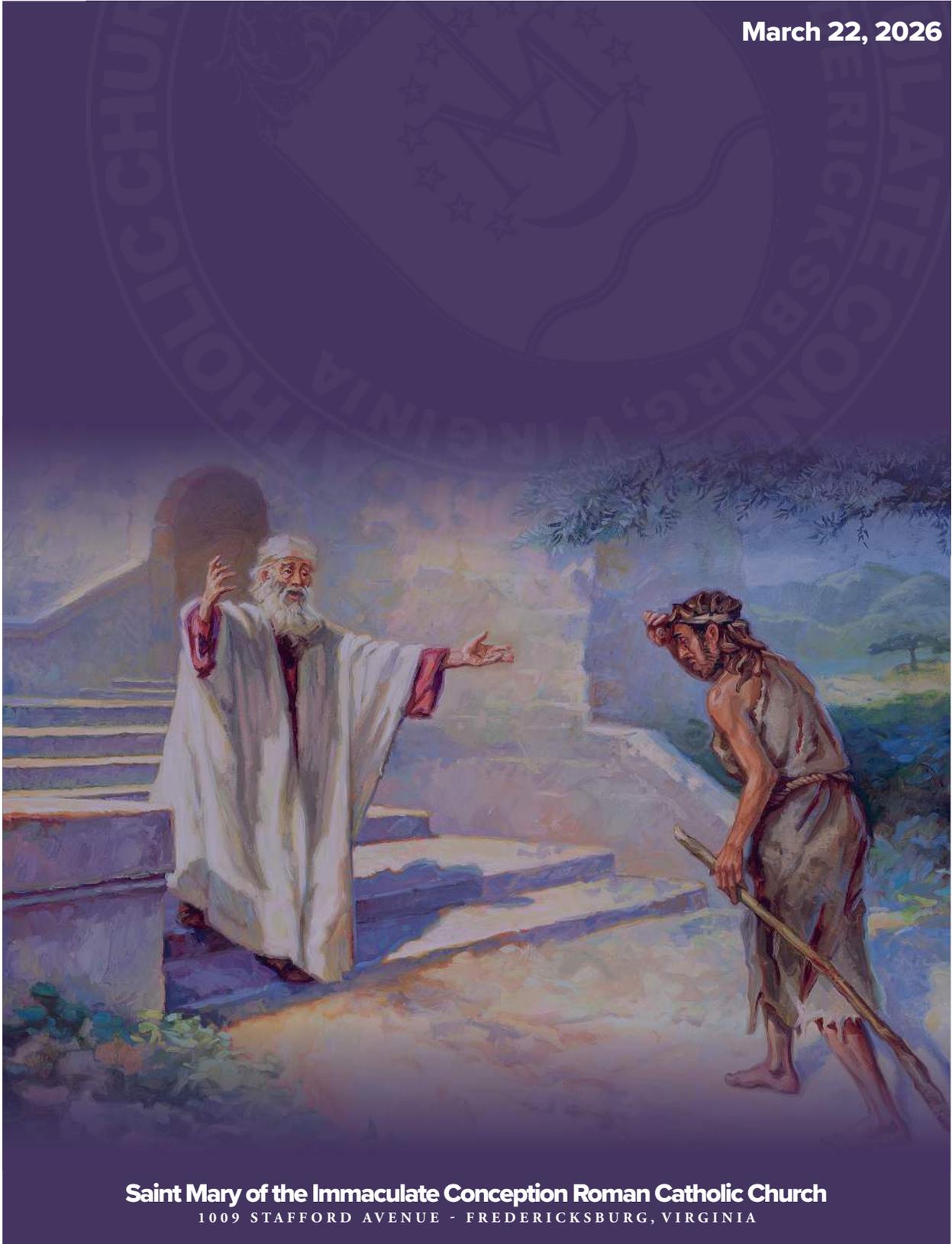


# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2026



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

## capital campaign

# grow our legacy in faith

### Nothing is Impossible for God!

#### Can you believe a year has passed?

Last year, on March 25, 2025, the feast of the Annunciation, the very first mass was celebrated by Fr. Mossiman at the St. Helena Chapel at our parish school, Holy Cross Academy. Principals Dr. Stephen Fry and Angie Tomayko gathered with faculty and staff to pray in thanksgiving for the newly completed chapel. A beautiful altar cloth, hand-sewn by parishioner Adele Faldereau, added to the solemnity of the occasion, marking the first expansion project completed.

In the school chapel, the hand-carved statues of St. Helena of the Cross and St. Francis of Assisi grace the two niches on either side of the main altar. They are simple reminders of Our Lord's life of service and his unconditional love for us, along with the stained glass windows- elegantly depicting the Child Jesus with St. Joseph and our Blessed Mother's "yes" at the Annunciation. If you have not seen the chapel, please visit after a Sunday Mass at HCA!

#### Did you know?

The special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, will take place from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027, on the occasion of the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226-2026)

While the primary feast day of St. Francis of Assisi is October 4th, in March 2026, there is a unique opportunity for devotion to him.

- **Open to the Public - Veneration of Relics (Feb 22 - March 22, 2026):** To mark the 800th anniversary of his death and for the first time, the bodily remains of St. Francis of Assisi are on display for public veneration in the Lower Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, through March 22, 2026. This is an extraordinary, rare event: the relics are being moved from their tomb to the main altar. Although not a "memorial" on the liturgical calendar in March, this month-long display acts as a special time of prayer and remembrance for the saint.
- Brother Jimmy Zammit of Toronto, a Franciscan who works in Rome, offered some advice for Catholics unable to make the trip to Assisi but who would like to live out this wonderful **Jubilee Year of St. Francis**: *"If our heart becomes more Franciscan, we become makers of peace," Brother Zammit said. "We seek out those who are less fortunate than we are to help the poor, but also to help those who are suffering because they're feeling isolated and maybe even shunned in some way."*
- **Lent & St. Francis:** We know that Francis himself almost always retired for the season of Lent with a few brothers to a hermitage—his favorites were La Verna and Greccio—where he could step apart and reflect on how God was asking him to deepen his commitment in terms of the ever-changing situation of his life. "When blessed Francis stayed constantly in a place to pray . . . he was always anxious to know the will of the Lord, about how he could please him better" (Assisi Compilation, 118).
- The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington DC, would be a beautiful and peaceful place for a pilgrimage of prayer, reconciliation and encountering God's Grace in this Jubilee Year.

***"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way". -St. Francis of Assisi***

# from our pastor

Dear Folks,

It has been a few years since I answered these two questions, which someone asked me this week. So, I thought I'd address these again.

"Father, why are the statues covered up?" The origin of this seems a little obscure, but it is traceable to a 9th century custom in Germany, or to the even more ancient practice of public penance. With public penance, the entire congregation was received into the order of penitents with Ashes symbolically placed on the head (remember Ash Wednesday?) The penitents were expelled from the church, kneeling at the door asking for prayers (glad we don't do that anymore!) and the entire congregation would be symbolically expelled by the veiling of the statues. Sin separates us from God, from our friends and even from the saints in heaven.

Furthermore, have you noticed that when you are carrying a particularly burdensome cross, you can't see beyond the present moment? It is as if the weight of the cross blinds your spiritual vision. This is why we try to train ourselves to remember the good things the Lord has done for us, so that when we are bearing the blinding weight of the cross, we might not lose sight of Heaven!

Thus the statues in our churches can be veiled, to echo in a symbolic way this separation from the Lord, angels, saints, and each other. The Church allows us to veil them beginning this weekend, as the passion week and weight of the cross loom larger and larger! Veiling statues is an option, and one that only more recently seems to be chosen in a variety of parishes to draw us into the mystery of salvation by her symbols.

"Father, why are the candles on the front of the altar?" There are many options for candle placement. The late Pope Benedict XVI, favored and encouraged the very placement with which I

have become very comfortable. The purpose of this is to center the Liturgy on Jesus Christ. We gather to celebrate the paschal mystery of His suffering, death, and resurrection. Every Mass is directed to the worship of God and movement towards the East from whence the glorious resurrected Lord will come at the end of time. This arrangement serves to emphasize visually and in symbol the common direction of priest and people towards Christ.

Some folks receive this as a distraction, as it visually interrupts their line of sight. For those who are affected thus, I am glad that our church is sufficiently round and large so that they can find a seat with unimpeded sight lines. On this point, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "The common turning to the East during the Eucharistic Prayer remains essential. This is not a case of accidentals, but of essentials.... What matters is looking together at the Lord.... Is the cross disruptive during Mass? Is the priest more important than Our Lord?"

With you I am on a journey towards fuller union with Jesus Christ in every Mass. For you I stand in service at the altar to offer in persona Christi. Together let us always seek Him. If you'd like to read more on this topic, Google "Putting Christ at the Center: On the Benedictine Arrangement."

And a reminder that Palm Sunday will be in the Church, but Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday will all be celebrated at the Fredericksburg Convention Center (formerly the FXBG Expo Center).

Pax,



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

## Extra Lenten Confessions

Monday, March 23 - Friday March 27 | 6:30pm-7pm

Saturday, March 28 | 8am and 3:30pm

Monday, March 30 | 11:30am-12pm & 6:30pm-7pm

Tuesday, April 1 | 6:30pm-7pm

Wednesday, April 2 | 11:30am-12pm & 6:30pm-7pm

## All Holy Week Masses at Expo Center

Holy Thursday, April 2: 7:30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 3 | 12-3pm Tre Ore at Expo Center

3pm | Passion and Veneration of the Holy Cross

6:30pm | Stations of the Cross

7:15pm | Spanish Stations

Holy Saturday April 4 | 8pm Easter Vigil

Sunday April 5 | 8am - 10:15am - 12:30pm Bilingual

# announcements



**St. Mary Coffee &  
Donut Shop**

Following ALL Morning Masses

Come and enjoy some fellowship!

**Stations of the Cross  
in the Church**

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT

6:30pm English

7:30pm Spanish

All are welcome!

## 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 and 9am  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 12 noon  
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

### 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

## Holy Cross Academy Celebrates Dr. Seuss in Style!

Holy Cross Academy tradition that honors the birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss with a school-wide celebration dedicated to the magic of reading. Students in K through 5th grade brought their favorite stories to life during our Character Dress-Up Assembly on Monday, filling the Immaculate Conception Hall with creativity, color, and excitement.

With the enthusiasm and leadership of our librarian, Keila Hamed Ramos, the event became more than just a dress-up day — it was a celebration of literacy, imagination, and student achievement. Mrs. Ramos continues to inspire our young Crusaders to discover the joy of reading and to reach new heights in their AR goals.

Every student arrived dressed as a character from a favorite book and took turns sharing with classmates, teachers, family, and friends what inspired their choice. It was a delight to watch our students shine as they practiced public speaking, storytelling, and confidence in front of a supportive audience.

Our elementary teachers joined in the fun as well, dressing as their own favorite literary characters and modeling a love of reading for their students.

Events like this remind us how vibrant and joyful learning is at Holy Cross Academy — a place where books spark imagination, characters leap off the page, and students grow as confident, curious learners.



*A National  
Blue Ribbon  
School of  
Excellence*



# our parish religious education



## FORMED.ORG

To enrich your children's understanding of the meaning of Lent, consider watching the Brother Francis Lenten Reflections available on Formed.org. There are 40 short video reflections designed for children and lasting only a few minutes each.

[watch.formed.org/lent-with-brother-francis](http://watch.formed.org/lent-with-brother-francis)

**RICE BOWL:** St. Mary's Religious Ed families have been participating in the CRS Rice Bowl outreach this Lent, raising money for families in need. Here are some of the ways in which this outreach makes a difference: In Ghana, Georgina lives in a rural area where poverty makes it difficult for families to get health and nutrition services for their children to grow healthy and strong. When a clinic opened to help mothers and children, it helped kids reach important milestones. Georgina's children are now learning their ABCs and counting. She uses her knowledge at home and shares it with others. Thanks to this support, children in Walewae have a brighter future.

In Guatemala, Maribel and her family didn't eat healthily and felt unwell. After learning about the importance of nutritious foods in a CRS program, her family began adding fruits, vegetables, protein and vitamins into their daily routine. Now their health is improving.

In Timor-Leste, malnutrition is common among young girls because families have limited access to nutritious food. That makes it even more important for them to learn about nutrition and self-care. Through CRS nutrition classes, Adriana learned how iron prevents conditions like anemia and how protein and carbohydrates help her brain grow.



As we continue our Lenten journey, let us reflect on these Stories of Hope and consider where we fit into their broader story.

our parish  
youth ministry



# BASH

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED!



AN EXCITING DAY FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GATHER WITH BISHOP BURBIDGE TO CELEBRATE THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH!

- 🕯️ Vigil Mass with Bishop Burbidge
- ✉️ Message from Rachel Leininger
- 🎩 Illusionist: Ciancarlo Bernini 🎮 Inflatables Games
- 🍕 Pizza 🍦 Ice Cream 🎉 Fun with Friends!



PLEASE EMAIL TATIANA FOR A PERMISSION SLIP - [TBELTRAN@STMARYFRED.ORG](mailto:TBELTRAN@STMARYFRED.ORG)



ST. MARY YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

## MARCH 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 HSYG	2	3	4 YOUCAT	5	6 MSYG	7 NO FIGHT CLUB
8 HSYG	9	10	11 YOUCAT	12 FEMININE GENIUS	13	14 FIGHT CLUB
15 HSYG	16	17	18 YOUCAT	19	20 MSYG	21 FIGHT CLUB
22 HSYG	23	24	25 YOUCAT	26 FEMININE GENIUS	27	28 FIGHT CLUB
29 HSYG	30	31	1 NO YOUCAT HOLY WEEK	2	3 NO MSYG	4 NO FIGHT CLUB

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

# our parish happenings



The Holy Cross Academy PTO is seeking donations for our Spring Auction Fundraiser, which will be held on the evening of April 25th at Holy Cross Academy. If you are in a position to donate or facilitate the donation of the following items, please email [HCAPTO@holycrossweb.org](mailto:HCAPTO@holycrossweb.org)

- Vacation packages or unique travel experiences
- Vacation Home Use
- Weekend Getaway to local resorts/destinations
- Unique experiences such as cooking classes, bourbon or wine tasting, dance lessons, etc.
- Signed memorabilia from popular professional or college athletes or celebrities
- Tickets to professional or college sport games, concerts, performance/shows
- Professional Athlete experience
- Full Day Spa package
- Premier Golf Course package
- Exclusive Dining Experiences
- Art work or pieces from local artists
- Luxury items, such as designer handbags or watches
- Professional Photography sessions
- Other professional services and goods

All adult parishioners are welcomed to attend this special evening! Please email [HCAPTO@holycrossweb.org](mailto:HCAPTO@holycrossweb.org) for more information.

**GO ♣ ALL IN FOR ♣**  
**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY**  
**SILENT AUCTION & CASINO NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY ♡ APRIL 25, 2026 ♡ 6-11 PM**



COCKTAIL HOUR & HORS D'OEUVRES  
 DINNER & DANCING  
 GAMING TABLE ENTERTAINMENT  
 CRAPS, ROULETTE, POKER & BLACKJACK  
 JOIN THE FUN & MAKE A BID TO SUPPORT LIBRARY UPGRADES  
 & STUDENT ENRICHMENT



**TICKETS \$50/PERSON \$90/COUPLE**  
 INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS FOR BEER, WINE OR HARD SELTZER  
 & 10K FUNNY MONEY TO PLAY  
 LINK TO BUY TICKETS [HTTPS://PAYIT.NELNET.NET/FORM/EKSOBCNS](https://PAYIT.NELNET.NET/FORM/EKSOBCNS)  
 TICKET PRICES INCREASE TO \$60/PERSON AFTER MARCH 21ST

**JOIN US!**

Old files & paperwork taking up space at your home or office?  
 Dispose confidential documents!

- Community-wide event, open to all in the parish, small businesses, non-profits, and area residents.
- Deliver materials to the parking lot behind our Parish Life Center, where you will be assisted with unloading your vehicle.
- 5-box limit per vehicle, and we will continue to accept materials until the truck is full or 1 PM, whichever comes first.
- NO charge, but we are most grateful for **free-will donations**, which will benefit our **Youth Work Camp Program**.
- We will accept all office-based paper materials and small metal fasteners such as paper clips and staples.
- NO binders, hardcover books, newspapers, magazines, plastic, metal objects or electronic media such as CDs & DVDs.



**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 11th**  
**10AM-1PM**

(Helpful hint...best time to come to avoid a line is anytime after 11am!)

**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
 Questions? Email: Tatiana Beltran at [tbeltran@stmaryfred.org](mailto:tbeltran@stmaryfred.org) or call the parish office at 540-373-6491  
 1009 Stafford Ave., FXBG 22401

# our parish outreach

## Brisben Center Support

We are thrilled to be continuing our work at the Brisben Center in support of the children! St. Mary's hosts "The Kids Club" 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 homeless 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.

**\*\*\*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](mailto:sydjim92@msn.com) or Elena Doyle at 540-373-6491. To sign-up scan or visit: <https://bit.ly/4bcgDE1>

## 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](mailto:thedlugos5@gmail.com)

God bless you! <https://bit.ly/4u01tZw>

## MARCH SNACK BAGS

### Hugh Mercer Students

Our local elementary school has identified 80 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.

### TWO WAYS TO HELP:

Sign-up to drop off items to the parish office no later than Monday, March 23 needed by visiting: [bit.ly/3TM9z72](https://bit.ly/3TM9z72)

Make a donation to St. Mary Church – include "Outreach-Snack Bags" on the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your goodness! Questions, contact Elena Doyle [edoyle@stmaryfred.org](mailto:edoyle@stmaryfred.org)

## Micah Cold Weather Shelter

For men and women, closed for the season on March 20. Thank you to all the parishioners who generously donated clothing items. The shelter guests were truly grateful to receive the new socks, tshirts, underwear and other items you provided. Your kindness made a meaningful difference.

I also want to thank the members of the Cold Weather Shelter ministry for your dedication in assisting with the shelters, especially in what seemed to be coldest of recent winters. Your commitment and compassion did not go unnoticed. The shelters cannot operate without volunteers like yourself. You truly are the best!

God bless you all.

Greg Wheatley  
Cold Weather Shelter  
Coordinator



our parish  
happenings

**STEP UP TO THE PLATE**

**SPRING**  
*Sign-Up*

**SEEKING PLAYERS & COACHES**

**USHERS: THE "STADIUM CREW"  
(WELCOMING THE CROWDS)**

Providing assistance to our fellow parishioners at Mass. Tasks include; extending a warm greeting, seating, assisting with the collection and Holy Communion lines and distributing the bulletin at the conclusion of Mass.

**EXTRA HELP NEEDED FOR THE TRIDUUM AT THE  
FXBG CONVENTION CENTER  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2 - SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

Contact Tom Fish  
headusher@stmaryfred.org

**YOUTH MINISTRY/  
WORKCAMP: "HEAD COACHES"  
(LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION)**

Assist in the preparation, coordination and participation of our annual WorkCamp. The goal is to make homes warmer, safer and drier for families in need within our diocese.

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

Contractors, crew leaders security, stakeholder, lunch preps, van donation, fundraising help and more. No experience needed just a willingness to join the team!

(We draft rookies!)  
Contact: Tatiana Beltran  
tbeltran@stmaryfred.org

**LEGION OF MARY: "THE  
OUTREACH SCOUTS" (CHECKING IN ON OUR  
VETERANS IN ASSISTED LIVING).**

Weekly meetings at St. Mary where the team is nourished by prayer in order to complete acts of service and mercy; visiting parishioners in hospitals, homes and nursing facilities.

Contact: Donna Harring  
donnaHarring2@gmail.com

**SUBSTITUTE CATECHISTS:  
"RELIEF PITCHERS"**

Our 'Starting Pitchers' (Full-time Catechists) are doing great work, but every winning team needs a strong Bullpen. We're looking for Relief Pitchers to step in when a starter needs a break, ensuring our students never miss a beat.

Currently, our greatest need is substitute catechists at Holy Cross Academy on Tuesday evenings.

Contact Katherine Evans  
kevans@stmaryfred.org

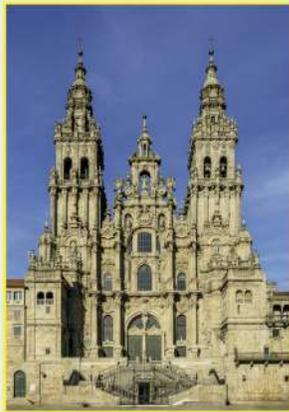
our parish  
happenings



*Pilgrimage Interest Meeting*  
**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO  
THE ENGLISH WAY**



*Join us to learn more about a 10-day pilgrimage being offered May 24 ~ June 2, 2027 with Fr. Tim Courtney*  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 @ 6:00 PM IN THE PLC**



- Must be able to hike rough terrain 8-18 miles/day for 6 days straight
- *Limited space available*
- *Adults only (no exceptions)*

*\*Not recommended for individuals with dietary or mobility issues*



**THEOLOGY ON TAP**

*Fredericksburg*

*This month*

**Food for Thought: Theology of Food**

Alexandra is a wife, mother, journalist, author, and speaker whose work covers politics, religion, culture, and the pro-life movement. Her writing has been published in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, National Review, and many other outlets. Her talk will cover the spirituality of food, exploring its meaning and symbolism in Scripture and Catholic theology, and offer thoughts on how this deeper understanding can shape our attitude toward food in our daily lives.

**Connect with us!** fredericksburgtot@gmail.com

*Presenter*  
**Alexandra DeSanctis**



**MONDAY, APRIL 6**

**Strangeways Brewing**

350 Landsdowne Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Doors open at 5pm  
Presentation at 6:30pm**



# our parish happenings



## **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - February**

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. February's Poor Box contributions were \$2,913.00 and 80 families (totaling 208 people) were interviewed, and the Society provided \$32,395 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](mailto:ramrap94@hotmail.com) or Maureen at [mjones@mckcompany.com](mailto:mjones@mckcompany.com). To provide financial assistance, please continue to use the Poor Box.

## **Ushers Needed**

St. Mary is in need of Ushers to help serve at ALL MASSES. What a great New Year's resolution to assist your brothers and sisters in this generous way! Contact Tom Fish TODAY at [headusher@stmaryfred.org](mailto:headusher@stmaryfred.org).

## **Women's 160th Cursillo Retreat**

The Women's 160th Retreat Weekend for the Arlington Diocese will take place at Mission Hurst Retreat Center, Arlington VA, on April 16 - 19, 2026. The theme for the retreat is "Women of grace and faith". Cursillo (cur See yo) is a Lay Catholic movement. It's about friends helping friends grow in Christ and shared Christian values in our challenging world. The Cursillo charism is rooted in an understanding that God, in Christ, loves us deeply just as we are. Through the Cursillo Movement we encounter Christ in the lives we live everyday, and especially, through friendship and community. Please contact Miguel Ayala at [miguel.a.ayala@gmail.com](mailto:miguel.a.ayala@gmail.com) for more information or visit [arlingtoncursillo.org](http://arlingtoncursillo.org)



# our parish happenings

## NO GREATER LOVE

A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH  
CHRIST'S PASSION



### Dates – Times – Location

This program will be offered on 4 different days/times for 5 weeks beginning in April!

At St. Mary in Room 101-  
Mondays 12:45-2:15pm; April 13- May 11  
Wednesdays 9:45-11:15am; April 15-May 13  
Thursdays 9:45-11:15am; April 16-May 14

At Holy Cross Academy in the Library-  
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm; April 15-May 13

### Cost – Registration

\$30.00 per person  
Registration will take place daily in the Parish Office.  
Each class size is limited to 25 at St. Mary & 15 at Holy Cross, so register early!!!

### For More Information

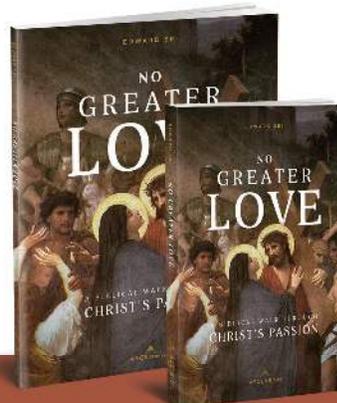
This is an opportunity to deepen your Lenten & Easter journeys, which we will have just completed at the start of this program.

For more information, please contact Jackie Ezersky - jezersky13@gmail.com.

Thousands sought Jesus during his life.  
Only a few followed him to Calvary.

### What will you do?

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—and grow closer to Jesus.



ASCENSION

Visit [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com) to learn more!

# our parish happenings

## Assembling of March for Life Care Packages!

Written by Miranda Alexander & Molly Gardner

American Heritage Girls & Trail Life's 16th annual assembling of March for Life care packages.

The March for Life is an annual event that has been held in Washington D.C. for 52 years and still ongoing to this day.

In the beginning of every year, hundreds of thousands of devout citizens march for the life of unborn children in the frigid cold weather.

For the past 16 years, American Heritage Girls troop VA0128 has provided care packages for the faithful parishioners at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception.

These care packages contain: a bottle of water for hydration, fruit snacks in case of low blood sugar, tissues & hand warmers for the cold, and rosary & prayer cards for praying during the long march.

*"Assembling care packages for the March for Life participants is an activity that combines faith and service together. We start in prayer and devotion, thanking God for the sanctity of life. Then, all the children work together to assemble the care packages. This is a beloved troop activity and service that is part of our troop tradition. It is beautiful to see girls of AHG and boys of Trail Life learn to serve others cheerfully."* -Jeanne Alexander, American Heritage Girls Troop Coordinator for VA0128.

*"Even though I wasn't able to go to the March for Life it was nice to know that I could still help out in any way I could by sending these care packages"* -Lottie Rohlfs, a first year as an American Heritage Girls PiPa.

*"I wish I could've gone on the march, as it seems like a really fun event and it supports an amazing cause. I'm glad though that I was able to do what I did"* -Noah Pellitteri, a three year member & Adventurer in Trail Life troop 4034.

*"The care package has always been a fun way to combine the troops in a way that provides a beneficial service to our Catholic community"* -Luke Gardner, a long-term member & Adventurer in Trail Life troop 4034.



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para atraer las bendiciones  
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que el rezo del  
Santo Rosario"*

*Con el corazón  
lleno de fe y esperanza*

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## Donations Received March 3 - 9

Sunday Offertory	\$34,811.36
Parish Debt Reduction	\$9,523.00
Poor Box St. Vincent de Paul	\$50.00

## ParishSoft Giving Donations - February

Sunday Offertory	\$104,213.38
Black & Indian Missions	\$2,509.00
Parish Debt Reduction	\$6,030.35
Central & Eastern Europe	\$2,649.00
Micah Love Your Neighbor	\$2,129.00
Arlington Catholic Herald	\$2,413.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## Children's Charity - March

The Children's Charity that will benefit from donations in March is the Fairy Godmother Project. At the heart of Fairy Godmother Project (FGP) is a commitment to lighten the load for parents dealing with pediatric cancer. We understand that time is one of the most precious gifts we can offer these families. As we walk alongside them, we are able to offer tangible support in their most challenging times. By providing meals and professional house cleaning, along with financial support, we help free up time for our families to focus on what matters most. All donations received in March through our Children's Charities Program will be given to the Fairy Godmother Project. For families facing end-of-life, FGP ensures they receive the compassion and help they need during the most heartbreaking moments, offering both emotional and financial assistance. Children's Envelopes are available through our Religious Education Office. Call the Parish Office and we will be happy to send you a set of envelopes.

## Pro Life Reflection

During this season of Lent, and always, let us strive to face suffering with Christian courage. Then all difficulties will vanish and pain itself will become transformed into joy. – Saint Teresa of Avila

*Jesus, Man of Sorrows, in every suffering keep my eyes fixed on You. Let me keep ever before my mind the glory to come and so face the suffering with true Christian courage.*

## Easter Flowers

Remember someone you love, either living or deceased, with a donation for our beautiful Easter Flowers. Envelopes are available in your envelope packets and in the Church.

## Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) Important Notice: Please Do Not Use Parishsoft Giving for BLA Payments

Thank you for supporting the 2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Any BLA pledges or payments should NOT be made through our Parish's electronic giving program, Faith Direct, because this delays transmission of the payments to the Diocese by at least four to six weeks. You may make a one-time gift or set up recurring BLA payments at [arlingtondiocese.org/bla](https://arlingtondiocese.org/bla). Thank you.

## NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME

Are you a new parishioner or wanting to register in the parish? If so, Fr. Mosimann and members of our Welcoming Committee want to meet you (and your family) and introduce you to the many fantastic ministries at St. Mary's!

Sign-up for a time slot on Sunday, April 12th 10am-1pm for yourself and/or family. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Meetings take place in the parish office located behind the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Elena Doyle at [edoyle@stmaryfred.org](mailto:edoyle@stmaryfred.org).

<https://bit.ly/4borTLN>



# liturgy

# daily bread

## Saint Mary Prayer List - March

**Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially:** Bonnie Kenney, Charles Boyer, Chris Breth, Drew LoRusso, Jack Smith, Jason Stoker, JoAnne O'Brien, Joseph Krieg, Logan Leslie, Maryann Carroll, Michael Fedowitz III, Shirley Bozicevic, Sue Moorefield, Susan Harvin, Teresa Lopez, Theresa & Keith Kovalefsky, William Pell III, Xavier Ronan, Maura Gabriel, Jacob R. Moser, Maria Norma Funes

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

Joseph Gardner, Glenn Dickinson, Paul Fischer, Jamal Williams, Lance Schulte, Brian Hellmann, 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](mailto: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

### March

#### 23 MONDAY

6:30am Hieu Le

9:00am Joseph Stanislawski

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Jn 8:1-11

#### 24 TUESDAY

6:30am The Mendieta Family

9:00am Carol Maher Schiavo+

Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30

#### 25 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Denise Weber+

8:15am\* Aurelio Miller

9:00am Phillip Atkins+

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

#### 26 THURSDAY

6:30am Kevin O'Keefe+

9:00am Luis Adan Carranza+

Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59

#### 27 FRIDAY

6:30am Cecilia Tucker

9:00am Hannah Dutra

Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42

#### 28 SATURDAY

9:00am Christine and George McWhirt+

5:00pm The Blanchard-Johnson Family

7:00pm Nancy Ronckovitz+

Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

#### 29 SUNDAY

7:00am Donna Kendall

8:30am Steve and Shannon Yemm

8:30am\* Patricia Dolan+

10:30am Jack Grey+

10:30am\* Johann Perrera

12:30pm Our Military Living & Deceased

2:30pm Hector Alejandro Camacho Bravo

5:00pm Christopher Graham+

7:00pm For Our Parish

Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66

\* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy.

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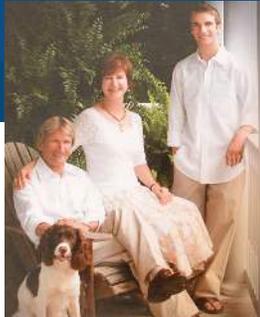
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