

**Sixth Sunday
of Easter**

10 may 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

may

10 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Happy Mothers' Day! Mothers' Day Novena begins.
Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center (Saint Anne's Sisters in Faith).
No SCRIP sales this weekend.
CYM Flower Sale after all Masses, proceeds go to WorkCamp.

11 Monday, Easter Weekday

7:30pm, RCIA/RICA program.
8:15pm, Taize Prayer Service, Church.

12 Tuesday, Easter Weekday (Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr)

10am, Saint Mary Book Club, John Paul II House.
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering, Courtyard Meeting Room.

13 Wednesday, Easter Weekday (Our Lady of Fatima)

6pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.
7:15pm, Keeping in Balance Women's group, Courtyard Room.

14 Thursday, Saint Matthias, Apostle

9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, 100.
5:30pm, Beautify our Church grounds: Pizza and Mulch, Church grounds.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.
7:15pm, Choosing the Better Part Bible Study, Parish Life Ctr, 204.
7:30pm, Parish Council, Courtyard Meeting Room

15 Friday, Easter Weekday (Saint Isidore)

9am, Virtus Training, Parish Life Center.
9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Moms Group), JP II House.
Day One: Holy Spirit Novena (see page 8)

16 Saturday, Easter Weekday

Day Two: Holy Spirit Novena (see page 8)
SCRIP on sale after 5pm Mass.

17 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Day Three: Holy Spirit Novena (see page 8)
Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center (CYM).
3:30pm, Health Ministry Team, Courtyard Meeting Room.
CYM Dinner and HS Youth Group following 5pm Mass, PLC.
SCRIP sales after all Masses, except 2pm Mass.

18 Monday, Easter Weekday (Saint John I, Pope, Martyr)

Day Four: Holy Spirit Novena (see page 8)
Last week of Religious Education Classes.
10am, VA Catholic Conference Policy Committee Meeting, Library.
7:30pm, RCIA/RICA program.

19 Tuesday, Easter Weekday

Day Five: Holy Spirit Novena (see page 8)
10am, CCW General Meeting, Courtyard Meeting Room.
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering, Courtyard Meeting Room.

20 Wednesday, Easter Weekday (Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest)

Day Six: Holy Spirit Novena
6pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.

21 Thursday, Easter Weekday (Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs)

Day Seven: Holy Spirit Novena
9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, 100.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.

nota bene (note well, please):

✚ Our Second Collection this weekend is for the **Annual Special Parish Needs Collection**. This year the Special Parish Needs Collection will assist the parish in building a deck in the large area near the back door of the Parish Life Center for our kids in preschool and religious education (estimated cost \$25,000.00).

✚ There will be no SCRIP sales this weekend or Memorial Day weekend.

✚ The **Novena to the Holy Spirit** for the Seven Gifts begins Friday, **May 15**. We ask everyone to join together in this novena and pray it at home, too. Please see page 8.

✚ Tickets are limited, two spots left. **Join us on pilgrimage with our Oblate Sisters as we go to South Africa** to dedicate their convent which we helped to build! We will visit the Sisters' missions in South Africa and Namibia. For information, call Fr. Rooney or visit our website. July 14-25, 2015. stmaryfred.org/pilgrimage-to-south-africa/

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:

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SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

We Arlington priests were at our annual convocation last week, half of the priests of the diocese for the first half of the week, the second half for the second. We go to a place near Emmitsburg MD, a ski resort that apparently has good prices in the summer for such meetings.

We usually listen to a speaker give presentations on a certain topic. This year, a Dominican priest spoke to all the priests in the diocese on giving better homilies.

I found what he had to say rang true, it was a talk that we needed to hear as a diocesan presbyterate. I came away with a lot of good reflections, one in particular that I wanted to share with you today that I found particularly compelling.

He said that each homily must actualize Sacred Scripture as a gift that is meant especially for us, an inspired text that is able to speak to each of us in the way in which each of us needs to be answered. Each of us brings something to Mass that is real, that needs to be respected, that seeks an answer. He said—and this is the point—that the act of preaching has to be *the act of giving people back their heart*.

It spoke to me in a way that seemed so familiar, in a way that I believe the Gospel empowers us as adults to make sense of our lives and find God at the center. That we become thrown off center by the world, that we have our hearts stolen in so many ways by our own sin, and by the confusion and cruelty and inhumanity of the world—not to begin speaking of the absence of grace—that we encounter every day, nearly everywhere we go. Sometimes people begin to feel that God is far away, when it is really our own hearts to which we have become estranged. We are meant for better!

To get back our hearts by the unfolding of the Word of God, and then to have his body and blood literally become the life that flows in our veins. Only then can we have the courage, the confidence, to go and be true disciples. The Word of God is spoken from a loving Father: all that the Son has, the Father has given. It makes for a powerful reflection on Mothers'

Day. Isn't this the love that gives you back your hearts, the place you can always go when all else in the passing world leaves us unsatisfied and broken? There is a love that endures.

We first come to know this love from our parents, if we are lucky. But even our parents may not have come to learn this from their parents, the brokenness of our humanity is something that can be handed for many years, unless the love of Christ enters and transforms.

Jesus speaks of his relationship in the Trinity as the relationship of himself to a parent, his Father. Of course, his Father isn't a man (or a woman), but he reveals the relationship as one of a son to a father, the image of God and his sons and daughters. This parenthood is one of perfect love, absolute gift, constant and eternal giving of life and receiving of life, perfect joy. We can see clearly in Jesus how to be a good son, but it is not so clear how to be a good parent. So here, a perfect mother is included in God's plan so that the relationship of parent to child is perfectly given, to give us hope as well as the reassurance of possibility. Mary is given to Jesus, and Jesus gives Mary to us in just the same way he hands over to us everything else that the Father is and has given to him. On the cross, Jesus' heart is pierced in order to be raised. Mary is given the beautiful role of the one to whom we can always go whenever we need to get back our heart, her perfect love and welcome home is offered to each of us. It is the heart of Jesus himself, to which she gave birth, formed in youth, cared for in his greatest suffering, to whom she brings us back in her role as our Mother.

Mothers of Saint Mary, consider this incomparable role that teaches us to know Mary and approach the love of Jesus: you have always been the place we can go to get back our hearts. May mothers today learn this most exalted role as the one they best can fulfill, and bring all us children back to the love of Jesus by first revealing this love to us in our hearts.

May God bless our families, especially you moms, all of you, whether you are still with us or have gone on to know the perfect love of heaven. Happy Mothers' Day.

Fr. Dom

holy cross academy



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*

Thank you for giving during the Give

Thanks to each of you who supported Holy Cross Academy in The Community Give this past Tuesday. What a fantastic day for us, and for so many organizations here in Fredericksburg. We are extremely grateful for the support of our Saint Mary community. Thank you!



Middle School Elective Program

Middle School students have to opportunity to explore a variety of interests in their weekly electives. Our 6th grade classes begin each Friday with the class of their choice. They may try their hands at Photography or Food Preparation & Nutrition; explore the wonders of Flight or the intricacies of Cross-Stitching. Students can learn Calligraphy or challenge themselves with Brain Games.

Our Middle School elective program allows the students to choose a class that interests them and to learn a skill or explore a topic outside the regular curriculum. Our talented teachers design these electives to expose our students to new ideas.

If you would like to learn about our school and what we can do for your child, please call our office at 540-286-1600. We are currently registering all grades for the 2015-2016 school year. We extend a special invitation to families who want to learn about our kindergarten program here at HCA. 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. You can learn a lot about us by visiting our website, www.holycrossweb.com.

education

religious education

First Communion 2015

Congratulations to the following First Communicants:

We are grateful to God and filled with joy as the following children were welcomed to the Table of the Lord on May 3:

- Laveyeska Barrera
- Bridget Bartnett
- Avery Brightly-Woodall
- Trevor Brightly-Woodall
- Epiphany Brown
- Grace Burdan
- Gabrielle Burton
- Oryan Cardona
- Emily Chen
- Kyle Christian
- Ilan Christopherson
- Evan Craig
- Grace Crow
- Coleen Desmond
- Ethan Dreibelbis
- Jacob Dudley
- Bridget Duffy
- Claire DuMont
- Alexander Dzibela
- Eva Florio
- Katherine Gibbs
- Karlei Gibson
- Victor Guzman
- Kaitlyn Halepaska
- Madeline Headrick
- Blake Hearn
- Sage Hearn
- Esmeralda Hernandez
- Brian Hernandez
- Jared Hernandez Dominguez
- Erick Hernandez Montoya
- Jessica Hernandez Montoya
- Timothy Hootselle
- Lucas Huber
- Fahira Jean-Bart
- Nathaniel Jennings
- Sophia Joens
- Zachary Johnson
- Elizabeth Kaag
- Christopher Luehrs
- Joseph Lyons
- Nathan Marx
- Ryan McDowell
- Luke McLellan
- Michael Mead
- Allie Medina
- Kebin Mendez Gonzalez
- Ryan Meskunas
- Samuel Meza-Arce
- Joshua Miniuk
- Justin Murray
- Kiara Nestor
- Nathan Nguyen
- Catalina O'Connor
- Grace O'Malley
- Alex Ortiz Rosado
- Sophia Parage
- Darrell Rasor
- Jacob Ritenour
- Johana Rodriguez
- Gabriella Sharrett
- Abigail Thios
- Daniel Thomas
- Sonya Thott
- Charley Torres
- Fabrizio Tueros
- Kayla Villamizar
- Joshua Weatherly
- Alice Weber
- Benjamin Wheatley
- Abigail Wright

Recruiting Catechists

In the Ministry of Catechesis, we are teachers of the Faith and promoters of gospel values. We teach and pray that our students gradually become informed and committed Catholics.

As Catholics, we sense God's presence and power sacramentally. Gradually we come to understand that there is more to life than just what meets the eye or enters the ear. We come to realize that God

is present to us and touches us.

Volunteer as a catechist and help our children be faithful and informed Catholics. For more information please call 540-373-6491 and ask for Karen Sturtevant or Aristides Lucas.

youth



Biking4Vocations

On Sunday, May 17, two priests and three Seminarians, representing the Archdiocese of New York, the Brooklyn Diocese and the Diocese of Rockville Centre will begin a pilgrimage from Saint Augustine, Florida to St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, in an effort to bring attention to the priesthood and to vocations. At the end of their pilgrimage, they will have

traveled 1,400 miles through 11 states, 14 dioceses and countless parish communities.

On **June 4**, the seminarians will be stopping by Fredericksburg. Come meet these pilgrims, listen to their talk, and enjoy their fellowship. All teens and CYM invited. **Cookout at 6pm, Seminarians talk at 6:45pm, Mass at 7:30pm** followed by Ice Cream Sundaes.

parish life

recent events

Parish Night Out—Saturday, April 25, 2015, UMW Jepson Center



Thanks to all who made Parish Night Out 2015 another great success! Join us for celebration number VIII on April 29 2016!!



The Saint Mary Health Ministry's Teen-Parent Summit

The Teen-Parent Summit, held April 18, was met with amazing responses. Teens and their parents came to listen and share their thoughts about the many issues youth and families face today with regard to mental health, peer pressure, violence and the reality of suicide in our culture. The program was introduced by Dr. Michael Horne, PsyD, of Catholic Charities' Family Services for the Diocese of Arlington. Once the topics of mental health and teen experiences were discussed, parents broke into three facilitated discussion groups. The teens, in their own facilitated groups, had an opportunity to share their thoughts without concerns of being judged. The program ended with all groups coming back together to express their thoughts on the program. Many suggested there is the need for more discussion about mental health and how teens and parents deal with it.



"come, holy spirit..."

**Holy Spirit Novena
begins Friday, May 15**

**The Novena to the Holy
Spirit for the Seven Gifts**

Days 1-5; Days 6-9 will be
included next week.

The Novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of our Lord himself when he sent his apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

How to Pray the Novena

On each of the nine days prior to the Solemnity of Pentecost, certain prayers are prayed which are unique to each day, followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

The Act of Consecration and Prayer for the Seven Gifts are included here for use each day.

Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body to you, eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of your purity, the unerring keenness of your justice, and the might of your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In you I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve you by my unfaith-

fulness to grace and pray with all my heart to be kept from even the smallest sin against you. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for your light, listen to your voice and follow your gracious inspiration. Help me to cling to you and give myself to you and ask you, by your compassion, to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus and looking at his opened side and stricken heart, I implore you, adorable Spirit, Helper in infirmity, to keep me in your grace that I may never sin against you. Give me grace, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to you always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Amen.

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ who, before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish your work in the souls of your apostles and disciples, grant the same Holy Spirit to me that he may perfect in my soul the work of your grace and your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may not overvalue the perishable things of this world, but rather give my first priority to the things that are eternal; the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth; the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God now, in preparation for the Kingdom to come; the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you and that I may overcome with courage any obstacles that oppose your will of divine life for me,

the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow more perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable; and the Spirit of Holy Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence toward God and may not in any way displease him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of your true disciples, and animate me in all things with your Spirit. Amen.

**The First Day
Friday, 15 May: The Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit! Lord of light!
From your clear celestial height,
Your pure beaming radiance give!**

Leader: Only one thing is important: eternal life. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared: sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of light, of strength and of love. With his sevenfold gifts he enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. We must invoke the divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit himself asks for us."

Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your will for us, that we be reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, and you have given us forgiveness of all sins. As at the first Pentecost, send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

To be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

...fill the hearts of your faithful”

The Second Day

Saturday, 16 May: The Gift of Fear

Come Father of the poor.

Come, treasure which endures:

Come, Light of all that live!

Leader: The gift of the Fear of the Lord fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from love, reverence and filial obedience to our heavenly Father. It is the beginning of wisdom, removing us from worldly attachments that could in any way separate us from God. “They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in his sight will sanctify their souls.”

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever. Help me to shun all things that can offend you, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of your divine majesty in heaven, where you live and reign in the unity of the ever-blessed Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

To be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

The Third Day

Sunday, 17 May: The Gift of Piety

You, of all consolers best,

Visiting the troubled breast,

Does refreshing peace bestow.

Leader: The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect, for his sake, persons and things consecrated to him, as well as those who are vested with his authority, his blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible head, our parents and superiors, our country and its leaders. He who is filled with the gift of piety finds

the practice of his religion not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle there such a love for God, that I may find satisfaction only in his service, and for his sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

To be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.



The Fourth Day

Monday, 18 May: The Gift of Fortitude

You in toil are comfort sweet,

Pleasant coolness in the heat,

Solace in the midst of woe.

Leader: By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitancy even the most difficult tasks, to face dangers, to trample underfoot injustice or endure without complaint the slow

martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. “He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved.”

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against the assaults of any enemy, that I may never be overcome and separated from you, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

To be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

The Fifth Day

Tuesday, 19 May: The Gift of Knowledge

Light immortal! Light divine!

Visit these, your hearts, refine,

And our inmost being fill!

Leader: The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth - in their relation to God. Knowledge unmasks the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first and prize the friendship of God above all else. “Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it.”

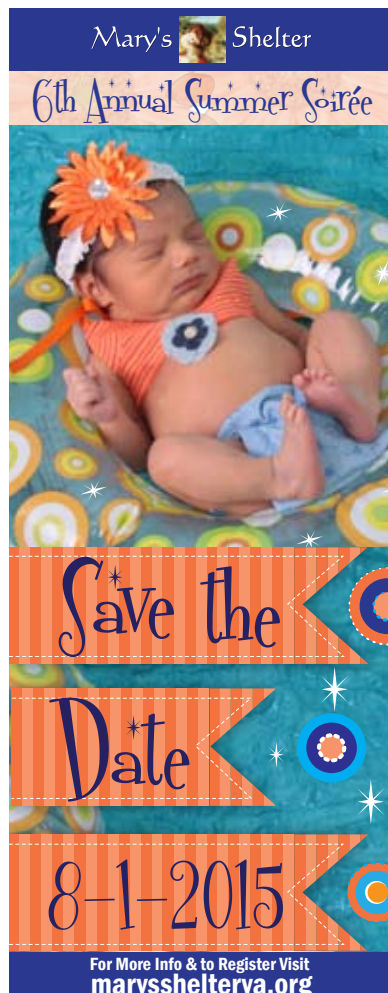
Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to you, and your eternal rewards, Amen.

To be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

community come and see

Book Club's May selection

The parish book club will read *Gilead*, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, for its meeting on **May 12 at 10am** at the John Paul II House. The work by Marilynne Robinson carries strong Christian themes, but as one reviewer said, "Despite the meditations on faith, even readers with no religious inclinations will be captivated." For more information: Kathleen Mahoney, 540-371-2073 or bmah761569@aol.com. **This will be the last meeting until we resume in September.**



Mary's Shelter

6th Annual Summer Soirée

Save the Date

8-1-2015

For More Info & to Register Visit marysshelterva.org

Saint Mary's grounds need your help!

We need your help; along with your wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes on **Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 5:30pm** to put down the mulch. Come serve the Lord by beautifying our Church grounds and sharing in community and hospitality (pizza and beverages) when we finish. If you are interested in volunteering or wish to obtain more information, please contact Kayla Weaver at 540-840-4559 or kayla.coan@gmail.com.

Volunteer with the Health Ministry

The Health Ministry at Saint Mary needs volunteers! For more information please contact our parish nurse at **540-845-3031** (please leave a message) or email epalacios@stmaryfred.org. Volunteers in this ministry will be required to complete VIRTUS training offered through the Diocese of Arlington. There will be a class at Saint Mary Parish on **May 16 from 9:30am-1:30pm** and registration is required. Please visit www.VIRTUS.org and select "Arlington."

CCW updates

May 19 is our next CCW general meeting. Leo Chavarria, St. Mary Director of Youth Ministry, will be our guest speaker. Leo's topic will be "How Grandparents can help their Grandchildren Rediscover their Faith". Election of officers will be held during the business portion of the meeting.

The Women's Council will be serving food again this year at the Annual Parish Picnic. If you would like to volunteer for an hour to help serve, please contact Eileen Geary at eileengeary@yahoo.com or 371-1844.

The next Bunco will be Friday, May 22, from 7-9pm. Come join the fun!

"Optio Secundus" Catholic Men's Group

The next meeting of the Optio Secundus or "Second Option" of the Catholic Men's Group will be **Wednesday, May 20** at the Blue and Gray Brewery. We strive to bring Catholic men together in an ever increasingly secular world to discuss daily applications of our faith, duties and responsibilities to our families and communities. Deacon Alberto will join us to help guide us on our daily journey of faith, work and family. Happy hour at 6:30 pm, followed by an open discussion and optional dinner from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. We hope to see you on the 20th and, if you have any questions, call Kevin Wilkinson at 540-898-8353 or email kwlknsn@yahoo.com.

Young Adult Men's Bible Study

Looking to deepen your faith and a community of young adult Christian men to hang out with? **Men's Bible Study starts Thursday, May 21 from 7-9pm.** Each week, we will gather and dive into scripture together and discuss ways it can apply to our lives. We will meet at Ryan Feather's home. For directions or questions, please email Ryan at ryanfeather21@gmail.com. **The Young Adult bible study groups welcome all young adults aged 21 to 39.**

New parishioners meeting

There will be **no New Parishioner Meeting on May 24** due to the holiday weekend. Since there is no meeting this month, you are welcome to visit the parish office if you need to register before June.

community what's new

Prayer for Christian Unity

The Fredericksburg **Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity** prayer service will be **May 26, 7:30pm**, at Fredericksburg Baptist Church. The preacher for the service is Fr. Don Rooney.

Mass with Renewal of Wedding Vows

On **May 29, 7pm**, there will be a Mass with a Renewal of Wedding Vows. Please bring your wedding photo to the "wedding" reception following the Mass. Please let the office know if you are celebrating a 25th or 50th anniversary.

Wellness walking

The Health Ministry Wellness walking group is well on its way. Join us on the trail at the Rappahannock River/Canal **every Saturday at 7am until June 27**. The easiest place to park is at Old Mill Park, 2200 Caroline Street. Enjoy the relaxing sound of the river and the beautiful spring blooms. Learn more about this trail at spotsylvaniagreenways.org.

Adult Religious Continuing Education Summer class opportunities!

"Mary: a Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother" class: (DVD by Edward Sri) Starting **June 8**, this class will meet in the Courtyard Meeting Room on **Monday mornings at 9:45am for 8 weeks** and be led by Suzette Young. Register for books at the church office by May 26. Book fee will be \$15.

"James: Pearls for Wise Living" class: (DVD by Jeff Cavins) Starting **June 22**, this class will meet in the Courtyard Meeting Room on **Wednesday mornings at 9:45 for 10 weeks** and be led by JoAnne Baker.

CONCERTS AT SAINT MARY

Jeffrey Palmer, countertenor

with Bo-Jeong Shim, violin and David Mathers, piano

Friday, May 22 at 8pm

Countertenor Jeffrey Palmer has been performing on the concert stage since his very early childhood spent in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He has sung in theatres and halls across the globe including Bath Abbey and the Bath Theatre Royal in the UK, the Hefei Grand Theatre in China, and San Francisco's Kanbar Center and New York's Lincoln Center. While steeped in the integrity of sacred and operatic countertenor (male soprano) repertoire, Palmer is constantly seeking to create new and exciting projects with artists of all mediums. Jeffrey will present a program song from a range of sacred song, light opera and musical theater, art song and international folk song. Joining him is outstanding violinist Jeong-Bo Shim, soon to be a graduate of The Juilliard School.



The concert is free; donations will be accepted.

For more information, contact David Mathers
dmathers@stmaryfred.org, 540-373-6491 x217

Register for books at the church office by June 8th. Book fee will be \$15.

Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends

Attend a Marriage Encounter to gain the tools to truly love your spouse more and receive the joy that it can bring. Strengthen, renew, and rekindle

your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends **September 18-20** in Herndon or **November 6-8** in Herndon. For more information or to apply, visit renewmarriage-vanorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703-378-4150.

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

3 May Offertory	35,224.
Parish Building Fund	9,483.
Catholic Home Missions (add'l)	2,588.
Poor Box for St. Vincent de Paul	107.

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.

Pro Life Reflection

Gianna Beretta Molla was a simple, but more than ever, significant messenger of divine love. In a letter to her future husband a few days before their marriage, she wrote: 'Love is the most beautiful sentiment the Lord has put into the soul of men and women'. Following the example of Christ, who 'having loved his own... loved them to the end' (Jn 13: 1), this holy mother of a family remained heroically faithful to the commitment she made on the day of her marriage. The extreme sacrifice she sealed with her life testifies that only those who have the courage to give of themselves totally to God and to others are able to fulfill themselves. Through the example of Gianna Beretta Molla, may our age rediscover the pure, chaste and fruitful beauty of conjugal love, lived as a response to the divine call! —From the canonization homily of Pope John Paul II. Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, a model for all mothers, gave her life to save the life of her unborn baby. She was beatified on April 24, 1994 and canonized on May 16, 2004. Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, pray for us.

The Most Important Personon earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral — a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body.....The angels have not been blessed with such

a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other human creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation ... What on God's earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother. —Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty

Children's Offertory Envelopes For May

Children's Offertory Contributions for the month of May will be donated to the Children's and Teen's Programs of Empower House (formerly the Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence). These programs provide ongoing support for children ages 5 to 12 affected by domestic violence and teens affected by dating violence and domestic violence.

Update your wardrobe with Scrip Gift Cards!

Spring is here and the weather Spring is here and it's time to get your yard ready for the lazy days of summer! Let scrip help you with gift cards to Lowe's and/or Home Depot. When you exchange your cash or check for a gift card through the Scrip gift card program, the retailers donate a percentage of your purchase back to Holy Cross Academy. These small donations don't seem like a lot but they add up each year to a great donation that helps to offset the cost of Holy Cross Academy. How can you use Scrip gift cards to help HCA? We have home improvement stores, grocery stores, gas cards, movie tickets, restaurants and so much more! Buy a Scrip gift card today and help make a great Catholic School education more affordable to all the kids in our parish!

To order, please go to www.shopwithscrip.com and set up an account. Email Torie Baldwin at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com for our Enrollment code so HCA gets credit for your purchase. Orders placed online by Monday are ready for pick up by Friday in the office or after most masses on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks for using Scrip Gift Cards!

Electronic Offertory

Faith Direct enables your family to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards. Now you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you may now use it to make your mortgage, car or tuition payments. With *Faith Direct*, the parish will gain predictable cash flow that will help us with planning our parish needs and programs. *Faith Direct* also offers you personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. You may enroll securely online by visiting www.faithdirect.net Our parish code is VA635.

Mothers' Day Novena

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the best way to remember your mother, living or deceased - or your grandmother, godmother or someone who is like a mother to you. Beginning May 10, Mothers' Day, a Novena of Masses will be offered for all the intentions placed in front of the altar. These intentions will remain before the altar throughout the Novena. Mothers' Day Cards and extra novena envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church and in the Parish Office.

called in love

Catholic Communication Campaign Collection

Faith | Worship | Witness
May 16 & May 17

Next week our parish will take up the Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). This Collection communicates the Gospel through Catholic social media activities and enriches our faith through Internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of all proceeds remain in our (arch)diocese and support local needs, so please be generous in this collection. CCC equips us to share our experience of faith, worship, and witness with the world.

La próxima semana nuestra parroquia realizará la Colecta para la Campaña Católica de la Comunicación (CCC). Esta Colecta comunica el Evangelio mediante actividades católicas en los medios sociales y enriquece nuestra fe a través de el Internet, la televisión, la radio y la prensa escrita. La mitad de lo recaudado permanece en nuestra (arqui)diócesis y financia las necesidades locales así que, por favor, sean generosos en esta colecta. La CCC nos equipa para compartir nuestra experiencia de fe, devoción y testimonio con el mundo.

Saint Mary prayer list

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: Frances Scott, Barbara Leone, Debbie Lloyd, Chris Balut, Linda Kaila, Rose Sisco, Jeff Shinrock, Donald Estes, Phyllis Woolverton, Helen Kozyra, 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, 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, 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, Ann Dunsmore, Lisa Herr, Madeline Doyle, Elizabeth Ames, Elise Valez, Mary Ullmer, Virginia Bare, Bobbi Palumbo, Joanne Deangeous, Kenneth Nieves, Carol Eggleston, Patrick Eggleston, William Green, Mary Jean Williams, Don Williams, Gladys Bowen, Tom Bowen, Thomas Novotnak, Peter Stafford, Sr. Marie DeChantal, Josephine Kreider, Suzi Eggleston, Melvyn Schreckinger, Bettyann and Bill Dateno, Harold Gardiner, Marianne Ford, the Carlos Ortiz Family

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

may

11 MONDAY

6:30 Mothers' Day Novena
9am Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4

12 TUESDAY

6:30 Mothers' Day Novena
9am Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11

13 WEDNESDAY

6:30 Mothers' Day Novena
9am Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15

14 THURSDAY

6:30 Mothers' Day Novena
8:15* Mothers' Day Novena
9am Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Jn 15:9-17

15 FRIDAY

6:30 Mothers' Day Novena
9am Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23

16 SATURDAY

9am Mothers' Day Novena
5pm For the Parish
7pm Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23-28

17 SUNDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena
8:30 Mothers' Day Novena
10:30 Mothers' Day Novena
10:30* Mothers' Day Novena
12:30 Mothers' Day Novena
2pm Mothers' Day Novena
5pm Mothers' Day Novena
7:01 Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23;
Mk 16:15-20

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