

**Fifth Sunday
of Easter**

24 april 2016



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

april

24 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (St. Mary Preschool)
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass.
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass.

25 Monday, Saint Mark, Evangelist

7:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, Church and Parish Life Center.
7:30pm, Catholic Divorce Survival Guide, Courtyard Meeting Room.

26 Tuesday, Easter Weekday

27 Wednesday, Easter Weekday

28 Thursday, Easter Weekday (Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest)

9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, Room 100.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.

29 Friday, Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

9am, St. Anne Sisters in Faith, John Paul II House.
6pm, **Parish Night Out**, Mary Washington University's Jepson Center.

30 Saturday, Easter Weekday (Saint Pius V, Pope)

9am, Spanish Prayer Workshop, Courtyard Meeting Room.
SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass.

may

1 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (St. Anne's Sisters in Faith)
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass.
3:30pm, Middle School Youth Group, Parish Life Center.
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass.

2 Monday, Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

7:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, Church and Parish Life Center.
7:30pm, Catholic Divorce Survival Guide, Courtyard Meeting Room.

3 Tuesday, Saints Philip and James, Apostles

4 Wednesday, Easter Weekday

5 Thursday, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, Room 100.
Noon, Fredericksburg Interfaith Day, Market Square, Downtown.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.
7pm, Youth Group guest presentation on "Preparing for College," Parish Life Center.
7pm, Baptism Preparation Class, Parish Life Center, Room 202.

6 Friday, Easter Weekday

9am, St. Anne Sisters in Faith, John Paul II House.
6:30pm, Prayers and Squares, Parish Life Center, Room 204.
8:30pm, All Night Adoration following the 8pm First Friday Mass, Church.

7 Saturday, Easter Weekday

9am, Spanish Prayer Workshop, Courtyard Meeting Room.
2:30pm, Spanish Baptism Class, Parish Life Center, Room 204.
6pm, K of C Monthly Family Dinner, Parish Life Center.
SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass.

nota bene (*note well, please*):

✚ **Saint Mary Parish Night Out 2016:** Join us for an evening of dinner and dancing to the Andrew Thielen Big Band, **Friday, April 29** at the UMW Jepson Center, Cash Bar 6-11pm, 7pm Dinner & Dancing. \$75 person. Last year tickets sold out! Reserve yours now—see page 7 for details—its time to step it up, Fred!

✚ The **second collection** this weekend is for the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. Help "strengthen the Church at home" with your generous donation. To learn more about the home missions appeal, please visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

✚ On **May 5**, join us for an **Interreligious Prayer Service** where we hope to re-establish relationships in our community—**Noon at St. George's Episcopal Church**. We will hear from Muslim, Jewish and Christian Leaders and will gather to pray in one another's presence.

✚ Mark your calendars: Our **PARISH PICNIC** will happen at Holy Cross Academy on Sunday, **June 12** in the afternoon.

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,</i> <i>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 Lois Sullivan, RN, FCN
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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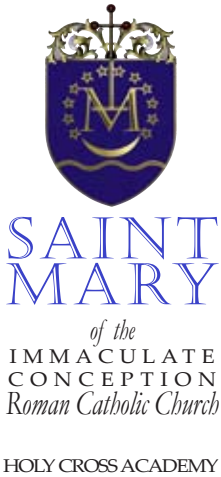
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from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

This week as I write this bulletin article I am in Louisville, Kentucky, and we are hosting the National Workshop on Christian Unity.

As you probably know, I've been serving as the President for CADEIO, or the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, for the past six years. My job has been to coordinate the efforts of diocesan ecumenical officers across the country, to help facilitate the teachings of the Church, bring the developments of national dialogues to the local level, and to provide formation and education for those whom bishops appoint in their dioceses as ecumenical officers. This year also will be the eighth year that I have served on the National Planning Committee for this National Workshop. This Wednesday, at our General Assembly Meeting, we will elect a new President for CADEIO. Our Constitution requires that the President serve only two three-year terms; I will have completed these on Wednesday of this week. I'm retiring!

So, as you might imagine, the work going into finding new leadership, charting the next course for a new president, and defining our next goals for the Association is underway.

To be honest, I must say that the idea of retiring from this role at this particular moment in time, for me, is a relief. I have found so much travel taking a significant chunk out of our parish life. I want to thank you for your patience while I have been doing this work outside of the parish, it is important. I will still be involved in the work of ecumenism and Interreligious affairs locally; I simply will not have a national leadership role any longer and probably will get to stay closer to home.

Again soon, we will begin the celebration of parish First Communions during Sunday Masses. Last year we started a new program where, instead of celebrating First Communion at one large Mass for a large number of children, we spread more than 200 children's First Communions during Sunday Masses over a four-to five-week period.

Sometimes, large parishes are referred to as "sacrament factories." So many people receiving so many sacraments can tempt us to try to provide the most expedient solutions for sacraments, and often times we discover this is not ideal. Over the past years, our First Communion Masses have become so impersonal, sometimes even irreverent. Our church size limits the number of family members who can participate in each celebration, and we find that families no longer celebrate the sacrament of Eucharist in the context of the Sunday Mass. By scheduling our First Communions to a Sunday Mass, we discover that The community is better able to celebrate the sacraments with the families of those receiving First Communion.

Beginning the first weekend in May, if you attend a Mass where children receive First Communion with their families, please be sure to stop them after Mass and congratulate them. Tell them how meaningful it is that you are able to witness their First Communion, and how it reminds you of your First Communion when you were young. Tell them how significant it is that you're able to celebrate with them in their lives.

Too often the temptation is to think that when we receive a sacrament, it is meant for us alone. The reality of sacramental theology, however, teaches us the sacraments are intended for the community itself. Not for the individual—it is an opportunity for the community to celebrate the grace of God and the reception of those gifts as something that bring the community to life. None of us received a gift from God without the instruction to also share it.

Allow these celebrations with children in our parish to restore in you the memory and the understanding of the great gift of Eucharist that you have received. Of course, it is the Eucharist that draws us together. It is the Eucharist that provides for us the meaning of our life. It is the Eucharist that calls us to our final goal, and the temporary celebration of thanksgiving until that gratitude is perfect and fulfilled in heaven.

God bless you.

Fr. Don

holy cross academy



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*



Opening the eyes of our hearts

Our Holy Cross community was recently reminded about this winter's snow days. In January, our students and staff were looking forward to a concert with Tony Melendez. Ice and snow caused our plans to change. This past week, our winter disappointment was changed into springtime joy.

Tony Melendez joined us for our weekly school Mass and sang and played a Communion meditation. After Mass, we were privileged to hear Tony sing and play his guitar as he and his brother José spoke about believing that we can do much more than we think we can. José reminded us that when our words are thoughtless, they can be hurtful and Tony inspired us to sing out our love for God with all our hearts.

Toward the end of the concert, Tony invited anyone who would like to sing their praises of God with him to join him on stage. To his amazement and ours, almost every student in the school went forward to sing with one voice, "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord." If you

would like to see a brief clip of the children with Tony Melendez, go to our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/Holy-Cross-Academy-354017241474397/?ref=settings

To continue the important work that we are doing with the children of Saint Mary Parish, Holy Cross Academy is embarking on an expansion project that Fr. Don explained in last week's bulletin. We hope that you will support Catholic education in our parish during our upcoming Community Give. We will be outside all the Masses next weekend to give you the information you need to participate. The Science Fair projects from our 10 finalists will be on display in the Parish Life Center if you would like to stop by and see some wonderful work.

We invite you to visit our website, www.holycrossweb.com. If you would like to see what we can do for your child, please call our HCA office at 540-286-1600 or St. Mary Preschool at 540-373-7553 to arrange for a tour or to let us tell you all about Holy Cross Academy, our parish school.

education religious ed

Register for Vacation Bible School



Who: Rising Kindergarten to rising 5th grade students

Where: Parish Life Center

When: June 20–24

Time: 9am–12 noon

Cost: \$25.00/child

Registration: May 2–13



Praying With Colors

Peg Larose, a member of the Health Ministry team, gave a great presentation on prayer to some of our Religious Education students. She talked to the children about the many different types of prayer and encouraged them to express their love for God through their creativity.

First Communions, Next Four Weekends

Starting next weekend, over 200 children will receive First Holy Communion. Candidates will attend Saturday Vigil Mass or Sunday Mass with their families. When it is the family's turn to go up for Holy Communion, the child will accompany them to receive his or her First Communion.

youth ministry



Keep your kids Catholic in College

The Associates of St. John Bosco, an organization founded to help keep students Catholic in college, welcomes parents of sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school to a presentation about how to assist their children in looking for

the right college for them and then transitioning to college. Join us **Thursday, May 5 at 7pm in the Parish Life Center** with suggestions on preparations for campus tours, understanding choices that will be made the first few weeks your child will be on campus, and tips on transitioning high school students to the freedoms they will have in college. The emphasis will be on how to

keep our faith central in all these decisions. Father Vaccaro, the current chaplain at the University of Mary Washington and Danielle Zuccaro, a recent graduate and the Director of the College Division of the Associates of St. John Bosco will conduct the presentation. More info on the Associates of St. John Bosco can be found at www.asjb.org.

follow StMaryCYM



#GetInvolvedBeTransformed

parish life happening here

St. Mary Preschool openings

It's not too late! St. Mary Preschool still has a few openings for the fall preschool classes for 3 and 4 year olds. We would love to have you visit and see all we have to offer your child! Contact Mrs. Nanci Scharf for a tour or for more information. Please call **540-373-7553** or you may reach us at nscharf@stmaryfred.org.

Conversation and Coffee

Join us May 1 for Conversation and Coffee. Representatives from the Parish Council, Outreach ministry, and SCRIP program will be available in the Parish Life Center after the 10:30am Mass offering information about their good works and how they serve our parish and community. Join us and learn more about these ministries.

Donation Drive

A donation drive will be held **at all Masses on April 30-May 1** to benefit Mary's Shelter, Birthright of Fredericksburg, Catholic Charities Baby Closet and the Paul Stefan Home.

Items needed include: diapers, wipes, formula (especially Similac Advance), bottles, new/gently used kids' clothing (sleepers, onesies, layette sets up to 12 months and summer clothes up to 5T), receiving blankets, bibs, socks, women's shampoo/conditioner/soap, batteries, paper towels, trash bags, laundry detergent, pillows, twin bed-in-a-bag sets, mattress covers, and bath towels (baby and adult). **Questions** can be directed to Jessica Stewart at (540) 656-7108 or hokiegirl07@gmail.com.



Saint Mary Parish Night Out 2016

**time to
step it up,
Fred.**

Purchase tickets now

Friday, 29 April 2016

**at the beautiful UMW Jepson Center
two blocks from church**

**Cash Bar 6-11pm
7pm Dinner & Dancing**

**Entertainment by the
Andrew Thielen Big Band**

\$75/person.
Last year tickets sold out.
Reserve yours now!

Call Marty at **540-373-0259**
or the parish office and
claim your table!

Activate your inner Fred and
Ginger and make some NEWS!

NEW memories waiting to be
made with old friends

NEW friends waiting to be met

NEW menu, appetizers and
three-course dinner with the
same beauty and charm of the
Jepson Center.

NEW door prizes: wine and
champagne packages, gift
certificates, theater tickets and
more.

parish life happening here

On May 3, Fredericksburg will come together for the Community Give. It's 24 hours of non-profit giving—and it's your chance to make a real difference, right here in our community.

Each donation of \$25 or more creates an entry for that organization into hourly awards and drawings for additional prizes. Please encourage your friends to donate throughout the day - each different credit card number counts for a unique gift toward our goal.

TheCommunityGive.org



Holy Cross Academy—Let's GIVE—It's About the Children

We need YOU to join us May 3! We are using 100% of all donations toward our expansion fund at Holy Cross Academy. Finally a cafeteria, adequate instruction spaces, and a gym floor. Please help us make this our primary focus for the Community Give this year at Saint Mary. (*see right*)



Catholic Charities—Help provide Family Counseling Services!

Local families need your help now more than ever! All gifts made to Catholic Charities through this campaign will stay in this region, providing hope and healing for *your neighbors* in need.



Micah Ecumenical Ministries—Help us help those in need!

Fredericksburg comes together to bring an end to homelessness and help people get the help they need to change their lives. Saint Mary is a governing board church and one of Micah's greatest sources of volunteers.



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul—Emergency assistance!

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides emergency assistance for food, rent, and utilities for many so that they can get the help they need in difficult times. This national organization has been a witness of charity and care for decades and their service is a blessing to our community.

Many other groups in the community are also seeking donations in the Community Give program.

- Mary's Shelter — marysshelterva.org
- Birthright — birthrightoffredericksburg.com
- Rappahannock Legal Services — rapplegal.com
- Interfaith Council's School Dressing Days — interfaithcommunitycouncil.org
- Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter — brisbencenterv.org

more room to learn & grow

Saint Mary unveils plans to finish Holy Cross Academy facility

Holy Cross Academy is coming up on her 20th anniversary and Saint Mary has begun the work of raising money to complete the vision that was begun by our families in 1997.

Not to grow the size of the student population, but to grow the space in which those students will accomplish the work of Catholic Education.

Holy Cross Academy has met nearly every goal which we have set for her: a National Blue Ribbon School, we provide excellence in education and formation for children who excel beautifully wherever they go. Our students are articulate, compassionate and, we hope, have hearts formed by faith that will seek Christ and God's will in their lives for years to come.

However, almost since the day Holy Cross Academy opened its doors in 1998, a lack of needed space was obvious. The most obvious daily situation is how gym classes, lunch shifts, the

Aviat Care after school program and sports events all must happen in the gymnasium! A cafeteria, which was once thought of as a luxury item, is really a necessity. The cafeteria could also be the location for after school care, which would make after school athletic programs possible.

Also, as we intend to remain relevant and competitive in all areas, especially technology, we have determined that larger instruction spaces are needed for computers, science, art and music. The average classroom size (or less!) just isn't enough. By adding these additional

spaces (yellow, below) we can free up previous spaces to allow for special classes in Math, world language, education resources, and a chapel, something that has only been a dream for so long.

Please help us make this a reality. And don't forget the Community Give program on May 3!

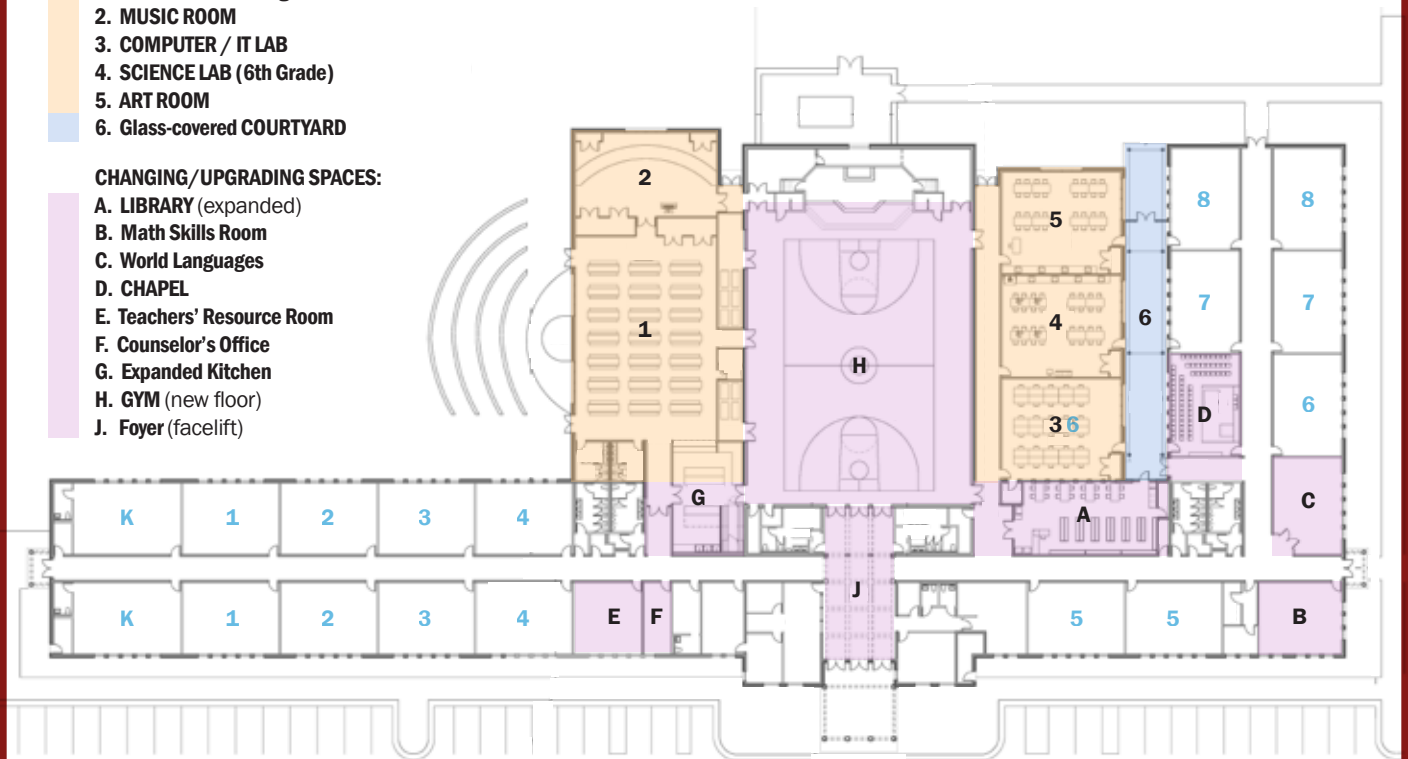
The Community Give is a way you can give to the school through the Community Foundation and we can qualify for additional awards and matching gifts. See www.communitygive.org.

NEW CONSTRUCTION:

1. CAFETERIA
expanded kitchen (G)
additional restrooms
Aviat Care office
additional storage
2. MUSIC ROOM
3. COMPUTER / IT LAB
4. SCIENCE LAB (6th Grade)
5. ART ROOM
6. Glass-covered COURTYARD

CHANGING/UPGRADING SPACES:

- A. LIBRARY (expanded)
- B. Math Skills Room
- C. World Languages
- D. CHAPEL
- E. Teachers' Resource Room
- F. Counselor's Office
- G. Expanded Kitchen
- H. GYM (new floor)
- J. Foyer (facelift)



happening here



ST. MARY
of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HEALTH MINISTRY

Building and maintaining healthy self-esteem

Join us Saturday, **May 14, from 12:30pm-3pm in the Parish Life Center** and learn about building healthy self-esteem, the impact of positive and negative self-esteem on mental health, identity development, and supportive parenting. This program is open to teenagers, parents, grandparents and all interested adults. Additional resources will be provided. **To reserve your spot in this free seminar**, call the Church office at **540-373-6491** or email stmary@stmaryfred.org. Seating is limited. This seminar is sponsored by Saint Mary's Health Ministry in conjunction with Catholic Charities Family Services.

Cancer Support Group forming

Saint Mary's Health Ministry is forming "Believe Group," a

peer-to-peer discussion group for those who are facing a cancer diagnosis and for those sharing this experience with a loved one. Group meetings will focus on living the spiritual journey that comes with the challenges of having a cancer diagnosis, as well as the blessings of survivorship.

The facilitator for this program is Regina Kenner, RN, long-time parishioner of Saint Mary and the Cancer Navigator Program Coordinator at Mary Washington Healthcare. Together with the Saint Mary staff, this program was developed to provide a safe, confidential and Catholic faith-based environment of support. Our goal is to offer prayer and reflection, small group discussions, relevant speakers, and the opportunity to connect with others through shared experiences.

The first meeting will be **Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 9:30-11am**

in the Courtyard Meeting Room. Please contact the Parish Office at stmary@stmaryfred.org or **540-373-6491** to join this new group.

Independent Living Expo, May 7

Fredericksburg's disAbility Resource Center presents the **2016 Independent Living Expo on Saturday, May 7, from 9am-5pm at the Fredericksburg Expo Center**. Service providers for in-home care will be available to speak with you about their services. State and local agencies will be on hand to help you learn about the services available to you or your loved one.

Register for free at www.drcexpo.eventbrite.com. For more information about The disAbility Resource Center, visit cildrc.org or call **540-373-2559**.

WE'VE ADDED A SECOND BUS IN SPAIN

September 24-October 6, 2016 13 days, \$3,750.

Join Fr. Don and Saint Mary to tour Fatima and Spain this fall. Dinners included, Mass in a wonderful place everyday. We had 16 people on the waiting list—we can now add another 20 people who may wish to join us.

You are welcome.

**MADRID - TOLEDO - AVILA SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA FATIMA - MERIDA - SEVILLE
LEON - CORDOBA - GRANADA VALENCIA - BARCELONA MONTSERRAT**

Please call Margaret Ford, 373-6900 for information.



pope francis called in love

At General Audience, Pope Prescribes 2 Medicines

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

Jesus, 'the Good Doctor,' wants to heal and nourish us. Pope Francis said this during his address at this morning's General Audience in St. Peter's Square, noting the 'Divine Doctor' insists for us, His beloved, but sinful children, to take His two medicines.

During his catechesis, the Pope reflected on how Matthew who was a corrupt tax collector was welcomed by Jesus and became a saint.

"It is true that being Christians does not make us sinless," the Pope acknowledged, saying that like Matthew, each one of us is to entrust ourselves to the Lord's grace, despite our sins."

"We are all sinners; we have all sinned. By calling Matthew, Jesus shows sinners that He does not look at their past, at their social condition, at external conventions, but rather opens a new future to them."

No Sinner Without Future, Nor Saint Without a Past

"Once I heard a good saying: 'There is no saint without a past and there is no sinner without a future.' This is what Jesus does," the Pope said, noting, "There is no saint without a past or sinner without a future."

Suffice it to respond to the invitation with a humble and sincere heart. The Church is not a community of the perfect, but of disciples on the way, who follow the Lord because they recognize themselves sinners and in need of His forgiveness. Therefore, the Christian life is a school of humility that is open to grace.

Warning of 'Walls'

The Holy Father warned against arrogance and pride which prevent people from recognizing themselves in need of salvation and rather impede seeing the merciful face of God and of acting with mercy.

"They are a wall," Francis said. "Arrogance and pride are a wall, which impedes a relationship with God. Yet, Jesus' mission is precisely this: to come in search of each one of us, to heal our wounds and call us to follow Him with love."

Needing a Physician

Jesus said, the Pope recalled, "'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick' (v. 12).

"Jesus presents Himself as a good doctor!" the Pope said, noting He heals illness, frees from fear, death, and the devil.

"Before Jesus, no sinner is excluded — no sinner is excluded! — because God's healing power knows not infirmities that cannot be cured; and this must give us confidence and open our heart to the Lord so that He will come and heal us."

His 'Medicines'

The Pope said we are 'to sit at the table with Jesus,' which means being transformed and saved by Him. Jesus' table, the Jesuit Pope highlighted, is twofold in the Christian community: there is the table of the Word and there is the table of the Eucharist (cf. Dei Verbum, 21).

"These are the medicines with which the Divine Doctor heals and nourishes us," the Pope said.

Sometimes this Word is painful, he acknowledged, because "it cuts into hypocrisies, unmasks false excuses, exposes the hidden truth but, at the same time, it illumines and purifies, gives strength and hope, is a precious re-constituent of our journey of faith."

The Eucharist, he reflected, "nourishes us with the very life of Jesus and, as a very powerful medicine continually renews the grace of our Baptism in a mysterious way. By approaching the Eucharist, we nourish ourselves with the Body and Blood of Jesus, though, coming into us, it is Jesus that unites us to His Body!"

There's No Saint Without a Past, No Sinner Without a Future

Looking only at 'the paper'

In his address, the Holy Father stressed that religious actions are ineffective without repentant hearts, citing the Pharisees as examples. He noted they were very religious in form, but they were not willing to share the table with sinners. They did not acknowledge the possibility of repentance and hence of healing and did not put mercy in the first place.

"Though being faithful custodians of the Law," Francis stressed, "they showed they did not know God's heart!"

"It is as if you were given a parcel with a gift inside and you, instead of looking for the gift, look only at the paper in which it is wrapped: only the appearances, the form, and not the kernel of grace, the gift that is being given!"

Pope Francis concluded reminding all present that all faithful are invited to the Lord's table.

Full Text: <https://zenit.org/articles/general-audience-on-jesus-as-divine-doctor/>

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

April 17 Offertory \$32,719.
Parish Building Fund (add'l) 3,333.
Poor Box (Vincent de Paul) 334.

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.

Special Parish Needs Collection, next weekend

Our Second Collection next weekend is the Annual Special Parish Needs Collection, and all donations made in this collection stay in the parish. Last year the Special Parish Needs Collection assisted the parish in building a deck in the large area near the back door of the Parish Life Center, adjacent to the children's playground. We invite you to take a look at this beautiful deck which will be used and enjoyed by our preschool children and the children in our Religious Education program for many years to come. The cost of the deck was \$25,000.00. Through last year's collection we raised \$10,600.00 and this year's collection will assist us in raising the remaining funds for this beautiful deck. Your continued generosity and support is truly appreciated.

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.

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 8, a Novena of Masses will be offered for all intentions placed in front of the altar. These intentions will remain before the altar throughout the Novena. Mothers' Day Cards and novena envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church and in the Parish Office.

Pro-Life reflection

"What joy fills My Heart when you return to Me. Because you are weak, I take you in My arms and carry you to the home of My Father." — (*Diary, 1486*) © *Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. Used with permission.* We pray for those who suffer: may they find their strength in the hope of the Resurrection.

First Friday, May 6 All Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"St. Joseph worshiped Jesus as no saint before had done. From his deep, calm soul he poured out a very ocean of love—tenderest love, humblest love... No angel might love Jesus as Joseph loved Him, as Joseph was bound to love Him. No temporal love but Mary's could be more like an eternal love than the love of Joseph for the Child, because of its likeness to the love of the everlasting Father." (Fr. Faber)

All Night Adoration will follow our First Friday 8pm Mass on May 6. Please sign up to come and adore Our Lord in the most beautiful Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

SCRIP gift cards

Set up an account today and continue earning rebates for HCA! Email Torie Baldwin at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com for the school enrollment code so HCA gets credit for your purchase. **Thanks for using SCRIP gift cards!**

Join the Carmelites for Morning Prayer Saturday, May 7

Members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Carmelite Community, Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, will be visiting our parish on Saturday morning, May 7, to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and attend 9am Mass. We would love to have the parishioners of St. Mary Parish join us for Morning Prayer which will begin at approximately 7:50am. The Rosary, led by members of the parish will follow as usual.

Unscheduled Masses offered in March

Masses were offered in March for the following unscheduled intentions: Paula Shea, Marlene Astier, Rosario Rodriguez, +Sister Renee Francoise, Heddy Hellmann, Catherine Clagett, Dr. & Mrs. Gonzalo Guacena, All Souls in Purgatory, +Joseph Bozicevic, +Thomas Hartnett, +Joanne Sanford, +James Fegan, Vivian Vu, Ivy Vu, Quynh Vy Vu, Vicky Trinh, +Frank Clancy, Sr., +Margaret Clancy, and +Carolyn Cavanagh.

Organ concert, May 20

Concerts at Saint Mary presents Benjamin LaPrairie, organist, in a free concert of music by Bach, Reger, Near, Vierne and Widor, **May 20 at 8pm.** Reception follows the performance. Contact David Mathers at the Parish Office for more information.



liturgy called in love

Grow for Your Neighbor

Grow for Your Neighbor (GFYN) is a program that provides fresh produce to the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank. It provides opportunities for families to experience the joys of gardening, to experience the intrinsic value of giving back to their community, and to foster an appreciation of nature and the value of healthy eating.

Saint Mary will once again support Grow for Your Neighbor's summer program during the June to October growing season and is looking for volunteers.

Last year, Saint Mary volunteers collected in excess of 2,000 lbs. of fresh produce. This year, **volunteer opportunities include** receiving donations at the Fredericksburg Food Bank Tent at the Spotsylvania Farmer's Market on Route 3 West (commuter lot) and the pick-up and delivery of donations to the food bank. Collection days and times are Saturdays 8am–noon. Pick-up is at noon and drop off to the Food Bank must be made by 1pm. We are looking to organize small teams of 2-3 persons, once a month for a 2-4 hour commitment—it's a perfect service opportunity for Scouts, youth groups and Outreach Ministries. **If you would like to volunteer**, please contact Rick Caporali at the Parish Office, 540-373-6491 or by email rcaporali@stmary-fred.org.

For more information on this local community effort, please visit growforyourneighbor.com. We are planning a parish plant give-away to kick start the growing season, in hopes that we can create a **parish-wide community garden** that can be shared with our neighbors. More details in the upcoming weeks.

Saint Mary prayer list

Please pray for those who are sick or in need,

especially: D.J. Smetek, Jim Evans, Megan Ramsey, Robert and Tenya Mosier, Josh Oltman, Donelda Wellwood, Keith Kovalefski, Bruce Bates, Dyke Stabler, Meredith Dean, Bernice Douglas, Paul Johnson, Alana Cross, Joseph O'Byrne, Veronica Johnson, Hal Ehrhart, Lillian Held, Prudy Tarpey, Mike and Mary Lou Gray, Martha Clemens, Holly Smith, Byers Family, Hunsley Family, Mike Harwich, Charles Dillman, Janie Sherry, Randy Knebal, Larry Hudson, Tracey Hansen, Connie Whatcott, John Whatcott, Patrick Clarke, Jacqui Herr, Valconi Family, Joan Carroll, Larry Dillman, Jessica Ryan, Matt Marshall, John Stehle, Jerome Murphy, Christy Charlebois, Atkins Family, Paul Johnson, Sandy Martin, Ryan Mott, Tim Murray Family, Felipe and Mildred Sanchez, Dale Meyn, Raymond and Barbara Stauble, Gloria Fontenot, Paul Bartman, David Duke, Nancy Borrero, Gina Wood, David Arnold, Josephine Kreider, Ephiny Chewning, Mary Merrill, Richard Grunwald, Patrick Eggleston, Luz Dolores Butron, Susan Datta, Zachary Payne, Mary Jean & Don Williams, Sandra Infante, Maria Stine, Peter & Barbara Wood, Ronald Cullen, Mary Ulmer, Victoria Sibley, Nancy Borrero, Carmen Cardinelli, Teresa McPherson, Chris Enke, Betty Ann & Bill Dateno, Harold Gardiner, Gerald Gardiner, Carla J. Gomer, Patricia Russo, Marianne Ford, Richard Sadder, Diane Beverly, Duska Green, Nancy Sokolowski, John Gabriel, John Haas, Jim Matarese, Tommy Davis, Marianne Ford, Olen Bullard, Michael Kraljevich, Dawn Miller, Ortiz family, Linda Kaila, Charles Boyer, Amy Gilkerson, Sadie Harder, Elizabeth Grant, Wayne Culbertson, Providence and Thomas Moeller, David Davenport, Brian Yednock

Please pray for all the men and women in our military and civilian support services overseas, especially:

Glenn Dickinson, Paul Fischer, John Moring, Dominick Joseph Petro, Jamal Williams, Lance Schulte, Brian Hellman, Sean Plunkett, Roy Selvidge, Patrick Fenton, David James, Shawn Tupta, Vincent Petillo, Geoff Mann, Christopher Johnson III, Patrick Desmond, Andrew M. Smith, Nelly Garcia, Mindy Hakenson, Xavier Alas

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

Masses next week

30 April—SATURDAY

5pm Fr. Lino
7pm Fr. Holmes

1 May—SUNDAY

7am Fr. Cummings
8:30am Fr. Don
10:30am Fr. Lino
HCA10:30 Fr. Holmes
12:30pm Fr. Don
2pm Fr. Lino
5pm Fr. Don
7:01pm Fr. Cummings

Daily Mass intentions and readings

april

25 MONDAY

6:30 +Elizabeth Corpe
9am C.P. Copperthite
1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20

26 TUESDAY

6:30 Anton and Martha Ann Nguyen
9am +Mike Goldsmith
Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14: 27-31

27 WEDNESDAY

6:30 Calista Di Giulian
9am +Natalia Barrios
Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

28 THURSDAY

6:30 +Pacita Natividad
HCA Fr. Russell Raj
9am +Carmen Arevalo
Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

29 FRIDAY

6:30 Suzette Young
9am +Juan Espirito
Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

30 SATURDAY

9am +Gloria Triana
5pm +Victor DiPretore
7pm +Steven Olah
Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

1 SUNDAY

7am +Josephina Abbott
8:30 +Theresa Gowarty
10:30 +Those Who Died in April
10:30*Jen Clay
12:30 +Mario Calabro
2pm +Adolfo Rodriguez Diaz
5pm Cassandra LeBlanc
7:01 For the Parish
Acts 15:1-2,22-29;
Rv 21:10-14,22-23, Jn 14:23-29

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*