

Parish Council	
Rich Primo	Chairperson
Ann Sanzo	Vice Chairperson
Barbara Kelly	Secretary
Mike Swisher	Finance Council Chairperson Military Liaison
Who to Contact	
Liturgy Committee	Ann Marie Batten
Maintenance Group	Dusty Rhodes
RCIA	Jim Wharry, Mike Swisher
Altar Servers	Brendan Morse
Arts & Environment	M.E. Rhodes
Volunteers	Kim Primo
Social Activities	
H.E.L.P.	Barbara Wild
Bayview	Sidney Bell
Parish Disability Advocate	Barbara Kelly
Health Ministry	Pat Wharry
Social Action Ministries	
Parish Charities —The generosity of our parishioners helps to support ACCESS-Aids Care Center, H.E.L.P., Lackey Free Clinic, and Transitions Family Violence Services.	
Justice & Peace —We advocate for justice and the protection of human life and dignity, and serve human needs.	
H.E.L.P. — St. Mary's collects food and clothing for the needy in our area. Donations of canned goods and other staples are gladly accepted.	
Bayview Community —St. Mary's has adopted this impoverished rural community on the Eastern Shore. We assist residents during the year with monetary funds, household goods, clothing, school supplies, toys and games for summer fun and Christmas gifts for the children and elderly.	
Knights of Columbus, Council #511	
Grand Knight, John Nicholson—Meetings every 2nd & 4th Thurs. of each month at 7:30p.m. in Fr. Helldorfer Hall, The Marian Center of St. Joseph Church. For membership or general information call 838-6239.	

MASS SCHEDULE	
Saturday	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:30 a.m.
Friday	12:05 p.m.
RECONCILIATION	
Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church and by appointment.	
Website: stmarystarofthesea.catholicweb.com	

Parish Office	
Bookkeeper/Administrator	Kate Luke
stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com	
Monday thru Thursday 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. Friday 9:00 A.M.—12:00 Noon	
Christian Formation	Erin Kearney-Lazar
drestmarys@yahoo.com	
Tuesday 9:00 A.M.—12:00 Noon	

7 Frank Lane Fort Monroe Virginia 23651	
stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com	
Office:	722-9855
Fax:	726-0083
St. Joseph Rectory:	851-1711

Sacraments	
Baptism-	Call the parish office
Wedding-	Contact the office six months prior to planned wedding day.
Reconciliation -	Saturday 4-5 p.m. at St. Joseph Church or by appointment.

Religious Education	
The Christian Formation program runs from Sept thru May. Classes for first thru 11th grades are offered on Sundays which include First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation classes. Contact Erin Kearney-Lazar for more information.	

Catholic Schools	
St. Mary Star of The Sea School	723-6358
Saintmarystarofthesea.com	
Peninsula Catholic High School	596-7247
pchs@peninsulacatholic.com	



St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church

Fort Monroe, Virginia

**The Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
August 16, 2009**



Pastor
Rev. Peter E. Sousa, C.Ss.R.
Parochial Vicars
Rev. William J. Spillane, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Daniel J. Carboy, C.Ss.R.
Deacon
Rev. Mr. James V. Wharry

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph,

For the past few weeks we have been listening at Mass to the sixth chapter of John's Gospel which contains the Bread of Life discourse. This Sunday and next Sunday we will complete the chapter and then return to Mark's gospel. This arrangement of including readings from John 6 is only done in year B. It gives us a chance to reflect on the Eucharist, but I sometimes wonder if it was arranged that way because Mark's gospel is so short and not long enough to provide a gospel reading for all the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Whatever the reason, it is good that we have the opportunity to reflect more deeply on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives.

It is interesting to note that John places this chapter on the Bread of Life after Jesus' discourse in chapter five on the importance of listening to the Word. In chapter five Jesus tells us that he comes from the Father and "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life." (John 5:24) He goes on to be critical of his listeners because they fail to recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the Jewish scriptures and that Jesus is the new Moses.

In chapter six John presents us with Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life. As God gave the people of Israel manna, bread from heaven at the request of Moses, Jesus gives us himself as our bread. He is the sustenance that we need as his followers. This need for nourishment from Jesus then focuses on the Eucharist. Jesus gives us himself in Holy Communion that also, with the Word, brings us eternal life. John's placement of the discourse on listening to Jesus the Word in chapter five followed by the discourse on Jesus, the Bread of Life in chapter six is a reflection of the Eucharistic celebrations of the early Church and shows the importance of both the Word and the Eucharist.

John's intention in organizing his gospel was to help the early Christians more deeply appreciate what a gift they had in the celebration of the Eucharist. By the end of the first century when John's gospel was being written, some members of the community were not taking their participation in the Eucharist seriously. For some it was becoming a formality rather than a time of intimacy that was deeply connected with the rest of their lives. Some had a difficulty in believing that Jesus could be actually and truly present in the Eucharistic Bread and Wine. They found it a hard saying to accept and Jesus tells them that it is a grace from God, the Father to be called to have faith in Jesus who is truly present in the Word and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The issues in John's gospel are issues that we struggle with today. Many Catholics, especially younger ones, don't value regular, weekly participation in the Eucharist as being vital to living a full Christian life. Some Catholics deny that the Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus Christ. Others don't value the Word as God speaking to us today. May these weeks of reflecting on John's gospel deepen our faith in the living presence of God in the celebration of the Eucharist, especially through the Scriptures and Holy Communion.

Father Peter

St. Mary Star of the Sea, the oldest Catholic parish on the Peninsula and the ninth oldest parish in the Diocese of Richmond holds a unique distinction: It is the only Diocesan Church in the nation located on a military installation. Its upkeep is funded solely by parishioner contributions. Registration Forms are available in the back of Church and at the Rectory.

Please remember in your prayers: Joe Ellis, Sidney Bell, Yvonne Bell, Renaida Duazon, Edith Gianatasio, Rom & Jean Evdo, Ruby Sansone, Emilie Rogers, Mel & Rose Paulhamus, Hiram Bell, Julie Sager, Ann Gochanour, Patricia Jones, Michael Elgart, Anne Marie Hacker, Dick Welsh, Karen Powder, Frances Calo'oy, Meghan Morris, J.D. Painter, Zachary Morris, Steven Fox, Art Batten, Kara Tench, Jim Bell, and Sue Edgette. **Please notify the parish office of any changes to this list.**

Homebound or in the Hospital: If you know any home bound parishioners, or parishioners in the hospital who are in need of the sacraments, please notify the parish office. We rely on you, the families and caregivers, to let the Fathers know who may be in need. A priest will visit them for anointing and see them periodically as needed. A lay Eucharistic Minister will visit the sick weekly bringing the Eucharist. Thank you for keeping us updated so that we may minister to those unable to get to church.

The second collection this week our parish charities, ACCESS-Aids Care Center, H.E.L.P., Lackey Free Clinic, and Transitions Family Violence Services.

The parish office will be closed Tuesday, August 18 and Friday, August 21. Kate will be in Richmond for computer classes.

Meetings

2010 Committee Tues, Aug 25, 7:00 p.m.
Liturgy Tues, Sept 15, 7:00 p.m.
Finance Thurs, Sept 17, 4:30 p.m.
Parish Council Tues, Sept 22, 7:00 p.m.

Please note that any time you attend Mass at St. Joseph Church and use your St. Mary envelopes, your contribution is forwarded to us. We at St. Mary's do the same.

We would like to thank the Zacharias Family for providing coffee & doughnuts after the 9:30 a.m. last week.

A sign up sheet for you to take a turn at treating is posted in the parish hall. We all look forward to visiting after Mass and thank all those who have graciously donated their time and doughnuts.

Financial Report—August 9, 2009

First Collection	3,175.00
Save our Schools	73.00
Building Fund	713.00
Parish Charities	20.00
Assumption	10.00
150th Anniversary Fund	100.00
TOTAL	4,091.00

IT IS WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS THAT WE SAY THANK YOU TO THE PRIESTS AND PEOPLE OF ST. MARYS FOR THE OUTPOURING OF LOVE, COMPASSION AND MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS TO OUR FAMILY DURING OUR RECENT LOSS.

THE FAMILY OF EDWARD W. WILD.
Thanks, Barbara

R.C.I.A.

Flyers with information on R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) are available in back of the church. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling in the program this fall, please call the parish office at 722-9855. **R.C.I.A. will begin on September 8 and will meet at 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday in Cordier Hall, St. Joseph Church, 512 Buckroe Ave., Hampton.**

Cleaning out the garage or attic? The 150th Anniversary Committee is looking for a glass enclosed cabinet to display St. Mary's memorabilia. We would like something like a store cabinet, curio cabinet, or breakfront that would be placed in the Parish Hall in the corner near the old baptismal font. Or maybe you have the skills and willingness to build one. Call Kate at 722-9855 or Shannon at 245-5822.

A big thank you to Pete McGurl for all his hard work repairing, sanding and painting the cellar door of the church, during the hot weather. It looks great! Stop by and take a look.

READINGS

Sunday August 16
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Prv 9:1-6 Eph 5:15-20 Jn 6:51-58
Sunday August 23
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jos 24:1-2, 15-18 Eph 5:21-32 Jn 6:60-69

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 15, 5:00 p.m.
+John Beckno
requested by Maggie & Ray Halloran

Sunday, August 16, 9:30 a.m.
+ William Cochran
requested by Veronica Cochran

Friday, August 21, 12:05 p.m.
Our military men and women who have died during the past month

The second collection next week benefits our 150th Anniversary Celebration Fund.



On Saturday, August 22nd, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Church we will have a special **Mass of Christian Initiation** for both St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. **Those being baptized are:** Jonathan & Jordyn Blount, Matthew Sorrell, Taylor Bolick, & Devin Streater. **Those making the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, & First Communion are:** Axa Stevens, David & Jonathan Sorrell, & Joshua Atwell. All are welcome to come to this special liturgy to welcome our new members.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR BAYVIEW

Now is the time to purchase school supplies. The children at Bayview will need paper, binders, folders, pens/pencils/crayons, erasers, rulers, protractors, calculators, scissors, glue, back packs and more!!

We will still collect them this week.



CCD Registration Forms

are available in the back of the church and in the parish hall.



Please support the blood drive at St. Joseph Church on Sunday, August 23rd. The Red Cross will be there from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

for your life-giving donation. Call Catherine Heffley at 850-1239 for more information, or to help on that day.

A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will be held September 25-27 at the Benedictine Abbey in Richmond. You are invited to this Healing weekend if you've been through the experience of abortion, are impacted by the abortion of another person, or caused someone to have an abortion. Women as well as men can feel the anguish consequential to abortion. Grief, guilt, and unforgiveness can be reconciled in this transformative retreat process. Through God's Divine Mercy, healing and hope become realities! Please call confidentially, Facilities, Kay Marie & Joe Geiger at 804-330-317.

Email: kmg4hope@verizon.net

Bishop DiLorenzo cordially invites parishioners to visit the Museum of Virginia Catholic History located in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Cathedral Exhibits Open On Sunday Mornings: The Museum of Virginia Catholic History exhibits located in the Baptistry Gallery and Crypt & Undercroft at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart will be open to the public every Sunday immediately after the 9:00am and 11:00am Mass. All are welcome to come and tour these new exhibits! There is no admission fee.

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.