

<b>Parish Council</b>	
Rich Primo	Chairperson
Ann Sanzo	Vice Chairperson
Barbara Kelly	Secretary
Mike Swisher	Finance Council Chairperson
Anne Barr	Military Liaison
<b>Who to Contact</b>	
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
Parish Nurses	Sue Edgette, Molly Edgette, Pat Wharry, Kara Tench
<b>Social Action Ministries</b>	
<b>Parish Charities</b> —The generosity of our parishioners helps to support ACCESS-Aids Care Center, H.E.L.P., Lackey Free Clinic, and Transitions Family Violence Services.	
<b>Justice &amp; Peace</b> —We advocate for justice and the protection of human life and dignity, and to serve those in need.	
<b>H.E.L.P.</b> — St. Mary's collects food and clothing for the needy in our area. Donations of canned goods and other staples are gladly accepted.	
<b>Bayview Community</b> —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.	
<b>Knights of Columbus, Council #511</b>	
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.	

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

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

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

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

<b>Religious Education</b>	
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.	

<b>Catholic Schools</b>	
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*



**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 22, 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,

Last Saturday on Valentine's Day we had a special celebration of marriage at St. Joseph's. At that Mass there were five couples who formally renewed their vows and convalidated their marriages. In the eyes of God when these couples committed themselves to each other they conferred the sacrament of matrimony to each other. Because we are also a human community the Church requires that a couple make their vows in the presence of a priest or deacon and two witnesses for us to officially declare that a couple has received the sacrament. For one various reasons this had not taken place in the lives of these couples and on Saturday they were able to rejoice and to celebrate something special as their marriages were blessed by the Church.

This process is very similar to what happens to a person in the Army when he or she is promoted. A person will receive the order stating they are promoted and they might begin to be paid at the higher rank. But it is not until they have a ceremony and are pinned with the next rank that they are publically recognized as fully promoted. A Catholic who is not married in the Church is not considered to be fully married until they have a Catholic ceremony.

When a Catholic is married in a civil ceremony or in a non-Catholic religious ceremony with out a dispensation, their marriage does not fulfill the Church's requirements. That couple can't fully live their Catholic faith, and are not able to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist until they have their marriages blessed. Some think this is unfair. The Church is not punishing these couples. The Church is calling them to a deeper life and richer experience of their love by having it officially recognized in a Catholic wedding ceremony and drawing them more deeply into the unity of Church life which Marriage and Holy Communion express.

For a couple who has never been married in the Church, the convalidation process is not that difficult. If one of the spouses has a previous marriage that was never annulled the first step would be to talk to one of our priests or deacons to discuss the possibility of an annulment. If this is the first marriage for a couple the process is very easy. They would have to first get a recent copy of their baptismal certificate and provide a copy of their marriage certificate. They would have to do a pre-marital inventory with a priest or deacon and attend a few marriage preparation sessions. There is also a requirement for relatives to fill out an affidavit stating that this couple is free to marry. The couple could then have a simple ceremony with a few people or a special celebration as we did last Saturday to convalidated their marriage in the eyes of the Church.

The couples on Saturday expressed how wonderful it was to have their marriages blessed. They experienced peace of heart, oneness with the Church, as well as a deep joy as they received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Matrimony and Eucharist. I hope and pray that if there are couples in the parish who are in this situation, they too might take the time to enrich their marriage by bringing it to Church!

*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, Renaída Duazon, Grace Grant, John Beckno, Edith Gianasio, Rom & Jean Evdo, Ruby Sansone, Emilie Rogers, Mel & Rose Paulhamus, Hiram Bell, Mike Gabany, Julie Sager, Maureen Dodge, Ann Gochanour, Patricia Jones, Michael Elgart, Ed Wild, Anne Marie Hacker, Dick Welsh, Karen Powder, Feliz Rodriguez, Joe Barto, Nicholas Yohn, and Frances Calo'oy. **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.

**There will be no second collection this weekend.**

**Ash Wednesday Masses and distribution of ashes at 12:05 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

**Religious Education.....resume March 1  
Women of Faith.....Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.  
For information contact Anne Barr 637-7859.**

**Upcoming meetings**

**Liturgy Committee...Tues., Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m.  
Finance Committee..Wed., Mar. 18, 4:30 p.m.  
Parish Council.....Tues., Mar. 10, 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 and Wild Families who provided coffee and doughnuts 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.**

<b>Financial Report—February 15, 2009</b>	
First Collection	2,173.00
Save our Schools	35.00
Building Fund	45.00
Parish Charities	557.00
Organ Console Fund	15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,825.00</b>

<b>Mass Intentions</b>
Saturday, February 21 5:00 p.m. <b>Special Intention</b>
Sunday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. <b>Lenard Lottinville requested by Florence Lottinville</b>
Wednesday, February 25, 12:05 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. <b>Special Intention</b>
Friday, February 27, 12:05 p.m. <b>Special Intention</b>

**The Year of St. Paul**

The video series from last Fall on St. Paul will resume at the Marian Center on February 18. There will be no class on Ash Wednesday, but will continue each Wednesday during March and conclude on April 1st. The classes will begin at 7:00 PM and last for about an hour. All are welcome to attend.

**Opportunities for Lent**

In addition to Masses at St. Mary and St. Joseph Churches and St. Mary Star of the Sea School, and Stations of the Cross each Friday Evening, on each Sunday of Lent, beginning with March 1st, we will have Eucharistic Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction beginning at 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. This would be a great opportunity for families to come to pray together and spend some quiet time in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord. We have planned it for 6:00 p.m.

**We regret that the Mardi-Gras Covered Dish Supper could not be held. There were too few families who could attend on this busy weekend.**

**READINGS**

**Sunday February 22**  
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 43:18-25 2 Cor 1 18-22 Mk 2:1-12  
**Sunday March 1**  
First Sunday of Lent  
Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

**The second collection next week benefits our schools, Peninsula Catholic High and St. Mary Star of the Sea.**

**Do you have a car or truck to donate?** Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia will gladly accept your used vehicle---whatever its condition---as long as it has four tires, a key and a title. It does not even have to run! If necessary, Catholic Charities will have it towed. You, in turn, will receive a tax deduction and the satisfaction in knowing that your donation is supporting Catholic Charities' services. We currently are seeking a reliable vehicle for our older adult department. To learn more about how you can help, please call (757) 456-2366 ext. 521.

**THANK YOU to all who participated in the "Fight FOCA" postcard campaign! We sent 123 postcard sets, a total of 369 messages in support of life! Those who wish to follow up with a call or email to our elected officials can find links to them at [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org). Also, your generous donations completely covered the cost of the campaign! Thanks again, and God bless!**

**What are you doing to help others during these difficult economic times?** Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia is seeking volunteers to process requests for emergency financial assistance for rent, mortgage and utilities. Individuals will be trained and should be willing to commit between 15-20 hours per week. Contact Catholic Charities' human resources department at (757) 456-2366 ext. 505 or ext. 520.

Seeking host families for the 2009-2010 school year for international students. Students will be attending Peninsula Catholic High School. Host families receive a monthly stipend of \$450.00 to help defray the cost of having an additional person in the home. Students come with their own insurance and spending money. There is local, 24-hour emergency support. If you are interested or if you would like more information on hosting a student at a later time, please contact: Maxine Williams (757) 430-8487 [maxine1229@cox.net](mailto:maxine1229@cox.net)

**There are no CCD classes this Sunday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Enjoy your weekend.**

**Confirmation class will be held next Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30am-12 noon in the parish hall.**

**The youth of the parish are hosting the soup supper on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church if you are interested in helping. This event is for ALL the youth of the parish.**

**CONSIDER YOUR CALL!**

Do you know that God has a plan for your life - but you're not sure what that plan is? Have you heard that every Christian has a 'vocation' - but you're having trouble figuring out what *your* vocation is? The Office of Vocations is hosting a **Consider Your Call** gathering on Saturday, February 28 (10:00 - 11:30AM), designed to help students learn how to *listen and respond* to God's call in life. Come and hear priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Richmond talk about questions such as "How can I listen to God" and "How do I know what God wants for me?" The gathering is open to students ages 15-21. To reserve your place, contact the Vocations Office: [mrenninger@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mrenninger@richmonddiocese.org).

**St. Mary Star of the Sea School** will be collecting "points" off of Tyson chicken Labels for the next year. Each "point" is worth about \$.25 and they add up quickly. The box is in back of church along with the Farm Fresh ABC box. If you have questions contact Sarah Kemmer at [smcdanie@hotmail.com](mailto:smcdanie@hotmail.com) or 251-7155

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Notes**

**RECIPES** – Be among the first contributors to the Sesquicentennial Cookbook. We are now calling for recipes for an anniversary cookbook. Please send them to Barb Kelly - [bkelly1014@cox.net](mailto:bkelly1014@cox.net) or Shannon McCall - [shannonmccall@erols.com](mailto:shannonmccall@erols.com), or drop in collection baskets or box in vestibule of the church.

Start looking for old photos, programs and other memorabilia to be scanned for the parish archives and possible use in anniversary activities. If you want to scan items yourself please do so and send to Shannon McCall at her email address.