March 17-18, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Holy Week Schedule**

- **March 26, Chrism Mass**: 6:00pm *(Bus to Richmond leaves at 12:00pm Noon.)*
- **March 27, Holy Week Cantata**: 7:00pm
- **March 29, Holy Thursday †**
  - **Mass**: 7:00pm
  - *Bring canned goods for food pantry and keep them under your chair until the offertory begins or place a donation in the basket.*
  - **Compline**: 11:30pm
- **March 30, Good Friday**
  - **Morning Prayer**: 8:30am-9:00am
  - **Tre Ore**: Noon-3:00pm
  - **Stations of the Cross**: 3:00pm
  - **Veneration of the Cross**: 7:00pm
  - **Compline**: 11:30pm
- **March 31, Holy Saturday †**
  - **Morning Prayer**: 8:30am-9:00am
  - **Blessing of the Food Baskets**: Noon
  - **Egg Hunt**: 1:00pm
  - **Easter Vigil**: 8:00pm
- **April 1, Easter Sunday**
  - **Sunrise Service** **Mass**: 6:30am *(Outside Service, weather permitting. Please bring chairs.)*
  - **Mass**: 8:30am *(No CLOW/Nursery)*
  - **Mass**: 11:00am *(No CLOW/Nursery)* †
  - **Mass**: 1:00pm †

† *Incense will be used at this Mass.*

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**Easter Egg Hunt**

Help! We need candy and volunteers! The annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 31 at 1:00pm, rain or shine. Please place bags of individually wrapped candy in the box in the Commons and stop by the square table to sign up to volunteer to help!

**A Musical Journey through the Way of the Cross**

Join us in prayer and music on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary as our Music Ministers present “Stations of the Cross” a cantata for Holy Week. Don't miss this thought-provoking presentation of the Passion of our Lord through music!

**Friday Fish Fry**

Join us March 23 from 5:00-7:00pm our final fish fry of the season. Our Fish Fry is hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

- Children (under 12) $5
- Adult (all you can eat) $9
- To go meal $8

**Thank you from the KOC**

Thank you to everyone that purchased mulch from the Knights of Columbus. We have completely sold out! The mulch delivery date is Saturday, April 7.

**Watering Plants**

Please, do *NOT* water any of the plants in any of the rooms, Church or Commons area. They have been over-watered, and as a result, several are dying and will have to be replaced, which is costly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Arts and Environment**

Thank you from the KOC
**Chrism Mass**

Sign up to go to the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 26 at 6:00pm, in Richmond at The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. We will leave at noon and return around 10:30pm. The cost is $10, which covers the bus fee. Dinner is available nearby at your own expense. The trip is open to all parishioners of SSM (those under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent.) There are multiple ways to register. On the website under events, call the office 757-421-7416, or email marge@ssmrcc.org by Monday, March 19.

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**Steubenville Youth Conference**

We want to gather a group of youth (rising 9th grade through current seniors) to attend this MOST AMAZING and POWERFUL youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio July 20-22. The cost is $207 with a $40 deposit due at registration and the remaining $167 due on April 17. Cost includes the conference, lodging, and meals at the conference. This does not include transportation. Method of transportation and costs will be determined once all teens and chaperones have registered. Transportation will either be personal vehicles with chaperones driving, bus rental or car rentals with chaperones driving. Please contact Robyn Hilbert at 757-477-3436 or hertanega@gmail.com to register or if you would like more information.

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**Save the Date!**

VBS is coming! July 23-27 from 5:30-8:30pm. More details will be available soon.

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**No Youth Bible Study**

Due to the preparations for Holy Week and Easter, we will not have our weekly high school and middle school Bible studies on Wednesday, March 21 or Wednesday, March 28. They will resume in April as we continue to pray with the upcoming Sunday’s Mass readings.

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**Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets**

The blessing of the food is a festive occasion. Traditionally, people take special pride in preparing a decorative and tasteful basket with crisp linens, possibly embroidered for the occasion, both lining the basket and covering the food which symbolizes the covering of Christ’s burial shroud. These covers are usually passed down from generation to generation. The basket could also be decorated with colorful ribbons and greenery, pussy willows or dried flowers to symbolize spring, renewal and the Resurrection. The creativity of the parishioners brings a special joy to this event. Children are eager to help prepare and decorate the family basket and proudly carry it into the church. Some families with small children carry their own decorated basket filled with fruits, a chocolate bunny or some other treats. Join Fr. Brian Saturday, March 31 at 12:00pm (noon) for the blessing of Easter baskets.

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**Stations of the Cross**

Walk the Via Delarosa, “The Way of the Cross” With Jesus every Friday during Lent. Please join Fr. Brian for the next Stations of the Cross Friday, March 23 at 6:00pm.
**Knights of Columbus**

**KOVAR**

KOVAR is a Virginia Knights of Columbus Charity established in 1971 to serve Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities. KOVAR has collected and distributed more than 12M in grants.

**Question of the Month:** Where do KOVAR funds go and what percentage of donations help Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities?

**Answer:** Every dollar raised by Virginia Knights of Columbus goes to assist Virginians with intellectual disabilities. KOVAR directly supports the following programs/activities:

- Employment and training opportunities
- Furniture and fixtures for group homes
- Transportation
- Funds for health assistance
- Recreation opportunities
- Group homes
- Respite care

The annual KOVAR fundraising will take place at St. Stephen, Martyr the weekend of April 7/8, 2018. Fr. Brian has approved the annual KOVAR drive to be conducted after each Mass during the weekend of April 7/8. After each Mass, Knights will be dispensing “tootsie rolls” and soliciting donations.

**KOVAR Donations:** Please consider supporting the charity. Your contributions to KOVAR are tax deductible as permitted by law. Checks and cash are appreciated: make check payable to “Knights of Columbus 11984 – KOVAR.”

For more information please email or call Ken Farmer at kfarmerjr53@gmail.com

**People of the Month Award for February 2018**

These people have been selected and recognized by the Knights of Columbus Council 11984’s for their contribution of their time and talents. If you see them please be sure to congratulate and thank them for all that they do.

- **Knight of the Month**
  - Brian Thompson
- **Young Women of the Month**
  - Kaycie Lassiter
- **Young Man of the Month**
  - Logan Booth

**Adult Faith Formation**

- **Symbolon** - Do you want to know more about your Catholic faith? Join us, Monday, March 19 from 9:30-11:30am in rooms 3 and 4. The topic of our discussion will be “A Love that Lasts.”

- **Upper Room Prayer Fellowship** - If you or a friend have been looking for an opportunity to grow in holiness, join us by worshiping God together as a community! The "Upper Room" Prayer Fellowship will meet Tuesday, March 20 from 6:45- 8:30pm in the Sanctuary. We begin by singing the "Divine Mercy Chaplet." We will also discuss God’s resurrecting power!

- **RCIA** - Thursday, March 22 begins at 7:00pm in room 4. Fr. Brian will discuss vocations.

- **RCIC** – Thursday, March 22 begins at 7:00pm in room 3. The topic will be on the Church’s Mission.

- **RCIA/RCIC Easter Vigil practice** – Saturday, March 24 at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.

- **Back to Basics The Catholic Faith Explained** - Monday, March 19 from 7:00-8:30pm in Gordon Hall. We will continue the discussion on “What Catholics Believe.” All adults, 18 and older, are welcome to join us for this special time of faith, fellowship, and fun!

- **Into the Heart – A journey through the Theology of the Body**. Many of you heard Fr. Brian's thoughts recently at Sunday Masses on “The Theology of the Body.” It should be the goal our parish to educate ourselves, young adults and age appropriate children on what the theology of the body is Biblically. (not sex education) More information is coming soon!

If you have questions, please contact the Adult Faith Office at scott@ssmrc.org or 757-421-7416.
Lent, Holy Week and Easter Decorating 2018

Welcome one and all! Mark your calendars to come to help with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Decorating. Any amount of time is appreciated, so come whenever you can. We start most days at 9:00am, after the 8:30am Mass. The basics are listed below, but on any given day there could be other small tasks that need to be accomplished. Call Marcia Tschohl for any questions at 757-724-1356 or email at MFT195610@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22 9:00am- Prep for Palm Sunday begins with turning the church color to red. We will iron everything we need for the weekend. Bring your iron. We have 2 ironing boards at the church and I will bring another, making 3. The large cross and the rocks will be placed in the Commons, draped in red and decorated. We will allow 2 days but may get it done in one.

Tuesday, March 27 9:00am- Remove all red from the church. Remove the cross from the Commons and place in Room 3 until Friday. Complete any other tasks that can be done ahead of time. Ironing of everything gold and white for Holy Week/Easter will be done today. Bring your iron and ironing board.

Wednesday, March 28 9:00am- Easter Plants will be delivered today and must be placed in baskets/hats and stored for the weekend. No exact delivery time, but it is usually around 10:00am.

Thursday, March 29 9:00am- Set up of the Commons for Holy Thursday service. Create the Altar of Repose in the Commons and prepare the Reconciliation Room to receive the Blessed Sacrament after the services. Displays in the church for Thursday night to receive food items and offertory envelopes from the parishioners, set up a place to receive the Holy Oils, and any of the set up for the washing of the feet that is needed. Floral delivery today from the florist.

Friday, March 30 9:00am- Clean up the Commons and do the preparation for Good Friday services. Check all the plants and ice them as needed so they will be fresh for the weekend. Rocks and large cross platform to the Sanctuary for the services tonight.

*** We need a few strong people AFTER the Good Friday evening service to help move the rocks, cross and the cross platform from the Sanctuary to the Commons so it will be ready for decorating early Saturday morning. Please stay if you can assist, but note that we cannot remove the Cross until all parishioners are finished praying and the Sanctuary is empty.

Holy Saturday, March 31 8:00am- Clean Reconciliation Room. Altar design, plants/floral to be placed. Everything will be changed to gold and white, banners and flags to be hung, drapes and cloths changed. Cross in the Commons draped in white and gold and decorated with plants. Any last décor details will be done. Everything will have been prepped and ready and we’ll be bustling to make the transformation complete. Hope to be finished by 12:00pm (Noon) prior to the church service for the Blessing of the Easter meal food baskets.

Joyous Easter to All!

Think Ahead!! Mark your calendars. May 17 and 18 we will decorate for Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday is May 20. On Thursday May 24 we will prepare for Memorial Day weekend. The church stays white for the next 2 weekends, then we will change to Ordinary Time (green) on June 7 and 8. We may not need both days, but I’ll allow for 2, just in case! Thank you in advance for all of your hard work.
PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Brian Rafferty (frbrian@ssmrcc.org)
Deacon Keith Fournier (deaconfournier@outlook.com)
Deacon Kevin Trail (kftrail@cox.net)
Business Manager: Crystal Anderson (crystal@ssmrcc.org)
Office Manager: Maura Waggoner (maura@ssmrcc.org)
Communication Director: Zoe Barnette (zoe@ssmrcc.org)
Facility Manager: Alex Shuflat (alex@ssmrcc.org)
Liturgy: Marge Marino (marge@ssmrcc.org)
Music Director: Jessica Kohan (jessica@ssmrcc.org)
Religious Education: (K-5 grade):
   Traci Baker (traci@ssmrcc.org)
Religious Education (6-10 grade):
   Jason Morrison (jason@ssmrcc.org)
Religious Education (11-12 grade):
   Lesley Sarver (lesley@ssmrcc.org)
Adult Faith Formation & Social Ministry:
   Scott Turbitt (scott@ssmrcc.org)

Our Gifts To The Lord
Offertory 03/11/2018  $22,734
Debt Reduction  $1,691
Samaritan Fund  $555

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lords Supper
Don’t forget to bring in canned goods for local food pantries.

Traveling?
For an easy way to locate Mass during your travels, call 1-858-207-6277 or visit www.masstimes.org. Serving more than 60 million Catholics who live and travel in the U.S.

Second Collection on Good Friday
A pontifical collection will be taken in all Catholic Churches on Good Friday. The money collected is sent to support the Church in the Holy Land. Please be as generous as you can for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who daily walk the way of the cross in the birthplace of Christianity.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
March 24/25, 2018
Scripture Readings:
   Mark 11:1-10
   Isaiah 50:4-7
   Philippians 2:6-11
   Mark:14:1-15:47
Mass Intentions

Monday, March 19
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Tuesday, March 20
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Wednesday, March 21
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Thursday, March 22
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass
6:30pm Mass

Friday, March 23
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Saturday, March 24
8:30am Mass
5:00pm Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)

Sunday, March 25
7:00am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
8:30am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
11:30am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
5:00pm Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)

Your Prayers are Cherished
for Loved Ones Inside our Parish
Michael Jones
Alex Jones

Your Prayers are Cherished
for Loved Ones Outside our Parish
Randy Stowe
Shannon Bagliesi
John Salz
Katie Wigginton
Helen Rail
Brooke Scarborough
Elvira Walsh

Rest In Peace
Eleanor Wynn
Eileen Holler