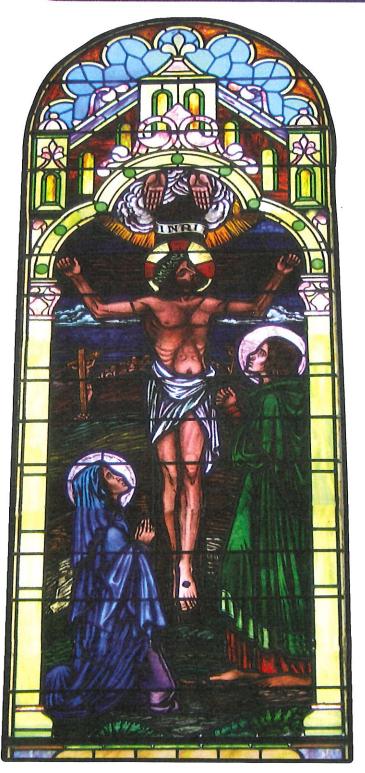
# St. Mary's Catholic Church



Rev. Rory T. Conley, Pastor frconley@comcast.net

Deacon Jeffrey R. Johnson

deacon@bryantown.org

### **New Parishioners**

We welcome you to our faith community. Registration forms are vailable in the vestibule of the church. Also you can call the rectory office or email smboffice@stmarysbryantown.com to have a form nailed to you.

Established 1793

13715 Notre Dame Place • Bryantown, Maryland • 20617

### MASSES FOR SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil Masses: 4 pm and 6 pm Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 12 pm

### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday – Thursday 8 am Friday 9:30 am

### **CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

Sundays: 9:30 – 9:45 am Monday-Thursday 7:30 – 7:50 am / Friday 9:00 - 9:20 am Saturdays: 3:00 - 3:45 pm

### PARISH OFFICE

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Monday – Friday Phone: 301-870-2220 or 301-274-3187 / Fax: 301-274-0253 Visit Our Parish Web Site: www.stmarysbryantown.com

Secretary

Lauren Balderson - smbassist@comcast.net

**Administrative Assistant** 

Terri Cantor - smcasst@comcast.net

Bookkeeper

Lisa Shumaker - smcacct@comcast.net

Ministry to the Sick, Homebound & Bereaved Sister Theresa Frere, IHM - SRTHERESA@comcast.net

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Address: 13735 Notre Dame Place, Bryantown, MD 20617-2110 Phone: 301-932-6883 or 301-843-3387 / Fax: 301-274-0626 School Web Site: www.bryantown.org

Principal

Catherine C. Silverstone - silverstone@bryantown.org

Administrative Assistant
Penny Bailey – office@bryantown.org

### OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Director Of Religious Education** 

Sue Wolfe – smcffp@comcast.net Phone for Office of Religious Education: 301-274-3800

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### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This program involves preparation for and celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist for the Christian initiation of unbaptized adults, unbaptized children of catechetical age, as well as for welcoming baptized Catholics and non-Catholics into full communion with the Church. Please contact Father Conley for more information.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are normally celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents seeking to have a child baptized at St. Mary's should contact the rectory office to make the necessary arrangements.

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples seeking to be married at St. Mary's are to call the rectory to make arrangements at least six months in advance of their intended wedding date. This should be done prior to any other reception or invitation arrangements so that the parish may suitably serve the couple.

The Sacrament of Anointing

Any Catholic who is facing serious illness or surgery is encouraged to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Please call Father Conley at the rectory office to arrange to receive this sacrament for yourself or for a family member.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Recently the media has featured frequent stories on the decline in the number of people who attend church or identify as Christians. There are many factors contributing to these developments. Some of these call those of us who are practicing Christian to examination of our consciences and repentance.

However, it is also true that Christianity, and Catholicism in particular, are constantly being undermined by the secular "narrative" found in the media, which typically portrays practicing believers as ignorant and bigoted. This is especially true when Christians stand up for the teachings of Jesus Christ regarding the dignity of all human life in the God-given nature of marriage as the union between one man and one woman.

The de-Christianization of American society that we are seeing is a tragedy for the world since the principles of Christianity that have guided us thus far are what makes America the land of the free for everyone.

Tomorrow our nation will observe Martin Luther King Day in honor of a great Christian and a great American. I am sure he would agree that he himself and the United States as a nation would be nothing without Christianity.

Below is an excerpt of an article he wrote about pursuing justice using non-violent means. As Dr. King states, his strategy of nonviolence is based on belief in a just God and the teachings of Christ.

With my prayers, Fr. Conley

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"Nonviolence and Racial Justice" Martin Luther King Jr, February 6, 1957 in *The Christian* Century magazine

The alternative to violence is nonviolent resistance. This method was made famous in our generation by Mohandas K. Gandhi, who used it to free India from the domination of the British empire. Five points can be made concerning nonviolence as a method in bringing about better racial conditions.

First, this is not a method for cowards; it does resist. The nonviolent resister is just as strongly opposed to the evil against which he protests as is the person who uses violence. His method is passive or nonaggressive in the sense that he is not physically aggressive toward his opponent. But his mind and emotions are always active, constantly seeking to persuade the opponent that he is mistaken. This method is passive physically but strongly active spiritually; it is nonaggressive physically but dynamically aggressive spiritually.

A second point is that nonviolent resistance does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his friendship and understanding. The nonviolent resister must often express his protest through noncooperation or boycotts, but he realizes that noncooperation and boycotts are not ends themselves; they are merely means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent. The end is redemption and reconciliation. The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness.

A third characteristic of this method is that the attack is directed against forces of evil rather than against persons who are caught in those forces. It is evil we are seeking to defeat, not the persons victimized by evil. Those of us who struggle against racial injustice must come to see that the basic tension is not between races....

A fourth point that must be brought out concerning nonviolent resistance is that it avoids not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love. In struggling for human dignity the oppressed people of the world must not allow themselves to become bitter or indulge in hate campaigns. To retaliate with hate and bitterness would do nothing but intensify the hate in the world. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can be done only by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives.

In speaking of love at this point, we are not referring to some sentimental emotion. It would be nonsense to urge men to love their oppressors in an affectionate sense.... When we speak of loving those who oppose us...we speak of a love which is expressed in the Greek word agape. Agape means nothing sentimental or basically affectionate; it means understanding, redeeming good will for all men, an overflowing love which

seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of men. When we love on the agape level we love men not because we like them, not because their attitudes and ways appeal to us, but because God loves them. Here we rise to the position of loving the person who does the evil deed, while hating the deed he does.

Finally, the method of nonviolence is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice. It is this deep faith in the future that causes the nonviolent resister to accept suffering without retaliation. He knows that in his struggle for justice he has cosmic companionship. This belief that God is on the side of truth and justice comes down to us from the long tradition of our Christian faith. There is something at the very center of our faith which reminds us that Good Friday may reign for a day, but ultimately it must give way to the triumphant beat of the Easter drums. Evil may so shape events that Caesar will occupy a palace and Christ a cross, but one day that same Christ will rise up and split history into A.D. and B.C., so that even the life of Caesar must be dated by his name. So in Montgomery we can walk and never get weary, because we know that there will be a great camp meeting in the promised land of freedom and justice.

This, in brief, is the method of nonviolent resistance. It is a method that challenges all people struggling for justice and freedom. God grant that we wage the struggle with dignity and discipline. May all who suffer oppression in this world reject the self-defeating method of retaliatory violence and choose the method that seeks to redeem. Through using this method wisely and courageously we will emerge from the bleak and desolate midnight of man's inhumanity to man into the bright daybreak of freedom and justice.

### CATHOLIC QUOTE

"My life is but an instant, a passing hour.

My life is but a day that escapes
and flies away.
O my God!

You know that to love You on this earth
I only have today!"
St. Theresa of Liseaux

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# HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY: NEXT WEEKEND AFTER ALL MASSES.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JAN 14 – JAN 20
Sat 4pm Parishioners
Sat 6pm Linda Walter
Sun 8am Leah Swann
Sun 10am Gene Burroughs
Sun 12N Clara Gardiner
Mon 8am Michael Strong
Tue 8am Parishioners
Wed 8am Parishioners
Thur 8am Parishioners
Fri 9:30am Ann Montgomery

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Joe Beale, Ben & Pat Bowling, Brenda Callahan, Dottie Chick, Lorraine Cook, Mckenna Cox, Finn Cusick, Kendall Farrell, James Gibson, Joseph Griffith, Marie Knobel, Sussie Logan, Ramsey Meyers, Maura Ordovensky, John Reeves, Mary Reeves, Melissa Rolins, Gail Schultz, Kenny Stewart, James Washington, Beth Weise, Billie Whittington, Tom Williams, and Richard Windsor.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS CONTRIBUTION. It is a major portion of our annual revenues so we appreciate everyone's support. Our budget goal is \$40,000. So far we have received \$35,786.15. Thank You!

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST

WEEKEND: \$12,168.84. \$3,296.57 of that were received from people who contributed through online banking. The unidentified donations totaled \$680.00. \$202.00 for school/religious ed. support.



# Pasta Dinner Sevent

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH RESERVATION TIMES: 5:00PM & 6:15PM

# St. Mary's Bryantown School Cafeteria

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Purchase Tickets on Eventbrite By January 18th

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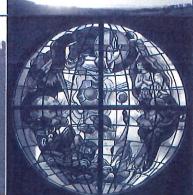


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**ISAIAH 41:10** SO DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH DO NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU;
I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.



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