# St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church

23331 Sam Fred Road, Middleburg, VA 20117 Phone: (540) 687-6433

Web: www.saint-stephen.org

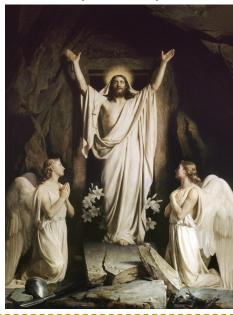
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

SSM Offices will be CLOSED Monday April 29, 2024 No Daily Mass Mon April 29 - Wed May 1, 2024

# St. Katharine Drexel Mission

4100 Mill Creek Road, Haymarket, VA 20169 Phone: (703) 754-8444 Web: www.katharinedrexelcc.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 3:30 pm



# April 28, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

Jn 15:4a, 5b

#### **Mass Schedule**

St. Stephen the Martyr

Saturday 5:00 PM (Vigil) Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Sunday 12:30 PM Spanish Mass

Daily - Monday through Friday 8:30 AM First Saturday of every month 8:30 AM Wednesday 6:30 PM Spanish Adoration 7:00 - 8:00 PM

First Saturday of every month Rosary and Penance after the 8:30 AM Mass

St. Katharine Drexel Mission

Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Battlefield High School Auditorium 15000 Graduation Drive Haymarket, VA 20169

Penance available at
St. Stephen the Martyr
Morning, Afternoon, and Evening

Wednesday
Friday
Saturday

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
9:00 AM
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM
or by appointment

#### Parish Staff

**PASTOR** 

Rev. Christopher D. Murphy office@saint-stephen.org

**BUSINESS MANAGER** 

Lori Trout (540) 687-6433 trout@saint-stephen.org

PARISH SECRETARY

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MISSION COORDINATOR, St. Katharine Drexel Mission

> Ellen Sivick (703)754-8444 esivick@saint-stephen.org

DIRECTOR OF RE

**Coordinator of Youth Ministries** 

Shareen Klos (703) 754-8444 sklos@saint-stephen.org

#### Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Call the parish office to schedule infant baptism and for information on new parent preparation sessions.

Marriages - Contact the parish office at least six months before wedding.

Sick Calls - Call the parish office to receive Anointing of the Sick or Communion for shut-ins, sick, hospitalized and in cases of serious illness.

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter **April 28, 2024**

# Nass Intentions

April 27 Saturday,

5:00 pm

People of the Parish

Sunday,

April 28

8:00 am 10:00 am John Zugschwert † Carla Dempewolf †

12:30 pm (Spanish)

Jaime Cortes †

SKD 8:00 am Sister Mary Claire Reinberg Jean Bishop Miller †

10:30 am

April 29 8:30 am

No Mass

Tuesday,

Monday,

April 30 8:30 am

No Mass

Wednesday, May 1

No Mass

6:30 pm (Spanish)

Thursday,

May 2 8:30 am

Friday,

May 3

8:30 am

Tommy Grygier †

Saturday, May 4

8:30 am

Mary Winkle †



#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday

Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Monday

Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday

Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday

Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8 or, for the Memorial, Gn 1:26—2:3

Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58

**Thursday** 

Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

First Friday

1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14

**First Saturday** 

Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21



Masses at St. Stephen the Martyr and St. Katharine Drexel can be offered for living and deceased loved ones.

Please call the parish office: 540-687-6433





This service is paid for by our church and is available to ALL SSM and SKD parishioners.

Sign up today!

- 1. Visit www.formed.org
- 2. Click "sign up"
- 3. Choose "sign up as a parishioner" (2nd box)
- 4. Enter "20117" and scroll to St Stephen the Martyr & Saint Katharine Drexel Mission then click "next"
- 5. Create a new account by entering your full name and email
- 6. Enjoy!

### SSM Parish and SKD Mission News

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION April/May Classes

Sunday Classes RE Classes

4/28/2024 - Class 5/5/2024 - Class 5/12/2024 - No Class 5/19/2024 - Last Class Wednesday Evening Special Sacrament 1st Year

5/1/2024 - Class 5/8/2024 - Class 5/15/2024 - Last Class Thursday Evening Special Sacrament 2nd Year

5/2/2024 - Class 5/9/2024 - **Last Class** 

### Stewardship Reflection April 28, 2024

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

1 John 3:1

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

#### Saturday May 4, 2024

2:00 pm First Communion Mass 5:00 pm First Communion Mass



**Sunday May 5, 2024** 

12:30 pm First Communion Mass

**Saturday May 11, 2024** 10:00 am Confirmation Mass 1:30 pm Confirmation Mass



# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

END OF YEAR
GET TOGETHER

May 19th End of the year: Pot Luck and yard games



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Nicole and Nate Lynch nlynch227@gmail.com (703) 727-6708

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#### Daily Bread: Discover the Eucharist in Scripture

Each short daily reflection dives into Scripture and the history of man's salvation - all leading to an encounter with Jesus truly present in the Eucharist.

#### Pastor's Piece

V Sunday of Easter - April 28, 2024

Occasionally, I get asked about a topic that recently has been thoroughly investigated by a trusted Catholic source.

In certain Catholic prophetic circles, there is a concept known as the *three days of darkness*, according to which a judgment will come upon the earth, and the earth will be preternaturally shrouded in darkness.

One of the most famous quotations about this event is attributed to the Italian mystic Bl. Anna Maria Taigi (1768-1837). She is said to have stated,

There shall come over the whole earth an intense darkness lasting three days and three nights. Nothing can be seen, and the air will be laden with pestilence which will claim mainly, but not only, the enemies of religion. It will be impossible to use any man-made lighting during the darkness, except blessed candles. He, who out of curiosity, opens his window to look out, or leaves his home, will fall dead on the spot. During these three days, people should remain in their homes, pray the rosary, and beg God for mercy. All the enemies of the Church, whether known or unknown, will perish over the whole earth during that universal darkness, with the exception of a few whom God will soon convert. The air shall be infected by demons who will appear under all sorts of hideous forms....

What should we make of the prediction? How credible is it? And what does the Church have to say about it?

The answer to the last question is easy: nothing. The Church has nothing to say about it. ... The three days of darkness is not a matter of Church teaching.

Can it be supported by the Bible? Websites advocating the three days of darkness regularly appeal to the ninth plague of the Exodus (Exod. 10:21-29), in which God caused three days of darkness in Egypt. However, this is a reference to a historical event, not a prediction of a future one. Appeal also is made to Revelation 6:12 and 16:10—the sixth seal and the fifth vial. These chapters in Revelation most likely pertain to events early in Church history, not our future, and although both passages involve darkness, there is no mention of it lasting three days.

Consequently, the Bible does not contain a

prediction of the three days of darkness. However, God could still reveal it through credible private revelations, and it is here that we run into a problem. George Ryan—who passes no judgment on the three days of darkness—writes,

The origins of the prophecy are unclear, but it has been attributed to a number of saints and mystics throughout history. Some believe it comes from St. Hildegard of Bingen, while others attribute it to St. Patrick or St. Teresa of Avila.

This is a problem, because if any of these figures predicted the three days of darkness, it should be possible to find the prediction in their writings, and nobody has been able to do so. It thus appears that some advocates of the view have attempted to give it an air of antiquity by associating older saints with it (Patrick lived in the 400s, Hildegard lived in the 1100s, and Teresa lived in the 1500s), even though they made no predictions about it. The idea thus appears to be of more recent origin.

Of course, there are numerous visionaries operating today, and some of them do speak of the three days of darkness. However, what these visionaries have in common is that none of them has been investigated and had his visions approved.

Some visionaries authentically receive private revelations, but some are hoaxers—because hoaxers exist in every age, including our own—whereas others may be innocently imagining things based on what they have read in visionary literature.

This is why it is important to have competent investigations done rather than simply giving credence to claims of purported revelations. ... If we set aside disapproved and uninvestigated claims, what are we left with?

Some advocates of the three days of darkness have claimed that St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio, 1887-1968) predicted it. However, the quotation was given with no traceable source, and the Capuchin order that he belonged to has <u>denied that he ever made such a prediction</u>. This also appears to be a case of someone trying to lend the prediction credibility by associating it with a popular modern saint.

What about the most famous quotation concerning the three days of darkness—the one we quoted earlier, attributed to Anna Maria Taigi?

#### Pastor's Piece

V Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2024

Various web pages attribute it to a book titled *Private Prophecy*, which was published in 1863. This is good, because books of that era have been digitized and are searchable online. However, when we check Archive.org and Google Books, they turn up no book by this title. ...

After considerable searching (including by other means), it appears that this book simply never existed. Perhaps someone saw the above quotation attributed to a private prophecy of Taigi from 1863 and thought it was a book title.

However, here we encounter another difficulty. The website "The Great Catholic Monarch and Angelic Pontiff Prophecies"—which *supports* the three days of darkness—acknowledges that it was not mentioned until 1863 or 1864—twenty-six or twenty-seven years *after* Taigi's death.

During life, Taigi reportedly saw an orb-like "mystic sun" that revealed things to her about the future, and she told these to her spiritual director, Raffaele Natali. The website states:

There is no question Bl. Anna Maria Taigi saw in her mystic sun several visions of "clouds of darkness" and other horrific disasters descending upon the earth during the times of the punishments; this has been mentioned during her beatification process as seen above. However, the mention of a specific time-frame of Three Days for the foretold "purge" of the earth was first allegedly revealed by her spiritual director, D. Raffaele Natali, who was not only her strongest supporter during her beatification process, but also gave ample testimony regarding her visions, for in obedience, she had told him everything.

According to an article in the El Ermitaño, (No. 155, Oct. 26, 1871), D. Natali revealed the following during c. August of 1864, a year after her beatification process was opened by Bl. Pius IX in 1863:

"It is very true that the venerable Servant of God announced the scourge of three days of darkness spread over all the earth.... In these circumstances, the windows should be closed, and leaning over them should be avoided, and it will be imperative to pray the holy rosary and pray." The website also relates an account in which Natali may have mentioned the three days in the previous year (1863).

This raises grave questions about the quotation attributed to Taigi—as well as any other quotations attributed to her on the three days of darkness.

The idea was apparently related more than a quarter-century after her death by a now elderly spiritual director. We have to take his word for what she told him, and we are at the mercy of his memory and his honesty, as well as the accuracy of the reports concerning what he said.

Under these circumstances, and given the known problems with other quotations on this topic (such as the false Padre Pio quotation), we should not place confidence in any alleged verbatim quotations attributed to Taigi—especially lengthy ones—in the absence of verifiable documents written during her life.

Then there is the fact that—as far as I have been able to determine—these revelations were not subject to an ecclesiastical investigation into their validity. When a person's cause for canonization is opened, a check is made to see whether he said anything that *contradicts* the Faith. However, a judgment is not made about the validity of any revelations he claimed to have received. That is a separate process, which I have no evidence of being performed in this case.

Although I may perform more research in the future, thus far I have not been able to verify *any* reference to the three days of darkness in an approved apparition. Instead, I have found a highly problematic set of quotations and attributions that appear to be the product of the Apparition Rumor Net rather than competent scholarship.

As vivid and compelling as the prediction of the three days of darkness is, I would not recommend that Catholics be terrified of it or that they invest it with credence, given the present state of the evidence. (Jimmy Akin, Catholic Answers Magazine, April 17, 2024)

Christ's Peace Fr. Murphy

#### St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church



Established as a Mission: October 6, 1957 Building Dedicated: April 21, 1963 Became a Parish: June, 1975

#### St. Stephen Ministry Connections

-Bulletin Editor Kyung Sylvester 540-687-6433

-Prayer Vine Kathleen Lambiasi

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-Adult Faith Inquiry Fr. Murphy 540-687-6433
-Ushers Patrick Ameen 202-297-5692
-Lectors Patrick Ameen 202-297-5692

-Knights of Gene Rainville

Columbus rainvilleGL@gmail.com



Please join us after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses on Sunday, <u>May 5, 2024</u> for the coffee, juice, and donut social in the Parish Hall.

#### All are welcome.



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We are in need of more SSM ushers, especially for the Saturday evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass.

In 6 weeks, we'll be down to only two regular ushers for the 5:00 pm Mass and when the SKD church opens we'll have only one regular usher.

Please consider volunteering. You may text or call me at (202) 297-5692.

Pat Ameen

You are invited to Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Saint Stephen the Martyr.

The sacrament of Penance will also be available.





#### Serving Our Community

Remember those we serve by bringing your food items on Sundays and leaving them in the basket located in the narthex.

Please visit their website: www.sevenloavesmiddleburg.org

#### St. Katharine Drexel Mission

**Bull Run Catholic Community** 



Established September 10, 2000 Made a Mission June, 2005 Office Phone: 703-754-8444 www.katharinedrexelcc.org

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# Join us in praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the 8:00 am Mass

We will meet in the back of the auditorium.
Chaplet prayers and rosaries are provided.



#### Let Us Pray for...

Jackie Lorzing, Kara Boyd,
Halina Kurpiel, Jacques Malebranche,
Cynthia Radcliff, Audrey Mormann,
Cody Travers, Joyce Milton,
Mitch & Yvonne Scipioni,
Connie Bartholomew, Agnes Wienand,
Coleen Yost, Dan Rogers and Sid Vasey

#### **Confessions**

For your convenience, the Sacrament of Confession is offered between Masses (9:30 am -10:15 am) almost every Sunday.

Cards to assist you in preparing for Confession are on the hall tables. Fr. Murphy or our guest Priest will be more than happy to absolve you of your sins privately or face to face. Our Confessional is located on the far-right side of the stage.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

The Fr. Jon O'Brien Knights of Columbus is hosting a Kentucky Derby Casino Knight fundraiser on May 4, 2024 from 3 - 7 pm at the Trouvaille Brewery in Haymarket.

All proceeds will benefit new SKD church needs. To order tickets and for more information, please visit:

https://fjobkofc.org/casino-night.



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