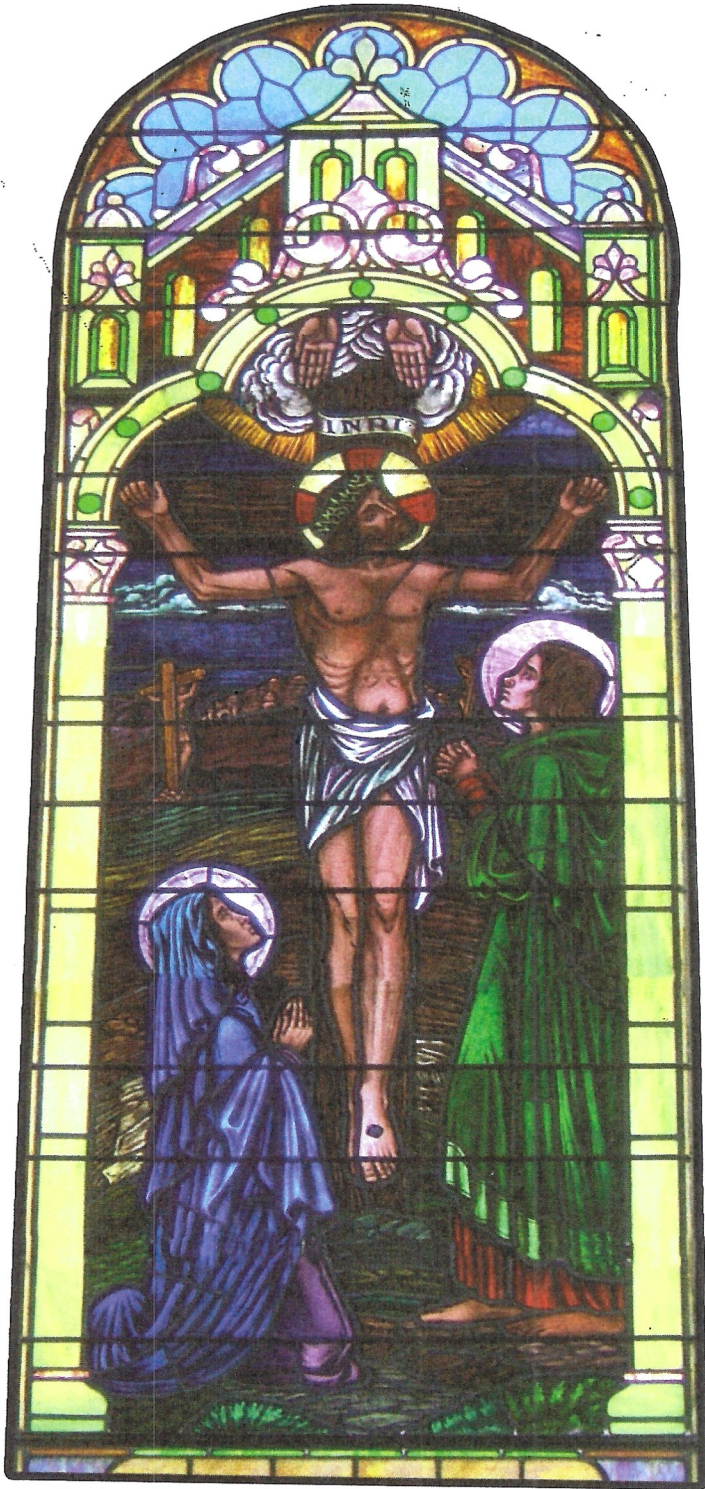


# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



**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 available in the vestibule of the church. Also you can call the rectory office or email [smboffice@stmarysbryantown.com](mailto:smboffice@stmarysbryantown.com) to have a form mailed 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](http://www.stmarysbryantown.com)

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Lauren Balderson – [smbassist@comcast.net](mailto:smbassist@comcast.net)

### Administrative Assistant

Terri Cantor – [smcasst@comcast.net](mailto:smcasst@comcast.net)

### Bookkeeper

Lisa Shumaker – [smcacct@comcast.net](mailto:smcacct@comcast.net)

### Ministry to the Sick, Homebound & Bereaved

Sister Theresa Frere, IHM - [SRTERESA@comcast.net](mailto:SRTERESA@comcast.net)

## ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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School Web Site: [www.bryantown.org](http://www.bryantown.org)

### Principal

Catherine C. Silverstone – [silverstone@bryantown.org](mailto:silverstone@bryantown.org)

### Administrative Assistant

Penny Bailey – [office@bryantown.org](mailto:office@bryantown.org)

## OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Director Of Religious Education

Sue Wolfe – [smcfrp@comcast.net](mailto:smcfrp@comcast.net)

Phone for Office of Religious Education: 301-274-3800



## 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,

This Sunday we begin Ordinary Time on the Church's calendar. Ordinary Time covers those weeks of the year that are not part of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. The gospel for this Sunday is from the Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 2 and recounts our Lord's first miracle when he attended a wedding at Cana. What Jesus and his mother, Mary, did at this wedding has great significance for our spiritual lives as individuals, couples, and as the Church, the bride of Christ.

One very simple lesson from this gospel reading is to consider what a blessing it is to have Jesus Christ present not only at your wedding but in your marriage.

In conjunction with this gospel reading, we are sharing with you articles from the Didache Bible concerning the Church's teaching on the Sacrament of Matrimony and the place of the Church as the Bride of Christ.

With my prayers,  
Fr. Conley

**The Biblical teaching on Marriage**

Marriage is a divine institution

*God blessed [Adam and Eve,] and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Gn 1:28)*

*"From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mk 10:6-9)*

In his creation God instituted marriage between Adam and Eve. By his design marriage is an exclusive, lifelong, and fruitful commitment of self-giving love between a man and a woman that reflects the very image and likeness of God. The Blessed Trinity is a communion of three divine Persons, and marriage is a communion of a man and a woman together with their children.

The Book of Genesis indicates that God created man and woman for marriage since God saw that "it is not good that the man should be alone" (Gn 2:18). According to the teachings of Christ, a husband is "joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh" (Mk 10:7; cf. Mt 19:5). The truth of this teaching can be seen in the vital role that marriage has played in our history: it is the original cell of

social life, and it has been such from the very beginning of human existence.

St. Paul pointed out that this union of a man and a woman is meant to be a sign of Christ's love for his Church: *Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church...Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church. (Eph 5:21-33; cf. CCC 1616-1617, 1642)*

Reflecting Christ's total self-giving to his Church, marriage is a permanent, lifelong, and indissoluble union of two persons. God has willed that marriages be fruitful, open to the bearing and raising of children within the family. Through marriage and parenthood, a husband and a wife participate in God's work of creation. In his public ministry Christ reaffirmed the divine origin of marriage (cf. Mk 10:6-9), elevated its meaning, and emphasized its nature as a lifelong covenant and vocation.

**Marriage is a Sacrament**

The Sacraments were instituted by the Lord to give us grace. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, the man and the woman in response to the Lord's call, join themselves to each other for life for their mutual well-being and for the procreation and raising of children.

Sacred Scripture and the Sacred Tradition of the Church teach that Christian marriage is a lifelong, exclusive, and fruitful covenant between a man and a woman that reflects the bond between Christ and his Church.

The Sacrament of Matrimony joins a baptized man and a baptized woman in a covenant for life. It is by God's own design that marriage is permanent and exclusive, for the Book of Genesis describes how our first parents were created in the state of marriage. Christ cited Genesis to affirm that marriage is meant to be a lifelong and faithful union, and he raised natural marriage to the dignity of a Sacrament between a baptized man and woman.

The man and woman themselves are the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony. The priest or deacon simply acts as an official witness to their marriage vows. In giving their mutual consent with the Church represented by a deacon or priest, as their witness, they confer the sacramental graces upon their union. These graces enable them to share the same self-sacrificing love of Christ and his Bride, the Church, an image described by St. Paul. Specifically, matrimonial grace strengthens the couple for the



challenges of marital life, especially regarding the education and formation of children. Moreover, Matrimony confers graces to grow in holiness and charity in a spirit of forgiveness, patience, and service.

Marriage is ordered toward the good of the couple. A husband and a wife in a Christian marriage are to help sanctify one another so each may one day receive eternal life. It is also ordered to the begetting and formation of children, the fruits of marriage. Sexual intimacy, which must always be reserved for the bond of marriage, serves to express and unify the love of the couple and must remain open to the conception of children, "the supreme gift of marriage."

A valid sacramental marriage cannot be dissolved. Only when an investigation by the competent ecclesiastical tribunal reveals that validity was lacking can the Church declare a marriage null. This annulment is not akin to divorce, which claims to end a marriage, but rather a statement that a valid union never existed.

From the Didache Bible Leather bound copies of the *Didache Bible* are available from our bookstore for \$57. They are not cheap but they are beautiful Bible and would be a great gift for someone being confirmed or a couple getting married

#### **PRAYER OF ASKING**

I asked God

**to take away my habit**

God said, no it is not for me to take away,  
but for you to give it up.

**To grant me patience.**

God said, no. Patience is a by product  
of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

**To give me happiness.**

God said no, I give you blessings;  
happiness is up to you.

**To spare me pain.**

God said no. Suffering draws you  
apart from worldly cares and brings  
you closer to me.

**For all things, that I might enjoy life**

God said, no. I will give you life  
so that you may enjoy all things.

**To help me LOVE others,  
as much as he loves me.**

God said...Ahh, finally you have the idea.

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#### **Knights of Columbus - Fund Raiser**

**Super Bowl Pool** Chance to win \$500 per quarter. Cost \$40 per square. Funds raised enable the Council to meet its charitable outreach goals. To enter or learn more about the Knights of Columbus, contact: Steve Law at [SL124@aol.com](mailto:SL124@aol.com) or 240-320-3822

#### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR Jan 15 – Jan 21**

**SAT: 4pm Albert Verezzio**

**6pm: Thecla Amimkeng**

**SUN: 8am Kathleen Sherlock**

**10am: Parishioners**

**12N Patsy May**

**MON: 8am Marion Joyce Irwin**

**TUES: 8am George Fassel Jr.**

**WED: 8am Deacon Chester Chen**

**THURS 8am Rita Younger**

**FRI: 9:30am Margaret Foster-Massey**

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY**

**PRAYERS:** Eunice Amey, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Quint Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Dottie Chick, Lorraine Cook, Kendall Farrell, James Gibson, Carol Herskovitz, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, John Nichols, John Reeves, Mary Reeves, Melissa Rollins, Beth Weise, Billie Whittington.

#### **MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO**

**CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHRISTMAS  
COLLECTION. WE REACHED OUR GOAL!!!**

It is a major portion of our annual revenues so we appreciate everyone's support. Our budget goal was \$40,000. So far we have received: \$41,487.00. Thank you!

#### **OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST**

**WEEKEND: \$8,785.85. \$1,270.00** of that was received from people who contribute through online banking. We received \$208.00 for our School Support.



# Growing in FAITH™

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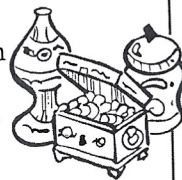
January 2022

St. Mary's Church, Bryantown  
Fr. Rory T. Conley, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Laying our gifts at the feet of the King

The three Wise Men gave Jesus gifts worthy of a king. We can also present Him with our own royal gifts. While ours may not be actual gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we can still give to Him the best we have. Give God the first and the best of what you have and He will give you more than you can imagine in return.



### Fall in love with God

From the moment God created you, he has been deeply in love with you. He made you deliberately so he could love you. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5). He waits for you like a parent anticipates the return of a beloved child. Don't let Him wait long.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).



## Who needs Jesus?

Many today say that they don't have a need for Jesus. They go to work, have homes, put food on their tables, raise families without His help. In fact, daily activities go on but the world can't really make sense without Him.

**Truth.** The truth is in Christ, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). We cannot understand the truth without Him. To make sense of the world, we need Jesus to lead us.

**Life.** The life we have will eventually end. To keep living, we need Jesus. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father,

but by me" (John 14:6). Eternal life comes through Him.

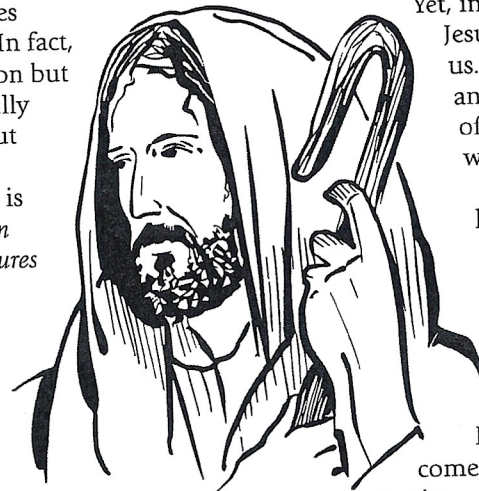
**Death.** None of us escapes death.

Yet, in the Resurrection, Jesus defeated death for us. It didn't hold Him and He offers the gift of life to each of us if we live in Him.

**Sin.** Even the holiest of us sins. Without Jesus, what becomes of us? He "gave himself as a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6). If we don't accept

His price, our sins come back to us for eternity.

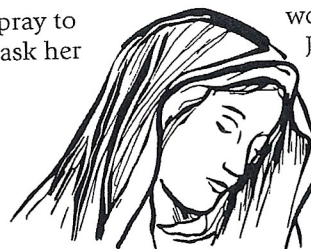
**Suffering.** Modern science can alleviate but not eliminate some of the world's suffering. Jesus provides comfort and healing to those who trust Him and surrender to Him.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

Catholics don't pray to Mary, but instead ask her to pray for us. For example, the Hail Mary prayer asks the Mother of God to stay close to us in prayer. While we don't



worship Mary, we honor her as Jesus' mother. On the Cross, Jesus gave her to us as our own mother (John 19:27). We can approach her with our needs and concerns and ask her to present them to Her Son. Mary always leads us to Him.





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