



**Ascension of the
LORD**

17 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

17 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Day Three: Holy Spirit Novena (*please refer to last week's bulletin, also available on line*)
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 (*please refer to last week's bulletin, also available on line*)
Last week of Religious Education Classes.
7:30pm, RCIA/RICA program.

19 Tuesday, Easter Weekday

Day Five: Holy Spirit Novena (*please refer to last week's bulletin, also available on line*)
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 (*please see p. 8*)
6pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.

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

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

22 Friday, Easter Weekday (Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious)

Day Eight: Holy Spirit Novena (*please see p. 9*)
9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Moms Group), JP II House.
7pm, BUNCO, Parish Life Center.
8pm, **Concert:** Jeffrey Palmer with Jeong-Bo Shim and David Mathers. Reception following the concert.

23 Saturday, Easter Weekday

Day Nine: Holy Spirit Novena (*please see p. 9*)
No SCRIP sales this weekend.

24 PENTECOST SUNDAY

Memorial Day Weekend: no SCRIP, Coffee Shop nor CYM activities are scheduled.

25 Monday, Weekday (Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church; Saint Gregory VII, Pope;

Saint Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin)
Parish offices are closed for Memorial Day.
There will be no 6:30am Mass nor evening Novena due to the Memorial Day holiday.

26 Tuesday, Saint Philip Neri, Priest

7:30pm, Local Week of Prayer for Christian Unity prayer service, Fredericksburg Baptist Church.
RSVP deadline for Mass with Renewal of Wedding Vows, all married couples invited to attend.

27 Wednesday, Weekday (Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop)

6pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.

28 Thursday, Weekday

9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, 100.
7pm, PRESCHOOL CELEBRATION, Church, Reception following in Parish Life Center.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.

29 Friday, Weekday

9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Moms Group), JP II House.
7pm, Mass with Renewal of Wedding Vows, Church, Reception following in Parish Life Center.
RSVP by Tuesday, May 26.

nota bene (note well, please):

- ✠ The **Novena to the Holy Spirit** for the Seven Gifts continues. We ask everyone to join together in this novena and pray it at home if you can't join us following daily 9am Mass. Please see page 8.
 - ✠ The **second collection this weekend** if for the **Catholic Communications Campaign**. This Collection communicates the Gospel through Catholic social media activities and enriches our faith through internet, television, radio, and print media.
 - ✠ There will be a **special collection for the victims of the Nepal earthquake** the weekend of **May 30 and 31**. Donations can also be mailed to the Parish Office or placed in the collection basket the weekend before or after. All checks should be made payable to the parish with "Nepal" in the memo line.
 - ✠ Next **Memorial Day Weekend**, Coffee Shop and SCRIP after Masses are canceled. Also, our regularly-scheduled fourth Sunday New Family Welcome meeting will not be held, the next meeting will be June 28. If you need to register quickly, please stop by the parish office for information.
- Also there will be no 6:30am Mass nor evening Novena on Monday, Memorial Day. The Parish Office will be closed and there are no Religious Education classes.

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; <i>students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm</i> 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 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 education
- 7 parish life
- 8 novena to the holy spirit
- 10 community
- 12 operations
- 13 outreach

from our pastor



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

This past week we held our first Interreligious Prayer Service in Fredericksburg at Market Square, with readings, reflections and a prayer from each of three representatives of world religion: Muslim Imam Sheikh Lamptey, Jewish Rabbi Jeremy Weisblatt, and Christian Rev. Larry Haun of Fredericksburg Baptist Church. I was very touched with what Pastor Haun had to say, I must say I have seldom encountered a man with such authentic love of God and integrity. I wanted to share his message here for the World Day of Prayer. God bless you.

Fr. Don

Social anthropologists tell us that humans are hardwired for worship. Evidence reveals humanity's desire to locate a creator and offer words, songs, gestures, and ways of life in praise. Christianity, along with Judaism and Islam, trace their hopes and religious understandings to a common heritage. It is the heritage of a covenant relationship with God. This God revealed presence is to Abram, re-named Abraham, meaning "the father of multitudes."

Abraham's turn to the Old Testament God in Genesis 12 (vs. 1-3) is a turn from the many idolatrous gods of polytheism to the one Creator God who sustains the world. The covenant offered by God to Abraham is a promise of relationship fulfilled across future generations. It is an unconditional covenant, a gift from God.

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

Through this covenant God offers God's self for the sake of the world, giving all who would turn to him from family, from land, from any and all other claims that might call forth worship, the blessing of the Creator God. This is the common beginning of the three religious expressions gathered here today for prayer—they have turned to the Creating and Sustaining God, recognizing a truth larger than what they can see or know in gratitude on faith. This is our common ground—*gratitude and faith* for a God who extends God's self to us first, wanting our response, wanting our relationship.

I would be unfaithful to my tradition today, how-

ever, if I failed to mention Jesus as the revelation of my Christian faith that informs my fuller knowing of God as well as the pattern of my response to God and the world. The biblical Jesus, through his life, death, and resurrection, shapes the way I know God, the way I speak of faith, and the way I love my neighbor. As Christians, the baptism with water and the Lord's Supper at the table are distinctive acts that identify us with Jesus and should remind us of God's love for the world—all of the world. Jesus' living example of how to treat one another with truth, justice, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and decency helps me to know how I should be with others. The way of Jesus is not a way of separation for me but it is rather a way of loving and serving others. It is a way that benefits me as it deepens my encounter with God. And, I pray, that it is a way that benefits others, healing their hurts, and helping them to also begin to sense God's love for them through me.

For me, as a Christian, it is Jesus who carries on the covenant of God, revealing the redemptive and sustaining care of the Creator God. Abraham is blessed so that the multitudes that come after him, through him, can bless the world. Blessing is giving. God gives to us that we might give. The distinctions between our religions could be counted as many. They could be called divisive. They could be called insurmountable. They could be called too large to be held by any one God. But, we must remember, it is the God who creates and sustains who has promised, who has covenanted to bless us for our blessing the world. That is a God greater than any difference humanity can claim. That is an overcoming God, a delivering God, capable of bringing peace, healing, and respect especially to those to whom blessing has been promised. Let us take up our blessing that we might bless the world together, realizing our common need of the sustaining God over and over and over again for the living of our days in this world. Let us lay down our suspicions, our fears, and our misunderstandings in recognition of our common humanity. Let us see one another as people who work, have families, know joy, feel pain, seek God, and have hope for a future. Although our worship lives take different turns, in different houses, with different ways, we have all received breath and being from God who creates and sustains the world. In that may we find great joy, great unity, and great humility—at least enough to keep our hands from violence, our words from hurt, and our hearts from unfounded fear toward each other. May God make it so. Amen and Amen.

Continued on page 11

holy cross academy



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*



The Crowning of Mary

During this month of May we rejoice in honoring our Blessed Mother as our Mother and Queen. Last Friday, we assembled in Father Brisson Hall and processed out to the statue of Mary that stands at the entrance to our school. After praying and singing together, eighth grader, Tam Le, crowned Mary in the name of our school community. Our children then came forward and placed their flowers at the feet of Mary, our Queen and our Mother. We feel privileged to honor Mary as we offer our prayers to Jesus, her Son.

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.

Creating a preschool masterpiece

Mrs. Bain's class is learning about a different artist each month. This month's artist is Michelangelo and the children loved painting like the famous artist by creating their artwork from under their tables!



education

religious education

First Communion 2015

Congratulations! We are grateful to God and filled with joy as the following children were welcomed to Communion last weekend:.



Jenna Bain
Matthew Baksy
Blaine Brannon
Justin Brewton
Jack Brothers
Dylan Campbell
Jennifer Carmona
Cesar Casiano
Brian Ceballes
Natalie Conniff
Savannah Davis
Diana Estevez
Anahi Estevez-Mayorga
Connor Franklin
Alvin Garcia
Amelia Garman
Leslie Gramajo
Miles Groom
Tess Groom
Ana Belen Gutierrez
Andrea Justine Hallahan

Yuleisy Hernandez
Bruce Hunt
Evita Johnson
Russell Lennon
Hannah Malin
Robert Mason, Jr.
Dylan McCarthy
Patrick McOsker
Oscar Mejia
Marco Ortiz Lara
Yoselyn Pineda
Lorenzo Rodriguez
Yailin Rodriguez
Jesus Romero
Maia Roscigno
Jack Sharlow
Owen Sharlow
Elijah Thompson
Molly Tierney
Jesus Torres
Maria Trinidad Vasquez

Last Week of Classes

This week (May 18-21) is the last week of Religious Education classes. Classes resume the week of September 14-17. Registration for the new school begins Monday, June 1 during office hours.

Recruiting Catechists

To be church means to be the salt earth and the light of the world. This means that our good works must be recognizable and visible so those who experience them will desire to believe in Jesus and give praise to our Father

in heaven. This is what our baptism impels us to do. You can be salt and light to our children by being a catechist. For more information please call 540-373-6491 and ask for Karen Sturtevant or Aristides Lucas.

youth



Last High School Youth Group - May 31

Our final High School Youth Group before our summer break is **Sunday, May 31**. We will have a special night of praise and worship, games and **a surprise!** we especially encourage all of our seniors that have been involved in the program to attend. See you there!

We need DIYers for WorkCamp!

Can you roof, paint, do carpentry work, maybe other do-it-yourself projects? Then WorkCamp is in need of YOUR TALENTS! We are still in need of **3 more contractors** that can help **the week of June 20-26 (specifically June 22-25)**. You would be assigned to help a

crew of 5 teens and 1-2 adults to work on a particular persons home. Projects range from: wheelchair ramps, installing windows, roofing, interior framing, and much more. If you are interested or would like more information contact the Youth Ministry Office for more information.

parish life

don't miss it

CONCERTS AT SAINT MARY

Jeffrey Palmer, countertenor

with Jeong-Bo 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



Join us August 2–12 for our parish trip—this year, IRELAND.

\$3,500 complete, includes roundtrip airfare. If you are interested, there is still time to make reservations, and a few great seats left! Contact Margaret Ford at Fredericksburg Travel, 373-6900 for arrangements or call Margaret or Fr. Rooney if you have any questions.



come, holy spirit...

The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts



*Days 6-9
conclude
the novena
this 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 Sixth Day Wednesday, 4 June: The Gift of Understanding

*If you take your grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.*

Leader: Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us grasp the meaning of the truths of our faith. By faith we know them, but by understanding we learn how to appreciate and treasure them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is within us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Understanding and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in your Light. In the light of that glory may we have a clear vision of you, and the Father and the Son. 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 Seventh Day

Thursday, 5 June:

The Gift of Counsel

*Heal our wounds--our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew,
Wash the stains of guilt away.*

Leader: The gift of the Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by knowledge and understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duties as parents, teachers, public servants and Christian citizens. Counsel is a supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure on the journey to salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that he may direct your way in truth."

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil. Direct me by the path of your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. 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 Eighth Day

Friday, 6 June: The Gift of Wisdom

*Bend the stubborn heart and will,
Melt the frozen, warm the chill.
Guide the steps that go astray.*

Leader: Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written: "all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the



appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Savior: "Take up your cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden, light."

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them forever. 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 Ninth Day

Saturday, 7 June:

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

*You in toil are comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Solace in the midst of woe.*

Leader: The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with hearts open to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve who is to reign.

Prayer: Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with your heavenly fruits: your charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to your inspiration may merit to be united eternally with you in the love of the Father and the Son. 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

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 coming by Monday, MAY 25**, and if you are celebrating a 25th or 50th anniversary.

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.

Adult Rel. Continuing Ed. Summer classes

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

Wellness walking

Join the Health Ministry Wellness walking group on the trail at the Rappahannock River/Canal **every Saturday at 7am until June 27**.

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. 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 kwlnksn@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.**

HCA 80's Prom FUNdraiser for Athletics

Please join us Saturday evening, **May 30 from 7-11pm** for HCA's 80's adult prom (fundraiser for athletics). We are hosting an end of the year party that will not disappoint. Come dressed in your best (or worst) 80's ensemble and get your friends together to come sing and dance a long to some of your favorite 80's songs. **Tickets are \$20 per person, advance purchase only**, and will be sold in the HCA lobby at drop off and dismissal. Tickets are also available, beginning May 11 in the school office. Go out to dinner before the event or buy snacks for your table from our concession stand. (Tables seat 10 and can be reserved for \$200). **Featuring:** Throwback to horrific hairstyles • bright, neon colors • crazy outfits • lots of hairspray • 80's décor • wine coolers (sangria), wine & beer for purchase • soda and water are free • food for purchase • music that makes you feel like a teenager again • mullets • aqua net • mix tapes • Thriller • hair bands • prom pictures • photo booth • prom king, queen, princes and princesses • a night full of fun, friends and memories!

Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are September 18-20 in Herndon or November 6-8 in Herndon. For more information or to apply, visit our website at renewmarriage-vanorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703-378-4150.

From the Pastor, continued from page 4

Before we pray together, though, I will speak the unspoken here. The tension we feel between religions is a tension of finality, a tension of our ultimate destination, a tension of living lives directed by our end. The plurality of religions in our nation can be confusing, frightening, and insulating for those of us who profess faith; as a result, we cleave to our own and are suspicious of the other. When we who worship despise each other, religion becomes the world's problem instead of the world's blessing. But, I want you to consider something. I want you to consider Peter Ochs' prayer; he is the Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies at the University of Virginia. He offered it at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture consultation in answer to the conference question, "Do we worship the same God?" He began by simply and profoundly stating, "I pray that we worship the same God."

Take a moment and think on that. It is an answer fueled by hope in a God who would offer a human race of broken relationships and broken images the promise of blessing—the promise of being so blessed that they might bless others. In Peter Ochs' words, "I pray that we worship the same God," there is hope for peace; there is hope for God's reconciling hand to come upon and between all the peoples of the world; there is hope for God's ignoring of our more destructive prayers—prayers that would harm the other; there is hope for God's hearing all of our hurts together as his hurting children and deciding for our mutual good, our mutual blessing.

Prayer:

Holy God, revealed most fully to we Christians through Christ of the Cross, we meet You today casting back to Your history of creating what is new from what is chaos, Your history of sustaining life in the midst of great struggle.

Help us, each one of us, to respect the other, loving the other as a child of the Covenant, a child of the Creating and Sustaining God.

Let us provoke one another to do good and not evil. Guide us to guard our ways and our words that they would be pleasing to You.

As followers of Christ, change us day-by-day into being more like the Jesus we know from Scripture.

For others, direct them to become the best of their understanding in service of others.

Hear our prayers as children that seek and acknowledge need.

We Christians, through the light of Christ, our clearest revelation of You, offer our prayers. Others pray here today as well, bringing prayers in the ways they know best. Hear us.

But truly, Holy God, we pray that it is You who will know us and claim us. We know You only as we have worshipped, but You know us beyond such earthly limitations. We give thanks for all You have provided, all You have freely given.

May our relationships with each other be worthy of Your gift of life. Amen.

Fredericksburg Churches will observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 2015



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

The World Council of Churches and the Vatican Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity has worked together for many years to prepare the century-old observance of the Graymoor Friars of the Atonement. This year the theme chosen for the Week is "Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'"

The Week of Prayer is normally observed between January 18 and 27 each year, but the clergy of Fredericksburg's Micah Churches, of which Saint Mary is a partner, decided to reschedule the Week for our community nearer to the celebration of Pentecost when better weather might more likely encourage more people to participate.

Please join us with your voices and your hearts as we pray for the vital work of Christian unity in our world today.

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

10 May Offertory	31,548.
FaithDirectOffertoryforMay	35,290.
SpecialParishNeedsCollection	7,595.
(includes Faith Direct)	
Parish Building Fund (add'l)	6,663.
(includes Faith Direct)	
Poor Box for St. Vincent de Paul	239.

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

"Pope Francis has captivated the world with his humility, warmth and compassion for each person. Vivid accounts of his tenderness for "the least of these"-the elderly, the imprisoned, those with disfiguring disabilities, the unborn, and many more-seize our attention. Why? At the heart of each of these interactions is a truth which resonates in our hearts, revealing to us something essential to understanding ourselves and our purpose. We are loved."

(2014 Respect Life Month statement, Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities)

We pray for the most vulnerable among us – the unborn, persons with disabilities, the poor, the sick, and those near death. May their unique gifts be recognized, and may we treat them as the gifts that they are.

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.

Give The Gift Of Life

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a blood drive on Wed., June 3, 2015. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be parked at St. Mary's from 1-6 pm. To schedule call 1-800-RED CROSS or go to redcross.org. Walk-ins are welcome. Bring a photo ID. Questions: call Rick Reschick at 540-850-5587.

Update your wardrobe with Scrip Gift Cards!

Spring is here and the weather is warm. 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!

We are now accepting K-8 registrations for the 2015-16 school year!



**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY
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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 about the wonderful opportunities we provide for our students.

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Our annual PARISH PICNIC

is Sunday, June 7 from
3–7pm on the fields at
Holy Cross Academy.

Celebrate the start of summer with the entire parish.

There will be food, fun and fellowship—rain or shine! There is no charge—be sure to bring a blanket to sit on, or lawn chairs.

Help is needed!

Hamburgers, turkey burgers, hot dogs, sausages, baked beans, potato salad, and drinks are prepared by the Knights and served by the CCW. Side dishes and desserts provided by parishioners.

To help CCW serve food, contact Eileen Geary, 540-371-1844, eileengeary@yahoo.com.

To help KofC cook, set up or clean up, contact Paul Scott, 540-842-7857, pscottsis@aol.com.

GAMES: Extreme Air Bungee Jumper • Wrecking Ball • Jurassic Adventure • 5 in 1 3D Sponge Bob • Bungee Run/Gladiator Joust • Fire Rescue Obstacle Course • Big Kahuna Dry Water Slide

FEATURING: Face painting • Pony Rides • Cotton Candy • Sno Cones • Popcorn • Magic by Michael Taggart • Music by Vision • A demo by Majesty Martial Arts

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, Betty Ann and Bill Dateno, Harold Gardiner, Marianne Ford, the Carlos Ortiz Family, John Haas, Jack Titus

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

18 MONDAY

6:30 Mother's Day Novena
9am Mother's Day Novena
Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

19 TUESDAY

6:30 Marie J. Rooney
9am Melissa Seina
Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

20 WEDNESDAY

6:30 + Eva Niksic
9am + Asencion Alvarez
Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

21 THURSDAY

6:30 + Joseph Cascio
8:15* Sister Miriam Elizabeth
9am Fr. Don Rooney
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

22 FRIDAY

6:30 John F. Carneal
9am + Leonard Majeski
Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

23 SATURDAY

9am + P.P. Inasu
5pm + Francis Niederkofler
7pm For the Parish
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

24 SUNDAY

7am + Paul Jochum, Sr.
8:30 + Robert Sullivan
10:30 + Catherine Gordon
10:30*+ Phil Ruggiero
12:30 Our Military, Living and Deceased
2pm + Asencion Alvarez
5pm Father Holmes
7:01 + Mary Ann Holzworth
Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13;
Jn 20:19-23

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