

BEAUTIFUL

"I am".

I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

This is about unconditional love.

We all have such moments.

We can say of our newborn child, "I would die for you".

Mostly, though, our love is conditional.

Only God loves unconditionally – it is Who He Is – Jesus says, "I am - - - unconditional love"!

Jesus' unconditional love is Who He Is – a condition we all participate in and revealed in his life, death, and Resurrection.

All we can do – must do – is accept this great gift, the gift of life itself.

Say to yourself, "I am unconditionally loved" – it should evoke a sense of oneness with the One Who loves you without conditions. Give in to it! It is a state of being and union with the Divine. It is the Love of the Father and the Son for one another in which we are privileged to participate.

When we share this participation with one another, we achieve the unity – the communion – which the Lord desires, "one fold, one shepherd". Jesus lays down his life for his friends. We are his friends (!) and "friends" to one another. When we lay down our lives for one another, we are One with the "I am". Be grateful for such a privilege and live out of your sacredness.

The word "good" in today's Gospel can also mean "beautiful". Remember that, One with Him, you too are – beautiful.

Fr. King

Today's Readings:

Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Vocation Awareness:

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. May God raise up good shepherds in our midst.

(1 John 3:1-2)

Stewardship Thought:

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."

Everyone is invited to pray the Parish Rosary on **Monday, May 4th** at 6:30pm in the Marian Chapel.



Would you like to enhance the celebration of our weekend liturgies?

The flowers that we enjoy each weekend are donated by parishioners for various reasons: in memory of a deceased loved one, in celebration of a special event such as a Baptism or anniversary, or as a loving gesture. For further information, please contact Joan Davis at 632-4191.



Auxiliary Meeting!

The next St. Mary's Volunteer Auxiliary Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 13th** in the Pastoral Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm – The main topic of this meeting will be the Pentecost Picnic, **May 31st**. ALL parishioners are invited to bring their ideas and suggestions. This will be YOUR picnic.

CAN YOU HELP?

Interested in helping provide a Vacation Bible School program this year at St. Mary's? We are looking for a group of volunteers who have the calling to assist with implementing a VBS program for the 4th year in a row.



Please contact the Faith Formation office at 633-9985 or email; faithformation@stmarysrockledge.org.

Fair Worker's Appreciation Party will be on Saturday, May 16th at 6:00pm, in the Parish Hall.



Weekly Offertory Collection:

04-05-09	\$ 17,230.01
04-12-09	\$ 12,632.07
04-19-09	\$ 13,931.62
04-26-09	\$ 13,909.58

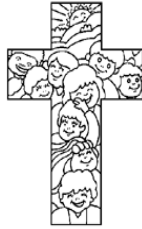
Weekly Building Fund Collection:

04-05-09	\$ 3,451.00
04-12-09	\$ 871.34
04-19-09	\$ 1,801.82
04-26-09	\$ 1,025.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

School News

Call 636-4208 or visit our website: www.stmarys-school.org



Giving your child the best academic and spiritual environment during their school years is an advantage that shouldn't be underestimated and is one you can never reclaim. St. Mary's outstanding programs prepare children well for a lifetime of learning. We have outstanding programs from PreK3 through Grade 8.

Registration continues for the 2009-2010 school year as long as spaces are available. For more information please contact the school office at 636-4208 or e-mail us at info@stmarys-school.org

The final Home and School Meeting of the year will take place on **Tuesday, May 5th** beginning at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. An overview of the past year will be presented. All parents are encouraged to attend.

St. Mary's Band will hold their Spring Concert on **Tuesday, May 5th** immediately following the Home and School Meeting.

St. Mary's Summer Camp is now accepting registrations. Students who are entering PreK3 through second grade are eligible. The day camp will feature; arts and crafts, drama, storytelling, inside and outside play and more. Hours are from 6:30am until 6:00pm, days and hours are flexible. For more information, please call the school office at 636-4208. You do not have to attend St. Mary's School to enroll.

The students will attend the 8:30am mass on **Friday, May 8th**. Please join us as we celebrate.

†† *Scripture Reading's* ††

May 4th – May 10th

Mon	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42; Jn 10:1-10
Tues	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87; Jn 10:22-30
Wed	Acts 12:24-13:5a; Ps 67; Jn 12:44-50
Thurs	Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89; Jn 13:16-20
Fri	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2; Jn 14:1-6
Sat	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98; Jn 14:7-14
Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Why Use Envelopes?

Because it enables us to recognize you as a practicing Catholic and contributing member of our parish. Very often we receive requests for letters of verification for purposes of acting as sponsor at Baptism, Confirmation or for school subsidy purposes. Without having a record of giving, it is difficult to do this. For more information please call the Pastoral Center Office at 636-6834.



FAITH FORMATION

633-9985

1st Communion Information

For those of you who have not completed your First Reconciliation, you must make your first Confession before you receive your First Communion. Please call the Faith Formation Office if you have any questions.

A reminder of important dates coming up for those who will be receiving the sacrament of **First Communion** this year:

- May 12th – Practice for 5pm Mass – 7pm – Church**
- May 13th – Practice for 10am Mass – 7pm - Church**
- May 16th – 1st Eucharist – 5pm Mass**
- May 17th – 1st Eucharist – 8am and 10am Mass**

Please bring your First Communions banners to practice. Any questions please contact Margy at 633-9985.



National Day of Prayer

The Bereavement Team of St. Mary's Community is called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. This ministry offers love and support on an on-going basis to the bereaved family and friends. You need not be alone in your grieving. It is in the process of healing work that hope comes; hope that life will once again be normal. If you are experiencing grief and need a listening ear, the members of the Grief Support Group at St. Mary's are here to help you. The facilitators are available at any time in between meetings should you wish to call them for an appointment. **Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20th, at 2:00pm, in the Pastoral Center.** For more information about this group, please contact Sandy at 631-8962.



Don't Forget Mother's Day – May 10, 2009

Annual Mother's Day Clothing Collection



A very practical way everyone can contribute to the respect for life is by supporting Pregnancy Resources Inc. It is a non-profit, Melbourne-based organization that provides women and families with alternatives to abortion. They do this through education, counseling, and material support.

Mothers who make the sometimes difficult choice for life need our prayers and material support.

Bring your donations of NEW infant and maternity clothing, baby feeding or bathing items, and diapers to the Mother's Day Mass on the weekend of **May 9th and 10th**.

Thank you for your generous support and continue to pray that one day all life will be respected from conception to natural death. For more information **call Deacon Mike at 631-8962.**



The next St. Mary's Senior Family Event will take place on **Monday, May 18th, 11:30am**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Fiske Blvd. Please bring a covered dish. After we eat, we will enjoy a presentation on "Crime Prevention and Personal Family Safety".

Catholic Charities of Central Florida's 2nd Annual "Adopt A Laugh" Comedy Fundraiser

Cocoa Beach Country Club (Minuteman Causeway)

May 9th, 2009, 6:30 – 10:30pm

Contact Linda Wiggins, To Register - 321-636-6144

Food tasting from Brevard's Finest Restaurants

Entertainment from Groucho's Comedy Club

Silent Auction * Door Prizes * Raffles



Baptism of infants and children through age 6 are scheduled on the first weekend of every month. Parent(s) must attend our Baptism Seminar; Godparents and any other interested adults are encouraged to attend. Call Margy at 633-9985 to register for the next seminar to be held on **June 5th and 6th**. Baptisms are NOT scheduled until you have completed this seminar. If you are expecting, sign up now. The seminar takes place on **Friday, June 5th**, from 7-9:00pm and **Saturday, June 6th**, from 9-12 Noon.



A warm welcome to all new parishioners who registered at St. Mary's in the past couple of months:

- Brewer Family
- Chavez Brown
- Hearn Family
- Hull Family
- Neil Family
- Zapata Family



Please accept our warmest welcome on behalf of the staff and entire Catholic Community of St. Mary's. Please know that our community and staff are here to assist you in your spiritual and sacramental needs.

Have you considered Prison & Jail Ministry? "I was in prison and you visited me." The Criminal Justice Office, a program of Catholic Charities of Central Florida, will provide the tools and skills you need at the next Diocesan Prison and Jail Ministry Volunteer Training Day on **Saturday, May 16th**, from 9:00am to 3:30pm, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Palm Bay. Seating is limited. To register or if you would like more information, please contact Tom Gillan at 407-470-1971, or email, tom.gillan@cflcc.org.



Mass Intentions

The Week of May 4th through May 10th

- MON** 8:30 AM Gladys Krobatsch
- TUE** 8:30 AM Gladys Krobatsch
- WED** 8:30 AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
- THURS**.. 8:30 AM Bernadette Heake
- FRI**..... 8:30 AM **SCHOOL MASS,**
Dolores Wojciechowski
- SAT** 5:00 PM Joseph C. Lanza
- SUN**.....
8:00 AM Antonio Clemente
- 10:00 AM **PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**
- 4:00 PM Spanish Mass

† Denotes an intention for the living

A Prayer for Our Troops



Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

We Wish to Honor Our Advertiser of the Week

Alamo Mexican Kitchen

321-632-2549

5885 S. US Hwy 1, Rockledge

Closed Mondays

Thank you for supporting St. Mary's bulletin



Lord, hear our prayers for the sick of our parish listed below and for all of those who are not listed, but are in need of prayers. Pray especially for:

Joshua D. Gelfond, Grace Graziano, Beverly Mason, Terry Stevens, Cathy Clifton, William Bussey, Sr., Richard Winters, Iris Nieves, Pat Klein, Helen Schott, Alice Henderson, Blaise McGarvey, and John Repanshek.

Please remember in prayer those who have entered into eternal life.

We ask God to comfort their family and friends in this time of sorrow.