

WEEKLY READINGS

MONDAY

2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2,3,
43:3,4; Lk 4:24-30 (237)

TUESDAY

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6,
7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35 (238)

WEDNESDAY *Sts Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs*

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13,
15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
(239)

THURSDAY *St John of God, Religious*

Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7,
8-9; Lk 11:14-23 (240)

FRIDAY *St Frances of Rome, Religious*

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a,
8bc-9, 1-11ab, 14, 17; Mk
12:28-34

SATURDAY

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-
19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
(242)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Color: Violet or Rose)

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps
137:1-2,3,4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10;
Jn 3:14-21 (32)

Please submit items for
next week's bulletin to the
church office by Friday.

Email to:

admin@stmary.hrcoxmail.com

PASTORAL CARE

Send a card, make a call, visit and always pray for our brothers and sisters in faith who are ill, including...

SICK & HOMEBOUND: Bernie Angeles, Clarence Banks, Jr., Sharon Barnes, Mary Barnwell, Barbara Bryant, Francine Bryant, Marion Bullock, Brenda Cannon, Matthew Cherry, Virginia Cook, Maria Davila, Vincent C. Eason, Jr., Kenneth Givens, Etisha Goode, Derrick Graves, Thado Greene, Randall Griggs, Virginia Griggs, Freda Harrington, Ernest Humphries, Jr., Joan Jones, Martha Jones, Denise Lovely, William Mann, Antonell McGlone, Harvey Nash, Pauline Nash, Wendell Paige, Evelyn Proctor, Dorothy Sharp, Faye Shaw, John Ward, Charles Williams, Rosie Woodis



Friends of the Basilica:

Albert Aquino, Bertha Adams, Lamar Cuffee, Claudia Hawkins, Joseph Jackson, Christine Jordan, Marie Kelly, Raymond Mercer (son of Martha Jones), Paul Pruden, Doris Wade, Therace Meehan, Chassidy Moore, Bernadette McClain, Lindwood Washington, Jr., Karen Woodbury, Brenda Speller, Philip Ashton

NURSING HOME/REHAB:

Katherine Morris, Sentara Assisted Living, #410A

Norris Phillips, Georgian Manor, River Walk

Emily Ponton, Elizabeth Allen Crump Rehab, Glen Allen, VA, Rm 12B

Kema Rodgers, Sentara Rehab Newtown

TO PLACE NAMES ON THE PRAYER LIST:

Call the Church Office, 757-622-4487.

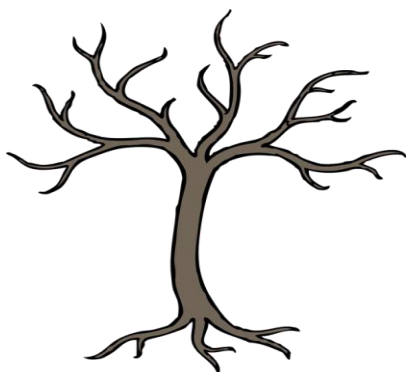
TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME: Contact Pastoral Care Team

Tom Bomar, 757-461-1053 or 757-692-8347

Cindy Williams, 757-849-9298

LENT 2018

Raise Up. Sacrifice. Offer.



WHERE IS YOUR TREE PLANTED?

I Will Turn

(a daily prayer for Lent)

Lord, I will turn,

Turn my face towards you.

I will lay before you the desert areas I
hide

And turn to soak in your refreshing
words of life.

I will cast aside the barren, selfish
pursuits

And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth
of your love.

I will draw back from the harsh pull of
media

And turn to bathe in the gentle power
of your Spirit.

Lord, today I turn my face towards
you.

I will turn

To soak in your words of life,

To rest in the warmth of your love,

And to bathe in the power of your Spirit

What's The Big Deal: Leaving Mass Immediately After Receiving Communion

Mass Exodus: Leaving Mass After Receiving Holy Communion

written by Fr. Lawrence Adamczyk

While not as bad as missing Mass, leaving Mass immediately after receiving Holy Communion is still very disrespectful to your Spouse. Again, let's use the analogy of Jesus the Bridegroom and the Church as His spouse. **Leaving immediately after receiving Holy Communion, screams that you really do not understand what has just happened.**

You have just received the God of the Universe, the One who created you, the One who died on the cross for you, the Eternal, the Almighty God into your heart and soul and you don't even stop to say "thank you" to your spouse. You cannot have a deep personal intimate relationship with the one who loves you more than you can ever know, if you leave as soon as YOU get what YOU want. I have fallen madly and passionately in love with the God of the universe.

I have been a priest for about 8 years. You know what breaks my heart? For more than 8 years now, I have been standing at the back of the church greeting people as they leave Mass. It breaks my heart when people leave Mass right after receiving Holy Communion; and it is not because as St. Paul says that "we must render an account." It breaks my heart because of the Book of Wisdom, "I...deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; because all gold, in view of her is a little sand." Maybe it is because I am a priest, that I feel so heartbroken that people do not reverence the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. **Do they not know that after receiving Holy Communion, they are a walking tabernacle?** What can be so important that one would not spend a few moments in thanksgiving for receiving the Almighty God into your very being?

But the rich young man, "went away sad, for he had many possessions" which were apparently more important to him than following Jesus. By our Baptism, we are all called to that intimate and personal love that God has for each one of us, it cannot be that only the priest has a deep and personal relationship with God. Fr. Pedro Aruppe, one time superior General of the Jesuits is quoted as saying, "Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything." Remember love is not about feeling or emotions; love is not about sex; love is about the choice to sacrifice for the good of the other.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come together in prayer with your church family at The Basilica every Friday at 7 p.m. during Lent for Stations of the Cross.

Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception | Sunday, March 4, 2018
"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."



2018 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

A Letter from Our Bishop



His Excellency serves meals at Basilica Soup Kitchen.

Welcome to the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal ~ *Building Our Family of Faith.*

As I begin my ministry as the 13th Bishop of Richmond, I think about how far this Diocese has come since its inception in 1820. In recent years, one of the key components of advancing our Catholic Faith has been the Annual Diocesan Appeal. It has become a part of the fabric that binds us together as a family of faith. When our larger ministries and parishes receive funding through the Appeal, we as a Church are ensuring that they can thrive today while building for tomorrow.

With a grateful heart, I hope all parishioners of The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception will join with us this year to accomplish our most challenging goal to date of \$3,117,096. Please know that whatever level you contribute; your gift will be most humbly received.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout
Diocese of Richmond

BASILICIA RESTORATION

MEETING THIS WEEK

The Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, and the Pastoral Planning Governing Committee will update the parish on repairs and restoration of the church. Please mark your calendars:

Church Restoration Updates
Saturday, March 10, noon
Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.

Presentations will take place in the Sanctuary.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

All Altar Servers and interested parishioners are invited to attend:

Altar Server Training
Saturday, March 24
10 a.m. to noon

Pizza will be served after the training. For more information, please contact J.C. Gardner at 757-647-7445 or ajg0905@yahoo.com

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Lenten Day of Service, March 16

Youth Regional Event: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith is sure to challenge and inspire those who hear him.



Sunday, April 22
6 to 9 p.m.
Cost \$7.00

Bishop Sullivan High School, Va. Beach

Contact Ricardo Givens for registration at ricardogivens@gmail.com or 757-567-5865

BASILICA SPOTLIGHT | Minnie Thomas, Benemerenti Award Recipient



Minnie Thomas has been a member of the Basilica for many decades. She is a retired educator of Norfolk Public Schools. Upon her retirement, Mrs. Thomas became a staff member with at Catholic Charities, where she organized a support group for grandparents rearing their grandchildren. Her program model was so successful that it was replicated by agencies throughout the state and country.

Mrs. Thomas was the Basilica's Pastoral Coordinator during Monsignor Walter Barrett's tenure. She also served on the Parish Council and as a member of Building and Grounds. She was formerly a member of the Diocesan Women's Commission, which advocated for programs that enhanced the role of women in the Diocese. Mrs. Thomas served as a committee member with the Office of Black Catholics.

On October 13, 2002 Bishop Walter Sullivan, awarded Mrs. Thomas the Benemerenti Award. This award is extended to a Catholic lay person who has done most to further the cause of Catholicism in his or her diocese and who has been extensively involved in their local community. The Benemerenti Award is the highest honor a lay person may receive and includes a certificate bearing the Pope's signature.