



St. Mary
of the
Assumption

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
EST. 1925

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The charitable works that parishioners here perform are many, but many parishioners themselves may not fully recognize all that takes place.

St. Mary's is truly known as a very giving parish." — Fr. William Foley



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Pastoral Council *Update*

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Parish Embraces Tradition of Service During Season of Thanksgiving

Our national day of Thanksgiving is a time for reflecting upon all of the blessings which we enjoy as well as considering the needs of those who are less fortunate—particularly in these troubling times of economic recession. St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and School has a robust tradition of reaching out to those in need, especially during the Thanksgiving season, and it's one that is being faithfully carried on this year as well.

"St. Mary's has a well-known reputation for giving throughout the Washington metropolitan area," said St. Mary's pastor Fr. William Foley.

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SVDP, Students Work Together on Thanksgiving Baskets

During the Thanksgiving season, several parish groups work to help those who are needy, homeless, and undernourished. St. Mary's chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society works together with St. Mary's School to make Thanksgiving better for needy families in our community. For the



past two years, Lisa Larsen and Sharon Bookwalter have organized efforts to collect and distribute food and other items for St. Mary's "Thanksgiving Basket" program.

Each year, students are asked to bring in nonperishable Thanksgiving foods. "Each class is assigned a particular item, such as green beans, stuffing, etc. The school children also bring up a sample basket of donated items per class at their Thanksgiving Mass," said Mrs. Larsen.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society reviews a list of families requesting baskets and contacts as necessary to obtain any necessary information and arrange for a pickup or delivery of a Thanksgiving basket.

In support of this effort, the St. Mary's CCD classes also gather nonperishable items for the baskets, too. The Confirmation Classes help parish volunteers organize the baskets. Each basket includes a church bulletin with an invitation to join St. Mary's, as well as a Holy Card or paperback Bible.



St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary volunteers (shown above) help perpetuate the parish tradition of service during the Thanksgiving season.

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*St. Mary's
Pastoral Council
2009-2010*

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Pastor*

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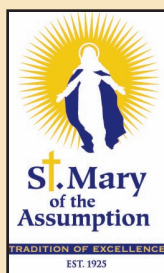
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Andy Smith

Paul Sukalo

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*Regina Piazza
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Religious Ed.*



Other volunteers also shop for perishable items—such as milk, pies, and turkeys—and help get the food organized into baskets. This is usually done the same day the baskets are prepared. The program helps nearly 30 families each year.

Knights, Ladies Auxiliary Work with Sisters of Charity to Feed Area Homeless

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council 9302 and Ladies Auxiliary also has an annual Thanksgiving project to provide turkeys, stuffing and other food items to Blessed Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity who serve Thanksgiving dinner to needy and homeless people in Southeast D.C.

Donations are solicited from the parish, which responds most generously, said Lynn McManamen. "Last year we delivered two truck loads of a variety of food items including 30 turkeys, 102 boxes of stuffing, 49 cans of gravy, 50 boxes of instant potatoes, 69 cans of cranberry sauce, 13 boxes of Jiffy corn bread mix, 19 cans of yams and 50 pumpkin pies. The members of St. Mary's parish always come through with abundant donations for this worthy cause," she said.

What's more, the Knights also help feed the homeless through the "Community Café," which is part of the Community Ministry of Prince George's County. Council 9302 provides the Community Café a meal one day every month. "We help prepare and serve the 75-100 men, women and sometimes, children, a delicious hot meal.



The Sisters of Charity receive a donation of food and other needed items from St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary.

This is one of the most important community activities that our council sponsors," said Mrs. McManamen.

Parish Supports Upper Marlboro Food Bank

Since 1981, St. Mary's parishioners have actively supported the Upper Marlboro Food Bank—an important community resource, especially during the holiday season. St. Mary's joins forces with nine area churches to collect and deliver food to Trinity Episcopal Church (where the Food Bank is located) where it is sorted, bagged and distributed on the second Saturday of each month. Monetary donations are also accepted which is used to supplement where there is a shortage. This month of November, St. Mary's has been asked to pack 170 bags to give to the less fortunate and the need is ever growing.

How You Can Help!

Thanksgiving Basket Program

Donations of non-perishable items are greatly appreciated (e.g., coffee, canned goods, juice, peanut butter, macaroni/pasta, etc.). Donations can be dropped off at the school up until Monday Nov. 23. This year, 30 frozen turkeys will be needed. Please drop off frozen turkeys on Monday, Nov. 23 at the Rectory/Parish Office. Cash donations or grocery store cards are accepted. Help assembling baskets also greatly appreciated.

Contact: Lisa Larsen (301) 579-6078

Sharon Bookwalter (301) 627-7829
sbookwalter@stmaryum.org

Sisters of Charity Program

Donations of non-perishable foods can be dropped off at the Church. Pies and frozen turkeys will be accepted at the Church at any of the Masses on Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22. Cash donations also accepted by way of the Parish Office.

Contact: Lynn & Paul McManamen

(301) 627-4704

Marlboro Food Bank

All donations gratefully accepted. Cash donations help the Food Bank purchase staples at reduced cost. Checks can be made out to St. Mary's Church and earmarked "Food Bank." Drop off non-perishable goods at designated areas inside the Church.