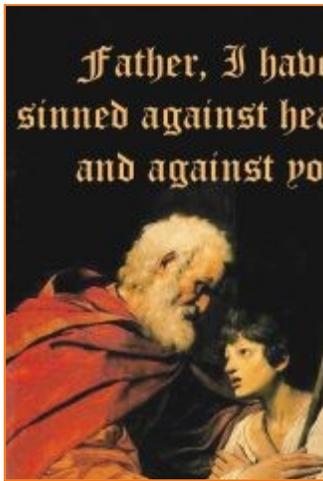


This Sunday and next Sunday the focus of each Gospel passage is on the *infinite mercy of God*. No matter how sinful, how terrible, how heartbreaking the actions of the prodigal son and the adulterous woman are, *God's compassion is stronger*.

Of course, this is merely a glimpse of the ultimate mercy offered to all of us that we will hear on the Sunday after that: *Jesus dying on the cross for our salvation*.



Readings for this Week (April 1-6)

Monday:	Isaiah 65:17-21;	John 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12;	John 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Isaiah 49:8-15;	John 5:17-30
Thursday:	Exodus 32:7-14;	John 5:31-7
Friday:	Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22;	John 7:1-2,10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jeremiah 11:18-20;	John 7:40-53

Scripture for next Sunday (5th Sunday of Lent/cycle C)

Isaiah 43:16-21

The mystery of the Passover will be made new.

Philippians 3:8-14

Paul desires a share in the paschal mystery of the Lord.

John 8:1-11

No one is without sin except our merciful judge.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

We ask your prayers for St. Anne parishioner **Tom Brooks** who died recently. Notes may be sent to his wife, Pat, at 23790 Green Springs Rd., Abingdon, VA 24211.



“1st” Tuesday Adoration
this Tuesday, April 2, in the Chapel
from 9am (after 8:30a morning Mass)
until 9 p.m. (Benediction)

As we enter these final weeks of Lent, please consider taking time this Tuesday to come pray with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

PARISH DIRECTORY: Signup in the commons thru the end of April for directory photos. Photos will be taken on several dates in May. Participating families will receive a “Community Connect” parish directory and a free 8 x 10 portrait. So stop by the table in the commons and sign up!!

PARACLETE Catholic Bookstore here
This Weekend—in the Great Room
Stop in after Mass!!

From the Pastor's Desk.

There is a trend that has emerged in our country in recent years. It is called safe spaces. As far as I am aware, this is a trend that has emerged on college campuses and is appearing in other places. The basic idea behind this is that all people have a right to a safe space where they can retreat from ideas that make them uncomfortable. To be fair, there are many things being promoted in our society that should make us all uncomfortable. I have been growing more and more disturbed by the hatred, bigotry, and division that is becoming more prominent. Many people feel they need a safe space where they do not have to be confronted with these ideas that make them uncomfortable. I am going to offer some of my thoughts on this.

Evil is real in our world. There is no doubt about that. When we hear ideas being promoted that degrade the value of human life, this is rooted in evil. When we see things that encourage us to treat other people with anything other than human dignity, this too is rooted in evil. Even things that seem so simple and insignificant such as those which create division among us so it becomes more and more difficult to come together in cooperation are rooted in evil. I bring all of this up, because as Christians, there is a question we must ask. How should we deal with the evil that we encounter in our world?

As Christians, we are all called to stand up against the evil that exists in our world. That means living our faith in all we do, standing up for what we believe, and at times, it even means directly confronting anything that promotes evil and leads people away from the truth of who we are created to be. It is often not easy. It can make us very uncomfortable. It can at times even be dangerous. This is also exactly what Christ calls us to do with our lives.

I chose to write about this, because this idea of the safe space seems to be gaining more traction in our society. I happen to think this is a direct contradiction to what we believe. We cannot hide from things simply because they make us uncomfortable. If we do, we allow these uncomfortable ideas to become more dominant in our society. Jesus never encouraged anyone to seek a safe space. What he in fact taught was that the world would be very hostile to those who chose to follow after him. He said if we want to be his disciples we must take up a cross and follow after him, not hide from the danger in our world.

“Rejoice and Be Glad” - The Call to Holiness

Parish Lenten Retreat (April 5 & 6)

Retreat Director: Fr. Eric Asamoah

Our retreat is this coming weekend. Thank you to all those who have registered! If you didn't get a chance to register but would still like to attend, we need to know no later than this Wednesday. The final count has to be turned into the Jubilee House by Wednesday. If you'd like to register, call Sydney Farnum at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 or email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening and continues until mid-afternoon on Saturday. You may register as an overnight participant or as a commuter. Prices are listed on the registration form. Informational letters have been mailed to all registered participants with more details.

Finance Director Position: St. Anne's Church/School

Director creates/presents monthly financial reports; manages cash flow/investments; monitors bank accounts (Church & School, St. Bernard/St. Patrick); reviews/verify bank reconciliation; prepare annual budgets & annual reports; work w/property manager to report on the parish's rental properties'; report/track financial aid for school families, among other duties. B.S. or B.A. in Finance, Accounting or related field required; strong analytical & communication skills required, proficiency in Microsoft Office 365. General knowledge of structure and functioning of the Catholic Church preferred. Candidates should send a cover letter, resumé and completed Diocesan Application to Rosie Mansfield, Ofc. Mgr., at stannes@stannes-bristol.org. (Job Description/Application can be found on our parish website.)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA

- **Catechumens & Candidates** meet **Wed., April 3**, in the **Great Room, 6:30pm-8:00pm**.
- **Inquirers** will meet in the office conference room. Stop by the **Great Room** for opening prayer **at 6:30pm**.
- **Children's RCIA** will gather in the **Great Room** at **6:30pm** before going to class.

For more information about RCIA, contact Sydney Farnum at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or 276-669-8200 x32.

Operation Rice Bowl 2019

This Lent, encounter Christ in the desert through daily prayer, weekly fasting, and almsgiving that changes lives. Jesus showed courage when confronted by fear. With CRS Rice Bowl as our guide, we too stand with courage to encounter the needs of all. Learn more at www.crsricebowl.org. Please contribute and return your Rice Bowl with donations **on Sunday, April 28**. If you did not receive your rice bowl, there are some extras on the religious education table in the commons. Thank you for your generosity.

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

- **Mar. 31—Youth Group (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)**
 - Face to Face
- **Apr. 7—Youth Group (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)**
 - Pursuing Holiness
- **Apr. 14—Youth Group (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)**
 - Catholic Jeopardy!
- **Apr. 21—NO SHYM (Happy Easter!!)**

**Diocesan Youth Work Camp—Wise County, VA
(Saturday, June 22 thru Friday, June 28)**

(Open to all rising 9th graders thru graduated 12th graders)
Work Camp is not just a youth event. It's an opportunity for you to make a difference in the lives of those in need right here in our diocese... right here in Southwest Virginia! This is also a great opportunity for you to fulfill community service hours that you may need for high school programs.

Take advantage of Early Bird Registration thru April 25!

Contact Laura Cochrane to register...

276-492-3095 or lauracochrane@stannes-bristol.org

**Sr. High Youth Ministry is in need of
chaperones and contractors for Work Camp!**

Contractors do not have to be a licensed contractor or a professional, but should be someone knowledgeable and experienced with home improvement. This means you know how to safely operate a range of tools, have worked with different materials, and are able to teach others what you know. **Please contact Laura if you are willing to help out as a CHAPERONE or CONTRACTOR!**

FOOD CITY School Bucks Update: While shopping at Food City, please thank them for financially supporting St. Anne Catholic School through their School Bucks program. Parishioners & school families who shop at Food City helped us raise approximately \$1500 during the 2017-2018 school year. Your simple act of linking your ValuCards to our school has a lasting impact. Thank you so much for participating in this year's fundraiser.

Angie Bush, School Librarian

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To the winners of the Catholic Daughters Education Contest. The theme was “*Here I am, Lord, I come to do Your Will*” (or) *Doing My Best To Do Good*.

(Division 1) 1st Place: **Carson Mendrek**

2nd Place: **Georgia Kate Massengill**

(Division 2) 1st Place: **Allison McIlwain**

2nd Place: **Harrison McBride**

CDA congratulates and thanks all the students who participated in this year's contest!!

Parish Pastoral Council members are reminded of their meeting this Thurs., April 4, 7pm, school conference room.

MASS INTENTIONS for this WEEK

Saturday, March 30 (*Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent*)
5:30 p.m. †Lynne Marie Murphy
Sunday, March 31 (*Fourth Sunday of Lent—Laetare Sunday*)
8:30 a.m. †Kevin Corbett
11:30 a.m. †Priscilo Dazo Pedro
2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)
Tuesday, April 2
8:30 a.m. †Kevin Corbett
Wednesday, April 3
8:30 a.m. †Kevin Corbett
Thursday, April 4
6:00 p.m. †Betty P. Miller & †Ann P. Rogers
Friday, April 5
8:30 a.m. †Lou Pingo
Saturday, April 6 (*Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent*)
5:30 p.m. †John Paloian
Sunday, April 7 (*5th Sunday of Lent*)
8:30 a.m. †Wes Faylor
11:30 a.m. Special Intention: Bianca Almario
2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)



CHURCH SUPPORT

Regular/Operating March 23/24 \$9,688.47
Add'tl School 2nd Collection \$ 103.00

2nd Collection this weekend (March 30/31) is for *Catholic Relief Services* which helps the poor in the U.S. and around the world.

2nd Collection next week (April 6/7) is for *St. Anne's School*.

2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal: Over the past few weeks, many of you have contributed your support to this year's Appeal: *Building Our Family of Faith*. Many thanks for your generosity! If you have not yet responded to this year's Appeal, we encourage you to do so which supports our Diocese and our Parish. If you need a brochure/envelope, please notify the parish office.

**Wednesday Lenten Noon Organ Meditation
at Central Presbyterian (across from St. Anne's)**

April 3: Joan Keith (AGO Substitute Organist) Free admission; donations to the music program are accepted.

**The Book of Exodus
The God of Freedom and Life**

The Wednesday afternoon Scripture Study group will begin a new session on **April 24** to study the Book of Exodus. We meet in the **St. Vincent de Paul Center, 1pm-2:30pm**. Please sign up in the commons to join the group. Everyone welcome. No cost. Materials will be provided.

Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis (for April)

Doctors and their Collaborators in War Torn Areas

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war torn areas, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

WELCOME! To St. Anne's Parish

We welcome the following who have recently registered with our parish: **Roderick & Hannah Biosca** & children **Roderick, Mary & Benjamin**. (address: 15951 Summer Place, Bristol, VA 24202; phone: 205-907-2668).

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

Sunday, March 31:

- **Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class (SMARE) "Living the Eucharist--Be Reconciled with God!"** 9:45-11am in the Great Room. All are invited.

Monday, April 1

- **Adult Faith Formation: "Living the Eucharist".** 1:00p-2:30p in the St. Vincent de Paul Center.

Tuesday, April 2:

- **Book Club:** 1030-11:30a at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *"From Slave to Priest"*.
- **Tuesday Evening Scripture Study, "Living the Eucharist"** 6:30-8:00pm, St. Vincent de Paul Center.

Wednesday, April 3:

- **Little Rock Scripture Study, 1:00p-2:30p,** St. Vincent de Paul Center. *Acts of the Apostles*.
- **RCIA at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Great Room**.

For more information about any of the above programs, please email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call her at 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Prayer Group meeting this week: Wed., April 3,

2:45p-3:45p in the St. Vincent de Paul Center.

All are invited to attend. No preparation required.

Living the Eucharist—Lent 2019

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." Pope Francis

Share the Joy this Lent! It's not too late! *Living the Eucharist* has begun but you can still join us. We have materials for everyone. No cost. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us on this Lenten spiritual journey.

"Be Reconciled With God!"

Eucharist celebrates the reconciliation of the whole world with God. We are witnesses and bearers of this good news. Yet the struggle with sin remains. When we sin, we damage our relationship with God and one another and distance ourselves from that table of blessings. How do we return? How is the damage repaired? The Sacrament of Penance is our strong support along the journey of faith, bringing Christ's pardon and peace.

We have three groups meeting during the week. Join the group that works best with your schedule. If you miss your session you can always come to one of the other groups during the same week (we'll be doing the same lesson each week in all groups). Join us!

- **Sunday Morning** 945-11:00a in the Great Room
- **Monday Afternoon** 1:00-2:30p, St. Vincent de Paul Ctr
- **Tuesday Evening** 6:30-8:00p, St. Vincent de Paul Ctr

**PARACLETE Catholic Bookstore
from Knoxville**

Here this weekend—March 30/31!!

Stop in the Great Room after Mass for Easter Gifts,
First Communion items, and Catholic religious items.

STATIONS of the CROSS

Plan to join us Friday, April 5, for *Stations of the Cross*.
Stations in Spanish 5 p.m. & English at **6 p.m.**
(*Soup supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Room.*)

LENTEN Penance Service: Thurs., April 11, 7pm
Several priests will be here for individual confessions.

Baptism Preparation Class—April 13

Our next Baptismal Preparation Class is scheduled for
Saturday, April 13, 2pm-4pm in the Great Room. If you
have a child under the age of 7 who needs baptism or you
are expecting the birth of your child soon, please plan to
attend. The nursery will be provided for siblings, if needed.
To register, please call Sydney Farnum at 276-669-8200
ext. 32 or email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org **no later
than Wednesday, April 10.**

***40 Days for Life (March 6 thru April 14)
& Virginia March for Life (April 3)
Join us in our fight for life in Virginia!***

Catholics in the Bristol area are responsible for the
prayer vigil on Fridays from 12n to 4pm at the Bristol
Women's Center located at the corner of W. State &
Slaughter streets. We begin with the Rosary at noon. Please
join your Respect Life Committee and Catholics from
Christ the King, St. Dominic's, & St. Mary's as we support
pro-life. Parking is available in the old K-Mart parking lot.

This Wednesday, April 3, join Catholics from around
Virginia for the **Virginia March for Life**. Bishop Knestout
will celebrate Mass at the **Richmond Convention Center
at 9am** prior to the rally at the Capitol. No registration
required. Pro-life Virginians encouraged to attend! More
info available from the Virginia Catholic Conference at
<https://vacatholic.org/news-events/Virginia-march-for-life/>.

Looking Ahead to HOLY WEEK....

Holy Thursday, Apr. 18—Mass at **7p** (Altar of Repose to 11p)

Good Friday, Apr. 19—Stations: 12n/English, 1:30p/Spanish

Good Friday Svc. **7p** (w/veneration of Cross & Communion)

Easter Vigil Mass, Apr. 20 at **8:30pm** (Sacr. Of Initiation)

EASTER Sunday, Apr. 21:

Masses: **830a & 1130a** in English & **2p**/Spanish