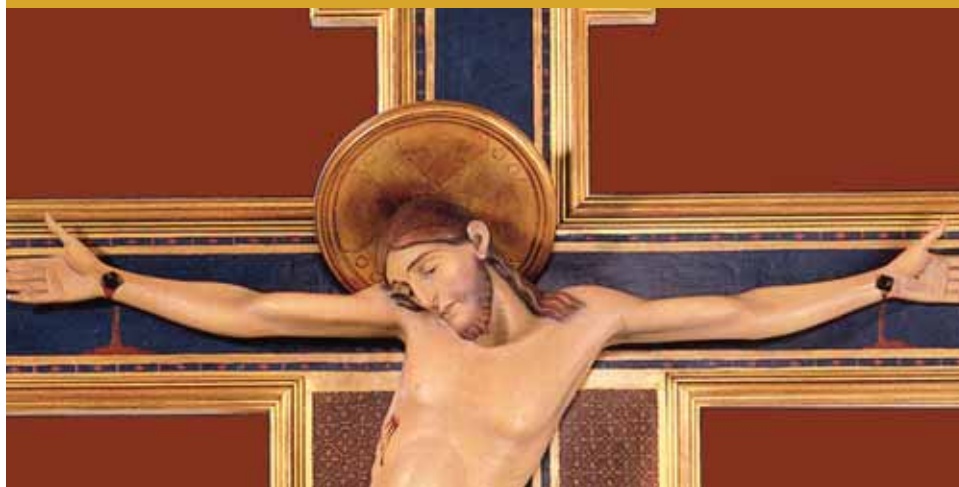


**Solemnity
of Christ
the King**

24 Nov 2013



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA



what's coming

november

24 Sunday, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

CCW Mini-Bazaar after morning Masses, Parish Life Center.

Christmas Card and SCRIP Sales after Masses.

11:30am, New Family Welcome Meeting, Church.

12noon-1:45pm, English as a Second Language Classes, 2nd Fl., Parish Life Center.

3:30pm, Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life and Marriage concluding with Rosary & Benediction, church.

6pm, Catholic Youth Ministry Dinner, Parish Life Center.

7-8:30pm, CYM Youth Group, Parish Life Center.

25 Monday, Weekday (St. Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr)

No Religious Education Classes this week.

10am, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

7:30pm, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, church. Topic: Introduction to Prayer, The Lord's Prayer. All parish adults welcome. 8:15pm, small group discussion continues for RCIA candidates in Parish Life Center.

26 Tuesday, Weekday

10am, St. Mary Book Club, John Paul II House.

7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Renewal Prayer Group, Courtyard Meeting Room.

27 Wednesday, Weekday

6:30-8pm, YOUCAT - Youth Ministry Program, JP II House.

8pm, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

28 Thursday, Weekday - Thanksgiving

Parish Offices Closed today.

One daily Mass today - at 10am, please bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank.

29 Friday, Weekday

Parish Offices Closed today.

30 Saturday, St. Andrew, apostle

9:30am, Spanish Presentation on Catholicism, Courtyard Meeting Room.

SCRIP Sales after 5pm Mass. Christmas Card sales after Masses.

december

1 Sunday, First Sunday of Advent

No Coffee and Donuts this morning.

SCRIP Sales after all Masses. Christmas Card sales after Masses.

2 Monday, Advent Weekday

10am, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

7:30pm, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, church. Topic: Blessed Virgin Mary. All parish adults welcome. 8:15pm, small group discussion continues for RCIA candidates in Parish Life Center.

8:15pm, Young Adult Ministry meeting, John Paul II House.

3 Tuesday, St. Francis Xavier, priest

4 Wednesday, Advent Weekday (St. John Damascene, priest and doctor of the church)

6:30-8pm, YOUCAT - Youth Ministry Program, JP II House.

8pm, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

7pm, Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Meeting Room. *Class is full, watch bulletin for what is next!*



SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church



this week's
bulletin:

5
education

8
liturgy

9
operations

10
parish life

12
outreach

NOTA BENE (*note well, please*):

- ☞ It is not too late to contribute for **Philippines Typhoon Relief**. See Page 9 for more details!
- ☞ The **Parish Offices will be closed** Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be **no Religious Education classes** this week. On Sunday, December 1 there will be no CYM Dinner or Youth Group.
- ☞ Join us on **Thursday, November 28 at 10am** for our **Special Thanksgiving Mass**. Please bring non-perishable food items. All donations will be given to the Food Bank.
- ☞ **SCRIP is on sale** in the Parish Life Center after all Masses except Saturday 7pm and Sunday 2pm. You can start budgeting for your Christmas gift list! Please use SCRIP, and a percentage of what you spend will be applied to our school.

from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

Every year we come to the Solemnity of Christ the King and we give a pause and consider what the end of time will be like. Christ our King and our judge will take some role as facilitator of justice as we pass from one age to the next, and we will be given the eternal reward of our goodness, or the corresponding eternal emptiness which will simply correspond to the level of life which we have chosen to live in God in this world.

We realize that there is still time to change. This is why God gives us the gift of time, because we can change. Pope John Paul II said that the person who is most perfect in this world is the one who has changed most often. That is also why God has given us the Church, because we need a safe place to belong while we look into that change. It is not an easy thing, it most often requires the support and prayers of a loving community. I think, sometimes, that God will deal most harshly with those who have adopted an attitude that doesn't seek renewal alongside others, who stand in judgment of sinners rather than extending the kind of love that alone is able to break through the division of sin and its devastation, touch the hearts of those who are struggling and welcome them home. Still remembering that home is a place of change, it is often too difficult for so many to try to open that door alone.

Yesterday I had a chance to go to Manarola, Italy, one of the most beautiful places on earth, I'm thinking. (As I write this I am in Siena, another of those places.) You should Google Manarola for images of this place, one of the world heritage sites because of its unparalleled beauty. So it was Sunday, and we worked our day in the Cinque Terre around getting to Mass at 11 in Manarola. There is only one Mass for the whole region.

There was only one Sunday Mass, and 34 people attended. I suddenly began thinking about how much we consider the end times to be a time of the few faithful who will re-

main, and the so many who will have either given up or denied the faith when faced with one of the several deadly isms of our day -- individualism, secularism, pluralism, humanism, even indifferentism (we could also include stupidism) -- the so-called "sacred remnant" who will still be paying attention on the last day when the Lord calls.

Mass in Manarola reminded me of that idea. Where are all the people? It has become a nervous joke in Europe. Where has everyone gone?

It worries me that we might not be so far behind in the United States.

Well, I refuse to accept the "sacred remnant" idea. To do so would be to give into the same kind of lack of regard that so many have shown in setting aside their faith. We have to be people who continue to fight and speak up and do our best to live the values we believe so that others might look again.

As I looked around that church I wondered why it has gotten to this point? The priest seemed engaged. I don't speak fluent Italian but I got the gist of his good homily. The music was thin, but there was a lively group of six children in the front who sat together and helped with the Mass, bringing up the gifts, offering the prayers of the faithful. All in all, it was a beautiful Mass, it just wasn't attended.

You and I have a lot to do at the end of the day in order to make sure that more than only a few make it to the finish line. We simply can't settle for the minimal returns of a few faithful members in the Body of Christ when the personal investment of God is so great in the hopes of yielding a fruitful return. It is not okay what is happening in our world -- and, though we aren't powerful to make any real global change, we can start with our own houses and families, and get the word out to our parish.

God bless you. *Fr. Don*

holy cross

Proud to be an American

Veterans Day is a special day at Holy Cross Academy. It began with our annual Doughnuts with Dad breakfast. Father Brisson Hall was filled with parents and the sweet smell of doughnuts. Parents were invited to stay for morning prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and our patriotic song before they hugged their child goodbye and sent them down the hall to begin the school day. Veterans Day activities continued throughout the week with middle school students writing pen pal letters to children of men and women who are currently serving. Our preschoolers created a bulletin board honoring family members who currently serve.

Recently, HCA was presented with a certificate and an American flag from USAF Lt. Thomas Tharp who was stationed at Kandahar Air Force Base in Afghanistan. The flag was sent to thank the children who sent letters to active military personnel. Tharp carried the flag on a flight mission over Afghanistan on July 4th, 2013. The flag was mailed to Holy Cross Academy along with a certificate which will be on display for all.

If you want to learn about our school and all that we can do for your child, please call us at 540-286-1600 or visit our website, www.holycrossweb.com.

For St. Mary Preschool, please call 540-373-7553. Holy Cross Academy is a place where each child can flourish and grow. We would love to hear from you and will gladly give you a tour of our National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and tell you all about the wonderful things happening here.



A National Blue Ribbon School, 2012



Students enjoy honoring their dads and veterans.

religious ed.

No Classes This Week

This week is our Thanksgiving Break. There will be no Religious Education classes November 25-28. Classes resume the week of December 2-5.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks to all students and their families for contributing to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We collected well over 500 pounds of food. Many more families than we anticipated will have a bountiful Thanksgiving meal because of your overwhelming generosity and that of the Knights of Columbus.

Advent Confessions

When the students from Grades 3-7 return from Thanksgiving Break they will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During advent we pre-

pare for the coming of our Savior and a season of sharing. Let also prepare our minds and souls by going to confession. The church provides us this wonderful opportunity to reflect on our lives and make it more loving to God and neighbor. As we pray in the Act of Contrition: we "confess our sins, do penance and amend our lives"

The Bishops of Pennsylvania in February 2002 wrote: "We invite every Catholic to celebrate the sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation or, as we have traditionally said, "go to Confession," on a regular basis. There can be no better way to make progress on our spiritual journey than by returning in humble repentance and love to God, whose forgiveness reestablishes us as his children and restores us to peace with his Church and our neighbors."

youth

Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates

On November 9 & 16, over 200 young people from our parish attended a day long retreat at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



Weekend Retreat for People Facing Serious Illness

A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, Va. on December 13-15, 2013. A team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present around the clock. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. This retreat is offered free of charge. It is a non-smoking weekend. Registration closes Dec. 6, 2013. If you are interested in attending, please call the Dominican Retreat House as soon as possible at 703-356-4243 or Doug Sebek at 703-860-4929.

Learn About Vocations

Visit www.arlingtonvocations.org for more details on these Days of Discernment. RSVP with the Office of Vocations at 703-841-2514 or by email at vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Saturday, December 21

Men's Day of Discernment

Meet Christ in the Sacraments, and meet in fraternity with seminarians and other men discerning their vocation. Mass, penance, and adoration will all be included in the day, which runs from 9am – 5pm on Saturday, December 21, at the beautiful Franciscan Monastery in DC.

Sunday, December 22

Women's Day of Discernment

Are you listening for God's call? Consider attending this day of prayer for women at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean: 9am - 5pm, Sunday, December 22.

Are you called to be "*A herald's voice in the desert*" preparing the way of the Lord in the hearts of His people? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, call Father J.D. Jaffe at 703-841-2514 or write jjaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Adult Confirmation, Learn on Dec 11

Adult Confirmation classes will begin soon for all adults who have not had the opportunity to receive their final Sacrament of Initiation into the Church. It is a good time to review our basic faith beliefs and what it is that makes us Catholic Christians. There will be an information night on Wednesday, December 11 at 8pm with Deacon Dick Delio. Classes will begin on January 7, 2014 and continue for six weeks. Please call the Parish office if you would like to be part of this year's Adult Confirmation class.

Retreat Opportunities

Loyola on the Potomac

Loyola on the Potomac retreats in Faulkner, Maryland are conducted in an atmosphere of prayerful silence and include generous amounts of time for prayer, personal reflection and the cultivation of a deep relationship with God. This year's retreat theme is entitled: "Rivers of Living Water."

St. Mary retreats dates:

Men's Retreat, 7-9- March 2014

Women's Retreat, 14-16 March 2014.

NEW!—A Retreat for Women entitled, "The Glory of God is the Woman Fully Alive" and offers opportunity for group discussion, along with silent prayer time. 31 Jan-2 February 2014.

Contact Len or Sylvia Fontenot for more info: 540-663-2261 or email lensyl1966@verizon.net. To register, go to www.loyolaonthepotomac.com

Holy Cross Abbey

Another retreat option in northern Virginia is to visit to the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA. Here is a link with more information: <https://www.virginiatrappists.org/retreat-house/>

Saturday, December 7

Advent Morning Retreat for Married Couples

All married couples are invited to join together for a morning of reflection at Church of the Nativity in Burke entitled "Matrimony as an Image of God's Love: Practical Ways to Strengthen Our Faith and Our Marriage." The talks will be led by Deacon Dale Avery and Sheila Avery. The retreat will begin with 9am Mass and will conclude at 12:15pm. Please email the Office for Family Life at the Diocese of Arlington if you plan to attend at familylife@arlingtondiocese.org.

Art of Marriage Conference

Family Life's Art of Marriage Conference is coming to St. Mary February 14 & 15. This may be your best Valentine's Day gift yet! Learn how to make a good marriage great and/or help a marriage experiencing challenges. Cost: \$35 per couple. Email sweetcaroline003@gmail.com for more information.

church

Daily Mass Intentions
and Readings

November

25 MONDAY

6:30 +Carol Retan
9am +Cary Mitchener
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4

26 TUESDAY

6:30 +Ryan McGhee
9am +William Marlow
Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11

27 WEDNESDAY

6:30 +Timothy McCann
9am Joan Doherty
Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28;
Lk 21:12-19

28 THURSDAY

10am In Thanksgiving
Dn 6:12-28; Lk 21:20-28

29 FRIDAY

6:30 Rev. Christopher Mould
9am +Rafael Bernaola
Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33

30 SATURDAY

9am Leo Chavarria
5pm +Katie Warrington
7pm Joe Cascio
Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

1 SUNDAY

7am Tiem Vu Family
8:30 +Robert Busch
10:30 Those Who Died in Nov.
10:30* For the Parish
12:30pm +Bill Novitsky
2pm +Jonathan Tyler
5pm Deacon Dick Delio
7:01pm +Beatrice Ryan
Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt
24:37-44

*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

Mass on Thanksgiving

There will be a Special Mass at 10am on Thursday, November 28, to celebrate Thanksgiving. As we have done for so many years, we ask all those attending to bring non-perishable food items with them for Thanksgiving, to be donated to the Food Bank for those in need. We hope you will join us and begin your day at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, giving thanks to Our Lord. Please note there will not be a 6:30am or a 9am Mass.

Eucharistic Holy Hour for
Life and Marriage, Nov 24

Join the parish today (Sunday, November 24) at 3:30pm in the church for a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life and Marriage, concluding with a Rosary and Benediction. The parish has been holding this special Holy Hour throughout this Year of Faith. Today is the last Sunday of this liturgical year.

All Night Adoration
First Friday, December 6

"The Divine Child whom we will worship in the Nativity scene is Emmanuel, the God with us Who is really present in the Sacrament of the Altar" (Pope John Paul II). All Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 8:00pm First Friday Mass on December 6. O Come Let Us Adore Him in the Eucharist! Please sign up today.

Advent Lessons and Carols

The Saint Mary Music Ministry presents our second annual Advent Lessons and Carols on Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm in the church. The Children's, Youth, Folk and Adult Choirs present Advent songs along with scripture readings and hymns for all to sing. It's a prayerful service for the season of anticipation and waiting for Christ's coming. All are welcome.

St. Mary Prayer List

Please Pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: Loli Ibarra, Julie Smith, Charles Leonard, Charles Kendall, Helen Kozyra, Nancy Sturtevant, Joseph Bozicevic, Julie Fabula, Ree Messer, Martha Clements, Amelia McDevitt, Gerald Gardiner, Rico Santos, Rebecca Lowe, Erma Dean, Beverly Winful, Judy Larkin, Catherine Thompson, Lynn Jacobs, Katie Bailey, Holly Smith, Donald Estes, Frederick Brems, Jordan Rizer, Jeri Carone, Joseph Terreri, Dawn Walter, Anna Castagna, Tim Murray, Tom Gibbs, Douglas Moore, Bill Luck, Mary Ullmer, Georgene Burton, Joe O'Connor, David Silberman, Hieu Nguyen, Katie Billing, Audrey Wolski, Morgan Wolski, Ruth Weaver, Lucy Holzworth, David Arnold, Linda Moler, Matt Miller, Wilma Evans, Hoop Hooper, Rita Wainwright, Marianne Ford, Randy and Vicky Dehr, Velda Taylor, Deborah Ellia, Linda Kaila, Monica Lantigua, Bert DeVore, Betty Ann Dateno, Frank Moehler, Harold Gardiner, Garafano Family, Grant Family, Casey Family, LaCombe Family, Cecelia and Charles Lee, Cecelia Davis, Christopher Ford, Abraham Gomez Ramos, Joan Baker, Barbara Leone, Mary D'Amato

Please Pray for all the men and women in our military and civilian support services overseas, especially: Javier Acosta, Leah April, Joel Asher, Miguel Ayala, Crystal Black, Ned Brownell, Jr., Derek Brostek, Christopher Burton, Matthew Campos, Leslie Capuano, Bruno Carriero, Jonathan Catalano, Frank Creamer, Sal Contreras, James Cook, Brad Cowan, Sam Del Grande, Glenn Dickinson, Aaron Doble, Anthony Dowden, John Dussault, Sandy Dussault, Travis Eades, Doug Ebenal, Christopher Eckert, Tim Evan, Christopher Ewers, Paul Fischer, Jonathan Fleming, Roberto Fuentes, Jason Geary, Ramon Guerra, Jr., Andrew Hamilton, Harry Hamilton, Ronnie Hamilton, Maria Harbeson, Andy Haskell, Raymond Haskell, Robert Haynes, Michael J. Herbek, James Helm, James Hoffnagle, Jr., Robert Horner, Danny L. Howard, Jr., Anthony Howell, Christine Kaila, Matthew Kearney, Daniel Kramer, Julio Laffitte III, Chris Lammers, Stephen Lammers, Scott LaRousse, Ryan Larsen, Jeffrey Lawrence, Kenneth Linstrom, Ryan Lynch, Sean Malloy, Josh Martin, Samantha Martin, Justin McClelland, Patrick McGroarty, Nathaniel McNamara, Roger Mitchell, Joseph Moore, Joseph Muldoon, Corey Nash, Mindy Niemann, James Kevin O'Donnell, Bryce Parson, Joshua K. Pastell, Sean Penczak, Dominick Joseph Petro, Scott Price, Nick Schulz, Duayne Scott, Tim Smetek, Andrew Smith, Douglas Stransky, Shawn Tupta, Heidi Urben, Christopher Williamson and Daniel Zeytoonian.

Please pray for all the faithful departed: especially Rosemarie Trice, Jay McClay, Donald Embrey, and all the benefactors of St. Mary Parish.

Children's Offering for December

The "We Care Project" was initiated to awaken in students an awareness of the needs of others, right in their own diocese, and to encourage students to implement the Gospel Message by making their own personal sacrifices to raise money for Catholic Charities' Programs which serve the poor in our Diocese. All donations made by the children will be sent to Catholic Charities by our parish on behalf of the children.

Shop with SCRIP

Stop by the SCRIP table after Mass to get information about all the ways to use SCRIP. To set up an account at www.shopwithscrip.com, use our school code, 7B876EBB188L2, so Holy Cross Academy gets credit for your purchase. If you have any questions, please email Torrie Baldwin at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com. Thank you!

Typhoon Relief

Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Philippines, leaving a wide swath of destruction and human suffering. The situation remains catastrophic, as civil and religious leaders strive to assist the myriad victims and provide access to basic necessities such as shelter, clothing, medical care and food. Pope Francis prayed for the deceased and the suffering, telling pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square, "I wish to express my closeness to the people of the Philippines and of that region. Unfortunately, there are many victims and the damage is enormous. We pray now in silence ... for our brothers and sisters, and we will seek to also send concrete help." In light of this terrible disaster and the Holy Father's call, as well as our diocesan family's deep connection to the Filipino-American

Weekly Offertory

Due to early bulletin deadlines because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the next Financial Report will be published in the December 8 Bulletin.

Offertory Collection 11/17/13	\$36,934.
Collection for Military Archdiocese	5,370.
Collection for Philippines Typhoon Relief	2,235.
Parish Building Fund (add'l)	3,009.
Poor Box for St Vincent de Paul week ending 11/10	303.
SCRIP profit (11/11 -11/17/2013)	\$ 107.
SCRIP YTD profit (9/2013 - present)	2,094.

Thank you for your continued generosity! Please remember to use your Offertory Envelopes to ensure the accuracy of your end of year statement. The "Children's Envelope" proceeds will not be recorded on family statements.

community, Bishop Loverde instructed all parishes to conduct a second collection to assist with Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts in the Philippines and elsewhere in the region as may be needed.

All checks should be made payable to St. Mary Catholic Church, with "Typhoon Relief" in the memo line, and mailed or dropped off to the Parish Office. If you place your check in the collection basket, please be sure it is placed in an envelope clearly marked "Typhoon Relief."

It is not too late to contribute to the Military Archdiocese Collection. Send your check payable to St. Mary Catholic Church to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked "Military Archdiocese."

www.stmaryfred.org

1009 Stafford Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22401

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 5 & 7pm
Sunday 7, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30, 2pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7:01pm
10:30am at Holy Cross Academy

DAILY MASS

Mon.-Fri.: 6:30 & 9am; Sat., 9am
First Friday 8pm
Holy Days of Obligation, as announced

DEVOTIONS

Adoration & Benediction, Wed., 7-9pm
Novena with Exposition, Mon., 7-7:30pm
All Night Adoration, First Friday
Miraculous Medal Novena, Mon., after 9am Mass
Divine Mercy, Wed., 3pm

CONFESSION

Wed., 7-9pm; Sat., 8am & 3:30pm, or by appt.

PARISH OFFICE

540-373-6491, fax 371-0251
stmary@stmaryfred.org
Mon.-Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm;
students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm

Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney
Fr. Keith Cummings
Fr. Stephen Holmes
Fr. Lino Rico Rostro
Deacon Alberto Bernaola
Deacon Dick Delio

Executive Assistant, Rick Caporali
Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski
Director of Sacred Music, David Mathers
Administrative Assistant, Kelly Keiser
Secretary, Mary Fitch

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

540-286-1600
250 Stafford Lakes Parkway
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406-7234
Principal, Sr. Susan Louise Eder, O.S.F.S.

ST. MARY PRESCHOOL

373-7553
Director, Nanci Scharf

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

373-6491
Director, Aristides Lucas
Associate Director, Karen Sturtevant

YOUTH MINISTRY

373-6491
Director, Leo Chavarria

BAPTISMS

Parish registration (90 days) and class required. Please contact the parish office to schedule the date at least four weeks in advance.

MARRIAGE

Parish registration required; contact parish six months in advance to begin preparation.

JOIN US

New Family Registration meetings are held monthly in the church on fourth Sundays, following the 10:30 Mass. Please notify us of any telephone/address changes.

Articles must be submitted two weeks prior to publication. Send articles to stmary@stmaryfred.org. Thanks!

liturgy is life

St. Mary Young Adults

Young adults in the parish are invited to join us Monday nights in the John Paul II house at 8pm.

The November 25 regular meeting is cancelled, but Young Adult Women are encouraged to join Anne Devine in the John Paul II house at 8:15 to discuss formation of a monthly Young Adult Women group.

Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering

The Life in the Spirit Renewal Prayer Gathering at St. Mary Parish normally meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Courtyard Room. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 26. All are welcome – come and pray. For more information call Walter or Claire Matthews at 972-2652.



Keep Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus have started the annual Christmas card sale. With an increase in secularization, it is important to keep Christ at the center of the Advent and Christmas seasons, and sending religious Christmas cards is the perfect way to do this. Please stop by the table after Mass now through December 22 to purchase your Christmas cards and other items.

BUNCO Friday, December 6

Please join us, we'd love to have you! Please note that the next BUNCO night will be Friday, December 6 at 7:30pm.

Stewardship - A Way of Life

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus, and where it has been implemented, both givers' and receivers' lives have been changed. A gift in any amount given through your estate can change many lives for the better. For more information call the Diocesan Planned Giving Office at 703-841-3819. www.arlington-diocese.planyourlegacy.org

Parish Registration We Welcome You

Are you registered in our parish? If you are not receiving offertory envelopes, then maybe you are not a registered parishioner.

Our next New Family Welcome Meeting will be on Sunday, November 24 at 11:30am in the church. Come, learn about our many ministries, and complete a registration form. You must be a registered parishioner to serve as a sacramental sponsor, to begin marriage preparation, or to have your children baptized. Please note that the next New Family Welcome Meeting will be held January 26, 2014.

Please note that our Baptism Classes are held the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in Room 204 of the Parish Life Center. Registration is required for this class.



You are Invited - Dec 14 An Advent Pilgrimage

The Council of Catholic Women sponsor an annual Advent Pilgrimage which is open to the entire parish. This year the pilgrimage will be to Richmond. The bus will leave from the St. Mary Church parking lot at 8:45am. First stop will be the convent of the Visitation Sisters of St. Francis de Sales, where we will have Mass with the cloistered sisters and hear a talk by a Visitation Sister. We'll eat lunch at a restaurant (or you may bring your own lunch), visit a religious goods/bookstore, and tour the museum and crypt at Sacred Heart Cathedral. We expect to return to St. Mary about 6:30pm. The cost will be \$20 a seat, payable upon reservation, no refunds. You may make a reservation by signing up and paying your fare at our General Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, or by doing so at the church office at any time.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree sales start Saturday, November 30 and continue through Sunday, December 22. Trees will be sold at St Jude Catholic Church - 10725 Courthouse Rd., Spotsylvania.

life is mission

We are selling freshly cut 6'-8' Fraser Fir and we will have a small number of large (8'-10' and 10'-12'). Tree prices will remain the same as last year and are based on tree height. The best selection and freshest trees, of course, are when the trees arrive on November 30.

The trees will be sold at St. Jude on weekends from 8am to 8pm and weekdays from 3pm to 8pm, but not during Mass.

We also will be glad to work with anyone interested in volunteering to help with fulfilling your individual or group's community service requirements. Questions about the Tree Sales can be directed to Tim Fleming – Co-chairman through e-mail at tim.g.fleming@comcast.net or Mark Williams – Co-chairman through e-mail at mark.a.williams64@gmail.com.

Please help us support the church and the community through helping the Knights of Columbus.

English as a Second Language

FREE English as a Second Language classes are held each Sunday from 12noon-1:45pm. Classes are free and are walk-in (no pre-registration). Classes are held on the second floor of the Parish Life Center.

Al Anon Surviving the Weekend Group

Al Anon is for those who have been affected by someone else's drinking, and members come together to learn a better way of life and how to find happiness. It's important to know that you are not alone and there is help. There is an Al Anon meeting every Saturday at 10am in Room 204 of the St. Mary Parish Life Center.

Pro Life Reflection

God has joined all humanity to Himself in Christ. There is only one human nature, shared by all human beings, born and unborn, healthy and sick, rich and poor, wanted and unwanted. Every one of these human beings is joined to God through the Incarnation, which means our humanity has a sacred value even greater than it received just by being created. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for taking upon Yourself our human nature and for uniting our human family in Yourself.*

Parish Senior Luncheon

The parish senior luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at the Parish Life Center from 12 noon to 3pm. All seniors in the parish are invited.

Please call Mrs. Judy Wingert at 540-786-8403 or Gonzalo Guacena at 540-786-6575 if you plan to attend by Monday, December 9 so we can best prepare for the occasion. Please note that

food will be served only up to 1:30pm. Come and enjoy the company of your fellow seniors in the parish. Entertainment will be provided.

Circle of Love Ministry

The CCW would like to share an opportunity to live Christ's words by loving our neighbors. Our Circle of Love committee wants you to be part of our mission by joining us in visiting the sick and home bound, providing needed rides to church or doctors, sharing meals with families in crises, babysitting, and fulfilling a variety of other needs. If you have a few hours to share and would be willing to join us, please send your name and e-mail or telephone number to emgccw@gmail.com and you will be contacted. We look forward to having you on our team.

If any parishioners are in need of assistance, please contact the CCW Circle of Love Ministry at emgccw@gmail.com or call the Parish Office.

The Thanksgiving Legend of the Five Kernels

It was very cold for the Pilgrims that first winter. Food was in short supply. Some days, they had only five kernels of corn. When Spring came, the Pilgrims planted the remaining corn. The sun and rain helped the seeds to grow and much food was harvested in the Fall. Every Thanksgiving thereafter, the Pilgrims placed five kernels of corn beside each plate to remind them of their blessings:

The first kernel reminded them of the autumn beauty.
The second reminded them of their love for each other.
The third reminded them of their family's love.
The fourth reminded them of their friends,
especially their Indian brothers.
The fifth kernel reminded them of their freedom.

At your Thanksgiving celebration,
may The Legend of the Five Kernels
always remind you of God's many blessings.

“as I have done for you

2013 Catholic Charities Christmas Collection December 7 and 8



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is an essential diocesan ministry, serving the poor with Christian love and compassion. Through its professional support services, more than 78,000 people were assisted at every stage of life. Your support of the Christmas second collection for Catholic Charities stays in the community, such as helping the Family Counseling office serve those in need here in Fredericksburg. As you reflect on the many needs within our parish community, please prayerfully consider supporting Catholic Charities' mission to ease the suffering of people in parish communities across the diocese. Visit www.ccca.net to learn more or to make a year-end gift.

Refugee Resettlement Ministry

Our Refugee Resettlement Ministry enjoy a wonderful experience last Friday evening hosting our local Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Office for a Thanksgiving Meal of traditional American fare. Pakistani Muslims shared their traditional food with Nepalese Buddhists and Christians and vice versa. One thing was very evident, cake bridges all nationalities and faith traditions.

Laurel Collins, the Director, continues to move this office forward after several years of less than stellar local support. There were 7 of the office's volunteers assisting with setup, serving desserts and clean up. Having been involved in this ministry for the last six years, it is still a humbling experience to listen to the stories of hope and thanksgiving from this segment

of the population that few have an opportunity to interact with on a personal level let alone share a meal.

We concluded with by going around the room with each family offering for what they were thankful - and for most it wasn't the food, or material things but merely their lives having been changed forever - free to practice their faith and the prospect their children will not know the life of living in a refugee camp.

New arrivals are arriving later this month and household furnishings are always welcome. Gently used twin beds, dressers, kitchen tables and chairs, couches and kitchen ware would greatly appreciated. Please contact Rosetta Dupree at 540-899-6507.

A Hero's Welcome: Refugee Resettlement in the Arlington Diocese

From Rebecca C. Ruiz, Communications & Development Manager, Migration and Refugee Services, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington

Thursday morning, I came into work and my colleague, Marie-Terese, started telling me about her evening the night before. Marie-Terese is always colorful - she wears colorful clothes and she speaks colorfully too.

"I'm so tired! They got in LATE. It was almost 1:00 am!" She recounts about her "pick-up" at National Airport the evening before.

"It was a great pick-up though," she recounts with a big grin. "So, this guy and his family step out of the gate and there's all

these people there screaming and clapping. They're yelling, 'You made it!' and 'We love you, Janis!'" Marie-Terese recounts with her hands flying. "You should've seen it! There were so many people crying and they were so happy to see this guy and his family!"

"And," she continues, "there were news cameras too!" She traces out the shape of a news camera in the air. "I'm thinking to myself," she says, "what is this guy, a movie star or something?"

I say, "That's so nice, Marie-Terese. Wouldn't it be nice if every arrival was like this?"

Another colleague says, "yes, they should all be like this!"

We say this knowing that every client we pick up at the airport has just skirted death. Not a single person is approved for resettlement status by the Department of State without there being a credible threat of death.

The conversation continues..."well, who is he?"

He is Janis Shinwari and he is, in a sense, "a movie star." In a highly publicized case, Army Captain Matt Zeller has made it his life's mission, since leaving Afghanistan, to get Mr. Shinwari and his family out of Afghanistan also.

Mr. Shinwari served as an interpreter to Captain Zeller in Afghanistan and saved his life during a gunfight with the Taliban. Because he was helping Americans, the Taliban put Mr. Shinwari - and his wife and two little children - on their "kill list."

so you must also do”

Recognizing the dire consequences that have resulted in Afghanistan and Iraq for individuals like Mr. Shinwari, the U.S. government established a specific immigration status called, “Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Status,” that allows interpreters and others who have assisted U.S. armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan to resettle in the United States. Approval for resettlement in the U.S. entails a long process which includes multiple security checks and clearances. The government shutdown made the lengthy process even longer for those awaiting resettlement.

Finally, on Wednesday evening, Mr. Shinwari and his family arrived in America.

When he arrived, Matt Zeller, Mr. Shinwari’s supporters, the press, and Marie-Terese were there to welcome him and his family to America.

It was a beautiful welcome, and from our perspective here at Migration and Refugee Services, it’s the kind of welcome that should happen every time we pick people up at the airport.

We meet many heroes like Mr. Shinwari - good people who have proven their loyalty to the US at their own expense – and we stand ready, at the gate, to welcome them and help them rebuild their lives.

If you would like to help welcome these heroes, please e-mail me at rruiz@ccda.net or give me a call me at 703-841-3891.

Micah Ministries Unlocking doors

Winter services at Micah have changed quite a bit since the early days, when the cold weather shelter only opened at 32 degrees and below. With the community’s help we have eliminated an opening temperature, settled into a permanent building, and changed the very face of people needing to access a shelter on the winter’s coldest nights.

In our first few years with the cold weather shelter, the same 50 plus individuals piled onto cots in the Bragg Hill Family Life Center gymnasium. Year after year, these generally older males with drinking problems, mental health issues and a laundry list of illnesses kept coming back. The only change in their lifestyle was that they kept getting sicker. If they didn’t return, it usually was a sign that something bad had happened—jail, hospitalization or even death.

Today, the staff anxiously awaits the opening of the cold weather shelter, as the faces that don’t show up are our signal of how good a job we did throughout the year in getting people stabilized in permanent housing. Our numbers have been drastically lower these last few years with nightly averages hovering in the high 20s and low 30s. Keep in mind that the most experienced homeless often still choose to stay alone in their camp rather than joining the crowd at the shelter. But our sources, the many long-time homeless who have already been stabilized in housing, tell us that there aren’t too many of that old school group remaining outside either.

So, we’ve wondered going into this cold weather season, what would it take to get us to zero by the time we look open the shelter in the winter 2014?

While Micah serves as many as 1,200 people per year, the average active client base ranges between 250 and 300 people per month. Use of our services can be as infrequent as one day and sporadically throughout the month. Or they can be as consistent as a daily visit for a number of years.

By our calculations, an average of 140 people are consistently active in our homeless system. Just 44 of those individuals have been homeless more than one year and 17 have been homeless between six and twelve months.

We are 61 people away from eliminating winters where we fret the well-being of those who have no home. Sixty-one people away from reducing the average length of homelessness And 61 households away from clearing our community streets of chronic homelessness.

Micah is currently building a \$100,000 housing trust fund, where funds can be withdrawn to front rental payments on behalf of households who are moving from homelessness into permanent housing. The fund will be replenished quarterly, when federal and state grant reimbursements are issued.

If you missed the collection at St. Mary earlier this month you may donate to Micah directly. Make checks payable to Micah Ministries, P.O. Box 3277, Fredericksburg, VA 22402