

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



October 12, 2025



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church
1009 STAFFORD AVENUE - FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA



capital campaign

grow our legacy in faith

On October 5th, we honored the memory of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. On her feast day, we raised hearts in grateful adoration for the boundless Divine Mercy revealed through this humble "Secretary" of Christ. Her notable achievements were not of this world, but the eternal fruit of her profound mystical union; that is, receiving and recording the Lord's private revelations in her Diary, thereby giving the Church the treasured devotions of the Divine Mercy Image with the inscription "Jesus, I Trust in You." It also gave the church the powerful Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Hour of Mercy at 3 p.m., and the institution of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Octave of Easter. By faithfully embracing a life of immense suffering as a living sacrifice for sinners, St. Faustina has become an unparalleled apostle, reminding all souls, especially those in the greatest need, that God's compassion is an inexhaustible font, ever-flowing for those who approach with trust.



Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel: Project Progress

Great news! Construction for the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel is moving forward quickly!

Over the past few weeks, we've hit several key milestones:

- Demolition of the old flooring and bathroom is complete.
- The mechanical and plumbing trades are now working on infrastructure.
- A new restroom entryway has been created and will include enhanced soundproofing.
- Paint and flooring materials have been selected and ordered.
- The exterior doors are being replaced with new windows, which we expect to be installed by mid to late October.
- Some Liturgical Items have been ordered, and many are currently being quoted and then ordered.

Thank you for your unwavering faith and generosity.

from our pastor

Dear Folks,

There has been a bit of confusion over electronic giving.

Here is what happened, our third-party vendor for electronic giving is Faith Direct. Faith Direct migrated its online service to ParishSoft Giving on September 25th. As I understand it, essentially they sub-contracted a portion of their service, which is not unusual for contractors or businesses.

Yes, it was marketed as an upgrade, but not all of you have experienced the transition as such. Here are a few changes:

— Donors will now be receiving email notices from ParishSoft Giving regarding their donations to the parish, before this was something you had to opt into, but it has been turned on by default. Some folks thought these emails were a scam, but they are not. (However, always be careful to never click on links!)

— Donors who give Weekly Offertory as opposed to Monthly Offertory will now have their weekly donation drawn from their account every week. Pray for our bookkeeper, as this means many more entries for our bookkeeping software as folks choose different days!

— Donors now need to use the link below to check their accounts and make any changes to their information. (Didn't I just tell you never click on links? Oops). And at least one parishioner couldn't get this link to work. (Maybe because of formatting in the bulletin, it may have removed part of the link)? Here is the link on it's own line:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-635>

— Sorry this has not been a smooth transition. You can contact ParishSoft Donor Support at **donorsupport@parishsoft.com** or 866-507-8757.

I'll say a Hail Mary for you in gratitude for your generous support of St. Mary's!

Pax,



Very Reverend John P. Mosimann, V.F.
Pastor

P.S. Another reminder to all parishioners, there is a nationwide scam going on that targets parishioners and uses their pastor, in our case, me and sends fake emails, texts etc. asking for you to "do me a favor" which includes buying gifts cards and such. I WILL NEVER ASK A PARISHIONER TO PURCHASE A GIFT CARD OR SEND ME MONEY! Please delete emails and text that come asking – note the email address sending you the request is similar to mine but not correct. If you are ever unsure, please call the office for clarification. Be vigilant.

announcements



contact us

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 5 & 7pm
Sunday 7, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30,
2:30pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7pm
8:30 & 10:30am at Holy Cross Academy

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday 6:30am, 9am, & 12pm
Saturday 9am
Holy Days of Obligation, as announced

DEVOTIONS

Adoration, Daily between 6:30am & 9am Mass,
Wednesday 12:30pm - Friday 9am
Divine Mercy, Wednesday, 3pm
First Friday 7pm Novus Ordo (Latin Mass)
First Saturday 8:00am – Fatima Prayers & Rosary
followed by 9am Mass

CONFESSION

Wednesday 11:30am-12pm, 6:30 - 8:30pm;
Saturday, 8-8:30am & 3:30 - 4:30pm

PARISH OFFICE

540-373-6491 fax: 540-371-0251
stmary@stmaryfred.org
stmaryfred.org
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 9pm;
Students staff office weekdays until 9pm,
Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays (Closed)

Very Reverend John P. Mosimann, Vicar Forane, Pastor
Reverend Tim Courtney, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Kevin Dansereau, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Joseph Connor, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Alberto Bernaola

Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski
Director of Operations, Chris Lanzarone
Facilities, Late-Lawson Drackey
Custodial Services, Carmen Sanchez
Parish Secretary, Lori Barlow & Gio Camacho

stmaryfred.org

MUSIC

Joseph Ciskanik
Director of Music, musicdirector@stmaryfred.org
Assistant, Music Ministry, Emily D'Isidoro

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

540-286-1600
250 Stafford Lakes Parkway
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406-7234
Principal - Dr. Stephen Fry,
sfry@holycrossweb.com

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY PRESCHOOL

Director, Allison Gardner
540-286-1600

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Director, Dr. Katherine Evans
Associate Director, Amy MacKinnon
Administrative Assistant, Sonia Spencer

YOUTH MINISTRY

Director, Tatiana Beltran
Assistant Youth Minister, Catie Espiritu

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)

Director, Dr. Katherine Evans
kevans@stmaryfred.org

OUTREACH

Director, Elena Doyle

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 the parish six months
in advance to begin preparation or Margaret Bereit
margaret@stmaryfred.org

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

Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception
1009 Stafford Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

holy cross academy

Raffle Ticket Sales After Mass | October 18-19

Families from our parish school will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses this weekend, October 18-19. Your support helps our community and gives you multiple chances to win!

To ensure fairness, the total number of raffle tickets sold after Masses will be evenly divided among all families who signed up to sell. For example, if 10 families participate and 100 tickets are sold, each family will receive credit for 10 tickets sold.

Thank you for supporting our Holy Cross Academy families and good luck in the raffle!

Now Enrolling at Holy Cross Academy for the 26-27 school year!

Holy Cross Academy is excited to announce that enrollment is now open for the upcoming academic year! We welcome families seeking a nurturing, faith-filled environment where academic excellence and character development go hand in hand.

Why Choose Holy Cross Academy?

- Rigorous curriculum rooted in Catholic values
- Dedicated and compassionate faculty
- Newly expanded, safe, inclusive, and inspiring campus
- Enriching extracurriculars and leadership opportunities
- Strong community of faith, service, and scholarship

Enrollment Period: Open now — spaces are limited!

Grades: Pre-School 3 years through 8th Grade

Location: 250 Stafford lakes Parkway, Stafford County

Apply Online: holycrossweb.com click on admissions

Contact Us: 540-286-1600

Join us in shaping bright minds and kind hearts. Discover the Holy Cross difference — where saints, scholars, and leaders in the image of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother are formed.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence*



our parish religious education

No Regular Religious Ed This Week, Attend One of the Teaching Masses Instead!

All R.E. students are asked, in lieu of regular class this week, to attend one of the Teaching Masses scheduled for this Tuesday, October 14, at 4:45pm or 6:30pm in the church.

Parents are asked to attend with your children.

The Teaching Mass is a mandatory event for all students in Religious Ed. Bring your Event Attendance slips to class next week – October 20-22 – for attendance credit.



"The Mass is the school of the soul."
– St. John Vianney



OCTOBER RE CALENDAR 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45	RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15, 6:30-7:45	RE: 6:30-7:45			4 CAT CERT 102-1 @ St Pat's
5	6 RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45	7 RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15, 6:30-7:45	8 RE: 6:30-7:45	9	10	11 CAT CERT 102-2 @ St Pat's SPRED 10-12
12	13 No RE	14 Teaching Masses: 4:45 & 6:30	15 No RE	16 Grade 7 Confirmation Formation Night #1	17	18 CAT CERT 103-1 @ St Pat's
19	20 RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45	21 RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15, 6:30-7:45	22 RE: 6:30-7:45	23	24	25 CAT CERT 103-2 @ St Pat's OCIT Retreat 8:30-4:30
26	27 RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45 6:30pm Baptism Mtg	28 RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15, 6:30-7:45	29 RE: 6:30-7:45	30	31 SAINTS PARADE 4:45	All Saints Day (HDO)

our parish
youth ministry



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON WORKCAMP
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VIRGINIA
JUNE 20 - JUNE 26, 2026

Monday, October 13 from 6:30 - 7:30pm
Parish Life Center

All current 9th through 12th graders and their parents are invited to come learn more about WorkCamp, where teens spend a week in June living in an **intentional Christian community** making homes warmer, safer, and drier for people in need within the Diocese.

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING IS MANDATORY FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE THIS SUMMER. AT LEAST ONE PARENT MUST ATTEND WITH THE INTERESTED TEEN.

LEARN MORE AT STMARYFRED.ORG/WORKCAMP

Tatiana Beltran
tbeltran@stmaryfred.org

Catie Espiritu
cespiritu@stmaryfred.org

our parish happenings

Military Service Spotlight

St. Mary's is calling ALL VETERANS! If you or a loved one is serving or has served our country in the military, we would love to learn more about you and your service!

Please reach out to Ann Skinner at askinner@stmaryfred.org or 540-373-6491 with your name and phone number.

We appreciate you and your service to our nation! God Bless You!

Senior Luncheon's Are Back!

We are excited to announce a return of the Senior Luncheon to be held on November 11th - Veteran's Day, to honor our veterans in conjunction with our seniors. To make this special event a success, we need your help. Volunteers are especially needed in the kitchen, but we also welcome helping hands with set up, hospitality, decorations, and clean up. If you're unable to volunteer during the event but enjoy baking, please consider signing up to bring a plate of patriotically decorated desserts to share. Your support will make this luncheon a warm and welcoming celebration for our seniors and Veterans—thank you in advance for pitching in! Sign up sheets will be available at the Senior Luncheon table in the Parish Ministries weekend. We encourage past volunteers to also sign up to ensure that we have the most recent contact information!

Questions? Contact Lara Traylor at gueydangirl@gmail.com

SCRIP Sales are Back

We will be resuming Scrip sales in October. Stop by the Scip table and

say hello to your dedicated Scrip volunteer. Our SCRIP program directly supports Holy Cross Academy, earning rebates for the school expansion fund. It's so easy, just purchase a gift card from a Scrip volunteer after mass for many favorite stores and retailers such as Wal-Mart, Giant, Weis, Wawa, Sheetz, Target, Starbucks, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, or Regal Theatre just to name a few. We can order gift cards for over 300 plus vendors, most of whom we visit weekly. For more information, just send an email to scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com or stop by the SCRIP table after mass.

Volunteers Needed for Kids Club at the Brisben Center — NEW DATES SCHEDULED THRU DECEMBER!!

We are thrilled to be expanding our Kids Club at the Brisben Center! We visit EVERY Wednesday from 4:30-5:30pm. Join us in crafting, playing games and having some outdoor fun as well as reading and giving some homework help to the children at the center.

If you can encourage kids and like to have fun - this is the perfect ministry for you! Looking for volunteers 18 years or older.

7th-8th graders students preparing for confirmation are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/4f8ld64>

*****IMPORTANT*** If signing up family members to help - please sign-up each person individually who is coming. Space is limited for**

each session. Thank you!

Any questions, please reach out to Sydney McDonald sydjim92@msn.com or Elena Doyle at 540-373-6491

Seeking a Business Manager

Precious Blood Catholic Church in Culpeper is seeking a Business Manager who would be responsible for the supervision and management of financial and accounting functions, human resources functions, facilities and office operations, administrative functions, and the related processes and systems for the Parish.

Knowledge & Skills:

Requires coordination with the Parish staff, participation in staff planning, operational meetings, meetings with vendors and parish advisory councils. A Bachelor's Degree in accounting or related financial/management field is preferred. Proficiency with QuickBooks and Microsoft Office is needed.

Send cover letter and resume to kwalsh@pbconline.com.

St. Mary Book Club

All are welcome! Book Club meeting, Tuesday October 14, at 10am in Room 102 of the PLC. Our October selection is "The Dearly Beloved" by Cara Wall, a novel about the lives of two pastors and their families over forty years. It explores their evolving friendship through joys, pain, love - and faith - during an often turbulent time in our society.

If you can't make it in October, join us on November 11, where the discussion will be on C. S. Lewis' "Reflections on the Psalms."

our parish happenings

*"Praise the LORD in song,
for He has done excellent things."
(Isaiah 12:5)*

St. Mary's Music Ministry invites you to sing with us!

PARISH CHOIR

Ages 18+ (younger with supervision)
Thursdays at 7pm
Sings Sundays (10:30am), Holy Week &
Solemnities

FESTIVAL CHOIR

For singers who can't commit weekly
Join for holidays like Christmas, Holy Week, or
special events

LATIN MASS SCHOLA

Sings 1st Fridays (7pm Mass; rehearse at 6pm)
Repertory includes Gregorian Chant
Younger singers welcome with parent

CANTOR MINISTRY

Leads congregational singing on Sundays &
Solemnities
Experienced singers only (training available)

ST. CECILIA YOUTH CHOIR

Grades 2-8 (no experience needed)
Wednesdays, 4:45-6pm, Oct-May
Sings twice monthly at 8:30am Mass

For details, contact Mr. Joseph Ciskanik
musicministry@stmaryfred.org



~ Help Support the Snack Bag Program ~ Hugh Mercer Students

Our local elementary school has identified 60 children who rely on receiving school meals as their main source of nourishment. On the weekends many of these children go hungry and the school has reached out to area churches to ask for assistance. St. Mary's is happy to help and will be providing snack bags on the 4th Friday of every month.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER

Sign-up to drop off food items by visiting
<https://bit.ly/3TM9z72>

Thank you in advance for your goodness! Questions,
contact Elena Doyle edoyle@stmaryfred.org

Prayers & Squares Ministry

The Prayers & Squares Ministry provides quilts to parishioners who are facing serious illness, offering comfort and support during a difficult time. We are inviting volunteers to join us by sitting with the quilts for 10-15 minutes after the mass you usually attend. No sewing experience is required—all that's needed is your kindness and a few minutes of your time. Your presence can bring comfort and reassurance to those in need, and we deeply appreciate your willingness to help.

If you are interested in participating in this heartfelt ministry, please contact Dian Epp at 703-475-6232 or dbep65@outlook.com. Thank you for considering this meaningful opportunity to make a difference in our parish.

our parish happenings



Public Rosary | All Are Invited

Saturday, October 18th at noon | St. Mary

Please join parishioners to pray the public Rosary for Peace as requested by Our Lady of Fatima over 100 years ago, on Saturday,

Please RSVP to michaelgkasey@verizon.net or (540)760-3885.

St Mary's Singles Group

St. Mary's Singles Group extends an open invitation to everyone single and 40 years of age or older for monthly group social gatherings such as dinners, movies, plays, works of charity, prayers, Mass, and other church events.

Contact Eileen at emw5348@gmail.com to get on the email newsletter list.

There is a gathering each month at the Wegmans upstairs meeting space at 10 am to plan activities.

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

The Legion of Mary invites you to pray a bilingual Holy Rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother Mary

Join us in the church

October 15 at 7pm

SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2025
1:00 - 4:00 PM**

Register Here!



Bring the whole family! Meet students, teachers, and coaches and learn what makes JP GREAT!!

17700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores, VA 22026
jpthegreat.org - 703.445.0246



vida parroquial

noticias en español



ST. MARY
of the
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

El Grupo *Mujer llena de Gracia*



Te invita a participar de sus
Reuniones semanales los días jueves
iniciando con la santa Misa a las 9:00am
posteriormente desayuno y reunión en la
casa Juan Pablo II

Información: Betsy Correa (540) 842-6686

**Serás corona de adorno en la mano del Señor, y tiara real en
la palma de tu Dios. Isaías 62,3.**



OCTUBRE
mes del **SANTO**
ROSARIO

La Legión de María,
te invita a rezar el Santo Rosario
bilingüe en honor a nuestra
Santísima Madre María.

Miercoles 15 de Octubre del 2025
a las 7:00 p.m. en la iglesia St. Mary's: 1009
Stafford Ave, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

El CCW de Saint Mary le invita a:
**la venta de
pastelería de otoño
y bazar de
artesanía**

DELICIAS CASERAS - PASTELES, TARTAS, GALLETAS,
DULCES, PEPINILLOS Y MERMELADAS
ARTESANÍAS Y MANUALIDADES TODAS ORIGINALES
Y HECHAS A MANO

PAGO EN EFECTIVO O CHEQUE - NO TARJETA

Lugar: PLC de Saint Mary

Fecha: sábado, 18 de octubre

Hora: 8am - 2pm

Almuerzo Servido por

La Tropa de Boy Scout 1410

our faith from our bishop



Participants in Promoting the Common Good

September 2025

As Virginia voters, this fall we will elect our next Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. We will also decide who will occupy all 100 Virginia House of Delegates seats. Election Day is November 4. Early voting begins September 19.

As the *Catechism* reminds us, “It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good.... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in *public life*” (nos. 1913-1915).

To promote the common good, we must form our consciences and vote, recognizing that:

- Many issues are important.
- Not all issues have equal moral weight.
- Protecting life is paramount.

Above all else, addressing the tragedy of abortion is the “pre-eminent priority because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone” (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Introductory Note, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2023).

The Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) has prepared an array of voter education resources to help form consciences and provide timely information. Visit vacatholic.org/Election2025 or scan the QR code to view these materials.

We encourage parishes to distribute each of the VCC resources, especially:



- **The VCC’s Candidate Comparisons in the races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General**, which provide the candidates’ positions on key issues; and
- **The Proposed Constitutional Amendments: Be Vigilant! resource**, which explains three proposed amendments to Virginia’s constitution. These proposals have already moved part of the way through the General Assembly process. One of them would allow virtually unlimited abortion at any stage of pregnancy. The legislators we elect in the House races this November will decide whether these proposed constitutional amendments advance any further.

With so much at stake, we must prepare to engage in this year’s critical voting decisions – through conscience formation, prayer and fasting. United in the Eucharist, let us pray for one another and join together as active participants in promoting the common good.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond



our faith

register to vote

Register to Vote!

This fall, voters will select candidates for Governor, Lt. Gov., Attorney General and the House of Delegates.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT. 24



Visit vote.elections.virginia.gov
or scan the QR code to:

- Register online.
- Check registration status.
- Find your polling place.
- Request Absentee Ballot.



FOR MORE INFO:

vacatholic.org/Election2025

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SEPT. 19.

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4.

CANDIDATE COMPARISON: RACE FOR GOVERNOR



Compiled by the Virginia Catholic Conference
for the 2025 Virginia Elections

In keeping with its mission, the Virginia Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information compiled here has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of August 14th, to help voters form their consciences before voting in November. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The VCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

"Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible, and a right to access those things required for human decency – food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life."

– Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 49, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2003



WINSOME EARLE-SEARS



ABIGAIL SPANBERGER

ABORTION

In March 2025, as Lieutenant Governor, Sears made the following written notation to a proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine a "right" to abortion in Virginia's constitution: "I am morally opposed to this bill: no protection for the child."

In her keynote address at the April 2025 Virginia March for Life, Sears stated, "We stand for life and how can it ever be wrong to stand for life?"

In 2002, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Sears co-sponsored and voted for a bill to require a physician to obtain parental consent prior to performing an abortion on a minor.

In January 2025, Spanberger issued a statement in support of the House of Delegates' passage of a proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine a "right" to abortion in Virginia's constitution.

As a member of Congress, Spanberger co-sponsored the Women's Health Protection Act, which sought to prohibit "governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, abortion services." Spanberger also co-sponsored the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act, which would have prohibited "anyone acting under state law from interfering with a person's ability to access out-of-state abortion services."

Spanberger is endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

In a May 2024 radio interview, Sears stated her opposition to assisted suicide legislation. She said, "No, we don't want to be in the business of death. Is that what we're about?"

In response to a question about assisted suicide at a 2023 event, Spanberger said she supported "legislation that legalizes the right to die," including "allowing for medical providers to provide...life-ending prescriptions."

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

In 2002, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Sears co-sponsored and voted for a bill to ensure that no healthcare professional who objects to abortion "on personal, ethical, moral or religious grounds" would be required to dispense any medication "for the purpose of performing an abortion."

In a May 2025 interview, Sears said, "I don't want a person who has religious faith to feel they are forced against their will. It's freedom of religion." She made the comment to explain her opposition to removing the one-man/one-woman marriage definition from Virginia's constitution.

In response to a question about Catholic and other religious healthcare institutions at a 2023 event, Spanberger said, "I oppose the ability of religious institutions to put their religious-based ideas on individuals and their healthcare choices and options.... I do not believe that people should have the option to allow their own personal beliefs to dictate the type of medical care that they are providing their patients." As a member of Congress, Spanberger co-sponsored and voted for the Equality Act, which would have added the new terms "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the definition of "sex" in federal civil rights laws, and would have exempted itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

ECONOMY

Sears' campaign website states she "wants to make sure Virginia is a place where all families can afford to live, raise their families, work, and build a future. She will fight for common-sense tax cuts that help all Virginians." In a December 2024 op-ed Sears wrote, "We must strengthen public-private partnerships that drive innovation. We must continue...to attract and retain new world-class companies. And we must invest in workforce development to prepare our Virginians for the jobs of the future."

In a November 2021 interview, Spanberger noted her work in Congress to lower the cost of prescription drugs and extend the child tax credit. In April 2025, Spanberger announced her support for raising Virginia's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. At a rally in April 2025, Spanberger said she will ensure "more Virginians can negotiate for the benefits and fair treatment that they've earned."





WINSOME EARLE-SEARS



ABIGAIL SPANBERGER

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In a 2025 interview, Sears stated, "My vision for Virginia is whatever you, the parent, want: public, private, parochial, home school, whatever it is, a hybrid — you make the choice."

Spanberger's "Strengthening Virginia Schools Plan" includes "rejecting efforts to divert funding from public education to pay for voucher programs."

ENVIRONMENT

In a May 2025 speech, Sears expressed support for a variety of energy sources: "That's why we are going to have all of it: clean coal. Oil. Yes, renewables. Nuclear. Natural gas; all of that." On X (formerly Twitter) in July 2024, she posted, "Virginia will continue to lead the nation as we innovate and expand our All-the-Above energy approach. We will drive and maintain economic growth as we expand our capability to support the energy needs of a growing Commonwealth."

Spanberger called climate change "one of the greatest and most imminent threats to our economy, our national security, and our way of life." In 2019, Spanberger co-sponsored the Climate Action Now Act, which would require "the President to develop and update annually a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement on climate change." In a 2019 Congressional hearing, she stated, "As Congress looks to strengthen our engagement on issues of international diplomacy, security, and development, climate change must be viewed as a pressing national security concern."

HEALTHCARE

In a 2022 interview, Sears expressed support for increased funding for mental health initiatives, including behavioral health facilities and school support staff. "We've got to find the money; we've got to prioritize," Sears said. "There are things if we don't address them, they are only going to get worse and mental health is absolutely one of them."

According to Spanberger's website, "Abigail believes that all Virginians deserve access to quality, affordable healthcare — and believes in protecting Virginia's Medicaid expansion and defending against efforts to dismantle the *Affordable Care Act*, which protects more than 1.3 million Virginians with pre-existing conditions."

PARENTS' RIGHTS

In a 2022 interview, Sears stated, "Parents want to know that their child is learning. If that is not happening, something needs to be done." She highlighted a bill that Gov. Youngkin signed that requires parental notification before sexually explicit content is presented, permits parental review of the materials, and requires the provision of non-explicit alternatives to any student upon parental request. In reaction to a June 2025 U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding Tennessee's ban on puberty blockers and other so-called gender transition procedures on minors, Sears stated: "The Court got it right: parents have the final say."

In 2023, as a member of Congress, Spanberger voted against the Parents Bill of Rights Act. This bill sought to require schools to notify parents of their right to know what their children are being taught, to address the school board, to see the school budget and spending, and to receive information about violent activity. The bill also specified the right of parents to "know if their child's school operates, sponsors, or facilitates athletic programs or activities that permit an individual whose biological sex is male to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designed for individuals whose biological sex is female" and to "know if their child's school allows an individual whose biological sex is male to use restrooms or changing rooms designated for individuals whose biological sex is female."

Disclaimer: As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the Virginia Catholic Conference is not associated with any political party and does not endorse any candidate, political party, or political action committee.

operations given in love

Donations Received September 23 - 30

Sunday Offertory	\$33,194.10
Special Diocesan Gaza Collection	\$6,835.00
Religious Education Collection	\$315.00
Parish Debt Reduction	\$1,482.00
Poor Box St Vincent de Paul	\$422.00

Thank you for your generosity!

World Mission Sunday October 18 & 19 "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples"

Each October, the Church invites us to rediscover our missionary vocation. This year, Pope Leo XIV, following the inspiration of Pope Francis, calls us to become "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples," inspired by St. Paul's words: "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5). In the 50th anniversary year of Evangelii Nuntiandi, we are reminded that "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers" (41). Through prayer, sacrifice, and giving, we too become witnesses—bringing the hope of Christ to those who long for love, justice, and peace. This month, with open hearts, let us respond to the Church's call to support the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is young, growing, and often persecuted. Together, may we be bearers of hope where it is needed most. Your generosity and support is most appreciated. All checks should be made payable to the parish.

Children's Charity - October

The children's charity that will benefit from Children's Offertory Envelopes in October is Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center in Spotsylvania. This organization strives to strengthen the coordinated community response to situations of child maltreatment, including sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, severe neglect and fatalities, by integrating the existing resources of law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, medical and therapeutic agencies so that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions and children are not further traumatized by the investigative process. Children's Offertory Envelopes are available through Religious

Education. All proceeds from these envelopes go to a different children's charity each month.

Pro Life Reflection

"Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life -especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen." (USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life", respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

October | The Month of the Rosary

By Apostolic Brief at the Eucharistic Congress of Bologna, in September 1927, a Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful who recite the Holy Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, either exposed for veneration or reserved in the Tabernacle.

All Souls Novena

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the best way to remember your deceased loved ones. Our All Souls Novena will begin on Sunday, November 2, All Souls Day. An intention envelope is included with your bimonthly envelope packet; additional envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church. **There is no collection on All Souls Day. Envelopes should be turned in early and will be placed near the Tabernacle during the Novena.**

You're invited to the St. Mary CCW's

Fall Bake Sale and Craft Bazaar

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Where: St. Mary Parish Life Center

When: Saturday, October 18

Time: 8am - 2pm

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liturgy daily bread

Saint Mary Prayer List - October

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: Angela Just, Bonita & Chuck Boyer, Gregory Ruth, Helen Ann Wagner, Jack Smith, Jacob Moser, Jason Stoker, Joe Sullivan, Keith Richardson, Laverne Ruth, Leon Goldstein, Martha Seymour, Mary Quinn, Maryann Seidlinger, Michael Fedowitz III, Rosemary Perez, Sue Silvers, William Pell II

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

Joseph Gardner, Glenn Dickinson, Paul Fischer, John Moring, Jamal Williams, Lance Schulte, Brian Hellman, Patrick Fenton, David James, Shawn Tupta, Vincent Petillo, Christopher Johnson III, Patrick Desmond, Andrew M. Smith, Mindy Hakenson, Xavier Alas, Anthony Howell, John Anthenor, Andrew Dowdy, Sean McCullum, Josue Bermudez, Julio A. Alarcon, Gabe Gonzalez, Shawn Herr, Logan Mullins, Greg Feroldi, Tyler Wood, Frank Spatt Jr., Thomas Wickham, Hunter Keiser, Sean Jobes, Michael Scott, Samuel Hoffman, Andrew Qualls, Matt Gioia, Jennifer Brothers, Jack Merker, Lieutenant Ashton Briganti, 2nd Lieutenant Tazman Briganti, Davon Bare, John Fartro, Michael Fedowitz Jr., Eric Menser, Sean Penczak, Will Atkins, Elijah Hornback, Dominic Marsillo, Fr. Sean Koehr, Staff Sergeant Sean Walker Brown, Matthew Sampson, Kenneth Linstrom, Lt. Gregory Odland, Andrew Doyle, Olav Brooks, Gabriel Sanger, Josh Lawson, David Brown, Annah Brown, Joshua Brown

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

St. Mary Prayer List

As a reminder, we will update our prayer list in the bulletin as a monthly listing. If you would like to include a person on the prayer list, please email stmary@stmaryfred.org or call the office at 540-373-6491.

Your intention will be included for the month. If you would like your intention to remain, please reach back out and we will happily include it for an additional month.

Did you know.... Our parishioners gather every Wednesday at 3pm – The Hour of Great Mercy - to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet?

All are warmly welcome to spend time in Adoration in the church and join in this powerful devotion.

"Jesus, I trust in You"



Mass Intentions

Please remember, Mass intentions may be requested at the parish office for any remaining Masses of the year. If a desired date is no longer available, 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.

Daily Mass Intentions

October

13 MONDAY

6:30am John Paul King

9:00am Joan B. Herr

12:00pm Sally Martino+

Rom 1:1-7/Lk 11:29-32

14 TUESDAY

6:30am Carlos Fortunato Martinez

9:00am Anna and Michael Yalch

12:00pm Brenda and Jesus Carranza

Rom 1:16-25/Lk 11:37-41

15 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Michael Peterson

8:15am* Paul Nestor

9:00am All Discalced Carmelites

12:00pm Betty Duffy

Rom 2:1-11/Lk 11:42-46

16 THURSDAY

6:30am Lori Mattson

9:00am Francisco Hernandez

12:00pm Robert Atkinson

Rom 3:21-30/Lk 11:47-54

17 FRIDAY

6:30am John Joseph McGee

9:00am Roland and Antoinette Casey+

12:00pm Anevi Adoga

Rom 4:1-8/Lk 12:1-7

18 SATURDAY

9:00am Robert and Timothy Campbell+

5:00pm Jeannette DuBois+

7:00pm Babette Bolger+

2 Tm 4:10-17b/Lk 10:1-9

19 SUNDAY

7:00am Jerome Murphy+

8:30am Jason Mooney+

8:30am* Anthony Macri+

10:30am Jack and Christopher Grey+

10:30am* The Clemente Family

12:30pm Louis and Dorothy Caiafa

2:30pm Josefine Bravo Araujo+

5:00pm For Our Parish

7:00pm Kathryn Kancel+

Ex 17:8-13/2 Tm 3:14—4:2/Lk 18:1-8

* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy.

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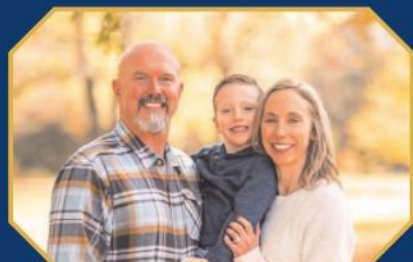
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