

Saint Mary's Parish Bulletin

St. Mary's is a Stewardship Parish, comprised of the faith-filled communities of St. Mary's Church and St. James Chapel. Together, we are devoted to the spreading of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through deeds, prayer and the sacrificial giving of our Time, our Talent and our Treasure.



St. James Chapel - 2079 Matunuck School House Rd
Charlestown, RI 02813

St. Mary's Church - 437 Carolina Back Road Carolina, RI 02812
mailing address for St. Mary's Church & St. James Chapel is P.O. Box 475, Carolina RI 02812

PARISH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Paul Desmarais
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. John F. Heaney
Deacon Assistant	Rev. Mr. Ray Castaldi
Pastoral Associate	Sally Lambert 401-213-6276
Parish Manager	Greg Plunkett 401-322-1576
Parish Accountant	Brenda DeMerchant
Office Secretary	Dolly Theroux
Parish Main. Supervisor	Nathan Dipietro

Telephone Numbers

St. Mary's Parish & Rectory	(401) 364-7214
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	(401) 364-9413

St. Mary's Parish Website & email Address
www.stmjparish.org dolly@stmjparish.org
gplunkett@stmjparish.org

Sacraments

Baptisms	Third Sunday of every month. Please call rectory in advance.
Marriage	Please call Fr. Paul at least one year in advance.
Priesthood	Please call the Office of Vocations (401) 831-8011

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Mary's Church

Saturdays	4:00pm
Sunday	8:30 am
Holy Day of Obligation	7:00pm
Confessions - Saturdays	3:15pm to 3:45pm

St. James Chapel

Saturdays	5:30pm
Sundays	10:00am
Monday - Friday	8:30am
Holy Day of Obligation	8:30am

Summer Weekend Schedule (Effective Memorial Day thru Labor Day)

Sat-St. Mary's	4:00 pm
Sat-St. James	5:30 pm
Sun-St. James	8:00am, 9:30 am

Rosary:

Monday thru Friday	8:00am
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Confessions:

Saturdays	4:45pm to 5:15pm
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Adoration: Mary, Mother of Mercy Eucharistic Chapel

Monday & Tuesday	9:00 am-6:00pm
Wednesday	7:00 am-6:00 pm
First Friday	9:00—5:00 pm
First Saturday	7:00am—8:00 am

Healing Mass second Sunday of the month

Sept-June	2:00 pm
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—MARCH 21, 2021



Saturday, March 20, 2021
St. Mary's/St. James—None
Sunday, March 21, 2021
St. Mary's/St. James—None

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND
Saturday, March 27, 2021
St. Mary's/St. James—None
Sunday, March 28, 2021
St. Mary's/St. James—None

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the week of March 21, 2021

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
[12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/
Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-
62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/
Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/
Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a,
9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf.
7]/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf.
10d]/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps
22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/
Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1 – 15:47 or 15:1-39

Observances for the week of March 21, 2021

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
Monday:
Tuesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Wednesday:
Thursday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the
Lord; Holy Week begins

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

March 21, 2021
5th Sunday of Lent

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

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FROM THE PASTOR

God had promised his people that he would place his law in their hearts. Each and everyone of us is stamped with God's law on our hearts. He teaches us how to live our lives with his love and guidance; our challenge is to follow his will as best we can. The word of God guides us, the sacraments give us the means and way to follow God's guidance. Within each of our hearts God's presence is with us. Not one of us walks this life's journey by ourselves. This remaining time of Lent gives us the means to allow him to continue to reveal himself to us by taking the time to be with him.

What distraction can I do away with to spend more time with him, less time in front of the T.V. or computer. How can I spend more time listening instead of being surrounded by noise. We are being called to bring some quiet to our lives to hear him more clearly speak to us.

Sharing does not consist merely in the distribution of material goods; it also implies that our personal resources, our mind and heart, our time and influence, are placed at the service of others . . .
 Sharing means taking part in the joys and sorrows, and in the worries and the hopes of others . . .
 We are all poor in one way or another. That is perhaps what draws us all closer to one another and to HIM who consented to share our humanity . . .
 (taken in part from SVdP US Manual)

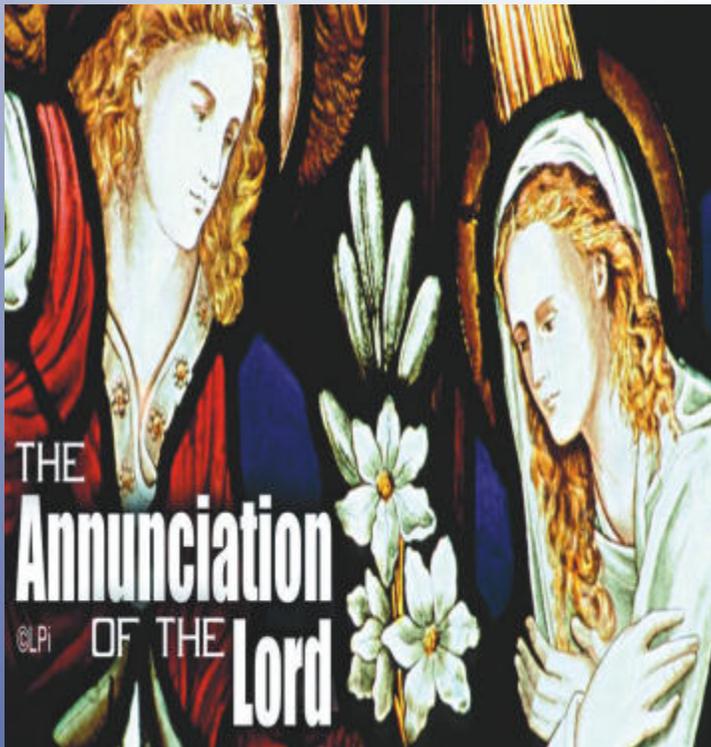
This concept of sharing ourselves with others fits perfectly into our Lenten Season.



HELP LINE 401 364-9413

GARDEN OF WEED'IN NEEDS YOU !
Would you consider helping to maintain our St James Gardens?
We meet 1x per month in a very informal meeting and work session.
Our volunteers work a garden section at their convenience.
No set rules, except the more hands, the easier the job.
Please consider this as a ministry to your church!
Call Mary @ 914-204-2134 or Cheryl @ 914-525-4156
FIRST MEETING; FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH, 3PM





THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH

Question of the week

How can I sow the seeds of the kingdom of God? What seed can I plant this spring that can flower in due season?

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of our parish, I would like to thank you for the generosity and flexibility you have demonstrated as we continue to provide safe ways in which we can worship the Lord here at our church.

Please know that the guidelines enacted to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 have worked. The spread of COVID-19 has not been traced to any Catholic church in the State of Rhode Island. This reflects your willingness to follow safe protocols in order to protect fellow parishioners and our community at large. I am grateful.

(1) Please come to Mass wearing a mask and continue to sanitize your hands.

(2) If you are sick—even with the mildest of symptoms—you must stay home. We continue to live-stream the Masses for this purpose.

(3) This is important: **please do not congregate in the church or outside**, and always maintain distance of at least six feet between others when you are entering or exiting the church. In some churches, parishioners sometimes exit at the same time and congregate in large groups outside. This is understandable. After all, we all need community. But this unfortunately defeats the purpose of keeping our distance to ensure everyone is safe.

Thank you for understanding the importance of these guidelines during this critical time. I am confident that with prayer, and the Lord's unfailing help, we will get through this together. After all, God is in charge.



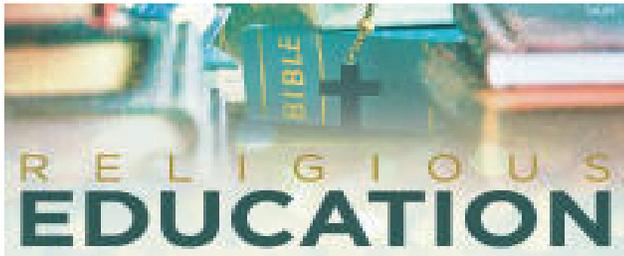
BUDGET REQUIRED - \$6,597.00

Budget collection received:

March 7, 2021—\$8342.00

Other— \$155.00

Second collection this weekend is for Catholic Relief/Rice Bowl. Your support is appreciated.



We are working to restructure our program as large gatherings may not be something we can count on in the future and to avoid disruption this coming year we will be breaking out into smaller groups. We will be holding sacrament classes in person only for the rest of the year...

We have come up with 2 possible scenarios that will provide for distancing and safety.

Sunday, March 21

Sacrament Classes for Confirmation and Communion 10:00-10:45 am First Communion (please come to the side door by the conference room as mass will be streaming mass in center.) 10:00 am mass for those wishing to attend. 11:00 am -12:00 pm Confirmation class, parish center. Books needed please.

Monthly Example #1: Elementary 2X, Middle School 2X, Sacrament groups 2X. Add youth group activities combining some of the age groups together utilizing our parish center and tent to run a fun activity with lessons. (movie night, baking class, ceramics under the tent) Parents with Father Paul/Deacon Ray.

Monthly Example #2: Break kids into individual grade groups 2X's a month. Add youth group activities combining some of the age groups together utilizing our parish center and tent to run a fun activity with lessons. (movie night, baking class, ceramics under the tent) Parents with Father Paul/Deacon Ray/Speaker.



2021 USCCB Pro-Life Theme

"Live the Gospel of Life"... "to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps."

Think about praying for an unborn baby and their families. Every day 4000 babies are killed by abortion. They have so little protection only the hand of God can end this. Prayer is the best weapon to help them...the most effective. Say this prayer for nine months to save a baby's life.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much, I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

.BEING PRO-LIFE is:

-believing that a baby's life is a gift that should be cherished.

-believing that a mother is a precious human life with value and dignity.

-believing that all human life belongs only to the Creator who gave us life.

-believing that all life is God's to give and take .

"A woman who had an abortion met Padre Pio. She said, "I never knew abortion was a sin." What do you mean, you didn't know it was a sin? That's killing...it's a sin, it's a great sin." Padre Pio

Respect Life rose for the week of March 21st is for Catherine McNicholl

There will be a Holy Hour for Life for the remaining Fridays during the 40 Days for Life Lenten campaign from 9am- 10am at St James Chapel after morning mass. Please come and pray for the unborn and their families who are threatened with abortion. 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

-40 Days for Life Lenten Vigil, Feb. 17th- Mar. 28th (St. Mary's Parish registered for the Fridays of the vigil at 10am in front of Planned Parenthood, Providence

-Parishioners at St. Mary's Church who wish to place a name on the weekly rose dedication, please e mail me the name a week before.

For Respect Life news and events in the area and diocese, please check out the ministry's Facebook page at St. Mary's Respect Life Ministry, the Respect life table at the back of the churches and ministry email address is Respectlife@stmj.org. [sign up for emails](#)



Change in the Mass Schedule

Due to the changing attendance at Mass during the past several weeks, there will be a change in weekend Mass times beginning the weekend of January 23-24, 2021. We are returning to the more traditional schedule we have had for the winter months.

Mass on Saturday evening will remain the same:

4:00PM at St Mary's Church
And
5:30PM at St James

On Sunday Mass will be:

8:30AM at St Mary's Church
And
10:00AM at St James Chapel

The 10:00 AM Mass will be streamed, live over the internet and the Parish Center will be open to accommodate any overflow from the Chapel. This schedule will hopefully carry us through the spring. However, additional restrictions imposed by the State due to health concerns caused by Covid-19 may necessitate further changes. Thank you for your patience and support during these difficult times.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

There will not be a 4:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary's. It will be at 6:30 pm at St. James Chapel.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday – April 1, 2021
7:00 PM – St James

Stations of the Cross Good Friday April 2, 2021

3:00 PM – St James Chapel
7:00 PM - St Mary's Church

Holy Saturday – April 3, 2021
6:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass
St James Chapel

Easter Sunday – April 4, 2021
8:30 AM - Mass
St Mary's Church

10:00 AM – Mass
St James Chapel



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