

<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
Health Ministry	Pat Wharry
<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>	
<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>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	
<b>Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church and by appointment.</b>	
Website: <a href="http://stmarystarofthesea.catholicweb.com">stmarystarofthesea.catholicweb.com</a>	

<b>Parish Office</b>	
Bookkeeper/Administrator	Kate Luke
<b><a href="mailto:stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com">stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com</a></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><a href="mailto:drestmarys@yahoo.com">drestmarys@yahoo.com</a></b>	
Tuesday 9:00 A.M.—12:00 Noon	

7 Frank Lane Fort Monroe Virginia 23651	
<b><a href="mailto:stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com">stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com</a></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
<a href="http://Saintmarystarofthesea.com">Saintmarystarofthesea.com</a>	
Peninsula Catholic High School	596-7247
<a href="mailto:pchs@peninsulacatholic.com">pchs@peninsulacatholic.com</a>	



*St. Mary Star of the Sea  
Catholic Church*

*Fort Monroe, Virginia*

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 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,

It is hard to believe that Lent is more than half way over. It seems like only yesterday that we celebrated Ash Wednesday. I hope that you have been able to keep your Lenten resolutions as a way to deepen your faith. I know right now I am looking for excuses, as I did last week on St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day, to have that in-between-meal snack or that glass of wine that I am trying to offer up during Lent.

As we get closer to Easter, we are preparing for the most beautiful liturgy of the year, the Easter Vigil. The focus of the celebration is the new life we receive in the risen Lord through baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist. At St. Joseph's, five adult Catechumens will receive all three sacraments. Second grader, Andrew, at St. Mary's will celebrate baptism and then make his first communion with his class in April. A number of men and women who are already baptized will enter the Catholic Church and receive confirmation and first Eucharist. We also have members of the Church who will be confirmed. As we approach Easter I would like to reflect on these three sacraments of initiation as a way to deepen our appreciation of what these sacraments mean to us.

On the personal level, baptism washes away our original sin and makes us children of God. That is why many parents want to have their infants baptized. They want what is best for their child. They want their child to have that relationship with God that comes from this sacrament. Some also fear the child's eternal salvation if he/she were to die without baptism. If that sad and very unfortunate situation were to happen, our faith in a merciful God and the awareness that we would have desired baptism for our child assures us that God will take care of the soul of that child. We do not believe that that child would be separated from God for all eternity.

On the social level baptism also makes us members of the Church. Because we are cleansed from original sin we become members of the Body of Christ here on earth. Our membership in the Church requires that we be formed in the faith to fully understand what being a follower of Jesus Christ is all about. That is why when an infant is baptized we need to have some guarantee from the parents that the child will grow up being formed in the practice of the faith. Otherwise, baptism would be an empty ritual. It would be better to wait until the person is older so they can first be formed in the faith and then receive baptism.

Since Vatican II we have become much more conscious of the importance of baptism as the foundation of our relationship with God and its ongoing effects in our lives. Through baptism we become an "other Christ." We become living reminders of Jesus to others. The fact that we are baptized should have a significant effect on all that we say and do. It is through baptism that we receive the call to share in the holiness of God. We have become a new creation and are called, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to renew the face of the earth. We are called through baptism to live the values and teachings of Jesus in the world. We live more than a natural life; we are called to live a supernatural life. Our vocation is to let Jesus work in us and through us to be the leaven in the world.

Next time you bless yourself with holy water, may it remind you that you are a child of God called to live out your baptism every moment of every day.

*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, 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.

**The Second Collection this week is for Catholic Relief Services. When you donate to this collection you are not giving just your money. You are giving hope. You are transferring faith and love over thousands of miles to Jesus in disguise.**

**Religious Education.....Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Women of Faith.....Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.  
For information contact Anne Barr 637-7859.**

**Upcoming meetings**

**Parish Council.....Tues., Mar. 24, 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 McGovern 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.**

<b>Financial Report—March 15, 2009</b>	
First Collection	2,522.00
Save our Schools	31.00
Building Fund	266.00
Parish Charities	493.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,312.00</b>
<b>Thank you for your generosity!</b>	

<b>Mass Intentions</b>	
Saturday, March 21	5:00 p.m. <b>Monta, Monk, and Louwenberg Families requested by Helen &amp; Carl Monk</b>
Sunday, March 22	9:30 a.m. <b>Samuel DiLorenzo, father of Bishop DiLorenzo</b>
Friday, March 27	12:05 p.m. <b>A special Intention</b>

**Opportunities for Lent**

- Daily Mass—St. Joseph's—9:00 a.m.**
- Friday Mass—St. Mary's—12:05 p.m.**
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday Mass at St. Mary's School Chapel—7:00 a.m.**
- St. Paul Video Series—Wednesday-7:00 p.m. At Marian Center—St. Joseph Church**
- Stations of the Cross—Friday—7:00 p.m.**
- Eucharistic Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction—St. Joseph Church Sunday Evening at 6:00 p.m.**

**Easter Triduum at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church**  
**Holy Thursday.....5:30 p.m.**  
**Good Friday Stations.....12:00 noon**  
**Good Friday Liturgy.....3:00 p.m.**

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday of Easter we will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. At St. Joseph Church there will be a special Divine Mercy Celebration beginning at 2:30 p.m.

**READINGS**

**Sunday March 22**  
 Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 2 Chr 36:14-23 Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21  
**Sunday March 29**  
 Fifth Sunday of Lent  
 Jer 31:31-34 Heb 5:7-9 Jn 12:20-33

**A support group will be held for parents, siblings, extended family members and friends of military personnel who are deployed or soon to be deployed to conflict areas.** The support group, offered by Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, will help participants deal with issues related to their loved one's overseas tour of duty. The group will meet at Catholic Charities' office at 4855 Princess Anne Road in Virginia Beach 23462 on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. for eight weeks beginning April 23, 2009. There is a \$40.00 fee. **To register, please call 467-7707.**

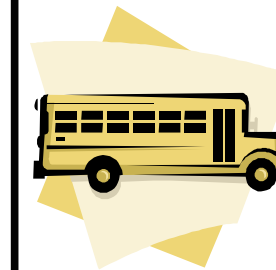
Mental health counseling is now available on a **walk in basis Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** at Catholic Charities office at 4855 Princess Anne Road in Virginia Beach 23462. Walk in mental health counseling also is available on Thursdays and Fridays at Catholic Charities' Norfolk office on 1802 Ashland Avenue. While there may be a short wait, we encourage you or anyone you know who is experiencing anxiety, depression, or family issues to drop in to see one of our professional counselors. 467-7707.

You will find flyers on the bulletin boards about the Teen Anger Management Program sponsored by Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia. They offer an Adult Anger Management program, financial counseling and debt management programs also. (757)467-7707.

**All Parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church are invited to a free Pancake Breakfast after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 29th in the parish hall, sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia and the students of St. Mary Star of the Sea School. Auction tickets will be available during the breakfast.**

**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING** will be provided by Parish Nursing at the rectory after the 9:30 Mass next Sunday, March 29th.

**Religious Article Sale** in the Parish Hall following the Masses next weekend, March 28 and 29. Time to purchase gifts for Easter, First Communion, and Confirmation!



The youth of St. Mary's Church are collecting school supplies for the children of our refugee family. A list of needed supplies is posted in the Parish Hall. Please place donated supplies in the basket provided. Thank

**April 3 - April 4, 2009 ~ 26 hour SILENT RETREAT for Catholic Young Adults (Men and Women) ages 18 - 39.** Join us for a SILENT RETREAT at the Holy Family Retreat House in Hampton. Participants will be asked to create an interior and exterior silence, so that they can listen to the voice of the Lord and prayerfully prepare for the celebration of Easter! Participants are requested to shut off all of cell phones, iPods and computers and to refrain from talking. The retreat will be led by Fr. Michael Renninger. For more information, contact the Office of Vocations at [mrenninger@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mrenninger@richmonddiocese.org). The cost of the retreat is \$30. Space is limited - sign up soon!

Single Friends in Christ of Hampton Roads—Monthly Single Dance on Friday, March 27, 2009, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at Church of the Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach. Music by DJ Rick Taylor. Admission \$6 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information call 754-7067 or 474-0775.

**We are waiting patiently for our Refugee Family to arrive. Preparations are ongoing. More information will follow.**