BASILICA OF

SAINT MARY

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mother Church of Catholicism in Hampton Roads and Designated Holy Door Site

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Mission Statement
The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception is the only African-American Basilica in the United States and the cornerstone of Catholicism in Tidewater. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, regardless of race, language or culture. Nourished by the Eucharist, we seek to accomplish this by drawing on our rich African-American heritage of Spirit-filled worship, Christ-centered service, and fellowship that recalls our common Father.

This is our call. This is our mission.

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil
5:00 pm

Sundays
9:00 am and 12:00 Noon

Tuesday-Friday
12:10 pm

Holy Days
12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Religious Education
Sundays
September through May
10:45 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays
4:15 pm or by appointment

Marriage
Contact priest 6 months prior to proposed wedding date.

Ministry to Sick
and Homebound
Please contact Church Office to arrange for communion, anointing of the sick or when someone is ill, in the hospital, or in need in any way.

Baptism
Parents who present children to be baptized are expected to be registered members of the parish for 6 months. Parents must attend a baptismal preparation session prior to baptism 3rd Saturday of the month. Please contact the Church Office.

Interested in the Catholic Faith?
The RCIA process is for you. Please contact the Church Office.

The Ministry of Consolation
meets on the last Saturday of each month in St. Joseph’s Chapel at 3:00 pm. If this is your time of grief and pain because of the loss of a loved one, this ministry encourages you to join us at a meeting where you will meet others who have suffered a loss.
Lessons About the Kingdom of Heaven

**Reflection on Matthew 13:44-52**

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who “brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.” The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus’ “new” teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

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**St. Ignatius of Loyola**

**Patron Saint of Retreats • July 15**

Ignatius was the youngest son of a Spanish nobleman. As a youth, he was inflamed with the desire for the glories of knighthood so that he could do good deeds in the king's service. At age 29, he was seriously injured in battle and returned to his family home to convalesce, where he read the only two books available to him about the lives of Christ and of the Saints, the only books available to him. These books inspired his spiritual conversion. He studied for the priesthood and founded the Jesuits. As a student in Paris he drew a small band of friends to himself and directed them in extended prayer and meditation according to his Spiritual Exercises. St. Ignatius died in 1556 at the age of 65.

**Prayer for Generosity by St. Ignatius**

*Lord, teach me to be generous.*

*Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will.*

Adapted from *A Brief Biography of St. Ignatius of Loyola,* Ignatian Solidarity Network, 2020, https://ignatiansolidarity.net/st-ignatius-of-loyola/
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