

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 16, 2025



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

capital campaign

grow our legacy in faith

Capital Campaign/Building Update | Promises Made...Promises Kept

Many project improvement priorities that were discussed during the 2022 Capital Campaign are taking shape and have been accomplished! It is by your continued commitment to the Capital Campaign that this is all being made possible. We are looking forward to seeing these projects come to fruition and obtaining the full benefits of these enhancements as we continue to grow together in faith. Thank you for your unwavering faith and generosity. Here are some highlights of what has been accomplished over the past several weeks.

Sanctuary - Improvements to the Sanctuary have provided much-needed seating for the priests and altar servers during Mass. Father would have loved to move the altar back and refinish the flooring. But the scope of this project was scaled back due to the prohibitive cost of protecting the organ. Future consideration will be given to refinishing the wood flooring.

Update Parish Life Center Kitchen - We are happy to announce that two new stoves and two new grill tops, and a new dishwasher were purchased and recently installed in the Parish Life Center. Now that the Pre-School has moved to Holy Cross Academy, we are looking forward to bringing our seniors together and hosting Senior Luncheons.

Interconnected Sidewalks - Four new sidewalks are to be added to the Parish Campus to meet compliance standards, facilitating permanent occupancy of the St. Joseph House. Three of the four sidewalks have been completed, and the one remaining will be finished by the end of the month.

Rectory - Remodeling the Rectory to accommodate guests and Seminarians will provide a comfortable and welcoming place to stay. The design has been finalized. Detailed plans for utilities (HVAC, etc.) are being developed for final pricing.

Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel - The mason was hard at work this past week, cutting the new entryway into the chapel, and a new entrance door was installed. Construction continues.

"To be alone with Jesus in adoration and intimate union with Him is the Greatest Gift of Love - the tender love of Our Father in Heaven". - *Mother Teresa*



Have you prayerfully considered a Memorialization Opportunity?

May the spirit of Advent inspire your generosity. As the year draws to a close, please consider an enduring act of memorialization, offering a lasting tribute to your loved ones while leveraging end-of-year charitable contribution tax benefits for the good of our community.

from our pastor

Dear Folks,

This past week was the first ever 'Diocesan Week of Service' to highlight and encourage every parish and school in the diocese to serve our brothers and sisters in need. For our part, over 100 bags have arrived filled to the brim with Thanksgiving meal ingredients along with \$25 gift cards for turkeys! The Knights of Columbus generously donated more turkeys and brand new coats for those in need! Furthermore, the whole parish/school donated 300+ coats and they are still arriving at the office! I am sure you will read about more diocesan wide events in the Catholic Herald soon!

This Veteran's Day we hosted the 2nd Annual Mass & Luncheon for Veterans and their families. It falls on the feast of St. Martin of Tours (who was himself a Roman Soldier)! It was a lovely affair complete with music, a visit from the color guard and a lunch of pulled pork and homemade beans, with plenty of dessert! Thank you to the Morton's, Lara Traylor and Ann Skinner and the many volunteers who generously served our seniors and veterans!

"Triumph of the Heart "

We have arranged a parish screening of the theatrical released movie: "Triumph of the Heart" which came out this fall. Come on Friday, December 5th to HCA for a parish screening at 7pm. There is more info in the bulletin here, so check that out. No tickets are being sold, but if anyone wants to contribute to offset the cost, such would not be refused! BYOP: bring your own popcorn, and snack, but please avoid Cracker Jacks and peanuts!!

Pax,



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

announcements



St. Mary Coffee & Donut Shop

Following ALL Morning Masses

Come and enjoy some
fellowship!

*The St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception Roman Catholic Church*

2026 Mass Intentions Book

Will be available in the parish office on:

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

contact us

stmaryfred.org

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

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

Honoring Our Heroes This Veterans Day

This Sunday, we joyfully celebrate Veterans Day and give heartfelt thanks to the brave men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication. Their strength and commitment to protecting our freedoms inspire us every day.

To all our veterans—past and present—thank you for your service. We honor you, we salute you, and we are forever grateful. May God bless you and your families today and always.

Inside Holy Cross Academy: Parent Scoop

We're the Barton family, and moving here in 2016 with our four daughters was life-changing. Enrolling our two oldest at Holy Cross Academy in kindergarten and first grade was the best decision we've ever made.

It's not just about academics—HCA's reputation speaks for itself. Teachers focus on helping each child reach their full potential, not just meet a test score. Whether your child is excelling or needs extra support, they'll be challenged, encouraged, and cared for.

It's not just about faith—though it's deeply woven into every part of HCA. From the crowned Mary at the entrance to the chapel at the heart of the school, God's presence is felt daily. Students pray together, show reverence, and build personal relationships with priests who teach, eat lunch with them, and cheer them on.

It's about character. Our children are learning to reflect on their actions, understand dignity, and build life skills like time management and communication. By 8th grade, they're ready to take on high school with confidence and independence. Leadership is nurtured in every form—not just

through sports or student council, but through everyday opportunities to grow and lead.

Our children are mind, body, and soul—perfectly and wonderfully made. What sets HCA apart is its commitment to helping each child become the person God created them to be.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence*



our parish religious education

BAPTISMS 2026

Religious Education students who are not yet baptized are invited to be baptized in January. Baptism dates are January 10 or January 24 at 10am. Parents and godparents must first attend a Baptism class. A bilingual (Spanish and English) class will be held on Monday, December 1, at 6:30pm in the JP2 House. Another Baptism class is available in English on Saturday, December 6, at 10:30am in the JP2 House, and a Baptism class in Spanish is offered on Saturday, December 6, at 12:00pm in the JP2 House. Parents and godparents do NOT need to sign up ahead of time to attend these classes.



FIRST COMMUNION 2026

Parents of 2nd grade and First Communion Year 2 (Lower and Upper) students met last week to talk about preparing their children to receive this holy Sacrament in the spring. If you missed this meeting, please contact Dr. Evans for the meeting notes.

Elementary students preparing for First Communion will enjoy this video on Formed: app.formed.org/app/videos/578623



November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All Saints Day CAT CERT 104-1
2	3 RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45	4 RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15 HCA 6:30-7:45	5 RE: 6:30-7:45	6	7	8 Girls' Confirmation Retreat 9-3:30 HCA CAT CERT 104-2
9	10 RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45 FC Yr 2 Mtg 7pm	11 RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15 HCA 6:30-7:45	12 RE: 6:30-7:45	13	14	15 Boys' Confirmation Retreat 9-3:30 HCA Catechetical Conference 7-4
16	17 RE: 4:45-6, 6:30-7:45	18 RE: 4:45-6, 6-7:15 HCA 6:30-7:45	19 RE: 6:30-7:45	20 CONFIRMATION Yr 2 Formation Night #1 7pm	21	22 CAT CERT 105-1
23	24 NO RE	25 NO RE	26 NO RE	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

our parish youth ministry

2025 High School RALLY!

On October 26, 53 teens from St. Mary joined with hundreds of others across the diocese for RALLY at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington! Teens experienced a day of fun-filled faith as a young church, with keynote speakers, breakout sessions, Mass and Adoration, games and inflatables, an illusionist, and lots of food!

All high school students can mark their calendars for next year's RALLY, taking place on Sunday, October 25, 2026! We hope to see you there!



OCIT Students Participate in All Saints Parade!

We were so happy to see some of our OCIT students and volunteers participate in the All Saints Parade held on October 31st! These teens are preparing to receive their sacraments and really got into the spirit of the event by dressing up as their favorite saints!



ST. MARY YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 HSYG	3	4	5 YOUCAT	6	7 MSYG	8 FIGHT CLUB
9 HSYG	10	11	12 YOUCAT	13 FEMININE GENIUS	14 SENIOR MINISTRY	15 FIGHT CLUB
16 HSYG	17	18	19 YOUCAT	20	21 MSYG	22 FIGHT CLUB
23 HSYG	24	25	26 NO YOUCAT	27 NO FEMININE GENIUS	28	29 NO FIGHT CLUB
30 NO HSYG THANKS- GIVING	1	2	3 YOUCAT	4	5	6 FIGHT CLUB

"I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME; YOU ARE MINE." ISAIAH 43:1

our parish happenings



ST. MARY'S ONE-TIME SCREENING

TRIUMPH of the HEART

THE PASSION OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

Friday, December 5 at 7pm
Holy Cross Academy

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ORDER
TO ASSIST WITH SCREENING FEES

RSVP number of attending guests to stmary@stmaryfred.org

Seating is metal chairs — Feel free to bring your own though!

You are welcome to bring (peanut-free) snacks

THE FILM IS NOT RATED BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT
DUE TO SOME DIFFICULT SCENES (STARVATION AND
INTENSE SUFFERING) IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIGH
SCHOOL AGED AND OLDER. MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
ARE WELCOME WITH THEIR PARENTS PRESENT.

Background

I lost my faith and wanted to die.

My name is Anthony D'Ambrosio, and I'm the writer and director of *Triumph of the Heart*.

I was a good Catholic. I did the right things. I even went to seminary, but I left when I fell in love.

But just before I got engaged, everything fell apart.

I got sick. An undiagnosed medical condition destroyed my life. I couldn't sleep. My relationship ended. I could barely hold down my job. And worst of all, there was no cure—no end in sight.

The darkness closed in, and I lost my faith. I didn't want to live anymore.

But then I remembered Kolbe.

St. Maximilian Kolbe was a priest, a writer, and a Catholic friar. During World War II, he was arrested and sent to Auschwitz for his vocal opposition to the ideologies of the day.

He watched as 10 men were condemned to die in the starvation bunker—a brutal death sentence. When one man cried out, "My wife, my children!" Kolbe stepped forward and offered his own life in exchange.

I kept coming back to that starvation bunker—the place where Kolbe chose to love in the face of unimaginable suffering. I thought about how he forged a brotherhood in that darkness, how he transformed despair into hope. Slowly, a light began to break through.

Kolbe's story gave me a way forward, and this film is my way of sharing that light with the world.

In an age that runs from pain and avoids the cost of love, Kolbe shows us another way. He is a saint for our time—and his story is one we all need to hear.

-Anthony D'Ambrosio

our parish happenings

Lara Traylor to Address CCW

Please join your Council of Catholic Women at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 18 in the Parish Life Center main hall. We will welcome Lara Traylor, whom you may know as the St. Mary Senior Luncheon Coordinator. Lara is Regional Field Coordinator with the Rappahannock EMS Council. She will present a "Stroke Smart Training" program. After Lara's talk we will enjoy a refreshments break, a 50/50 \$\$ drawing, and have Fall Raffle tickets available. We'll conclude with a brief business meeting to keep you informed. This will be a fun and enlightening meeting; we hope you can make it! Check out our website, stmaryccw.org, and follow us on Facebook at fb.com/StMaryCCW.



~ 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 NOVEMBER

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

**Drop off donations to the parish office by
Friday, November 21st**

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

Holy Land Carvings

On the weekend of Nov. 29th/30th, 2025, there will be a display of beautiful olivewood handmade carvings from the Holy Land in our church. These carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their main source of income. These brothers and sisters of ours are enduring hardships Especially Now because of the volatile situation in their home country.

Christians in the Holy Land used to be more than 37% of the population. There is less than 1% now. As Christians of faith, it is our duty to support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after mass. For more information, please contact us at 202-302-5889 or visit BethlehemCarvings.org.



 Knights of Columbus

Christmas TREE SALES

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 23

BEHIND THE CHURCH

These are Virginia grown (Mt. Rogers), freshly cut premium Fraser Firs with beautiful long-lasting soft needles and that great memorable evergreen smell.

The best selection and freshest trees of course are when the trees arrive. The trees will be sold on weekends from 9am-6:30pm and weekdays (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) from 3-8pm through December 21 or until we sell out.

Interested in volunteering or have questions? Please email Joe Cralle at jacralle@gmail.com

our parish happenings

Have a Scrip kind of Christmas

Christmas is coming! Have you placed your Scrip order yet?? The last day to order Scrip cards is 15 December to ensure Christmas delivery. The last weekend for Scrip sales after masses will be the 20/21 December. Scrip is a great way to shop for all your holiday needs. Start pre-ordering your cards now so you can be ready bright and early for the Holidays. We have many great retailers like Walmart, Target, Macy's, Kohl's, Lowes, Home Depot, Bass Pro Shops, and many more in inventory now. We can order other cards from over 750 retailers. There are no activation fees on Scrip gift cards, and they don't expire. Check out the retailer list at **raiseright.com**. Scrip can help you budget your holiday shopping expenses and help HCA at the same time. Stop by the Scrip table today and find out how to use Scrip for all your shopping needs! Shop early and support HCA! Scrip sales will resume on January 6/7, 2024.

To set up an account at **raiseright.com**, use our school code, so Holy Cross Academy gets credit for your purchase. If you have any questions about SCRIP or would like the school code, or to place an order, please email the Scrip Coordinator at **scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com**. Thanks for using Scrip and supporting Holy Cross Academy.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul- November

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 \$1,394 and 87 families (totaling 261 people) were interviewed, and the Society provided \$26,382 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.

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!

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.

our parish happenings



ADOPT-A-SENIOR: Advent Outreach Opportunity

As we journey through the blessed season of Advent, we are called not only to wait with hope but to share the love and joy that Christ has so freely given to us.

How to Participate:

1. Sign Up: Click the link below to "adopt-a-senior" <https://bit.ly/47PVQTr>

2. Receive Assignment: You will be contacted with the name and address of the senior parishioner you will visit (for privacy).

3. Pick Up Kit: Visit the Parish Office to pick up your gift basket.

- The basket contains a Crucifix, a Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary plaque, command hooks and an Enthronement prayer.

- **\$35 Donation:** A suggested donation is requested to cover the cost of the sacred items.

4. Visit & Enthronement:

- Visit your senior.
- Offer companionship (listen, pray, sit with them).
- Hang up the Crucifix and plaque in their room, where they can see these sacred items from their bed.
- Lead them through the **Enthronement** using the provided prayers.

Notes:

- The Legion of Mary noticed that many seniors lacked crucifixes and sacred pictures in their room and worked individually with each one to confirm they would welcome this gift.
- **Know a Homebound Senior?** If you know a homebound parishioner who would welcome a visit, please reach out.
- Questions? Contact Elena Doyle at edoyle@stmaryfred.org.

And in the end-it is we who are the recipients of this greatest gift – the gift of human connection and the deep peace that comes from sharing God's love.



Breakfast
with Santa

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8AM - 12NOON

PARISH LIFE CENTER

JOIN US FOR A **FREE**
BREAKFAST AND A VISIT
FROM ST. NICK!

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

SPONSORED BY
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4034

our parish military spotlight

Chad Hallett - Army

Served in the Army for 13.5 years. He was stationed in Ft Knox, KY; Ft Huachuca, AZ; Ft Lewis, WA; Iraq, Ft Leonard Wood, MO, Ft Huachuca, AZ; Ft Belvoir, VA; Ft Meade, MD. He joined at the age of 20 then started a family. He served first as HUMINT (interrogator) and later as a Special Agent with Army CID doing felony level investigations and executive protection. He joined the Army because it is a family tradition. Discipline and a never quit attitude are aspects of the service that have influenced him the most. The military led him back to the Church. He baptized during Basic Training.

Lawrence Snow - Army, Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Army Reserve

Served in the Army, Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Army Reserve from 1985-2021. He was stationed in Fort Huachuca, Middle East. He began as a member of the Army Reserves, then joined the Army ROTC and transferred to the PA Army National Guard, gained his commission and served as a junior intelligence officer on battalion staff. He then subsequently served in the following roles within the PA Army National Guard: battalion liaison officer, Chemical Officer, light infantry platoon leader, TOW platoon leader, battalion Intelligence officer for an Armor Battalion, and assistant Brigade intelligence officer. He then transferred back to the Army Reserves and served on the intelligence staff for the Army Material Command, as a reserve soldier. He activated and served with Special Operations Command – Central Command – within the Middle East Theater as an intelligence officer. He returned to the States and served as a reservist and was called up to activate and form a new unit for the Army Reserves, 09L, a native and heritage linguist unit. He served as the commander for over 6 years. He joined because he felt that it was his obligation and calling to serve our Nation. The part of the service that has influenced me the most is the selfless sacrifices that so many service people give for the freedom of those in our country and around the world. The

sacrifices/freedoms that so many people take for granted and abuse, the freedoms that were given at the cost of the lives of others, and knowing that those service men and women would do it all again because they know the true cost of freedom. His faith has assisted him in facing challenges of military life by trying to see God in everything and to bring God into all of his decisions. *"Sometimes it was difficult to understand the growth that God wanted me to have any a given situation; however, it was through faith in Him and confidence in His grace that I was able to see the light on the other side of the situation and to move through using that light".*

Jorge A. Esparza - Navy & Marine Corp

He started as a Midshipman in the Navy at the US Naval Academy and then accepted a commission with the Marine Corps as an officer. He retired from the Marine Corps after 20 years of service. He was stationed in Camp Lejeune, NC; Okinawa, Japan; Monterey, CA; and Quantico, VA. He started his service as a Midshipman in the Navy at the United States Naval Academy from 1983 to 1987. After graduating, he accepted a commission with the Marine Corps and had his initial officer training at The Basic School, Quantico, VA, during the second half of 1987. He then received his initial specialty training in motor transport at Camp Johnson, NC. His first duty station was with the 9th Motor Transport Battalion in Okinawa, Japan. While he was there, he deployed to South Korea. After this tour of duty, he went to the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated with a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering in December of 1993. He did his follow-on tour as an Electrical Engineering instructor at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, from December 1993 to May 1997. He went back to the Fleet and served as an Operations Officer with a Marine Wing Support Battalion and Military Logistics Planner with the Marine Corps Wing Headquarters. During his time there, he deployed to South Korea and Thailand. After this tour of duty, he came back to the States in July 2000 to Quantico, VA, where he stayed until



our parish military spotlight

retirement, with a short stint at Fallujah, Iraq, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he helped with the two Iraqi elections. Retired in May 2007. He joined because he felt a strong obligation to serve this great country. What influenced him the most during his service was the great people that he worked with, especially the Catholic Chaplains and other strong Catholics, who led me back to the Church. During my service, he has witnessed many things that can disturb your faith. He is grateful that Catholic Chaplains were available to him to help him through this challenge.

Jonathan Rost - Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Army ROTC

He served about 5 1/2 years on active duty, followed by 5 years in the National Guard, then by 17 1/2 years in the Army Reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Most of his service time was spent in the United States. He did serve a year in Korea while on active duty. That period included my most memorable event involving Church and service. While serving with his battalion on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea, our brigade chaplain visited us to say Mass. At the start of the Mass, (which was conducted in the mess tent, as in MASH), he gave a conditional absolution to all in attendance so that we could participate in Communion. That was the only time he had received such absolution, and it made him realize how important such an event was to his well-being. He ran into that Chaplain about 17 years later, near Atlanta, where he was stationed, and told him how his actions stuck in his mind. While in the Army Reserve, he served in a Military Police (MP) unit in Chicago. The Chaplain in that unit served as an administrator of the Diocesan seminary in Chicago. He later became an Auxiliary Bishop. He had occasion to work with Egyptian forces near Cairo while in the Army Reserve. He had the opportunity to visit the Pyramids.

Christian Joseph

He served in the United States Marine Corps for 30 years. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC x2, Quantico, VA, Garden City, NY, Okinawa, Japan, Kaneohe Bay, HI and Arlington, VA. Mr. Joseph had the honor of serving nearly thirty years in the Marine Corps, eventually retiring as a Chief Warrant Office 5 on 30 November 2024. His career took me around the world, with over a decade of service in locations OCONUS and deployments in support of OEF and Pacific Military exercises and ceremonies. As a new Marine who entered the Marine Corps with a spouse and child, was very fortunate to have had leaders who were genuinely interested in his success at both work, home and spiritual growth. He took this experience with him throughout his career and when placed in a leadership position, ensured all his Marines had the opportunity to receive this same experience. He joined because he was looking for an opportunity to serve my country and challenge myself mentally and physically, "As a leader of Marines, you are challenged daily. My Marines became an extension of my family. Many of them were away from home (parent(s) for the very first time. I created opportunities where all my Marines had a support network during any challenge and felt like they were part of the team upon arrival. This approach has had a major influence in my life; service based on integrity and accountability even when tough decisions had to be made"

Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for men." I maintained a very focused moral compass and performed at a consistently high level throughout my career. My faith has guided my work ethic and family life, and directly contributed to my success in both"

vida parroquial

noticias en español



ADORACIÓN
Eucarística
Martes 11 de Noviembre
7:00PM
—
📍 **St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception**
Habrán confesiones



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 parish happenings

St Therese Relics at the Carmel of Port Tobacco 5678 Mt Carmel Rd La Plata, MD 20646

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

*"I would like to preach the Gospel
on all five continents... until the
consummation of the ages."*

Her relics visit the United States
October 1 – December 8, 2025
the 100th anniversary of her
Canonization and the Jubilee Year



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

See our website to sign up:

<https://www.carmelofporttobacco.com/news/upcoming-fundraising-events>

Sunday, November 23

7:30 am – Public veneration of relics begins
7:30 am – Morning Prayer
8:00 am – Mass
4:30 pm – Evening Prayer and Office of Readings
6:30 pm – Compline
8:00 pm – Chapel doors closed (veneration ends by 8:30 pm)

Monday, November 24

6:30 a.m. Public veneration begins.
6:50 a.m. Morning Prayer.
7:15 a.m. Mass.
4:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Office of Readings.
6:30 p.m. Compline.
8:00 p.m. chapel doors closed. Veneration ends by 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 25

6:30 a.m. Veneration of relics.
6:50 a.m. Morning Prayer.
7:15 a.m. Mass. After Mass, the relics depart

operations given in love

Donations Received October 28 - November 3

Sunday Offertory	\$29,252.80
Parish Debt Reduction	\$7,154.00
Special Kids Special Needs	\$1,000.00
All Saints Day	\$5,096.00
All Souls Novena	\$10,336.00

Online Giving Donations for October

Sunday Offertory	\$104,185.38
Parish Debt Reduction	\$6,268.35
World Mission Sunday	\$2,856.00
Special Kids Special Needs	\$2,925.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Masses were offered in October for the following unscheduled intentions: +Joan Powell, +Randall Vandivert, Jim Gralton, +Emma Jean Cinwell, Daniel & Sophie Wheeler, +Jack Leffel, +Dr. Edwin John Feuner, Jr., Father Renner, and the Souls in Purgatory.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Working On The Margins November 22 & 23

Our second collection next weekend is to support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. There are over 37 million people in the United States living in poverty, and this collection supports programs to empower local communities to address the challenges they face. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports those living in poverty across the country to identify and address the unique obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition, 25 percent of funds collected will remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a hand out. Please be generous.

En la próxima semana, nuestra segunda colecta será para la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano. En los Estados Unidos hay más de 37 millones de personas que viven en la pobreza y esta colecta financia programas para capacitar

a las comunidades locales para enfrentar los desafíos que se les presenten. La Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano apoya a aquellos que viven en la pobreza en nuestro país a fin de identificar y encarar los singulares obstáculos que ellos enfrentan mientras que tratan de salir de la pobreza. Además, el 25 por ciento de los fondos recaudados permanecerán en nuestra diócesis para financiar proyectos anti-pobreza en nuestra área. Al contribuir a esta colecta, ustedes están dándoles una mano, no una limosna, a aquellos que viven en la periferia. Por favor, sean generosos.

Children's Charity - November

Children's Offertory Contributions in November will be used for Christmas gifts for teenagers in foster care in the City of Fredericksburg. This age group is often overlooked at Christmas, and the contributions made in November will be sent to Social Services for gifts or gift cards. Children's Offertory Envelopes are available in the Religious Education Office. All proceeds from these envelopes go to a different children's charity each month.

Pro Life Reflection

"We can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well... Adopting Andrew has made us more aware of God's power and of His love for us. We realize that He always has a perfect plan for our lives." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "An Adoption Love Story" (respectlife.org/adoption-love-story)

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. This occasion is an opportunity to highlight the gift of adoption. Resources are available to assist you in supporting and praying for all whose lives are touched by adoption: An Adoption Love Story • Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption • Novena to St. Joseph: For Those on the Path of Adoption.

November is also National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

This is a great opportunity to highlight the topics of hospice, palliative care, and other end-of-life issues. The following resources are available: Catholic Care for the Sick and Dying featuring prayers, articles, and educational resources to help Catholics bear Christ's love to those who are suffering from illness or dying. Browse End-of-Life Resources in the Respect Life Store. Several resources are available in the Respect Life Store that highlight different issues at the end of life including: accompaniment, assisted suicide, advance directives, and more.

Visit respectlife.org for more resources and information from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.



liturgy daily bread

Saint Mary Prayer List - November

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: Carolyn Dammers, Chris Breth, Christopher Lambert, Dennis Staszak, Drew LoRusso, Jack Smith, Jason Stoker, JoAnne O'Brien, Joseph Krieg, Keith and Theresa Kovalefsky, Logan Leslie, Margaret Murphy, Maria Mangini, Maryann Carroll, Maureen Guilfoyle, Michael Bare, Michael Fedowitz III, Richard Smith, Rosemary Perez, Shirley Bozicevic, Sue Moorefield, Susan Harvin, William Pell, Keith Richardson, Joe Sullivan, Laverne Ruth, Gregory Ruth, Eric Williams, Mary Ann Gragan

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, Diego Esparza, Brian Inguanti, LCDR Jason King,

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

November

17 MONDAY

6:30am Melvin Engbert+
9:00am Jack Alrutz+
12:00pm Eric De La Riva
1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Lk 18:35-43

18 TUESDAY

6:30am JoAnn Walls+
9:00am Rita Vargas
12:00pm Deacon Don McAskill+
2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10

19 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Pedro Dacallos+
8:15am* Salsberry Family
9:00am Shirley Barlow+
12:00pm Edward McNamara+
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Lk 19:11-28

20 THURSDAY

6:30am Emilia Quiles+
9:00am Joseph Green+
12:00pm Harry J. Wells+
1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44

21 FRIDAY

6:30am Santiago Hernandez+
9:00am Charles White+
12:00pm Ann Duhamel
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48

22 SATURDAY

9:00am Louis and Carolyn Farrell
5:00pm Norvilia Cain
7:00pm Samuel Meza-Arce
1 Mc 6:1-13/Lk 20:27-40

23 SUNDAY

7:00am Amelia Hernandez+
8:30am Mike and Jackie Sims
8:30am* Jerry Martin+
10:30am Jonathan Lalonde+
10:30am* Clement Coates+
12:30pm Robert Prosky+
2:30pm Maria Juliana Montoya
5:00pm For Our Parish
7:00pm Ann and George Graf+
2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy.

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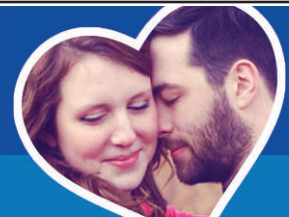
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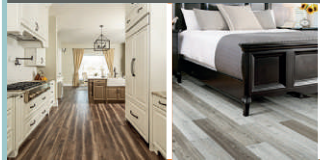
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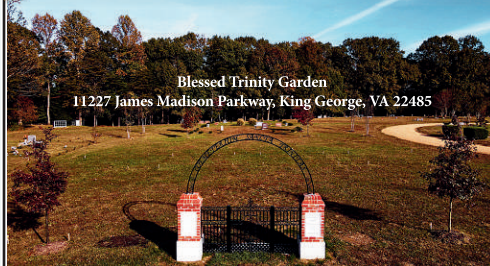
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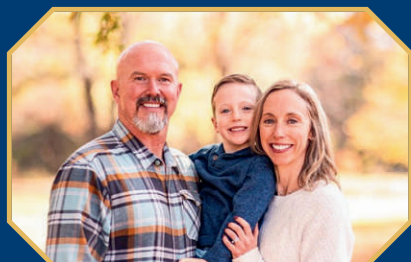
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