



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church  
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

EASTER SUNDAY  
The Resurrection  
of the Lord

20 April 2014



# what's coming

## april

### 21 Monday within the Octave of Easter

*Parish Offices Closed.*

7pm, Taller de Oracion, Courtyard Meeting Room

### 22 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

10am, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

7:30pm, Diocesan Mass/Healing Service, church.

### 23 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

9:30-11:30am, Donation Drop-off for Yard Sale, Parish Life Center.

4:30-7pm, Donation Drop-off for Yard Sale, Parish Life Center.

6pm, YOUCAT - Youth Ministry Program, John Paul II House.

7pm, Legion of Mary, Parish Life Center 100.

### 24 Thursday within the Octave of Easter

9:30-11:30am, Donation Drop-off for Yard Sale, Parish Life Center.

9:45am, Craft Group, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

4:30-7pm, Donation Drop-off for Yard Sale, Parish Life Center.

7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.

7:30pm, Men's Group, Blue and Grey Brewery.

### 25 Friday within the Octave of Easter

9:30am, Moms' Group "St. Anne's Sisters in Faith," John Paul II House.

9:30am - 6pm, Donation Drop-off for Yard Sale, Parish Life Center.

### 26 Saturday within the Octave of Easter

8am-2pm, Yard Sale sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women, Parish Life Center.

SCRIP Sales after 5pm Mass.

### 27 Divine Mercy Sunday

Coffee and donuts after morning Masses. (Thurman Brisben Center)

SCRIP Sales after Masses.

11:30am, New Family Welcome Meeting, begins in church.

12noon-1:45pm, English as a Second Language Class, 2nd Floor, Parish Life Center.

3pm, Divine Mercy Devotion, church.

3:30pm, Spanish Prayer Workshop, Courtyard Meeting Room.

6pm, Catholic Youth Ministry Dinner, Parish Life Center.

7-8:30pm, CYM Youth Group, Parish Life Center.

### 28 Monday, Easter Weekday (St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, priest)

10am, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

7:30pm, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, Church.

8:30pm, Young Adult Ministry meeting, John Paul II House.

### 29 Tuesday, St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the church

7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Renewal Group, Courtyard Meeting Room.

### 30 Wednesday, Easter Weekday (St. Pius V, pope)

6pm, YOUCAT, Youth Ministry Program, John Paul II house.

7pm, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

### Save the Dates:

**Concerts at St. Mary:** Free concert Friday, May 30th (new date!): Colin Howland in Concert.

Mr. Howland is organist of Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, TX. CDs of Mr. Howland playing our St. Mary pipe organ will be available. Contact the parish office for information.

**Parish Picnic 2014** will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 8, at Holy Cross Academy



saint  
mary

of the  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
Roman Catholic Church



**nota bene** (*note well, please*):

- ☞ **Happy Easter!** From all of us to everyone who is here celebrating the Mystery of Christ's resurrection, peace be with you! And to all who are visiting family or with us for the holiday, you are welcome! We hope the Easter message of new life and joy is a real part of your life today. This is truly the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!
- ☞ The parish offices will be closed on Easter Monday.
- ☞ The Catholic Healing Ministry of the Diocese of Arlington will celebrate a **Mass and Healing Service** on **Tuesday, April 22 at 7:30pm** here at St. Mary. For further information call 540-347-0809 or check out [www.healingministry.net](http://www.healingministry.net)
- ☞ The Council of Catholic Women will hold a **Yard Sale** at the Parish Life Center on **Saturday, April 26** from 8am to 2pm.
- ☞ Our next **New Family Welcome Meeting** is **Sunday, April 27** at 11:30am in the Church. Come, learn about our many ministries and complete a registration form. You are most welcome!
- ☞ Divine Mercy devotions will be held on April 27, **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Devotions will begin at approximately 3:15pm, or immediately following the 2pm Spanish Mass.
- ☞ The Catholic Youth Ministry **Annual Flower Sale** will begin next weekend after all the Masses and will continue through Mother's Day. Proceeds benefit WorkCamp.
- ☞ Come join the party at our annual **Parish Dinner Dance** on **May 3** at the Jepson Alumni Center. See page 8 for ticket information.

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bulletin:

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# from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

Welcome, and thank you for being with us today to celebrate new life, a new creation. Where there was death, there is now life; where there was the darkness of ignorance, there is the light of truth. Where there has been doubt and confusion—well, now there is a way. Commit your hearts, join us on the journey as we explore that way that is Christ among us. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He who is, is now risen. Alleluia!

What an amazing day we are privileged to see—*today*—as so many thousands come together in the largest space in our area to witness faith in resurrected Life and renew our precious vows of Baptism which make us the new people of God, a holy nation. It is in the liturgy that we are reminded of who we are, and *whose* we are. The liturgy is the closest thing we know to the life of heaven, and from here we are sent to the world to bring about real change, in the same way that we have been really changed. Life is Liturgy is Mission.

The coming year's theme will be a parish-wide focus aimed at supporting our intention to **bring to life the gifts that God has given you.** At St. Mary there is no limit to the ministries and opportunities that exist or are waiting to be brought into existence by those who share particular gifts in an expression of service—all that is found here, or will be developed by our parish family with your participation.

Of this I am sure: my role as your pastor is not to allow you to be a passive recipient of these Sacred Mysteries of Jesus Christ. Our involvement in the life of prayer and service demands that we find a way to discover or deepen a personal relationship with Jesus. This is exactly what so many have been seeking all their lives; it is, in fact, something that many have sought

and, not finding it in the Catholic Church, have left the Church to go somewhere else to find it.

It is time we wake up.

*Come back to school.*

I've heard it expressed like this: before the Second Vatican Council (now 50 years ago), the Church thought of herself as those weak and wounded who needed to go to church as a protection program or a place of recovery. This attitude pervaded culture in all churches. We trained ourselves to demand what we wanted like consumers. People left if they felt they didn't get what they wanted, or were entitled to. Is it possible that, today or ever, we could pretend that Jesus Christ started a Church to serve herself? No such self-centered ideology could possibly have been his intention.

No, the Catholic Church was never intended to be a self-help aisle or a support group. Healing and growth only comes through action: prayer and service. Jesus Christ gathered around himself faithful sinners whom he formed as disciples, to go out to others and take his Word and Sacrament to *the world*. As a seminary is intended to personally form people into clergy and ministry leaders, so the parish is established as the royal house of Christ who forms us into disciples—not to serve ourselves, but to go out and serve everybody else! Our focus is *outward*, to take all that we have seen and heard and use it for its intended purpose: to be shared.

The *Catechism* puts it this way: "the ministerial priesthood [clergy] is at the service of the common priesthood [laity]. It is directed at the unfolding of the baptismal grace of all Christians" (n. 1547). It "confers a sacred power for the service of the faithful" (n. 1592). As spiritual fathers, priests call forth and nurture your baptismal priesthood. But the purpose of this service for the people of God is to awaken the service within you that, in turn, you would also serve.

*Continued, page 14*

# holy cross academy

*The faculty and staff at Holy Cross Academy would like to wish everyone a very blessed Easter. May the Risen Lord fill you with love and peace.*

## Science Squad

*The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.* Albert Einstein

Science is alive and booming at HCA. You may, however, ask, "What is a Science Squad?" HCA students know the answer to this question and our 6th graders in particular would be happy to share their excitement about the subject. It was designed by Sister Frances Carol for them since they do not yet participate in the middle school science fair.

Each year interested students begin by brainstorming scientific topics. As a group they then vote on a general topic, narrow it down and finally choose a topic based on their interests. Students then divide into smaller groups to create experiments

and design presentations. This year's group had impressive exhibits to demonstrate for the elementary students; then our scientists celebrated with an afterschool visit to Chic-fil-A. Everyone enjoyed this year of scientific learning and growth.

If you want to learn about our school and all that we can do for your child, please call us at 540-286-1600 or visit our website, [www.holycrossweb.com](http://www.holycrossweb.com). Holy Cross Academy is a place where each child can flourish and grow. We would love to hear from you and will gladly give you a tour of our National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and tell you all about the wonderful things happening here.

## St. Mary Preschool Openings for Fall

St. Mary Preschool is currently registering for the 2014-2015 school year. We have openings in both morning and afternoon 3 and 4 year old classes. Come join the fun in our Parish Preschool! For information please contact Mrs. Scharf at 373-7553.



*A National Blue Ribbon School, 2012*



## discipleship

# gifts must be used to grow,



*You are warmly welcome and needed at St. Mary Parish! Just as Jesus welcomes every person with open arms, we at St. Mary welcome the presence and involvement of all our members – whether you are longtime members, new families, or just recently returning to the Church. Each of you has a unique contribution to make. There are dozens of opportunities to get involved. Let's work together to continue to build a welcoming community and serve God and one another. Please feel free to contact any of the ministry leaders listed below. They are happy to speak with you.*

### EDUCATION

*Tess Thome, chair, tessnmike@cox.net*

#### Adult Education

Tess Thome, tessnmike@cox.net

#### Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM)

Leo Chavarria, leo@stmaryfred.org

#### Columbian Squires / Squire Roses

Eric Stevens, SirKnight.ericstevens@gmail.com

#### English as a Second Language

Ray Houpt, rjhaupt@msn.com

#### Holy Cross Academy

Sister Susan Louise, hcprincipal@verizon.net

#### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Eileen Lanzarone, rciastmaryfred@gmail.com

#### Religious Education-Teachers/Asst.

Aristides Lucas, alucas@stmaryfred.org

#### St. Mary PreSchool

Nanci Scharf, nscharf@stmaryfred.org

#### Vacation Bible School

Karen Sturtevant, ksturtevant@stmaryfred.org

### LITURGY

*Sr. Susan Louise, chair, hcprincipal@verizon.net*

#### Altar Servers

Jack & Vicky Kopcak, vicky265g@yahoo.com

#### Altar Society

Sr. Miriam Elizabeth, aviat@holycrossweb.com

#### Choirs/Musicians

David Mathers, dmathers@stmaryfred.org

#### Hospitality/Greeters

Katherine Pereira, katyp111@hotmail.com

#### Lectors

Albert Martinez, justrun@verizon.net

#### Pipe Organ Committee

David Mathers, dmathers@stmaryfred.org

#### Seasonal Decorators

Sister Susan Louise, hcprincipal@verizon.net

#### Ushers

Joe Cralle, jacralle@gmail.com

### OPERATIONS

*Mike Huie, chair, mandchuie@aol.com*

#### Bishops Lenten Appeal

Jane Gallagher, jgallagher@unitedsprinkler.com

#### Facilities Committee

Mike Huie, abbyconstr@aol.com

#### Holy Cross Academy - SCRIP

Tori Baldwin, scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com

#### Office Volunteers

Kelly Keiser, kkeiser@stmaryfred.org

### OUTREACH

*Julie Appleton, chair, jrmappleton@gmail.com*

#### Catholic Advocacy Council

Candy Bautista, candybauti@aol.com

#### Catholic Charities

Furman McCormick, furman@thefarmva.com

#### Ecumenical/Interreligious Commission

Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stmaryfred.org

#### Homeless Shelter Dinners

Patti Kaila, home@bestappraisal.com

#### Manna Project (Food Bank)

Kris Bullock, krisbullock02@yahoo.com

# used in the service of others

Micah - Cold Night Shelter  
Linda Michadick, csmlsm@comcast.net

Knights of Columbus  
Joe Vogel, grandknight@kofccouncil4034.org

Micah - Community Dinners  
Steve Keene, keene1946@cox.net

Legion of Mary  
Pam Biedenbender, pamelab12@gmail.com

Micah - Refugee Assistance  
Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stmaryfred.org

Magdalenes  
Susan Huthmaker, shuthmaker@hotmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul  
Maureen Jones, clintonoxford@aol.com

Men's Group  
Mike Bostain, mrbostain@verizon.net

SHARE  
Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stmaryfred.org

St. Anne's Sisters in Faith - Mom's Group  
Rocio Atkinson, rocio.o.atkinson@gmail.com

## PARISH LIFE

*Vicky Kopcak, chair, vicky265g@yahoo.com*

Parish Food Chain  
Margaret McMillen, mcmillenf1@aol.com

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Pat Fogarty, pfogarty3234@gmail.com

Parish Life (Social) Committee  
Vicky Kopcak, vicky265g@yahoo.com

Book Club  
Kathleen Mahoney, bmah761569@aol.com

Respect Life  
Elaine Stanislawski,  
estanislawski@stmaryfred.org

Catholic Council of Women (CCW)  
Joyce O'Toole, tjotoole@verizon.net

Respect Life - Birthright  
Donna Hart, brvolunteers@yahoo.com

Catholic Homeschoolers  
Aaron King, aaronking@gmail.com

Respect Life - Mary's Shelter  
Kathleen Wilson, info@marysshelterva.org

Catholics Over 40 & Single  
Kathy Saladino, ksaladino2009@comcast.net

Retreats  
Len & Sylvia Fontenot, lensyl1966@verizon.net

CCW - Craft Group  
Wanda Cushing, wcushing@cox.net

Secular Franciscans  
Barbara McCoy, barbaramccoy@msn.com

CCW - Prayers & Squares  
Kelly Keiser, kkeiser@stmaryfred.org

Senior Luncheon  
Gonzalo Guacena, gfgup61@aol.com

Cursillo (Spiritual Journey)  
Joyce Bodoh, joycebodoh@gmail.com

Spanish Ministry  
Ismael Bermudez, ibermudez@stmaryfred.org

Franciscan Prayer Chain  
Maggie Fischer, franprayerwarrior@gmail.com

Welcoming New Parishioners  
Leigh Florio, lkflorio@comcast.net

Funeral Reception Committee  
Mary Ellen Wheeler, melonqu@aol.com

Young Adult Group  
Fr. Cummings, frcummings@stmaryfred.org

Garden Committee  
Claire Huie, mandchuie@aol.com

*Thank you! We look forward to responding to your inquiries.*

# parish life parish life



*Some Tickets Still Available:*

## ST. MARY'S "PARISH NIGHT OUT" FORMAL DINNER & DANCE

**Saturday, May 3, Jepson Alumni Center, UMW.**

Our 6th annual Parish Night Out has become a favorite tradition for parishioners as we gather for a fun, formal evening together with great food and music and dancing. We welcome back the wonderful Andrew Thielen Big Band, with dance classics from many generations of popular music. Cash bar opens at 6:30pm; Dinner begins at 7pm, followed by dancing.

Tickets at \$75 each. For more information, speak with Marty Bridi, 540-373-0259 or Vicky Kopcak 540-273-4456

### **Living Stones: Deadline extended to Monday, May 5**

We continue to take orders for the "Living Stones" in our new courtyard, each featuring the last name of the family sponsoring it. This will be an enduring "living" legacy for our parish family.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. The investment for each stone is \$500 and helps cover the cost of this landscaping project. You may make installment payments. Please place your order by Monday, May 5 to be included in the next installation.

### **Parish Senior Luncheon - May 13**

The next parish senior luncheon will be held at the Parish Life Center on Tuesday, May 13 from 12noon to 3pm. All seniors in the parish are invited.

If you plan to attend, please call Ms. Judy Wingert at 540-786-8403 or Gonzalo Guacena at 540-786-6575 by May 12 so we can best prepare for the luncheon. Entertainment will be provided. Come and enjoy the company of your fellow seniors in the parish.

### **Young Adults at St. Mary**

The St. Mary Young Adults are looking for members to become more involved. We will be establishing several leadership positions and invite

everyone who has been involved in the past, or who has simply thinking about getting involved, to come and help us establish a more robust leadership team. We meet on Monday nights at 8pm. For more information, contact contact Father Cummings, [fcummings@stmaryfred.org](mailto:fcummings@stmaryfred.org).

### **Women's Cursillo in Fredericksburg**

Join other Fredericksburg women for an uplifting, fun, and spiritual retreat from May 1-4. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your relationship to Christ and to meet some wonderful women. The total cost is \$250 and includes all meals and lodging.

There are also men's weekends and women's weekends every Fall and Spring. For more information, contact me: [joycebodoh@gmail.com](mailto:joycebodoh@gmail.com) or 540-521-0588

### **Over Forty Fellowship**

Join us for one (or all) of our upcoming activities. Suggest an activity of your own. We are an active group seeking more involvement with the parish and each other. On Sunday, April 27, come over to Central Park and join us for "Breakfast at Panera," following the 8:30am Mass. RSVP to [ksaladino2009@comcast.net](mailto:ksaladino2009@comcast.net) so we know to look for you! On Saturday, May 3, we will meet at 6pm to enjoy food and fellowship while supporting the Knights of Columbus during their monthly Parish Dinner.





April 20, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

If I asked you to choose the single event that has most influenced human history, what would you choose? An invention; a discovery; a medical advancement? Yes, human history has included many world-changing occurrences, but none would be considered the single event that has had the greatest influence on our history – at least, not for the followers of Jesus Christ.

For us, that single event is the reality we celebrate today with such joy: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the heart of the gospel, which the women at the tomb heard: “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said...” This single event is the very core of our faith: without the Resurrection, there would be no reason to believe, to hope; there would be no Christianity!

Moreover, this single event makes all of the difference to us because the rising of Jesus Christ from the dead to new and unending life radically changes our outlook on life: how we journey with genuine and enduring hope through life as we serve one another in true charity. The reality we celebrate and relive: Christ’s Dying and Rising makes the real difference – the only difference – in how we live our daily life.

Of course, we shall not escape the uncertainties and difficulties of life: frustration, difficulty, suffering, pain, and, in the end, human death itself, but the Resurrection allows us to endure and to cope with them, to pass through them without being completely crushed by them.

Please know that I will pray for you and your families on this Easter day and throughout the Easter season. May the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus transform us, strengthening us to go forth each day with hearts on fire!

I wish you a blessed Easter, echoing Pope Francis: “Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life!” Alleluia!

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads “+ Paul S. Loverde”.

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde  
Bishop of Arlington

# faith formation

**Religious Education classes are on break until April 27.**

## Vacation Bible School

Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive! St. Mary will host Vacation Bible School June 23 to June 27 from 9am to 12noon each day. VBS is for rising K – 5th grade students. Registration will begin May 1.

## Catechists write:

*Why do I enjoy being a Catechist?*

I have been teaching CCD at St. Mary for eleven years. I'm often asked why I continue to sacrifice ten months of Monday nights. I realize how special the gift of sharing God's love with our parish children is. The kindergartners' innocence and unconditional love reminds me of Christ's love. The priceless impact when they spontaneously sing a song of Jesus' love for them reinforces that no matter our age we are all God's children. I can clearly say I receive far more than I can teach by seeing Christ's love in a child's eyes. I look forward to those ten months of Mondays. It's heartwarming to see the children I have taught years later receiving the sacraments and growing up in our church. It has been an honor and a privilege to teach our parish children about our faith. -- Candice Bautista

## Life in the Spirit • Jesus is alive!

PLEASE JOIN US for a the eight week series, "Introduction to a Renewed Catholic Life in the Spirit." We will meet on Tuesdays beginning April 29 through June 17 from 7:30 to 9pm in the church. Contact the Parish Office to register for this series, a \$10 free-will offering will cover materials..

The seven weeks of sessions will help participants realize the fire, the breath, the gifts, fruits and the charisms of the Spirit. Do you desire the Holy Spirit to be more alive in you? Do you hunger to experience the Father's love for you more deeply? Do you want to discover the gifts the Lord has given you? Come, experience the Holy Spirit with us.



# youth ministry

## High School Youth Program welcomes all the newly confirmed!

This is an invitation to all of our newly Confirmed and rising 9th graders to join us for High School Youth Group and YOUCAT programs. We are opening our doors so that you can stay connected and continue to grow in your faith. Youth Group meets Sundays from 7pm-8:30pm, YOUCAT meets Wednesday's from 6:30pm – 8pm.

## WorkCamp Rent-a-Crew

Small teams of CYM teens are ready to help with lawn clean-up, housecleaning, and junk removal in exchange for a donation to Workcamp 2014. Those interested in hiring the teens may contact Karen Clemente at 540-845-7403 or via email at [karenclmente@aol.com](mailto:karenclmente@aol.com). An adult will meet with callers to preview the task and determine how many teens will be needed to complete it. Teen crews will have an adult supervisor on site.



## Middle School Bash - May 10

The Middle School Bash is the largest gathering of middle school teens in the Diocese. Join us on Saturday, May 10 for an awesome day of inflatable games, pizza, shaved ice cones, music, inspirational Catholic speakers and Mass and a free give away for all! This is open to all middle school teens (6th-8th grade). Cost is \$10 and a permission slip. Permission slips are available on our website.

# "as I have done for you..."

## SHARE

Self Help and Resource Exchange is a cooperative food distribution program that is new this year at St. Mary Church. The ministry is multi-faceted providing wholesome and nutritious food to families and individuals at a reduced cost while at the same time promoting volunteer service in our Parish and area Community, building relationships with other community organizations is strongly encouraged.

Most areas of ministry, in or out of the parish community, typically requires a commitment of one or two hours per month. Each package ordered requires two hours of community service – as long as the community service is doing something for someone else, it is acceptable. Distribution of packages takes place the fourth Saturday of the month from 8 to 9am.

Please contact Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stmaryfred.org](mailto:rcaporali@stmaryfred.org) for more information. Food Packages are available to everyone – no income requirements. Menus are available at the parish office or on the Outreach Ministry page on our website, [www.stmaryfred.org](http://www.stmaryfred.org).

## Al Anon Surviving the Weekend Group

Al Anon is for those who have been affected by someone else's drinking, and members come together to learn a better way of life and how to find happiness. It's important to know that you are not alone and there is help. There is an Al Anon meeting every Saturday at 10am in Room 204 of the St. Mary Parish Life Center.

## Bishop's Lenten Appeal

Each family in our parish is asked to give to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). As of April 10, 30% of our parish families had made a pledge. If you have not yet made a pledge for 2014, you will receive a reminder letter in the next week or so. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to support the many programs and ministries that serve the people of our diocese. Every pledge is important!

We are currently at **99%** of our goal. Thanks!

## Help for the unemployed and underemployed

Christians Are Networking (CAN), the all-volunteer jobs ministry of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, offers support to anyone who is unemployed or struggling with career transition decisions in three locations: St. Philip in Falls Church on the first and third Wednesdays of the month 7-9pm, St. Martin de Porres Senior Center in Alexandria every Thursday from 7-9pm and Epiphany Middle School in Culpeper on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information, email [canstphilips@gmail.com](mailto:canstphilips@gmail.com) or call 703-573-3808 for Falls Church, email [elizabeth22305@verizon.net](mailto:elizabeth22305@verizon.net) or call 703-683-7704 for Alexandria, or email [culpepercan@gmail.com](mailto:culpepercan@gmail.com) or call 703-944-8450 for Culpeper.

## Donate your used car and help someone become self-reliant!

If you own a car you are thinking of replacing, we need your donation. The Catholic Charities Car Ministry takes used ve-

hicles and gives them directly to needy families (so the car needs to be in good running order). In return, Catholic Charities can help you get a tax deduction. We have a long list of families who need transportation. Please contact Brian O'Connor at 703-841-3898.

## Support mothers in need to care for their babies

The Catholic Charities baby closet needs diapers in large sizes (3 to 6), wipes, baby formula (Similac) and baby shampoo. New baby clothing is also needed. Bring donations to the Baby Closet at 10639 Courthouse Road (Route 208) in Fredericksburg.

## Spring cleaning? Donate to CCW

The annual CCW Yard Sale will be held Saturday, April 26. Donations will be accepted in the Parish Life Center on Wednesday & Thursday, April 23 & 24 from 9:30am to 11:30am and 4:30pm to 7pm; and on Friday, April 25 from 9:30am to 6pm. We will accept kitchenware, plants, books, CDs/DVDs, electronics, baby and children's items, toys, games, jewelry and other household items. No shoes or clothing please. The Yard Sale will be Saturday, April 26 from 8am to 2pm. Please come shop; we might have just what you have been looking for. All money raised by the CCW will be used for local charities and to support our youth groups. Thank you in advance for participating.

# staff

[www.stmaryfred.org](http://www.stmaryfred.org)

1009 Stafford Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22401

- SUNDAY MASS** Saturday Vigil 5 & 7pm  
Sunday 7, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30, 2pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7:01pm  
10:30am at Holy Cross Academy
- DAILY MASS** Mon.-Fri.: 6:30 & 9am; Sat., 9am  
First Friday 8pm  
Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
- DEVOTIONS** Adoration & Benediction, Wed., 7-9pm  
Novena with Exposition, Mon., 7-7:30pm  
All Night Adoration, First Friday  
Miraculous Medal Novena, Mon., after 9am Mass  
Divine Mercy, Wed., 3pm
- CONFESSION** Wed., 7-9pm; Sat., 8am & 3:30pm, or by appt.
- PARISH OFFICE** 540-373-6491, fax 371-0251  
[stmary@stmaryfred.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryfred.org)  
Mon.-Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm;  
*students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm*
- Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney  
Fr. Keith Cummings  
Fr. Stephen Holmes  
Fr. Lino Rico Rostro  
Deacon Alberto Bernaola  
Deacon Dick Delio
- Executive Assistant, Rick Caporali  
Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski  
Director of Sacred Music, David Mathers  
Administrative Assistant, Kelly Keiser  
Secretary, Mary Fitch
- HOLY CROSS ACADEMY** 540-286-1600  
250 Stafford Lakes Parkway  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406-7234  
Principal, Sr. Susan Louise Eder, O.S.F.S.
- ST. MARY PRESCHOOL** 373-7553  
Director, Nanci Scharf
- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE** 373-6491  
Director, Aristides Lucas  
Associate Director, Karen Sturtevant
- YOUTH MINISTRY** 373-6491  
Director, Leo Chavarria
- BAPTISMS** Parish registration (90 days) and class required.  
Please contact the parish office to schedule the date at least four weeks in advance.
- MARRIAGE** Parish registration required; contact parish six months in advance to begin preparation.
- JOIN US** New Family Registration meetings are held monthly in the church on fourth Sundays, following the 10:30 Mass. Please notify us of any telephone/address changes.

## Weekly Offertory

*Thank you for your continued generosity! Please remember to use your Offertory Envelopes to ensure the accuracy of your end-of-year statement. The "Children's Envelope" proceeds will not be recorded on family statements.*

Our Second Collection on Easter Sunday is a Special Collection for Parish Development and Maintenance.

*The next Financial Report will be published in the April 27 Bulletin.*

## Catholic Home Missions Appeal - April 26 & 27

There are 88 home mission dioceses in the United States – in areas like the Deep South, Appalachia, the Rocky Mountains, the Southwest and Alaska – all characterized by a lack of resources to provide basic pastoral care for their faithful. Most are unable to adequately provide Mass, religious education, evangelization and ministry training, and often struggle with priest shortages, parishioner poverty, unemployment, difficult terrain, religious hostility and other circumstances that impact the practice of the faith. The Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi encompasses two-thirds of the State which has the highest number of families living below the poverty line in the US. The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands struggles to keep four schools open amid an extremely high cost of living. This Appeal helps keep the doors of schools and parishes open, which otherwise would be forced to close and helps educate seminarians in poor dioceses. Your help and support is vital. Please give generously and help strengthen the Church at home. Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

## SCRIP into Spring!

SCRIP is a fundraising program that provides funds for our parish school. You purchase gift cards to places that you normally shop and a percentage goes to Holy Cross Academy. Gift cards for Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart and Target are great for picking up supplies for your home. Whether you're spring cleaning or doing yard work, why not get a gift card and help raise money for Holy Cross before you shop!

To set up an account online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and use our school code, **7B876EB-B188L2**, so Holy Cross Academy gets credit for your purchase. If you have any questions about SCRIP please email Torie Baldwin at [scripcoordinator@holy-crossweb.com](mailto:scripcoordinator@holy-crossweb.com) or 571-330-3448. Thanks for using SCRIP!

## Operation Rice Bowl

Our celebration of the Resurrection brings us new joy and hope! Throughout Lent, your support of Operation Rice Bowl has helped offer hope to millions of people around the world who benefit from the work of Catholic Relief Services. Please return your Rice Bowl donation by April 30. To help our parish process the donations more quickly, please count your donation and make a check payable to the parish. Please write "Operation Rice Bowl" in the memo line of the check. Thank you for your generous support.

## Children's Offertory envelopes for April

The children's charity in April is the Operation Purple Program of the National Military Family Association.

The Operation Purple program was created in 2004 to fill a need identified by military parents to

Articles must be submitted two weeks prior to publication.  
Send articles to [stmary@stmaryfred.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryfred.org). Thanks!

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“help us help our kids.” The mission of the Operation Purple program is to empower military children and their families to develop and maintain healthy and connected relationships, in spite of the current military environment. We do this through a variety of means, including the healing and holistic aspect of the natural world. The program is joint or “purple” — encompassing all Service branches, including the National Guard and Reserve.

Since its creation in 2004, the Operation Purple program has grown to serve approximately 45,000 military children and teens. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/>



### Choose life reflection

On the morning of Jesus' Resurrection, Mary Magdalene having seen the empty Tomb, ran back to the Disciples. Peter and John, having heard her story, ran toward the Tomb. And in the end, of course, all the Apostles ran into the world to announce this greatest news of history. We, too, must run to announce the Gospel of Life with vigor and to save the unborn with urgency. *Lord, fill me with the vigor of Easter each day so that I may announce the victory of Life.*”

### St. Mary Prayer List

Please Pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: Garafano Family, Grant Family, Casey Family, LaCombe Family, Charles Lee, Christopher Ford, Joan Baker, Barbara Leone, Mary D'Amato, Sal Detrane, Tina Beaversdorf, Robert C. Murphy, Josephine Kreider, Eleanor Mitchell, Helen Kozyra, Catherine Gordon, John Castagna, Tyler Hansen, Meredith Whatcott, Julie Fabula, Amelia McDevitt, Gerald Gardiner, Ree Messer, Joyce Webster, O'Neta Shorter, Daniel Bustamonta, Dawn Dittmer, Martha Clemens, Lisa Storm, Veronica Johnson, Joseph McCormick, Patrick Wilkinson, Holly Smith, Patricia Portcelli, Doris Winstead, Cathy Thompson, Kathy Dobson, Tricia Davis, Joseph Bozicevic, Shirley Bozicevic, Connie Brimmer, Cathy Nichols, Reva McCloud, Regina Sullivan, Fr. Paul Richardson, Bentley Hunt, Anna Castagna, Ruth Weaver, Darlene Garcia, Barbara McKnight, Donald Estes, Mary Ullmer, Ariana Stanislawski, Ralph Steininger, Lucy Holzworth, Fr. Tom Brown, David Arnold, David Carr, Martin E. Zidek, Kelly and Andrew Wood, Martha Ferrara, Frank O'Connor, Clara Lester, Carlos Ortiz, Marianne Ford, John Pare, Sherry Taylor, Frank Mohler, Harold Gardiner, Rhonda Seidlinger, Betty Ann and Bill Detano

Please Pray for all the men and women in our military and civilian support services overseas, especially: Javier Acosta, Leah April, David Asher, Joel Asher, Miguel Ayala, Crystal Black, Ned Brownell, Jr., Derek Brostek, Christopher Burton, Matthew Campos, Leslie Capuano, Bruno Carriero, Jonathan Catalano, Frank Creamer, Sal Contreras, James Cook, Brad Cowan, Sam Del Grande, Glenn Dickinson, Aaron Doble, Anthony Dowden, John Dussault, Sandy Dussault, Travis Eades, Doug Ebenal, Christopher Eckert, Tim Evan, Christopher Ewers, Paul Fischer, Jonathan Fleming, Roberto Fuentes, Jason Geary, Ramon Guerra, Jr., Andrew Hamilton, Harry Hamilton, Ronnie Hamilton, Maria Harbeson, Andy Haskell, Raymund Haskell, Michael J. Herbek, James Helm, James Hoffnagle, Jr., Robert Horner, Danny L. Howard, Jr., Anthony Howell, Matthew Kearney, Daniel Kramer, Julio Laffitte III, Chris Lammers, Stephen Lammers, Scott LaRousse, Ryan Larsen, Jeffrey Lawrence, Kenneth Linstrom, Ryan Lynch, Sean Malloy, Geoff Mann, Josh Martin, Samantha Martin, Justin McClelland, Patrick McGroarty, John Moring, Nathaniel McNamara, Roger Mitchell, Joseph Moore, Joseph Muldoon, Corey Nash, Mindy Niemann, James Kevin O'Donnell, Bryce Parson, Joshua K. Pastell, Sean Penczak, Dominick Joseph Petro, Scott Price, Nick Schulz, Duayne Scott, Tim Smetek, Andrew Smith, Douglas Stransky, Shawn Tupta, Heidi Urben, Christopher Williamson and Daniel Zeytoonian.

Please pray for all the faithful departed: especially all the benefactors of St. Mary.

### Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

#### april

##### 21 MONDAY

6:30 Olivia Tan  
9am +Josephine Sumpolec  
Acts 2:14, 22-33; Mt 28:8-15

##### 22 TUESDAY

6:30 +Richard Wilson  
9am Anne Devine  
Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

##### 23 WEDNESDAY

6:30 +William Novitsky  
9am +Anthony Thanh Nguyen  
Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

##### 24 THURSDAY

6:30 +Walter Weir  
9am +Marjorie Asher  
Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

##### 25 FRIDAY

6:30 Jake Prouty  
9am +Elizabeth Corpe  
Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14

##### 26 SATURDAY

9am +Stephanie Rogers  
5pm +Mary & John Connolly  
7pm +George & Margaret Stiegler  
Acts 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15

##### 27 SUNDAY

7am +Claudia Sandra Terry  
8:30 Khan Nguyen Family  
10:30 +All Souls  
10:30\* Tim Baroody  
12:30pm Our Military Living & Decd.  
2pm For the Parish  
7am Judy Mazzarella  
7am Teofilo Lopez  
Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118; 1 Pt 1:3-9;  
Jn 20:19-31

\*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

My job description as pastor is the following:

- to cooperate with you in your mission to the world;
- to listen to you;
- to recognize your expertise, your gifts;
- to awaken, deepen your co-responsibility;
- to confidently entrust duties to you;
- to help you explore, discern vocation;
- to form, support you as secular apostles.

*Lumen Gentium* the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Vatican II, says that the priest is to recognize, uncover with faith, acknowledge with joy, foster with diligence, appreciate, judge, discern, coordinate, put to good use, and have “heartfelt esteem” for the charisms (gifts) of all the baptized (30). This key role of the priest is particularly precious, considering that half of priests today in the United States will be retired or deceased by the year 2018.

The task requires discernment first to determine what our authentic gifts are. Since gifts are always given as a benefit for others, never for the persons themselves, we can discover how God is calling each one of us concretely to serve him and his creation.

So what spiritual journey are you on?

#### *God loves? ...me?*

I'd like to quote from a book which I'm going to offer as a book study group this fall, 2014. It is called *Forming Intentional Disciples, The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* by Sherry Weddell. She writes:

“Catholicism involves three concurrent spiritual journeys that, in practice, are often treated as separate:

1. The personal interior journey of a lived relationship with Christ resulting in intentional discipleship.
2. The ecclesial journey into the Church through reception of the sacraments of initiation.

3. The journey of active practice (as evidenced by receiving the sacraments, attending Mass, and participating in the life and mission of the Christian community).

“I experienced the separation I once had with some seminarians. We were talking about the experience of a young Catholic friend who had just gone through a dramatic conversion. When I used the term “intentional disciple” to describe our friend, one seminarian responded, “Oh, you mean he has taken up his Catholic identity.”

“Ideally, discipleship and Catholic identity would always be one and the same. Every Catholic would be making all three journeys—to be a conscious disciple of Jesus Christ, a fully initiated Catholic, and an active parishioner—as an integrated whole. But what is often meant by the term “Catholic identity” is simply regarding oneself as Catholic and attending Mass with reasonable regularity. In this view, there is no need to inquire into the nature of one’s lived relationship with God. In short, many Catholics think one needn’t ask about the *first* journey if the *second* and *third* journeys are in place.

“The problem with this view is described by Fr. Damian Ference, a member of the formation faculty at Borromeo Seminary in Ohio:

“All too often those of us in positions of Church leadership presume that all the folks in the pews on Sundays, all the children in our grade schools, high schools and youth groups, all the men in our Men’s Clubs and all the women in our Women’s Guilds, and all the members of our RCIA team are already disciples. Many are not. (The same can be said of staffs and faculties of Catholic institutions.) Our people may be very active in the programs... but unfortunately, such participation does not qualify for discipleship.”

A great fallacy of our generation is that this



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personal relationship with God is reserved for “saints” —not me, surely. And “that personal discipleship is a kind of optional spiritual enrichment for the exceptionally pious or spiritually gifted,” Weddell says.

Pew’s *US Religious Landscape Survey* (2010) shows that, when asked about what kind of God they believed in, nearly one-third of American adults who self-identify as Catholics believe in an impersonal God. 60 percent of Catholics believe in a personal God, 29 percent said they believe in an “impersonal force,” and 8 percent said that God was “other” or “both.” Only 48 percent of Catholics were absolutely certain that the God they believed in was a God with whom they could have a personal relationship.

This is the starting point: where are you? How much of our faith can make sense to millions of Catholics—to you or anyone—if the bedrock foundation—belief in a personal God who loves you—isn’t in place?

If this is sounding to you more like an altar call from a Billy Graham crusade (if you can remember those, when George Beverly Shea would start singing “How Great Thou Art”) then you have bought the stereotype that Catholics don’t have personal relationships with Jesus; it something reserved to Protestants spirituality. “We are who we are, right? We’re not them.” Division in the body of Christ continues to do its damage.

Weddell continues: “many, if not a majority, of Catholics don’t know what “normal” Christianity looks like. I believe that one reason for this is the selective silence about the call to discipleship that pervades many parishes. Catholics have come to regard it as normal and deeply Catholic to *not* talk about the first journey—their relationship with God—except in confession or spiritual direction.”

“One of our most surprising discoveries has been how many Catholics don’t even know that this personal, interior journey exists. Widespread neglect of the interior journey of discipleship has unintentionally fostered an immense chasm between what the Church teaches as normal and what many Catholics in

the pews have learned to regard as normal.” It has become comfortable not to step too close to the fire of God’s love. It would seem that if the truth hurts, maybe it is better not to say it.

### Me? ...gifts?

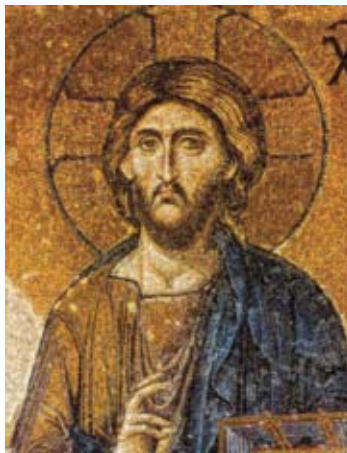
If a personal relationship with God is doubtful, then how can you speak about gifts—*personal gifts* from the One who loves you? In the context of a “believing, non-belonging” world where the commitment to a community is reduced to personal choice, everybody can think whatever they want to think, and nobody cares. If there isn’t basic agreement that God is a person in a relationship with his people, one person’s claim to having a particular gift from God can very easily and quickly be judged as arrogance. So it is just easier not to talk about it.

When I ask someone what their gifts are, most often people will respond with a kind of denial, or even indifference, not wanting to appear too sure. But once the conversation happens and people realize that they are in a safe place to talk about it, people get excited about the possibility. “You mean it is a *certainty* that God gives gifts? —to *everybody*?”

The answer is yes, he does. Our job this year at St. Mary will be to look and see not *if* we have gifts, but *which* mixture of gifts each of us has. These gifts are given to us, St. Paul says, to fulfill the intention of God’s creation in Christ: “his gifts were that some should be apostles, prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).

So this is our work this year at St. Mary. Join us bringing to life the gifts you already have! We seek a clear vision which calls us to personal responsibility for each other in loving service. This service is second only to prayer, a conversation with God, *someone* who listens and responds. With Christ, offer your gifts, a living sacrifice of praise to the glory of God.

Happy Easter to you! Fr. Don



# the simple riches of our Catholic Faith

Get reacquainted with our practices -- A St. Mary Supplement to the Easter Bulletin 2014

As we join together this Easter to celebrate our faith in Christ risen from the dead, we want to share with you these reflections on the simple riches of our Catholic Faith. These are weekly, monthly or annual traditions or everyday practices that we often take for granted and which enrich our spiritual lives so greatly. We invite you to join us whenever you can.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Our parish provides us with several opportunities for regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Of course, we can pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament any time we enter the Church. Our first act upon coming into our Church should be to turn toward the Blessed Sacrament and make an appropriate act of adoration, usually a genuflection but a profound bow is also acceptable, particularly for anyone who cannot genuflect.

Each Wednesday we have the opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in Exposition. Although Jesus is no more present than he is when in the tabernacle, having the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar make us more aware that he is present among us and calls us to prayer in a profound manner. Regular prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is the best way to grow spiritually and to discern the path that God is showing to us at each stage of our lives. We can spend the time opening our hearts to Jesus and sharing with him our thoughts and needs. It is not necessary to formulate particular prayers although one is free to do so. We should allow ourselves the time to listen gently to his words and inspirations.

## First Friday Mass and Adoration

In the 17th century, Jesus revealed his Sacred Heart in a very particular way to Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Visitandine nun. He entrusted her with spreading this devotion so that many people would come to know his loving heart and would entrust themselves to him. Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary to encourage the faithful to attend Mass and receive Communion on the First Friday of each month in honor of his Sacred Heart. For this reason, our parish provides an additional Mass on the First Friday of

each month at 8pm. This is followed by all-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. When we entrust ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we know that his loving care will guide and protect all that we do.

## Forty Hours

Once a year, each parish sets aside three days of particular Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed upon our altar for forty continuous hours. This takes place during Lent in our parish and is combined with a series of talks which form our parish retreat. During Forty Hours, other parish activities that would interfere with this devotion or take us away from this time of retreat are not held so that our full attention can be on Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Forty Hours devotion provides a unique opportunity for us to grow together as a parish family and to enter into our Lenten journey more deeply.

## Liturgy of the Hours

During Forty Hours and the final days of Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), we are invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Hours. These liturgical prayers are considered the official prayer of the Church and are prayed by priests, deacons, seminarians, religious and many of the faithful each day. The Liturgy of the Hours provides a rhythm of prayer which unites each hour and season, and draws us toward God. In our parish, we pray Morning Prayer (Lauds), Evening Prayer (Vespers) and Night Prayer (Compline). These are the major hours prayed throughout the Church. Each prayer is composed of psalms, hymns, readings and intercessory prayer for the Church and the world. It is a simple prayer which can be prayed at home or in church, by ourselves or with others and which enriches us spiritually each time we pray united with the universal Church.

## The Holy Rosary

By far the most practiced of all Catholic devotions, the holy rosary is a devotion which combines the mantra of familiar prayers, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, as an environment in which we meditate on the Mysteries of Jesus, whether those mysteries be the



Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or new Luminous Mysteries introduced by St. John Paul II. With a deep and abiding tradition, the rosary has been the source of solace and holiness for the Church for hundreds of years.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Lent is a time of conversion and turning our hearts toward Christ as we receive the triple imperative to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each Friday during Lent parishioners are invited to share a simple meal of soup and bread prepared by members of various ministries in the parish. Donations for the meal are given to a designated charity. These suppers offer us an opportunity for fellowship with our parish family as we participate in fasting and almsgiving. Our Lenten Soup Suppers are followed by the Stations of the Cross and so we also heed the call to renewed prayer during this privileged season.

## Stations of the Cross

Praying the Stations of the Cross, alone or in a group, is a form of meditative prayer that we can practice throughout the year. It takes on a particular significance during Lent. The fourteen stations follow Jesus from the trial by Pilate to his crucifixion and being laid in the tomb. As most of us cannot journey to the Holy Land to actually walk the path that Jesus took on that first Good Friday, we commemorate the Way of the Cross with the Stations in our Church or a booklet at home. As we pray, we keep Jesus company on this terrible journey and unite our prayers to his sacrifice of love. The Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday evening during Lent in both English and Spanish. We can pray them individually at any other time at home or in Church as long as another liturgy is not taking place.

## Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service –

Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community is a meditative form of common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect and that gradually penetrates the whole being. Our parish invites all Christians to join us on the 2nd Monday of each month for this time of meditative prayer.

## Perpetual Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

In 1830 the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Labouré and revealed to her the design of the Medal of the Immaculate Conception. Our Lady said “graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence.” There have been so many miracles attributed to this devotion that the medal became known as the Miraculous Medal. The novena is prayed every Monday in the church. We entrust our intentions to Mary with confidence that she will present them to her Son on our behalf.

## Holy Spirit Novena

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. He is the Love of the Father and the Son who helps the Church continue the work of Christ in the world. Each year in preparation for the feast of Pentecost, our parish prays this novena asking God to renew in us the power of His Holy Spirit. This traditional prayer begins on the original Ascension Thursday and continues for nine days, commemorating the days Our Blessed Mother and the Apostles spent in prayer awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit which Christ had promised before he returned to the Father.

## Novena to St. Joseph

St. Joseph is the foster father of Jesus, the husband of the Blessed Mother and patron of the universal Church. Next to Mary, St. Joseph holds a special place of honor in our Church. Our parish prays a novena beginning on March 11 and concluding on his feast day, March 19. We ask this great saint to guide us as we grow in holiness and to make the works of our parish and school prosper.

## Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy is a devotion that emphasizes Christ's merciful love for us, our faith and trust in God and an active love toward our neighbor. In 1935 our Lord revealed the Chaplet to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska along with the message that he desires us to trust in the bottomless depth of his mercy. In his revelations to St. Faustina, Jesus asked for special prayer and veneration for his passion. The Chaplet is prayed on ordinary rosary beads and is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist. It may be said at any time, but our Lord requested that it be used as a novena on the nine days before the Feast of Mercy which is the first Sunday after Easter. Each Wednesday the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed in the church at 3pm recalling the time of Christ's death.