:00am – To Our House - PH

### Sunday – Jan 6 First Sunday Social

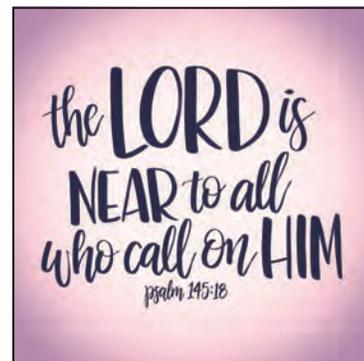
8:45am Mass ~ *no intention requested*  
11:30am Mass ~ *no intention requested*



Alex Sepoli  
Alison Maguire  
Aleena Gula  
Barbara Jean Hagood  
Barbara Marino  
Becky Glazener  
Beau Wiltshire  
Buzz Brezinski  
Clark DeHart  
Daniel Brooks  
Danielle Wattel  
Dennis Kilper, Jr  
Diane Folz  
Eileen Hallenbeck  
Lloyd Hipkins  
Elaine Gaines  
Elaine Lutz  
Eula Fontenot  
Frank Baker  
Jace Baab  
Jackie Fore-Dye  
Jessica Moore  
Jim Montgomery  
John Klepinger  
John Anderson  
Karen Tyson  
Kathy Kelly  
Ken Phipps  
Leslie Pittges  
Lisa Walters  
Lou Cotroneo  
Louise Lunny  
Marie Capone  
Margaret Henney  
Marjorie Robinson  
Mary Elaine Riley  
Mathias Baker  
Paul Ringel  
Paula Lovett  
Rita Sullivan  
Suzi Vass-Gal  
Tracy McElroy  
Vera Genua  
Vin Liuzzo  
Virginia Castillo  
Von Brannock

Amind Noel,  
Seminarian  
Fransky Pierre,  
Seminarian  
Theragin Putercin,  
Seminarian  
Tom Lawrence,  
Seminarian  
Our Twin Parish, and  
Savanette School in Haiti  
Mental Health Prayer and  
Support Group

**Our Military Families**  
Christopher Abrahamsen  
Daniel Milauskas  
George Zolovick III  
Grace Milauskas  
John Harvey III  
John Milauskas  
Diana & Mathew Halferty  
John Newman  
Michael Canfield  
Michael Quinn, Jr  
Ryan C. Curran  
Vincent Vitiello  
Zack Mayo



Please help keep this list current—  
call the Office to add/remove someone.

# Christian Formation

This weekend we celebrate The **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**. We honor this extraordinary, yet still ordinary, family as our model. They celebrated many of the same joys and walked through many of the same losses that any family experiences. Your family is encouraged to celebrate and say a prayer together near the Nativity scene in your home.



**Elementary Religious Ed and Youth Ministry Classes are on break—classes resume Sunday, January 13th.**

## Youth Ministry

**Important Youth Ministry Notice—Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) Registration** This upcoming year we will be attending the Diocese's largest youth gathering, **Diocesan Youth Conference**. DYC is a jam-packed high energy weekend trip for 8th-12th graders from Friday, February 8 to Sunday, February 10 that includes amazing speakers, powerful worship, great fellowship and tons of fun. Speakers this year include Haiti 180 missionary Sean Forrest and musician Jackie Francois Angel. The all-inclusive cost of \$225 per youth includes admission, t-shirt, lodging and meals in Richmond. **Registration closes January 9th!** Scholarships are available. Request info and sign up by contacting William Yearout, youthministry@stmarysblacksburg.org.

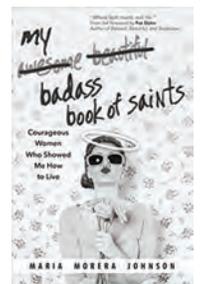
The next **Youth Night** is Thursday, January 10th from 6:00-7:30pm. All Middle and High Schoolers are welcome.

## Adult Faith Formation

**AFFIRM Thursdays** returns on January 10th with Bishop Barron's new series—"The Mass". It is a four-part series that will be lead by our Seminarian Tom Lawrence. Walk through the Liturgy with Bishop Barron and be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. See how the Mass brings us out of the world into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and, most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. *The Mass* will help you understand how to fully, consciously and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian Life. Watch for updates and sign-ups in the Narthex after Christmas. Meeting dates are January 10, 17, 24, and 31. You do not need to come to every session to get something out of this marvelous series.

**New Adult Faith For Adults on Sunday Mornings between the Masses—beginning January 13th.**

We all need role models to guide us on the path to Heaven – and Maria Morera Johnson has found the most bodacious group of all! Meet 24 courageous women – including Sr. Blandina Segale who faced down Billy the Kid three times!– and let your new friends help you channel your own inner badass. Sundays at 10:00am in the Library. Contact Erin Raymond for more info, raymonds3@hotmail.com.



**Little Angels Preschool and Parent's Morning Out** wishes everyone a joyful Christmas and blessed New Year! SMLA and PMO are on Christmas break. Classes will resume Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

To register your child, please contact Kim Keesee or Amy Lawrence at 540-951-0916 or littleangels@stmarysblacksburg.org.





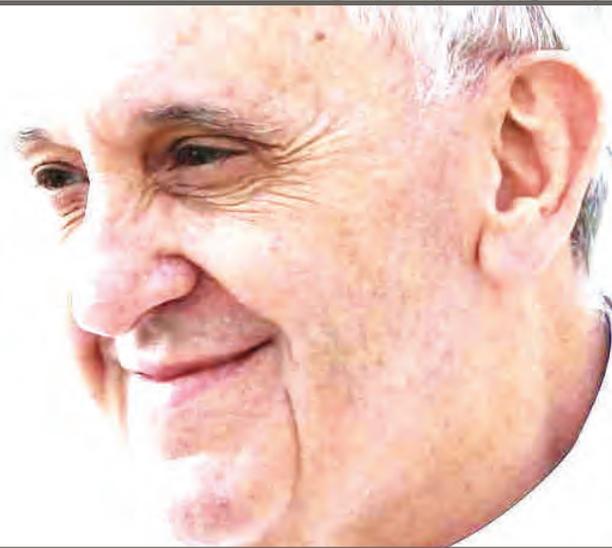
Families are complicated systems. They can be the most transforming or the most hurtful of experiences. Our families of origin have a huge claim on who we are and who we will become. While families need to help us fulfill some of our human needs, this cannot be their sole purpose or focus. Healthy and happy families consist of folks who always have their eyes on the needs and best interests of the other individuals who make up their family unit. We live in the greater family of the world, which is also God's family. It can't only be about us. We must focus our gaze on the needs and well-being of our brothers and sisters. This whole seeing allows us to see others as God sees them. The Holy Family is the perfect example of how all families can work: our families of origin, the families in which we now find ourselves, and the family of our world. May we look to their example in helping us fine-tune our systems of family life so that God's presence can truly be revealed in and through them!



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

**THE POPE FRANCIS LIST**

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.



***Prayer for the New Year***

*Lord, whether we are leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks.*

*We thank You that You are always with us every single day and every single year.*

*Please remind us of Your presence in the year ahead, even when life is busy.*

*We are so thankful that we serve a God who makes things new and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.*

*Be glorified in our lives this year. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



**Eucharistic**



**Adoration**

Start off the new year with Jesus! Come join us for **Eucharistic Adoration** on Friday, January 4th from 9:00-11:00am. Enjoy a peaceful morning in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and receive more blessings in 2019 than ever imagined.

*"The future belongs to those who worship God in silence."*  
—St. John Paul II

## Events and Announcements

*It takes many helping hands to make our Christmas liturgies blessed, happy celebrations. Thank you to the Environment Art volunteers who decorated the church, the Liturgical Ministers who served during each Mass, the Music Ministers who played and sang at each Mass and the children and parents who performed the pageant. We greatly appreciate your efforts to make this holy season extra special.*

Liturgical Ministers are asked to please enter your availability for January, February and March in Ministry Scheduler.

Calling all Ministry Leaders and volunteers! Mark your calendars now—**January 23 @ 7:00pm**—for **A Ministry Summit**. Teresa and Bob Bolger, chairs of St. Mary's Time and Talent Ministry, are excited to share their vision with us as we kick off the new year. Come learn about plans for continuing the work of involving all parishioners in the important aspects of stewardship within our parish, plus hear an update from each parish ministry. Watch for details!

**AFFIRM Thursday** are back! Starting on January 10 using Bishop Barron's new series called **The Mass**. It is a 4-part series and will be lead by our Seminarian Tom Lawrence. Walk through the Liturgy with Bishop Barron and be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. See how the Mass brings us out of the world into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and, most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. The Mass will help you understand how to fully, consciously and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian Life. Watch updates and sign-ups in the Narthex after Christmas. Meeting dates are January 10, 17, 24, and 31. You do not need to come to every session to get something out of this marvelous series.

Congratulations to the **winners of the Time & Talent Ministry raffle**: Wine & Chocolate basket - Borny Family; Movie Basket - Moll Family and Nativity - Allen Family. Thank you to everyone who supported this raffle. The proceeds will be used to help ministries that do not have fundraisers with project and administrative costs.

**Greetings from William Yearout...**"Getting settled into my position as Coordinator of Youth Ministries has been wonderful over these past four months. I'm very grateful for the support I've received from all of you, and want to thank you for welcoming me into your parish community. Going forward, I believe we can accomplish so much in establishing a vibrant Youth Ministry program for Catholic teens and young adults here in the New River Valley! If you would like to contribute time or talent to our Youth Ministry please reach out to me! All my prayers go out to you and your families as we approach Christmastide. May the remainder of this holy season of Advent be a time of penance and a time a hope as we await the celebration of Christmas. May we rejoice, as the Lord is near!"

**Pride in Ownership:** In your pews are the new 2019 Breaking Bread hymnals and supplemental seasonal worship aids. During this liturgical year, let us all take pride in ownership by treating these resources with kindness. To help maintain the beauty of our worship area at each mass, please tidy your pew before you leave by returning Fr. John's homily handout to the baskets in the Narthex, and taking your child's copy of *MagnifiKid* and your bulletin home with you for reference during the week. To rephrase a saying of St. Teresa of Calcutta: Tidy the pew "not because you have to, but because you love the person who will use it next." Thank you!

Start the new year out right by enriching your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekends are Mar 1-3 in Hickory, NC and Mar 22-24 in Herndon, VA Early sign up is recommended. For more info visit our website, [renewmarriage-vasouth.org](http://renewmarriage-vasouth.org) or email us, [applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org](mailto:applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org) or call us 757-690-1369.

**Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry donations** are now more important than ever. Please consider regularly donating food items as part of your charity. Non-perishable food items—canned goods (fruits, vegetables, meats, spag sauce), packaged goods (pasta, cereal, crackers, etc.) and ad dried goods (beans, rice) —can be put in the Narthex donation box. Monetary donations are also accepted—please make checks payable to St. Mary's with IFP in the memo line. Contact Barbara MacDonald, [rbmcd@verizon.net](mailto:rbmcd@verizon.net), for more info about the pantry.



## PARISH MINISTRIES

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

Kate Bixby, *Chair*  
Dennis Brisendine, *Vice Chair*  
Justin Van Dyke, *Secretary*  
Jean Deutsch  
Myra Blanco  
Dennis Jones  
Tim Leake  
Joseph Mukuni  
Jake Moll  
Diane Agud  
Debbie Showalter  
Gena Chandler-Smith

### **Finance Council**

Jerry Diffell, *Chair*  
Felix Amenkhienan, *Co-chair*  
Anna Chisholm, *Secretary*  
Ted Borny  
Sandi Merrix,  
Doug Whichard

### **Liturgical Ministers**

Beth Shaver

### **Pastoral Care**

Fr. John Asare  
Beth Shaver  
Kitty Devereaux

### **Christian Formation**

Sue Ellerbrock  
Susan Semanic

### **Justice & Peace**

Bob Canfield

### **Parish Life**

Minerva San Juan  
Peggy Pollyea

### **Evangelization**

Joseph Mukuni

### **Time & Talent Stewardship**

Bob & Teresa Bolger

### **Operations & Facilities**

Randy Phipps

## STAFF

### **Pastor**

Rev. Fr. John Asare  
pastor@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Deacon**

Rev. Dr. Mike Ellerbrock  
mebrock@vt.edu

### **Deacon**

Rev. Mr. Rick Furman  
deaconrick@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Director of Liturgy & Music**

Beth Shaver  
liturgy@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Director of Religious Education, Youth Ministry & Adult Faith Formation**

Sue Ellerbrock  
formation@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Youth Ministry Coordinator**

William Yearout  
youthministry@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Business Manager**

Randy Phipps  
businessmanager@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Bookkeeper**

Becky Meisner  
bookkeeper@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Administrative Assistant**

LoriAnne Van Dyke  
officestaff@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Custodian**

Mykie Stephens

### **Seminarian**

Mr. Tom Lawrence  
seminarian@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Little Angels Preschool**

540-951-0916  
littleangels@stmarysblacksburg.org

### **Coordinator**

Kim Keese

### **Assistant Coordinator**

Amy Lawrence

## **Newman Community at Virginia Tech— Catholic Campus Ministry**

203 Otey St.,  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
540-951-0032 | vtcatholic.com

**Fr. David Sharland, Chaplain**  
fatherdavid.vtccm@gmail.com

### **Mass Schedule for Fall & Spring**

#### **Sunday**

War Memorial Chapel  
@ 10:00am, 12:00pm, 8:00pm

#### **Monday-Friday**

Great Room  
@ 5:30pm

#### **Wednesday**

Newman Chapel  
@ 12:30pm

#### **Thursday**

Newman Chapel  
@ 9:00pm

#### **Saturday**

Newman Chapel  
@ 9:00am

### **Reconciliation for Fall & Spring Sunday**

War Memorial Chapel  
@ 9:00am, 11:15am and 7:00pm

#### **Thursday**

Newman House  
@ 8:00pm

## **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.**

