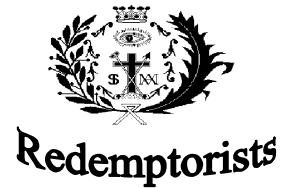


Parish Council	Parish Office
Rich Primo Chairperson Ann Sanzo Vice Chairperson Barbara Kelly Secretary Mike Swisher Finance Council Chairperson Anne Barr Military Liaison	Bookkeeper/Administrator Kate Luke <b>stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com</b> Monday thru Thursday 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. Friday 9:00 A.M.—12:00 Noon Christian Formation Erin Kearney-Lazar <b>drestmarys@yahoo.com</b> Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 A.M.—12:00 Noon
Who to Contact	Contact Us
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>Office:</b> 722-9855 <b>Fax:</b> 726-0083 <b>St. Joseph's Rectory:</b> 851-1711  7 Frank Lane Fort Monroe Virginia 23651 <b>stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com</b>
Social Action Ministries	Sacraments
<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>Baptism-</b> Call the parish office for information. <b>Wedding-</b> Contact the office six months prior to your planned wedding day. <b>Reconciliation -</b> Saturday 4:00-5 :00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church or by appointment.
<b>Justice &amp; Peace</b> —We advocate for justice and the protection of human life and dignity, and to serve those in need.	Religious Education
<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.	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>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.	Catholic Schools
<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.	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*



**Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul,  
Apostle**

**January 25, 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.

My dear parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph,

This Sunday is an extraordinary Sunday to celebrate the life of an extraordinary person. Usually when the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul falls on a Sunday it is not observed. For this Jubilee Year of St. Paul, Pope Benedict issued a decree that in 2009 the regular Sunday Mass would be replaced by the feast in honor of this extraordinary missionary of the Christian faith.

Paul was truly an extraordinary person. Jesus needed someone like him to bring his message to the world. Born in Tarsus (located in the Southeast corner of present day Turkey) he prided himself in being a strict Pharisee and a persecutor of Christians. Then he saw the light. In an extraordinary revelation Jesus appeared to St. Paul (Acts 9 and 22) and slowly Paul began to understand that Jesus was the Son of God and fulfilled the Father's plan of salvation. It was this experience of meeting the Risen Lord Jesus that changed his life for ever. Paul realized that it was not external obedience to the Law that brought salvation. Salvation comes from the love of God in Jesus. Salvation is a love relationship (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13) with God and the community. The Risen Lord called Paul as the instrument (Acts 9:15) the Father had prepared for the early church as its most influential preacher.

As a missionary (Acts chapters 15-28) he traveled by foot along the difficult and dangerous primitive roads of Turkey and Greece in the summer's heat. Paul's journeys by ship (Acts 21, 27-28) were also dangerous and difficult. Acts tells us of Paul's experience of being shipwrecked. Paul, like Jesus, an itinerant preacher, gave up being rooted in one place. He was not welcomed in some communities. At times he was persecuted by the Jews he preached to because he had abandoned the faith of his youth. At times he was held in suspicion by Jewish Christians who didn't agree with his preaching that salvation was for all, including the non-Jewish gentiles. He even had difficulty with the Jerusalem apostles because he was convinced that God was calling the church to "think outside the box."

Paul knew how to write. The letters he wrote which we regularly listen to as our second reading on Sunday make up most of the New Testament. His teaching, his motivating passages, his corrections, and his theological explanations of salvation by Jesus Christ are preserved in his letters. They are the foundation for the Church's life and growth in the first centuries which continue to inspire us at the present time. Paul's writing, preaching and personal witness of the power of faith in his life are the primary reasons that Christianity spread as rapidly as it did.

One of the lessons that Paul teaches all of us, especially this year as we celebrate the 2000<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of his birth, is that all of us are called to be instruments of evangelization. It must begin with our personal experience of the Risen Christ that is continually nourished by prayer and the Eucharist. By our daily acts of kindness and putting love into concrete actions, we will witness the power and presence of God in the world today as the extraordinary St. Paul did at the beginning of Christianity.

*Father Peter*

Mass Schedule	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12:05 p.m.</b>
Reconciliation	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00—5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>at St. Joseph Church &amp; by appt.</b>	
Website: stmarystarofthesea.catholicweb.com	

**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, 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 and Karen Powder. **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.

**Today's second collection benefits our parish charities, ACCESS-Aids Care Center, H.E.L.P., Lackey Free Clinic, and Transitions Family Violence Center.**

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

**Upcoming Meetings**

**Liturgy Committee...Tues., Jan 27-7:00 p.m.**

**We would like to thank the Swisher Family 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.**

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.

**Organ Concert and Blessing**

On Sunday, January 25, at 5:00 p.m., we will have a concert and blessing of the new organ. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

**Financial Report—January 18, 2009**

First Collection	1,865.76
Save our Schools	35.00
Building Fund	35.00
Parish Charities	221.00
Respect Life	275.00
TOTAL	2,431.76

Thank you for your generosity!

<b>Mass Intentions</b>
Saturday, January 24, 5:00 p.m. <b>Monta, Monk &amp; Louwenberg Families</b> <i>requested by Helen &amp; Carl Monk</i>
Sunday, January 25, 9:30 a.m. <b>The People of the Parish</b>
Friday January 30, 12:05 p.m. <b>A special intention</b>

**Retreats**

Everyone should attend at least one retreat, and now is the time. Retreats for St. Mary Star of the Sea have been scheduled at Holy Family Retreat Center.

**Ladies: Feb. 6-8 Men: Feb. 20-22**  
**Couples Retreat: Feb. 13-15**

For more information call Holy Family 722-3997 or go to [www.holyfamilyretreat.com](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.com). Reservation forms are in back of church and in the parish hall.

**SOMETHING NEW!!!**

Ladies of the Parish please join us at 12:05 Mass on February 6, 2009 (First Friday). We will have lunch afterwards in the parish hall. We will order lunch from Panera Bread or you may bring your own lunch. If you want to join us, please call Judy Short at 865-0571 by Tuesday, February 3. There is a menu in the Parish hall if you would like to order from Panera Bread.

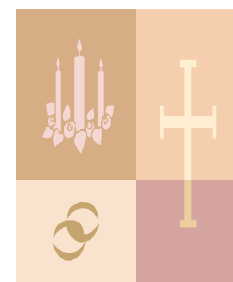
**Next Sunday, February 1, members of Cub Scout Pack 9, of St. Mary Star of the Sea School will serve as Lectors, Ushers and Altar Servers at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Ten scouts will receive awards. Following Mass, the scouts will provide coffee and doughnuts in the parish hall.**

**READINGS**

**Sunday January 18**  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Sm 3:3-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13-20 Jn 1:35-42  
**Sunday January 25**  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jon 3:1-5 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

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

**Marriage Renewal Program**




There will be a Marriage Renewal Program for the couples who will have their marriages blessed on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Any married couples from St. Joseph or St. Mary Star of the Sea are welcome to attend the Sunday afternoon sessions which will be

led by Fr. Sousa. The sessions will be held from 1:30 to 3:00 PM in Cordier Hall. The topics will be as follows:

February 1, 2009: Spirituality of Marital Sexuality and the Marriage Ceremony. If you plan to attend please call the office by the preceding Friday so we can get a count on how many will be attending. Thank you.

**Woman-to-Woman Workshop – February 7, 2009 at St. Gregory the Great in Virginia Beach:**

The Women's Commission is hosting a regional workshop which will address spiritual and care giving concerns of women. The Tidewater Workshop will be a full day (9:00a to 4:00p.). *The theme is "Exploring the Feminine Genius: Living the Virtues of Life."* The morning spiritual program will feature: Liz Schiavone, President of the Arlington Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The afternoon program will run concurrent sessions on topics of domestic violence, family relationships, and other life issues led by facilitators from Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia and others. The cost is \$20 which includes breaks, lunch and other materials. We have planned ample opportunity to chat and relax together. We have a limited number of scholarships available. For registration and information, contact Martha Mainous by phone (804) 622-5127 or by email to [mmainous@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mmainous@richmonddiocese.org) to reserve your spot. Capacity is limited.



January

There are  
no  
religious education  
classes this Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Confirmation class will meet on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Please contact Erin Lazar with any questions at

[drestmarys@yahoo.com](mailto:drestmarys@yahoo.com)

**Admissions Open House**

**Sunday, January 25, 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.** Peninsula Catholic High School will hold an Admissions Open House for prospective students and their families for the 2009 – 2010 school year on Sunday, January 25, from 2:00– 4:00 p.m. The program will provide an opportunity to see our facilities, meet our students and staff, tour our school, learn about our academic, athletic and co-curricular offerings, and get a glimpse into what the "PC Experience" is all about. The school is located at 600 Harpersville Road in Newport News and serves students in grades 8 through 12. Visit our website: [www.peninsulacatholic.com](http://www.peninsulacatholic.com). For additional information, call (757) 596-7247, Ext. 11.

Saint Mary Star of the Sea School, 14 N. Willard Avenue, Hampton, will host an Open House on Sunday, January 25, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. St. Mary's serves students PK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For additional information, please call the school office at 723-6358.

**KnightCapper's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baby Shower**

The KnightCappers want to invite all women of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's churches to our Annual Baby Shower to benefit a local crisis pregnancy organization. This year's Baby Shower is on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Father Helderfer Hall.

**Single Friends in Christ of Hampton Roads—MONTHLY SINGLE'S DANCE—Friday, January 30, 2009.**

A smoke-free, alcohol-free, singles only dance will be held from 7P:30 to 11 p.m. at Church of the Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Road in Virginia Beach. Call 754-7067 or 474-0775 for additional information