

January 28, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

Today officially begins Catholic Schools week! Being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence gives us an extra special reason to give thanks to God this year as we celebrate Catholic Schools week! Please join me in thanking God for all the hard work put forward by our dedicated principal, Mrs. Tricia McDermott, our fantastic faculty, and especially our wonderful students. I am impressed time and again with the respect that our students show to each other, their teachers, and their priests, by their intelligence, and overall by their love for the Lord and desire to grow in the Faith.

We're also grateful for the students, faculty, and staff at our local high school! Under the leadership of Mr. Christopher Cosentino and Mrs. Bridget Bartholomew, St. Maria Goretti, it's always a pleasure to see the students there (especially our own parishioners!) growing in both knowledge and love for the Lord. I am grateful to Mr. Christopher Cosentino and Mrs. Bridget Bartholomew for welcoming me so warmly whenever I go to visit the students at St. Maria Goretti.

We'll have the opportunity to hear a few words from our students who attend both St. Mary Catholic School and St. Maria Goretti High School today before Mass. Please consider sending your high school age children to St. Maria Goretti High School and your elementary and middle school age children to our very own 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, St. Mary Catholic School. If there's something we can do to help make that dream a reality, please let us know.

May God bless you and keep you in His care, and may the Blessed Mother intercede for you,

Father Cibelli

P.S. Thank you to everyone who made the Archbishop's visit possible last Sunday at 4:00 pm! And thank you for all your kindness, support, and especially your prayers for me personally. As I mentioned at that Mass, I think of St. Luke's Gospel where the Lord says, "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do'" (Luke 17:10). I don't feel worthy, and for that reason, I am especially grateful to you.

P.P.S. I owe you a little report on my progress on my dissertation. The two weeks I spent away were very productive. I am pleased with where things stand at the moment; however, as I warned you, there is still more to do. Currently I am trying to make arrangements to go away again from the afternoon of February 4 to February 9 or 10. I'll let you know for certain in next Sunday's bulletin. Thanks for your continued prayers and support for this special intention!

If you haven't received your contributions statement for tax purposes, please call the parish office, 301-739-0390, to request it. If you would like it emailed, please include your correct email address to the staff or in your message. Thank you!

1/21/2018	Attendance	1008
Offertory	\$11,119.51	
Online Giving	3,049.70	
Total	\$14,169.21	
Amount Needed** \$15,239 **This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Mary to break even for fiscal year 2017		
School Support	\$1,795.25	
Diocesan Priests	120.00	
Other	72.00	

1/21/2018	Attendance	14
Offertory	\$250.00	
School Support	20.00	
Amount Needed** \$749 **This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Michael to break even for fiscal year 2017		

Next week's second collection is for

Capital Improvements.

Thank you for your generosity!

Father,

Did Mary have other children: James, Joseph, Jude, and Simon?

No, Mary did not have any other children, except Jesus. The confusion comes with the translation of the Hebrew text. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* # 499 "The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. . . (# 500) Against this doctrine the objection is sometimes raised that the Bible mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact, James and Joseph, "brothers of Jesus," are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom St. Matthew significantly calls "the other Mary." They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression." (See Matthew 10: 3 & 27:56, 61). According to Bishop Victor Galeone, "In Hebrew, the word *brother* (**'ak**) can mean more than just blood brother. It can also mean *half-brother, stepbrother, uncle, nephew, cousin, neighbor, or co-religionist*. Genesis 12:5 tells us that Lot is the son of Abraham's brother, that is, his nephew. But in the next chapter, Abraham says to Lot, "Let's not quarrel, for we are brothers." Genesis 13:8. Besides, if Mary had other children, why would Jesus, dying on the cross, have entrusted her to his favorite disciple John? "Then Jesus said to the disciple, *There is your mother*. From then on, the disciple took her into his own care." (Jn 19:27) Matthew 1:25 says that Joseph had no relations with Mary until she gave birth to her son. Doesn't the "until" imply that they had marital relations afterwards? Once again, we're dealing with the Hebrew way of saying things. In English, what is said before until is usually not true afterwards: "I didn't drive until I was 21." For example, "Behave yourselves until I get back." Does that mean the kids can tear the house apart once their mother returns? Matthew 1.25 is the Hebrew way of stressing that Joseph had nothing to do with the conception of Jesus. A better translation might be: "He had no relations with her at any time before she bore a son." One more example: 2 Samuel 6:23 says: "Michal had no children until the day she died." Are we to assume that Michal bore children when she was in the grave? What about Luke 2:7? It says that Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son". If he's the first, there must have been others? Firstborn (**bekor**) was a technical Hebrew word that conferred special legal status on the firstborn son. As St. Jerome said: "Firstborn doesn't mean that there were any later-born. It merely excludes any previous-born"

"Ask The Priest" is a continuing feature of the Bulletin. If you have a question regarding the Catholic faith, please place your question in the box on the back table.

Please join St. Mary Catholic School as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 27 – February 2, 2018. Catholic Schools Week serves as a means to celebrate our tradition, to embrace our Catholic identity, and to appreciate our community. The hallways are adorned with artwork and projects of the students, and classrooms are alive with displays and school spirit.

Monday – Career Day & Dignitary Luncheon

Tuesday – Parent Appreciation Day & Take A Look Tuesday

Wednesday – Student Appreciation Day & Talent Show

Thursday – Grandparent Day

Friday – Teacher Appreciation Day

ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, AND EMHCs: Please send your availability for the months of March, April, and May (INCLUDING Stations of the Cross, Holy Week, and Easter availability) to Trevor Rowland no later than Tuesday, January 30th . Contact trowland@saintmarysonline.org or 301-739-0390 x119

Do you have blessed palms at home from last year? St. Mary's is collecting blessed palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday (February 14th). **Please bring old palms** to the church by **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th** for collection. Thank you!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Mary Conference was established in 1954. In 2017 the SVdPS assisted approximately 450 members of our community. Types of assistance included eviction prevention, utility shut-off prevention, local bus transportation, emergency travel expenses and food vouchers. Assistance to the poor and suffering is provided through your donations to the Poor Box. Thank you!

Knights of Columbus

Another benefit of being a Knight: Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost.

Come find out more about the Knights of Columbus Information Night Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall at 17630 Virginia Avenue in Hagerstown. Refreshments will be served.

CCD— In case of snow, please listen to your radio; if announced that the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect at 8 AM, CCD Sunday School of Religion will be cancelled. The following website will give you the Snow Emergency information: www.chart.state.md.us

Immediate Preparation Classes for Confirmation students will be held in the Parish Center every Tuesday until March 6, 2018. Sign in time is 6:15 PM. **All Confirmandi must attend these classes.**

**Friday Lent Soup Suppers
will begin February 16th.**

Mark your calendars!

LEGION OF MARY needs help making rosaries.

Contact Parish Office, 301-739-0390



Saint Mary Catholic School



January 27—February 2 Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 27

- Pancake Breakfast** 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Book Fair 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Open House & Tours 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Prospective New Students & Families
Basketball Games
9:45 A.M. **Boys JV Crusaders** at Broadfording Christian Academy
1:00 P.M. **JV Lady Crusaders** at Grace Academy
2:00 P.M. **Elementary Lady Crusaders** at E. Russell Hicks Elementary School
2:15 P.M. **Varsity Lady Crusaders** at Grace Academy

Sunday, January 28

Students are wearing their school uniforms to Mass or a public place over the weekend to show school pride. Students will be speaking at Masses about St. Mary Catholic School at all area Catholic Churches.

Monday, January 29 – Career Day

- Hot Chocolate and Cookies** – St. Maria Goretti High School Students will be bringing our students a special treat
Career Day Presentations (K—2: 8:45 to 10:00 A.M.; Gr. 6—8: 11:00 to 12:30 P.M.; Gr. 3—5: 1:15 to 2:30 P.M.)
Dignitaries Luncheon 11:45 A.M. to 12:55 P.M.
Book Fair Open for browsing

Tuesday, January 30 - Parent & Volunteer Appreciation Day

- Volunteer Appreciation Reception** 8:15 to 9:00 A.M. in Fatima Hall
Parent Visitation 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
First Lunch Shift 11:30 to 12:00 **Grades 3, 4, 5**
Second Lunch Shift 12:00 to 12:30 **Grades K, 1, 2**
Third Lunch Shift 12:30 to 1:00 **Grades 6, 7, 8**
“Take a Look Tuesdays” Open House & Tours 9:00 A.M. to 2 P.M. for Prospective New Students & Families
Book Fair 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 31 - Student Appreciation Day

- **Out-of-Uniform Day** - Students are to wear their National Blue Ribbon shirts
- **TALENT SHOW** 1:30 P.M.
- **NO HOMEWORK**

Book Fair Open for browsing

Thursday, February 1 - Grandparent Day

Classroom Visitation Times (Students will be in homerooms.)

- Grades 3, 4, 5** 10:30 to 11:30
Grades K, 1, 2 11:00 to 12:00
Grades 6, 7, 8 11:30 to 12:30

Lunch provided to Grandparents & Students by HSA

- First Lunch Shift** 11:30 to 12:00 **Grades 3, 4, 5**
Second Lunch Shift 12:00 to 12:30 **Grades K, 1, 2**
Third Lunch Shift 12:30 to 1:00 **Grades 6, 7, 8**

Book Fair 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Friday, February 2 - Teacher Appreciation Day

Catholic Schools Week Mass 10:30 A.M.

Dismissal is at 12:00 P.M.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in Fatima Hall



Who needs the
Super Bowl??

when you can earn



at the

Knights of the Holy Tabernacle



Young men 8th - 12th grade are invited to play
the **MONEY GAME**
and earn money by knowing your
CATHOLIC FAITH

Sunday, 4 February A.D. 2018 6:30-8:30pm Bosco Room
2nd floor, St. Mary Catholic Church Office Building

Feasting!, Fun!, & Faith!

St. Mary Church Holy Mass Intentions January 29 — February 4, 2018

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	1/29	6:30	Anna Rita Carroll
		8:30	Special Intentions of Ashley Ryder
Tuesday	1/30	6:30	Hughie and Anna Rita Carroll
		8:30	Special Intentions of Shane and Chay Blas
Wednesday	1/31	6:30	Special Intentions of The Lafollette Family
		8:30	Fr. Canice Treacy
Thursday	2/1	6:30	Vocations to the Priesthood
		8:30	Special Intentions of Padre Pio Prayer Group
Friday	2/2	6:30	Special Intentions of Aida Clippinger (75th Birthday)
		8:30	Special Intentions of Justine Eke
Saturday	2/3	8:30	Helen Pauline McDermott
		5:15	Sr. Valeria Wagner
Sunday	2/4	8:00	Gene Eakle
		9:30	Special Intentions of Rich Bernhard
		11:00	Robert L. Grimsley
		12:50	In Honor of St. Joseph



Please pray for

Dolores J. Weaver,
wife of Marvin.

May she rest in the
Peace of Christ!

St. Michael Church 10:30AM February 4, 2018 St. Michael and St. Mary Parishioners

**The hosts being used for the month of January have
been donated by the Legion of Mary.**

Readings for January 28 — February 4, 2018

Sunday 1/28	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Deuteronomy 18:15-20 / 1st Corinthians 7:32-35 / Mark 1:21-28
Monday 1/29	Weekday 2nd Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 / Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday 1/30	Weekday 2nd Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3 / Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday 1/31	Saint John Bosco, Priest 2nd Samuel 24:2, 9-17 / Mark 6:1-6
Thursday 2/1	Weekday 1st Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 / Mark 6:7-13
Friday 2/2	The Presentation of the Lord Malachi 3:1-4 / Hebrew 2:14-18 / Luke 2:22-40
Saturday 2/3	Weekday Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, Saint Ansgar, Bishop, BVM 1st Kings 3:4-13 / Mark 6:30-34
Sunday 2/4	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Job 7:1-4, 6-7 / 1st Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 / Mark 1:29-39