



**Palm Sunday of
the Passion of
the Lord**

29 march 2015

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



what's coming



SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

march

29 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center (American Heritage Girls).
CYM Dinner and HS Youth Group following 5pm Mass, Parish Life Center.
SCRIP sales after all Masses, except 2pm Mass.
No ESL class.

30 Monday of Holy Week

There will be no Religious Education classes this week.
7pm, Additional parish confessions, Church.

31 Tuesday of Holy Week

7pm, Additional parish confessions, Church.
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering, Courtyard Meeting Room.

april

1 Wednesday of Holy Week

6pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.
7pm, 6th Grade presentation of "The Three Trees," Church.
7:30pm, Additional parish confessions, Church.

2 Holy Thursday, The Sacred Triduum of the LORD

No morning Masses: 8am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, Church.
9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center 100.
7:30pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Church, procession to Parish Life Center, adoration until midnight.
11:45pm, Night Prayer at end of adoration, Parish Life Center.

3 Friday of the Passion of the LORD (Good Friday)

No morning Masses. Parish offices closed.
8am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, Church.
Noon, Tre Ore, The Seven Last Words of Jesus in Word and music, Church.
Noon, Additional parish confessions until 3pm.
2:30pm, The Stations of the Cross, Church.
3pm, **Sacred Triduum: The Lord's Passion & Veneration of the Cross.**
5:30pm, **Triduo Sagrado: La Pasión y Veneración de la Santa Cruz.**
7:30pm, **Sacred Triduum: The Lord's Passion & Veneration of the Cross** (repeated).
10pm, Night Prayer, Church.

4 Holy Saturday

No morning Masses, no confessions.
8am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, Church.
11am, Blessing of Easter Food.
8:30pm, **Sacred Triduum: The Solemn Vigil of the Resurrection of the LORD** (until 11:30pm), Church.

5 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

There will be NO other Masses at the Church on Easter Sunday.
8am, **Celebration of the Resurrection of the LORD**, Fredericksburg Expo Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway.
10:15pm, **Celebration of the Resurrection of the LORD**, Fredericksburg Expo Center
12:30pm, **Celebration of the Resurrection of the LORD**, Fredericksburg Expo Center, (bilingual).

6 Monday within the Octave of Easter

No Religious Education classes this week.
Parish offices closed.

7 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

10am, CCW Board Meeting, Parish Life Center, 100.

8 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

6pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.

9 Thursday within the Octave of Easter

9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, 100.

nota bene (*note well, please*):

✂ Several additional opportunities for **confession** have been scheduled this week: **Holy Week Monday through Wednesday at 7pm**, and between Noon and 3 on **Good Friday**. *There will be no confessions after 3pm on Good Friday.*

✂ Please make note of our annual **Easter Sunday schedule**, which is very different. The Church permits only one Vigil, ours will be Holy Saturday night from 8:30–11:30pm. *There is no 5pm or 7pm Mass on Holy Saturday.* We then joyfully welcome more than 9,000 people to three beautiful Masses on Easter Sunday at the Fredericksburg Expo Center, 8am, 10:15am and 12:30pm. *There are no Masses in the church on Easter Sunday, and no afternoon and evening Masses after the 12:30pm Mass.*

✂ **SCRIP is on sale** this weekend.

✂ Remember someone you love, either living or deceased, with **a donation for our beautiful Easter Flowers**. Envelopes are available in your envelope packets, in the Church and in the Parish Office.

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
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
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

HEALTH MINISTRY 845-3031
Steven Haughton, RN, and Beth Palacios, RN

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 held in the church on fourth Sundays, following the 10:30 Mass. Please notify us of any contact changes.

Articles must be submitted two weeks prior to publication.
Send articles to bulletin@stmaryfred.org. Thanks!

this week's
bulletin:

4
from our
pastor

5
holy cross
academy

6
educationn

8
community

12
operations

from our pastor



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

Our daffodils decided to bloom for Confirmation this year. Each year I marvel at how those things continue to return, even know how to continue to come back each year. When we were kids, we would wait for the crops to break through the ground, suddenly there would be the slightest green tint to the black soil when we knew that the seeds had sprouted. There is a gardener in each of us, I believe, whether we have a green thumb or not: all of us are called to bring forth new life.

It is the perfect meditation for us this Sunday, especially, as we reflect on the offering that Jesus makes for us in his passion, death and resurrection with the Gospel of Palm Sunday.

Have you ever wondered about the miracle of a seed? It is planted into the earth, the shell of the seed breaks open, a new plant sprouts. Somehow locked inside that seed is the potential of producing maybe dozens of seasons each with thousands of seeds many times over. It has some kind of *software* in there that knows exactly how the new tree will sprout, grow, anticipate weather and seasons, bloom. It is uniquely its own. It relies upon the environment in which it is planted to survive.

Jesus uses this image about himself, we heard it last weekend in preparation for the proclamation of the Passion this Sunday: *unless a grain of wheat falls upon the ground and dies, it remains but a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit...* In this way, Jesus entered the earth in his Incarnation, and finally when the fulness of time came he broke open like a seed, on the cross, and all this life came out. The new life that came out is you and me.

Consider Jesus' image, for a moment. He uses the word "dies" because from our human perspective the seed, as such, ceases to be a seed. But in reality, it has become the end that God really intended for it: life itself. Everything that the new plant is, it owes to the seed who continues to live through it, with it, in it. Do you see where I am going with this? *"Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, forever."* The process of planting life requires the seed, and continues forever with

the same imprint of God's creative design in the generations of our own humanity. What comfort this can be to those who have lost parents: they live, we are because they gave us life, but that gift has never ended, and they continue to live in us. It is a communion that goes much deeper than mere DNA.

If you will, now allow this meditation to go one step further. For many years I have been frustrated with myself, and I have listened to other peoples' frustration: however much we try, how hard it is to seek that kind of perfection that belongs to Jesus! Aren't we supposed to, in a certain sense, become him? It is a level of courage, of humility, of love that goes beyond my limits, however I try.

The fact is, no matter how much we try and fail, we will never have what it takes to become Jesus by our own efforts. Perhaps this is a new look at the whole idea of Justification. I can't make myself become Jesus. But, as his seed, his dying on the cross, has given me life, he has chosen to become me. *Everything I have, I have received from my Father; everything the Father has given to me, I give to you...* We are who we are by a special divine DNA from God himself. It is beyond our wildest imagination.

One further thought, it can't become more literal than it is, right? He chooses to become the Passover meal—the ritual of Passover from death which is the Last Supper united to the Cross on Good Friday—so that we might receive him, the nourishment that gives us life and grows us into new life. We are made one with him in his Cross, we are seeds planted at baptism, to break open with him in offering our life to God the Father *through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus*, so that this life might also break forth and produce fruit a thousand thousands-fold.

Join us this week as we pass, with Jesus, from death to life. The three sacred observances of the Last Supper (Holy Thursday), the Passion of Jesus and Veneration of his Cross (Good Friday) and his Resurrection at Easter are, once and for all, the celebration of who we are in Christ Jesus our LORD. There are no more beautiful and moving liturgies at any other time during the Church year. You are welcome.

God bless you. *Fr. Don*

holy cross academy

Dunking doughnuts, sorting socks

St. Patrick's Day can be celebrated in many different ways. Holy Cross students donned their



Irish accessories and participated in several Service initiatives for the Missions. Parents and students were invited to start their day with a doughnut and a cup of hot chocolate (or coffee for Mom and Dad) and to donate the cost of their morning treats to our Mission in Pella,

South Africa. Our Middle School Service group, Young Catholics, organized and staffed the service tables. It was a big success and everyone enjoyed the fresh doughnuts and warm drinks.

First graders decided that they would collect socks and wash cloths for our Mission in Gabis, Namibia for their Hope Project this year. Our Sisters provide housing, food and clothing for 120 students during the school year. Their children are very poor and do not come to school with the basic supplies they need. Our first graders collected 545 pairs of socks and 174 hand towels/ wash cloths. Along with the lesson in serving those in need, the class turned it into a Math activity with sorting and counting.

We are grateful to our students who care so much for people in our world who are not as lucky as we are.

If you want to learn about our school and what we can do for your child, make an appointment to come see our school by calling us at 540-286-1600. We are currently registering all grades for the 2015-2016 school year. You can also visit our website, www.holycrossweb.com. For St. Mary Preschool, please call 540-373-7553. Our school is a place where each child can flourish, grow and learn. 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 opportunities we provide for our students.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*

youth



No Religious Education Classes this week and next week. Classes resume the week of April 13-16.

Congratulations to our newly Confirmed!

We are so excited to have 189 students become fully members of the Church and this parish community. We are blessed through you! We are praying that the Holy Spirit continues to move you to become the men and women God has called you to be. God is going to do amazing things with you!

After Confirmation

Confirmation gives us the grace to strengthen our life with Jesus and live as his true witnesses. As the first teachers of their teenagers, we ask parents to keep encouraging their daughters and sons to continue in the program of religious formation through the end of the year and into the Youth Ministry program in the years to follow. Visit stmaryfred.org/youth-ministry/ for more information.

CYM Dinner

There will be no CYM Dinner or HS Youth Group on Easter Sunday.

Newly confirmed students: Come join High School activities!

All those newly confirmed 8th graders are welcome to join us for all of our High School activities such as Youth Group, YOUCAT and all of our other programs. Come on over starting today!

Rice Bowls return time

Please remember to get those Rice Bowls back in to the parish soon, so we can total Saint Mary's contribution to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Fill them up with your loose change and make a difference in our society, wherever somebody needs a helping hand to be successful in life.

Last Saturday, 21 March, our youth celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA.

(photo, Lori Fowlkes)

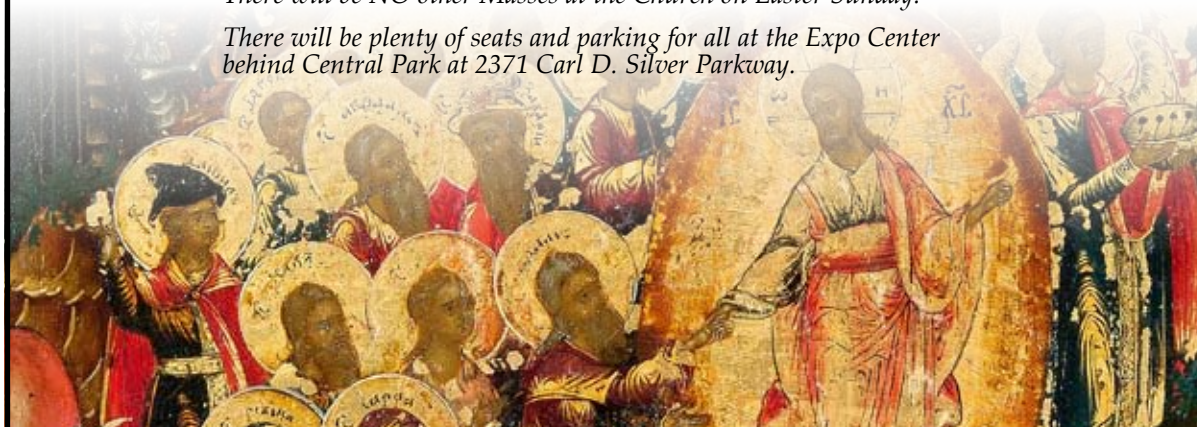




Join Saint Mary for these solemn observances of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection for all people.

- HOLY THURSDAY** *No morning Masses, no confessions*
2 April 8am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
 7:30pm, **Sacred Triduum: Mass of the LORD's Supper**, and adoration until midnight.
 11:45pm, Night Prayer at the close of adoration
- GOOD FRIDAY** *No morning Masses*
3 April 8am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
 12–2:30pm, Tre Ore, The Seven Last Words of Jesus in Word and music.
 2:30pm, The Stations of the Cross.
 12–3pm, Confessions (ending at 3pm)
 3pm, **Sacred Triduum: The Lord's Passion & Veneration of the Cross.**
 5:30pm, **Tríduo Sagrado: La Pasión y Veneración de la Santa Cruz.**
 7:30pm, **Sacred Triduum: The Lord's Passion & Veneration of the Cross (repeated).**
 10pm, Night Prayer
- HOLY SATURDAY** *No morning Masses, no confessions*
4 April 8am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
 11am, Blessing of Easter Food
 8:30pm, **Sacred Triduum: The Solemn Vigil of the Resurrection of the LORD (until 11:30pm).**
- EASTER SUNDAY** *We welcome everyone to join us at the Fredericksburg Expo Center*
5 April 8am, 10:15pm & 12:30pm, **Celebration of the Resurrection of the LORD**
There will be NO other Masses at the Church on Easter Sunday.

There will be plenty of seats and parking for all at the Expo Center behind Central Park at 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway.



community happening here

VIRTUS training

Attention all HCA and St. Mary Volunteers: If it has been over a year since you took the initial 4 hour class or the refresher class for VIRTUS, then you need to take one of these refresher classes at HCA. You do not have to pre-register, just come to one of the classes. If you receive the monthly online bulletins, you do not need to take the class. This 30-minute class is a requirement to keeping up your VIRTUS paperwork. The date of the last refresher class is Monday, **March 30 at 2:15pm.** All the VIRTUS classes will take place in the library. You need to attend only one of these classes. Due to the content of the video, no children will be permitted. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jeffers at hcasecretary@holycrossweb.com.

Men's Group

Looking for a chance to strengthen your faith while enjoying some good food & drink? Come join with other men of the parish to discuss issues relevant to work, family, and friendship in a casual environment at the Blue & Gray Brewing Co. each month.

Since the Church is often called a "hospital for sinners" isn't it fitting we have our own Doctors of the Church? For the next several months we're going to be reading about each of them and discussing their lives & contributions to the Church. **We meet on the LAST Friday of the month at 7:30pm.** Contact Mike Bostain (mrbostain@verizon.net) for more information.

Cursillo weekends

Come and discover the Cursillo community! The **Men's Weekend is April 16-19.** The retreat is wonderful opportunity to deeply reflect on your relationship with Christ and to grow as a member of the Christian community. The retreats will be held at the Missionhurst retreat center in Arlington. To register or for more information, please contact Joyce Bodoh at 540-521-0588 or joycebodoh@gmail.com.

Renewed Catholic Life in the Spirit

"I invite all Christians to a renewed encounter with Jesus Christ."
—Pope Francis

Every other Tuesday evening From Easter to Pentecost from 7:15- 9pm in the Church we will have "An Introduction to Renewed Catholic Life in the Spirit." The Introduction is a formation experience that invites participants to establish or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, leads them to experience an awakening of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit bestowed in Baptism and Confirmation, and to life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Save the dates: **April 14, 28; May 12, 26.** More information next week.

ESL Class schedule

Please note that there will be **no ESL classes** on March 29 or April 5. The rest of the schedule remains unchanged. The last ESL Class for this academic year is April 26.

Annual yard sale

Spring should be here soon which makes it a good time to start your cleaning out and putting your no longer needed possessions to good use. This is your opportunity to donate those unused treasures to help the parish and community charities the CCW supports. The Council of Catholic Women has planned our **annual yard sale for Saturday April 11, 8am to 2pm**, the Saturday after Easter, in the Parish Life Center.

You may **drop off items** at the Parish Life Center the week before: Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9 from 9:30–11:30am and 4:30–7pm. You may also drop off items all day Friday, April 10 from 9:30am–7pm. **We are accepting:** plants, books, DVD's, jewelry, toys, baby and children's articles (no clothing), handbags, luggage, medical, electronics, furniture and other household items. **Definitely no shoes or clothing!** Thank you for your ongoing support and please remember to come back and shop on Saturday, April 11.

Parish Book Club: April Selection

A classic of Christian apologetics, Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) is a witty and a comprehensive overview of the basics of Christianity. The parish book club will discuss this scholarly yet very approachable book on Tuesday, **April 14, at 10am** in the John Paul II House. More information: Kathleen Mahoney, 540-371-2073 or bmah761569@aol.com.



**A message
from
Meghann
Cotter and
Micah
Ecumenical
Ministries**



*"To love another
person is to see
the face of God."*

Victor Hugo

Dear Members of the Micah Churches Community:

The City of Fredericksburg is looking to add a social service use definition to its zoning ordinance. The proposed definition would single out any agency helping "people with limited ability for self-care, such as persons in need of employment, persons in need of housing services or persons with personal or behavioral disabilities." This includes anyone offering food distribution, free or reduced cost meal service, clothing distribution, bathing and personal care facilities, training, counseling, case management or related services. If the amendment is adopted as proposed, agencies that meet this definition, non-profit or for-profit, will be required to go through a public hearing process every time they seek to expand or relocate their programs in city limits. Asking all social services to go through a public process every time they want to move takes valuable time and money away from the people these agencies set out to help. It is a highly political process, which will encourage social service agencies to stay where they are and not evolve to meet the needs of the people they serve.

Micah Ministries is suggesting that the following changes would reduce the impact that the proposed social service use definition threatens to have on the good work happening for people in need in our community.

1. If we have to have a social service use definition, it should be defined by the services these agencies offer, not the people it serves. Current language that singles out agencies who serve "people with limited ability for self care, such as persons in need of employment, persons in need of housing services, or persons with personal or behavioral disabilities" is discriminatory.

2. Allow social service uses "by right" in designated commercial and industrial zoning districts. Social service agencies should be allowed at least somewhere without a public process, and it should not be limited to industrial districts, where there is limited access and transportation. Agencies serving people in need should be easily found and in locations that are close to transportation.

Our community social services need your help expressing these concerns to representatives on the planning commission and city council. The amendment will go before the planning commission for public hearing on April 8, and they will forward a recommendation to the city council for final action. We encourage letters to the editor, calls and/or emails to your city representatives, and eventually speaking to the issue at the upcoming hearings.

community happening here

*you are
invited*

POPE FRANCIS:

*"I invite all
Christians
to a renewed
encounter
with Christ."*

Every other
Tuesday evening
from Easter to
Pentecost from
7:15-9pm in the
Church:
April 14, 28;
May 12, 26.



"Introduction to Renewed Catholic Life in the Spirit" is a formation experience that invites participants to establish or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, leads them to experience an awakening of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism and Confirmation, and to life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

To register call the Parish Office at 373-6491. Voluntary donation of \$10 to cover the cost of materials.



*Join us August 2—12 for
our annual parish trip to:*



\$3500 is an amazing price for the height of tourist season: invite family and friends to join us, seats are filling up! Our trip will include:

Dublin - Historic center, Grafton Street, Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Dublin Castle; **Boyne Valley** - Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth; St. Ciaran's monastery **Clonmacnoise** and **Galway City**; Shrine of Our Lady of **Knock**; **Cliffs of Moher**, **Killarney** and beautiful **Dingle Peninsula**; **Blarney** and **Cork** - Cobh Heritage Center, **Waterford**, the Rock of Cashel and **Carlow**; St. Kevin's monastery **Glendalough**, and back to **Dublin**.



\$3,500 complete, includes roundtrip airfare. If you are interested, we need people to make reservations quickly, we are currently holding 40 seats. Contact Margaret Ford at Fredericksburg Travel, 373-6900 for arrangements or call Margaret or Fr. Rooney if you have any questions. **Join us!**

community happening here

Health ministry serves you

By working with and building upon the ministries already in place within our community, we sow seeds of wellness to create a healthier faith community through education and coordination of services.

Such services are:

- Prayer and listening
- General health education and advocacy
- Disease management
- Wellness programs
- Medication review
- Advance directives
- Care of caregivers
- Referrals to community resources
- Home visits for safety and resource needs assessments
- Coordination with other parish ministries.

To learn more about the Health Ministry, contact one of our Parish Nurses, Steven Haughton, RN or Beth Palacios, RN at 540-845-3031

You're invited!

Saint Mary's Health Ministry invites you to join us again for our 2nd annual **Know your Numbers** followed by **The Walking Program**.

Know your numbers

Join us **April 11, from 7am-8:30am** in the Courtyard Meeting room and get to "Know your Numbers." For a fee of \$12.00 (to cover the cost of finger stick kits), an RN will check your cholesterol, glucose, HDL, LDL & Triglycerides. Blood Pressure check included. For near to accurate results, participants cannot eat and drink except water 8 hours prior to test time. Please call your parish nurse at **540-845-3031 to register**. We only have a few of this kits, please register early.

Start Walking

The **Walking program starts April 11** and continues every Saturday until June 27th. The program takes a break in July and August, and resumes September 5 through October 31.

Call your parish nurse or Health Ministry team member for more information at 540-845-3031 or the parish office at 540-373-3261.

TICKETS ON SALE



Saint Mary Parish Night Out 2015

this
could
be you

Saturday, 25 April 2015

UMW Jepson Center

Cash Bar 6:30pm

7pm Dinner & Dancing

Tickets are \$75 each.

Information? Call Marty

Bridi 540-373-0259

Entertainment by the

Andrew Thielen Big Band

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

22 March Offertory 35,370.
CatholicReliefServices(add'l) 2,891.
St. Vincent dePaul Poor Box 275.

Thank you for your 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.

Children's Offertory Envelopes For April

The children's charity that will benefit from offerings in April is the **Operation Purple Program** of the National Military Family Association. When you hear "Operation Purple camp" you should think: Kids Serve Too! The camps are a time for having fun, making friends, and reminding military kids that they are the Nation's youngest heroes.

The Operation Purple program was created in 2004 to fill a need identified by military parents to "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. The Operation Purple program also includes family retreats at national parks and specialized family camps geared to address the needs of children and families of our nation's wounded service members.

For more information, visit their website at www.militaryfamily.org/kids-operation-purple/.

Choose Life reflection for March 29

The Passion of Christ was far more horrible than our



Pontifical Good Friday Collection For The Holy Land

800 Years of Franciscan Presence, Care, Service

At this special time of year, the entire Catholic community participates in the support of Christians in the Holy Land. The daily news reminds us of the violence and instability plaguing the Middle East, but we rarely hear of the shrinking Christian community that struggles to remain in the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. Since the 13th Century, the Order of St. Francis has been walking in Jesus' footsteps, working not only to make Christianity's holiest sites accessible to all the faithful, but preserving the Holy Land's precious Christian community, the "living stones of the Church", through education and scholarships, charity and assistance to the poor and pastoral ministry in 29 parishes. The Good Friday Collection is the primary means of support for this work. It is a Pontifical Collection requested by Pope Francis, and your generosity is truly appreciated.

If you are unable to attend the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday, you may contribute anytime, especially during Holy Week and Easter Week. For more information, visit www.myfranciscan.org.

crucifixes portray. He suffered to rescue the human life He had created, to snatch it from the kingdom of death and bring it into His kingdom of life. Let us remember this Lent that Jesus endured His Passion for every unborn child in the womb. He endured every pain that the unborn might be saved as well as the born. *Lord, lessen my fear and increase my courage, that I may suffer with You for the sake of life.*

Operation Rice Bowl

25 percent of contributions to Operation Rice Bowl remain in our Diocese, helping to support local poverty and

operations called in love

hunger alleviation programs. This week we pray for people in our own community who struggle with poverty and hunger. It isn't too late to give to your Rice Bowl to help the poor in our community as well as in communities around the world. All contributions for the Rice Bowl should be turned in by April 15 and checks should be made payable to St. Mary Catholic Church.

Order SCRIP cards

Set up an online account today at www.shopwithscrip.com to order gift cards from your favorite retailers. When you order cards through the SCRIP program, the retailers give a percentage back to the school and church. The best way to start is by placing an order online for your gas and/or grocery purchases. Your order can be picked up in the office or after Masses on the weekend. **We are excited to announce that we now have FOOD LION in our inventory!** To set up an account at www.shopwithscrip.com email the SCRIP coordinator to get our school code, so Holy Cross Academy gets credit for your purchase. Questions: Email Torie Baldwin at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com.

Eucharistic Adoration

All Night Adoration and the First Friday Masses **will not take place on April 3**, because it is Good Friday. We hope you will join us for the beautiful liturgies taking place that day. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction take place **every Wednesday evening from 7-9pm**, and we hope you will take the opportunity to spend time with Our Lord during this Holy Lenten Season.

Saint Mary prayer list

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially:

Ed Buzicky, Kati Johnston, Marianne Ford, Richard Fadden, the Carlos Ortiz Family, Martha Ferrara, Harold Gardiner, Betty Ann & Bill Dateno, the Goldsmith Family, Shaun Williams, Lori Horner, Heidi Wilbrandt, Josephine Kreider, Sr. Marie de Chantal, Jo Ann James, Frances Scott, Barbara Leone, Debbie Lloyd, Chris Balut, Linda Kaila, Rose Sisco, Jeff Shinrock, Donald Estes, Johnny Wharton, Phyllis Woolverton, Helen Kozyra, Glenn Nichols, Sr., Thomas Schulsky, Julie Fabula, Amelia McDevitt, Gerald Gardiner, Prov Moeller, The Girth Family, Marie Rooney, Dylan and Brandon Meade, Barbara Stauble, Michael Coughlin, Karen Danis, Marian Wilinski, Mary Ellen Normand, John Castagna, Kristy Fairbanks, Peggy Silberman, Florence DesRoches, Keith Snellings, Sr., Debra Wood, Danny Terrant, Maureen Flanagan, Wilma Evans, Joseph Bozicevic, Meredith Adams, Anne Shelton, Holly Smith, Lois Merrill, Janie Sherry, Martha Clemens, Teresa Hopkins, Art Gabler, Pat Arvai, Veronica Johnson, William Herr, Bob Willis, Naomi Russo, Marie Savage, Deacon Richard Smith, Anna Castagna, John Paul Baksy, Eva Scelzo, Joanne Sanford, Trevor Wood, Beth Malaby, Rhonda Seidlinger, Margaret McAleavey, David Arnold, Tracy Biddulph, Carole Page, Christopher Kelly, Hollie Santay, Richard Romagnoli, Donna Huff, Ann Dunsmore, Lisa Herr, Madeline Doyle, Elizabeth Ames, Elise Valez, Mary Ullmer, Virginia Bare, Bobbi Palumbo, Joanne Deangeous, Kenneth Nieves

Please pray for all the men and women in our military and civilian support services overseas, especially: 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, 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, Nick Schulz, Duayne Scott, Tim Smetek, Andrew Smith, Douglas Stransky, Shawn Tupta, Heidi Urben, Christopher Williamson, Daniel Zeytoonian, Justin Carter, Julianne Rogers, Jamal Williams, Stephen Wilson, Emmanuel Morales, Colin Carpenter, Josh Marsillo, Xavier Alas, Julio A. Alarcon, Lance Schulte, Teri Hocter, Josue Bermudez

Please pray also for those who have died, especially the benefactors of Saint Mary Church.

Daily Mass intentions and readings

march

30 MONDAY

6:30 + John Bapple
9am Ernest M. Bailey
Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

31 TUESDAY

6:30 + David Bapple
9am + Kelley Reynolds
Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38

1 WEDNESDAY

6:30 + James W. Bapple II
9am Jennifer Confair
Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25

2 THURSDAY

7:30pm Bishop Loverde
Is 61:1-3,6,8-9; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21

3 FRIDAY

Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16,5:7-9;
Jn 18:1-19:42

4 SATURDAY

8:30pm RCIA Candidates and Catechumens
Gn 1:1-2:2; Gn 22:1-18;
Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14;
Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4;
Ez 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

5 SUNDAY

8am For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
10:15 For the Parish
12:30 For A Respect for Life and Liberty in our Culture
Acts 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

Please remember that Mass intentions may be requested at the parish office for any remaining Masses of the year. If dates are no longer available for the date you desire, you are welcome to request an intention that is "unscheduled," and one of the priests will gladly celebrate Mass for your intention at an extra Mass during the week or as a concelebrant.

* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy