

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 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 & 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	Office: 722-9855 Fax: 726-0083 St. Joseph's Rectory: 851-1711 7 Frank Lane Fort Monroe Virginia 23651 stmary@starofthesea.hrcoxmail.com
Parish Charities	Sacraments
The generosity of our parishioners helps to support ACCESS-Aids Care Center, H.E.L.P., Lackey Free Clinic, and Transitions Family Violence Services.	Baptism- Call the parish office for information. Wedding- Contact the office six months prior to your planned wedding day. Reconciliation - Saturday 4:00-5 :00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church or by appointment.
Justice & Peace Ministry	Religious Education
H.E.L.P. — St. Mary 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.
Bayview Community	Catholic Schools
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.	St. Mary Star of The Sea School 723-6358 Saintmarystarofthesea.com Peninsula Catholic High School 596-7247 pchs@peninsulacatholic.com
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.	



**St. Mary Star of the Sea
Catholic Church
Fort Monroe, Virginia**



The First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

November 30, 2008

Pastor
Rev. Peter E. Sousa,
 C.Ss.R.
 Parochial Vicars
Rev. William J. Spillane,
 C.Ss.R.
Rev. Daniel J. Carboy,
 C.Ss.R.

In 1 Corinthians we see a case study in how things went in the early Church. It's tempting to place the earliest Christians in some perfect world, to paint them into some special New Testament Picture and then assume we can't reach them. But just because they knew the apostles personally doesn't mean we should overly glorify them.

Turns out, they were just like us.

Corinth, an important port city in the ancient world, was famous for its problems. You could buy whatever you wanted in Corinth if you had enough money: food, drink, power, or people. Material goods and human honor were for sale. It was a "wide open" town.

Paul talks about all of these topics in his letter to the people of Corinth. He brings them up because the Church itself had problems in all these areas. Decrying a case of immorality (1 Cor 5:1), Paul tells his brothers and sisters in Christ that they have outdone even the *pagans*.

And yet this letter has the most celebrated reflection on love in the Scriptures (1 Cor 13). We find, too, a powerful ancient account of witnesses to the resurrection of Christ that takes us into the very roots and meaning of our faith (1 Cor 15).

Corinth is the Church for which Paul thanks God, a Church "sanctified in Christ Jesus" and "not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Cor 1) as they await the coming of the Lord. The apostle promises they will be strengthened to the end.

In our modern churches, as in ancient Corinth, we cannot make a mess too big for God to handle. This is incredibly down-to-earth stuff. Does it make you want to read the whole letter to Corinth? Go ahead! As we wait for the coming Lord in Advent, let's see what he can do.

Dan Finucane
sundaybulletins@ligouri.org

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 & by appt.	
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, Tom Hruby, Julie Sager, Maureen Dodge, Ann Gochanour, Patricia Jones, Michael Elgart, Ed Wild, Anne Marie Hacker, and Dick Welsh. **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 weekend will help with the cost of the organ renovation.

Religious Education.....resume December 7

Women of Faith.....Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
For information contact Anne Barr 637-7859.

**Monday, December 8,
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
is a holyday of obligation.
Masses will be at 12:05 p.m. & 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.

Ladies of the Parish please join us at 12:05 Mass on Friday December 5, 2008. (First Friday). We will lunch afterwards at Victorian Station, 36 N. Mallory St.

We would like to thank the McGovern Family who provided coffee and doughnuts after 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass 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—November 23, 2008	
First Collection	2,455.50
Save our Schools	10.00
Building Fund	75.00
Parish Charities	40.00
Human Development	652.55
TOTAL	3,233.05
Thank you for your generosity!	

Mass Intentions
Saturday, November 29, 5:00 p.m. People of the Parish
Sunday, November 30, 9:30 a.m. Special Intentions of Ed Maben on his 80th Birthday requested by the Sansone Family
Friday, December 5, 12:05 p.m. + Father Kelly

The Responsorial Psalm, between the first and second readings, foster meditation on the word of God. The Cantor or Choir will sing the verses of the Psalm while the congregation takes part by singing the response. During the season of Advent we will be singing the same Responsorial Psalm 85 each weekend. This psalm is a prayer for restoration and the verses that will be sung (8-13) are God's promise to restore peace, tranquility, and reconciliation among God's people. This is our hope as we celebrate Advent and look forward to Christmas.

*****Correction*****

In the letter from the pastor insert today, the correct time for the English/Spanish Mass on December 12 is 7:00 p.m.

We are asking for you to sign up to bring up the Offertory Gifts during weekend Liturgies. Also we would like volunteers to light the Advent Wreath.

There is a sign-up sheet in back of church for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas time.

READINGS

Sunday November 30
The First Sunday of Advent
Is 63:16-19;64:2-7 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37
Sunday December 7
Is 40:1-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

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

In consultation with the Liturgy Committee, Father Peter has purchased St. Joseph Sunday Missals for the 2009 Liturgical year. They will be kept here to be used in church. The primary purpose of the missals is to help us reflect on the readings in preparation for Sunday Mass. If you wish to purchase a Missal to bring home, they will be available in the parish office for \$4.00.

Also, Seasonal Devotional booklets, composed of excerpts from the late Henri Nouwen are available for St. Mary's parishioners. A relevant Scripture verse has been selected to open each Nouwen reflection, and a brief concluding prayer has been added to summarize the daily Advent reflection.



One of our organists, John Siderius, has researched and found a used 1989 Casavant Organ Console to replace our old and ailing one. The asking price of \$2,000 is so reasonable that we have agreed to purchase it. However, the cost of the installation and upgrades will be approximately \$12,000. We are asking the good people of St. Mary's to help so that we can all experience the beautiful Christmas Music on the new organ system.



Just a reminder—there are no religious education classes on Nov. 30th. Have a wonderful weekend.

Thank you to all of the students who donated food for the St. Vincent's lunches. We

You are invited to the St. Olaf's Parish Mission from Sunday, Nov. 30 to Wednesday, Dec. 3, to be conducted by Fr. Philip Dabney, C.Ss.R. The theme is "Experiencing Jesus". For info call the parish office.

Marriage Blessing Ceremony



If you have been married civilly and are free to marry in the church; there will be a marriage preparation program beginning in November to prepare for a Marriage Blessing Ceremony on Saturday, February 14, 2009. Please call the parish office for further information.

There will be a parish sponsored reception following the ceremony.

Parishioner Pictures

Father Carboy is taking pictures of parishioners to share with the other priests and possibly make a book out of them. The important thing is to get to know you.



After he takes your picture, write down your name and something about yourself, such as where you are from, how long you have been at St. Mary's, who you are related to...

BULLETIN BOARD NOTICES

(DETAILS IN BACK OF CHURCH)

Dec. 19-22 A Family Festival of Carols 2008 Virginia Choral Society—St. Bede's, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & other churches.
Dec. 20 Wind Ensemble Christmas Concert St. Kateri Church