

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 19, 2025



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



capital campaign

grow our legacy in faith

Saint Pope John Paul II

Born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Jozef Wojtyla loved theatre and literature. He also enjoyed hiking, skiing, and spending time in nature. He was an avid outdoorsman. His early life was marked by immense personal suffering and loss. By the time he was 21, he had lost his entire immediate family. The grief and devastation that he experienced only deepened his faith and commitment to God. At the height of World War II, when Poland was under Nazi occupation, Karol began his studies in an underground seminary in Krakow.



St. John Paul II's decision to pursue the priesthood during this dangerous and uncertain time, was a testament to his courage and deep trust in God's plan for his life. In 1946, he became a priest. As a priest and a bishop in Poland, he built bridges between the Church and society, during the oppressive communist regime that occupied Poland, after the war. In 1978, Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope at the age of 58 becoming the first non-Italian Pope in over 450 years. His love for young people, his defense of human dignity and his tireless work for peace and justice continue to shape the Church today. St. John Paul II also had a deep devotion to Divine Mercy. This devotion began with the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, a fellow Polish saint. He canonized St. Faustina in 2000 and instituted Divine Mercy Sunday as a universal feast day of the Church. Fittingly, St. John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday. As we reflect on his life of extraordinary faith, courage, and devotion to God, we are reminded of his words: "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ." His feast day is on October 22nd.

"Share" opportunities available

In response to requests from parishioners who want to support purchasing larger items, such as the altar and stained-glass windows, we have created manageable "shares" on some items so that several families can co-sponsor a memorial opportunity.

Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel

St. Mary's Church

Stained Glass Windows* (3)	\$25k each
Tabernacle	\$10k

More items may be identified as we finalize the design of the Adoration Chapel.
*Subject to final design approval by the Bishop.

Contact Us - Availability is limited

Memorials are supplemental to your generous pledge. Thank you!
These opportunities are on a first-come, first-served basis.

All memorials will be acknowledged on our Holy Cross Academy cafeteria memorial wall.
Please get in touch with Donna Harring at the Parish Office at 540-373-6491.



from our pastor

Dear Folks,

Is your car a mess? Or your office? Or your inbox?

My car is actually pretty clean inside, while the outside is a little dirty. But I know lots of folks struggle with keeping a car interior clean, especially if they have children! I remember years ago my nephew being very concerned because he got chocolate all over the seats in my car. I laughed and said, "that is the price of being an uncle. Sometimes the chocolate is all over."

But my office? That is another story! Yikes, stacks of paper, all representing work or marriage prep or annulments or meeting requests or sales pitches and on and on and on.

And email inboxes? How many people just give up on trying to empty them out. My dad once asked for help clearing out the 27,000 emails out of his inbox. We just made him a new gmail account instead.

Ok... but what possible 'Jesus connection' am I thinking?

When you clean out your car/office/inbox, you suddenly become much more aware of previously unnoticed threats to re-cluttering your life. A candy wrapper in the car, an unreturned message on the desk, or email spam coming in.

The same thing can happen with our souls, especially if we haven't been to confession in ages. It is such an amazing experience as a priest to help people to clear out their souls of the debris and clutter of sin. Truly, as a priest, I rank it a privilege second only to transubstantiating bread and wine into Jesus.

Once we clear out the debris that was intimidating us from returning to Jesus, we become much more sensitive to maintaining the spiritual health and cleanliness of our souls. I often tell folks who return from many years away from the sacrament, "don't be surprised if you start to remember and recall smaller sins. Just bring them confidently to your next confession. Jesus will always welcome you home."

Pax,



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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL OF OUR ELECTRONIC OFFERTORY DONORS

We have been sharing information regarding the merger between Faith Direct & Parish Soft in the bulletin for the past several weeks.

You should have received an email from Parish Soft alerting you to changes. We encourage all electronic donors to please visit the **SAFE LINK BELOW** and make certain that the donation and frequency of your giving, matches your intention.

We appreciate your faithfulness and generosity! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or stop by the office.

We are here to help you!



Scan or visit

bit.ly/parish-soft

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

Grandparents Day

We are thrilled to share that Grandparents Day at Holy Cross Academy was a truly joyful and unforgettable experience! Our deepest gratitude goes to our dedicated PTO President, Mrs. Butts, along with her exceptional team of volunteers, who worked tirelessly to organize such a heartwarming and welcoming event.

The day was filled with a delightful array of hors d'oeuvres, finger foods, fresh fruits, and an assortment of cookies, providing a wonderful culinary experience that added a sweet touch to the festivities. Grandparents particularly relished the opportunity to immerse themselves in their grandchildren's classrooms, exploring the vibrant learning environments and engaging with the passionate teachers who nurture our students' growth. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the time spent together on the playground!

This occasion offered us a unique opportunity to highlight the hard work and achievements of both our students and staff and showcase our newly expanded campus. We are immensely grateful to the grandparents and special visitors who took time out of their busy schedules to join us. Your enthusiastic participation truly enriched the day and made it all the more special. Thank you for being an integral part of our Holy Cross Academy family! Your support and involvement mean the world to us.



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

THE SAINTS PARADE IS COMING!

Get your costumes ready!

The Religious Ed office is eagerly anticipating our annual Saints Parade scheduled for Friday, October 31, from 4:45pm-6pm in the Parish Life Center. This is a super-fun event in which students dress up as their favorite saint, participate in games, play All Saints Bingo, enjoy a scavenger hunt, and parade around the church grounds in costume. Students preparing for Confirmation host classroom displays in which they tell visitors all about the patron saint they've chosen. LOTS of candy is given out, and prizes are awarded for Best Costume!



Remember that November 1 is All Saints Day! If you like, you can stay after the parade and attend the Latin Mass Vigil at 6pm, or bring your family on Saturday to one of the many daytime Masses to celebrate the holiday.

The Saints Parade is a mandatory event for all students in Religious Ed. Bring your Event Attendance slips to class the following week for attendance credit.

"We love the saints as friends and helpers, so that we may imitate their virtues and be aided by their prayers."
- St. Augustine

"The saints are not distant from us, but are the true light for our path."
- Pope Benedict XVI

ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are compiling a list of children enrolled in Religious Education who have not yet been baptized. They will be baptized in January. If your child has not yet been baptized, PLEASE LET US KNOW RIGHT AWAY!

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	1 RE: 6:30-7:45	2	3	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

First Baking with the Saints Night!

Last week, we were able to host our very first Baking with the Saints mother-daughter cooking night! Baking with the Saints was created by the Diocese of Arlington for youth ministries to implement in their parishes, and each evening focuses on a different saint and a delicious baked good that they enjoyed! For our first event, we learned about St. Pope John Paul II and his love for kremówka papieska, or papal cream cakes! Mothers and daughters followed a guided recipe for these delicious pastries and had the chance to have family-based discussions on what they can learn from St. John Paul II and how he handled faith and hardships in his life. At the end of the night, everyone got to taste their creations and bring a tray home to share with the rest of their family. It was a lovely night, and we can't wait to host another one!

If you are interested in helping out with future Baking with the Saints events, or would like to be notified when we have our next date and recipe set, please email Catie at cespiritu@stmaryfred.org.



our parish happenings

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. **Envelopes should be turned in early and will be placed near the Tabernacle during the Novena.**

Calling all Scouts!

Catholic Scouts who are interested in completing their Ad Altare Dei (grades 6-12) or Pope Pius XII (grades 9-12) religious emblems can do so virtually on Zoom by having a parent reach out to Dan Pare at dan.pare.us@gmail.com. The program will run about eight weeks on Wed nights from Nov-Jan. Awards will be presented on Scout Sunday.

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

Hesed House (Hebrew word for love)

It's time for St. Mary's to supply items for a room at the Hesed House for a new neighbor!



Micah Ecumenical Ministries opened up the Hesed House. It was formally a rundown motel in the college heights area of Fredericksburg, off of Rt.1. Together with the downtown churches, it has been renovated and currently serves as a temporary home for adults in need of shelter while a more permanent solution is found. A true blessing.

As part of our support of the Hesed House, St. Mary's will continue to donate items as needed. When a resident moves on, they are able to take their bedding, towels, toiletries etc. and a few items with them. New items are now needed for the next resident. Please visit the link below which has items listed, and sign-up to donate an item or two!

Please bring your donation to the parish office, and label it "Hesed House" Questions? Reach out to Megan D'Lugos at thedlugos5@gmail.com

God bless you! <https://bit.ly/47dc34L>

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 OCTOBER

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

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.

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 kwals@pbconline.com.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul- September

Did you know that the Poor Box located in the back of our church helps to fund the good work of our local St. Vincent de Paul?

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides financial grants, prayers and emotional support every Thursday evening to folks right here in our community encountering emergency situations. Proceeds from the all-volunteer Thrift Store located at 142 Olde Greenwich Rd. Fredericksburg, along with private donations and the Poor Box make this assistance possible. September's Poor Box contributions were \$2,448 and 66 families (totaling 213 people) were interviewed, and the Society provided \$24,932 in financial assistance to these families.



If you would like to volunteer with the Society, either working at the Thrift Store or being trained to interview clients on Thursday nights, please contact Amy Pata at ramrap94@hotmail.com or Maureen at mjones@mckcompany.com. To provide financial assistance, please continue to use the Poor Box.

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.**



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."

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Donations Received October 1 - 6

Sunday Offertory	\$37,206.00
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception	\$4,212.00
World Mission Sunday	\$203.00
Parish Debt Reduction	\$156.00
Poor Box St Vincent de Paul	\$137.00

Faith Direct Donations September 25 - 30

Sunday Offertory	\$1,045.00
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception	\$25.00
Manna Food Project	\$50.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Porto Charities Annual Collection for God's Special Children October 25 & 26

The month of October has been designated as Disabilities Awareness Month, and Bishop Burbidge has enthusiastically endorsed Porto Charities "Special Kids, Special Needs Collection" on behalf of intellectually and developmentally challenged youth within the diocese. 100% of ALL donations become grants awarded to Catholic schools right here in our Diocese so that they may start new programs to welcome students with disabilities, or expand their current services for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our parish has also been blessed to have received a grant from Porto Charities for our SPRED Program for the past two years. Next Sunday there will be a second collection to assist these special need programs. The Bishop has sanctioned this collection as a blessing for God's Special Children, their families and this entire diocese. Please be generous in your support of this worthwhile endeavor. All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Catholic Church. For more information, visit portocharities.org.

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

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." (Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.)

We pray for women and men suffering after abortion: May the Church's abortion healing ministry, Project Rachel, help them find forgiveness and peace through Christ's endless mercy.

Help After Abortion (Project Rachel)

Project Rachel is a diocesan post-abortion ministry that offers an integrated approach to healing for anyone affected by abortion with the compassionate support of trained staff, priests and licensed mental health professionals who understand this experience of unresolved sorrow, trauma and grief with the utmost care, compassion and sensitivity. For confidential help, please contact us:

Helpline Info: (703) 841-2504 (888-456-HOPE)

For Men: (703) 841-3833

Email: info@helpafterabortion.org or info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org

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Other Resources: helpafterabortion.org | [facebook.com/HelpAfterAbortion](https://www.facebook.com/HelpAfterAbortion)

HelpAfterAbortion



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

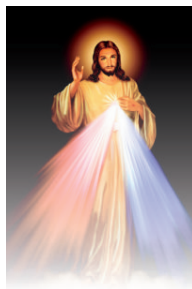
As a reminder, we will update our prayer list in the bulletin as a monthly listing. If you would like to include a person on the prayer list, please email stmary@stmaryfred.org or call the office at 540-373-6491.

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

20 MONDAY

6:30am Joe Daley+
9:00am Jose Luis Miranda+
12:00pm Charles Garret
Rom 4:20-25/Lk 12:13-21

21 TUESDAY

6:30am David Toigo+
9:00am Margaret Dougherty+
12:00pm Manuela Hernandez Dy+
Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Lk 12:35-38

22 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Manuel Robles+
8:15am* Mary Buer
9:00am Bernie and Ruth Tucker
12:00pm Margaret Spets+
Rom 6:12-18/Lk 12:39-48

23 THURSDAY

6:30am Bob Young
9:00am Kathryn and Edward Stack
12:00pm Fr. John Mosimann
Rom 6:19-23/Lk 12:49-53

24 FRIDAY

6:30am Marion McCabe
9:00am Marilyn Marlow+
12:00pm Noble Inguanti
Rom 7:18-25a/Lk 12:54-59

25 SATURDAY

9:00am Frank and Lee Mikalcus
5:00pm Providence Moeller+
7:00pm Luke Engbert
Rom 8:1-11/Lk 13:1-9

26 SUNDAY

7:00am Jack Grey+
8:30am Mr. And Mrs. Frank Gasper+
8:30am* Rosario Marinas+
10:30am Jim Mosimann
10:30am* For Our Parish
12:30pm Our Military Living and Deceased
2:30pm Consuelo Villagrana Rivera+
5:00pm Luis Aguilera+
7:00pm The D'Ostilio & Clemens Families
Sir 35:12-18/2 Tm 4:6-18/Lk 18:9-14

* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy.

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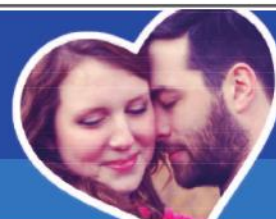
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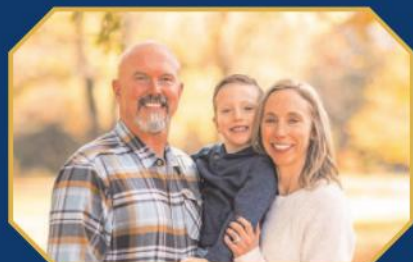
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