

**First Sunday
of Advent**

01 Dec 2013

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



what's coming

december

1 Sunday, First Sunday of Advent

No Coffee and Donuts this morning.

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

No CYM Dinner or Youth Group this evening.

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!*

5 Thursday, Advent Weekday

9:30am, Craft Group, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

6:30pm, Prayers & Squares, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

7pm, Baptism Class, Room 204, Parish Life Center. Pre-registration required, 540-373-6491

7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.

6 Friday, Advent Weekend (St. Nicholas, bishop)

9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Mom's Group), John Paul II House

7pm, BUNCO, all parish adults invited, Parish Life Center.

8pm, First Friday Mass, church. All night Eucharistic Adoration immediately following.

7 Saturday, St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the church

9:30am, Deacon's Presentation on Catholicism (in Spanish), Courtyard Meeting Room.

2:30pm, Baptism Class in Spanish, Room 204, Parish Life Center.

Christmas Card Sales and SCRIP Sales after 5pm Mass.

6-8:30pm, Parish Family Dinner, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Parish Life Center.

8 Sunday, Second Sunday of Advent

Coffee and Donuts after morning Masses. (Troop 1410)

Christmas Card and SCRIP Sales after Masses.

10am, Columbian Squires/Roses, JP II House.

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

3:30pm, Middle School Youth Group, Parish Life Center.

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

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

9 Monday, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule today (not a Holy Day of Obligation this year):

6:30am, 9am, 12noon, 6pm and 7:30pm.

No Religious Education Classes today.

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

7:30pm, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, Parish Life Center. Topic: Original Sin, Mystery of Iniquity. All parish adults welcome. 8:15pm, small group discussion continues for RCIA candidates in Parish Life Center.

8pm, Young Adults Group, John Paul II House.

8:15pm, "Preparing a Place for Unity and Peace," an ecumenical prayer service in the Taize tradition, church. All area Christians welcome.



SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church



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NOTA BENE (*note well, please*):

- ☞ Sign up today for **All Night Eucharistic Adoration** following our 8pm First Friday Mass on **December 6**.
- ☞ Our **Monthly Family Dinner**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is **Saturday, December 7** from 6 to 8:30pm in the Parish Life Center.
- ☞ On **Monday, December 9** we celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, Patroness of the United States and Patroness of our Parish. Masses are 6:30am, 9am, 12 Noon, 6pm & 7:30pm. There are no Religious Education classes on Monday, December 9.
- ☞ **Christmas Tree Sales**, by the Knights of Columbus have started and run through **Sunday, December 22**. Trees and wreaths will be sold at St. Jude Catholic Church, 10725 Courthouse Rd., Spotsylvania.

from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

This year with the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas being so short, with the Thanksgiving holiday and the First Sunday of Advent on the same weekend, it almost seems like we are invited to begin the new Year of Grace 2014 with an action of thanks. The word "thanksgiving," when translated into Spanish becomes, literally, "accion de gracias," action of thanks. We often consider our thankfulness at this time of year for all that we have been given, but might sometimes not include the second part of the word that might become more obvious if we put a space in the middle. Thanks Giving. It is an active word, an action in which we might participate fully.

If you were to go to your spiritual director he or she might suggest this as a meditation for the new year: consciously add to the familiar exercise of Thanks an active consideration of what your Giving might look like and how you might carry that out in the season of Advent. Consider one meditation each week:

Week One.

I consider all those who have cared for me: parents, family, friends. Maybe teachers, colleagues, religious or clergy. Those who taught me how to care. Heavenly Father I am thankful for them. Now help me to consider who in my life depends on me for care. Am I a caring person? I will find one person each day and reach out to them in a loving, perhaps unexpected, way. May my caring remind them of God, whose fullness of care we will see at Christmas.

Week Two.

I consider all those who have assisted me in times of need. Even all those whose assistance was not known by me personally, those who give anonymously to the greater good from whom I have found hope. Heavenly

Father I am thankful for them. Now help me to consider who in my life might need my help. Am I able? Even if they may not learn of my involvement in their life? I will find one person each day and reach out to them at their moment of need, maybe a moment of doubt or weakness, a time when the road seems too long or the burden too heavy. May my help remind them of God, whose unsolicited concern we will see at Christmas.

Week Three.

I consider all those who have been patient with me (only God knows how often!) and have forgiven me when I have offended. Heavenly Father I am thankful for them. Now help me to consider those in my life who may be challenging who still need my attention; who seek my forgiveness. Am I a patient, forgiving person? Am I willing to bear others' wrongs patiently? I will find one person each day who I haven't contacted in a while and find the strength to make amends where necessary. May my heart remind them of God's desire for reconciliation with us which we will see at Christmas.

Week Four.

One of the hardest tasks for our culture today is learning not to be selfish, to place others first. I consider all those who have sacrificed their security, their comfort, their safety for me. Heavenly Father I am thankful for them. Now help me to consider who in my life might need my selflessness. Am I able? Teach me the way of self-emptying love. I will find one person each day and figure some way to give of myself. May my sacrifice help remind them of God's self emptying love which is the meaning of Christmas.

Now there's a plan. God bless you.

Fr. Don

Creative Arts

What better way to spend Sunday morning than at the St. Mary preschool art exhibit? Our littlest Crusaders put on their paint shirts to create a colorful fall display for all to enjoy. There were autumn paintings, leaf rubbings and amazing little leaf people. The exhibit decorated the Parish Life Center for many to take pleasure in seeing.

Speaking of artists, our Holy Cross students, under the guidance of Mrs. Rodriguez, are busy creating their very own masterpieces. Eighth grade students were asked to bring in brightly colored yarn to use in perfecting their weaving skills. Our kindergartners are weaving with various colored paper strips creating colorful mats to add pizzazz to our hallways. Elementary students are working with clay to construct crosses and clay pots. Both will be

painted and fired to a glossy finish. In the words of Dr. Maya Angelou, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use it the more the more you have."

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



from the bishops

a special message



The bishops of this country have just concluded their traditional fall meeting in Baltimore and have spent time on issues important to them and their people: help to those suffering from Typhoon Haiyan; an update on the situation in Haiti; matters of worship and teaching; service to the poor; and comprehensive immigration reform. Among those priorities is the protection of religious freedom, especially as threatened by the HHS mandate.

Pope Francis has reminded us that “In the context of society, there is only one thing which the Church quite clearly demands: the freedom to proclaim the Gospel in its entirety, even when it runs counter to the world, even when it goes against the tide.”

We stand together as pastors charged with proclaiming the Gospel in its entirety. That Gospel calls us to feed the poor, heal the sick, and educate the young, and in so doing witness to our faith in its fullness. Our great ministries of service and our clergy, religious sisters and brothers, and lay faithful, especially those involved in Church apostolates, strive to answer this call every day, and the Constitution and the law protect our freedom to do so.

Yet with its coercive HHS mandate, the government is refusing to uphold its obligation to respect the rights of religious believers. Beginning in March 2012, in *United for Religious Freedom*, we identified three basic problems with the HHS mandate: it establishes a false architecture of religious liberty that excludes our ministries and so reduces freedom of religion to freedom of worship; it compels our ministries to participate in providing employees with abortifacient drugs and devices, sterilization, and contraception, which violates our deeply-held beliefs; and it compels our faithful people in business to act against our teachings, failing to provide them any exemption at all.

Despite our repeated efforts to work and dialogue toward a solution, those problems remain. Not only does the mandate undermine our ministries’ ability to witness to our faith, which is their

core mission, but the penalties it imposes also lay a great burden on those ministries, threatening their very ability to survive and to serve the many who rely on their care.

The current impasse is all the more frustrating because the Catholic Church has long been a leading provider of, and advocate for, accessible, life-affirming health care. We would have preferred to spend these recent past years working toward this shared goal instead of resisting this intrusion into our religious liberty. We have been forced to devote time and resources to a conflict we did not start nor seek.

As the government’s implementation of the mandate against us approaches, we bishops stand united in our resolve to resist this heavy burden and protect our religious freedom. Even as each bishop struggles to address the mandate, together we are striving to develop alternate avenues of response to this difficult situation. We seek to answer the Gospel call to serve our neighbors, meet our obligation to provide our people with just health insurance, protect our religious freedom, and not be coerced to violate our consciences. We remain grateful for the unity we share in this endeavor with Americans of all other faiths, and even with those of no faith at all. It is our hope that our ministries and lay faithful will be able to continue providing insurance in a manner consistent with the faith of our Church. We will continue our efforts in Congress and especially with the promising initiatives in the courts to protect the religious freedom that ensures our ability to fulfill the Gospel by serving the common good.

This resolve is particularly providential on this feast of the patroness of immigrants, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was a brave woman who brought the full vigor of her deep religious faith to the service of the sick, the poor, children, the elderly, and the immigrant. We count on her intercession, as united we obey the command of Jesus to serve the least of our brothers and sisters.

from our bishop

catholic charities

Catholic Charities is charged with carrying out the Corporal Works of Mercy in our diocese on behalf of Bishop Loverde. In the past year Catholic Charities has provided: 25,225 meals to homeless individuals; 2,233 individuals with legal services; 317 individuals with senior services; 21

children with new loving homes through adoption; 1,002 birth parents with counseling and pro-life support; 203 individuals with counseling here in the Family Counseling office in Fredericksburg. Please be as generous as you can, and thank you for your prayers and support.



Annual Christmas Collection December 7-8, 2013



“Intense love does not measure, it just gives.”

Blessed Mother Teresa

 your neighbor
WWW.CCDA.NET
CHANGE A LIFE • DONATE ONLINE
SECURE • EASY • FAST

 CatholicCharitiesArlington

78,608
lives touched
in 2013

Did you know?
A donation of \$100 will help feed
a family of four for one week.

 **Help us help our neighbors**
by giving generously to the Catholic Charities' Annual
Christmas Collection in your parish on December 7th and 8th.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington | 200 N. Globe Road, Suite 506, Arlington, VA 22203 | 703-841-3830 | www.coda.net

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; <i>students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm</i> 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.

Weekly Offertory

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

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.

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

It is not too late to contribute to Philippine Typhoon Relief. 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."

St. Mary Religious Education Food Drive

We recently concluded our Thanksgiving food drive and we appreciate everyone's generosity. However, our donations were down from previous years and we think it is because we did not advertise our food drive in the bulletin. In the past we have, and many parishioners without children in our Religious Education program participated.

If you would like to make a donation, here is a list of commonly needed items.
Canned Fruit
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Peanut Butter (plastic jars)
Jelly (plastic jars)
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Spaghetti & Sauce (plastic jars)
Cereal & Oatmeal
Canned Stew or canned "meal"
You can bring these items to the Parish Office and we will put them in our pantry to use when we make our food boxes for parish families in need at Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

I was Lost and Now am Found

What should you do if you find an item in our church or on the property? You may place it in the cabinet across from the ladies restroom in the vestibule of the church. You may bring it to the church office if we are open.

We are currently looking for a blue glass Ball vase that was left in the church full of flowers in front of the Mary statue. If you picked this up by mistake, please bring it to the parish office. It has important sentimental value to its owner. Thank you.

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

religious education

Blessing of Miraculous Medals and Advent Confessions for Grades 3-7

Religious Education classes this week will begin in church. This is because our Immaculate Conception medals, popularly known as the Miraculous Medal, will be blessed. These medals were donated by a parishioner and volunteers prepared them for our children. The children will also receive a Miraculous medal pamphlet.

This activity is in connection with the feast day of our parish, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Please read and discuss the pamphlet with your child and encourage her/him to wear the medal on Sunday, December 8, the feastday and Monday, December 9, when we celebrate our parish feastday this year. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07674d.htm>



After the blessing grades 3-7 will remain in the church for confessions and the other children will return to their classrooms.

On Thursday, December 12 we celebrate another feast of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Mary appeared to Juan Diego dressed as an Aztec woman to show her love and compassion to an oppressed group of people. Mary had heard the prayers and pain of these people, and she came to give them hope. Mary's visit to Guadalupe is a reminder that God will remember his mercy for all people." (Loyola Press)

youth



Congratulations

Jill Wolf won the iPad drawing by participating in the Fall Yankee Candle Fundraiser. Be sure to participate in our next fundraiser in the Spring - maybe YOU will be the winner!!

Middle School Lock-in

All 7th and 8th grade students are invited to join us for our Lock-in at Holy Cross Academy beginning Friday, December 13 at 9pm and ending Saturday, December 14 at 7am. We will have games, movies, food; mixed with friends, and an all-around good time. Cost is \$10 and a drink or snack to share. Permission slips available on our webpage. RSVP by Thursday, December 5.

Life is VERY Good

Wednesday, January 22, St. Mary Youth Ministry is heading to the Patriot Center and Washington DC for a morning of prayer and praise at the Diocesan Life is Very Good Rally. We will have Mass with Bishop Loverde, hear musical performances by Josh Blakesley Band and inspirational speaker Mary Bielski and Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR. Then we will head to the March for Life in Washington DC in prayerful protest and march to the Supreme Court for an end to Roe vs. Wade. Permission slips available on website. Spaces are limited and they fill up fast!



liturgy

church

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

December

2 MONDAY

6:30 All Souls
9am +Bill Novitsky
Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

3 TUESDAY

6:30 +Barbara Wallace
9am +Harold Barlow
Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

4 WEDNESDAY

6:30 +Barbara Wallace
9am Gabrielle Jones
Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

5 THURSDAY

6:30 +Kevin Crawford
8:20 Jennifer Sullivan
9am +Bill Novitsky
Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

6 FRIDAY

6:30 Maria Poczatek
9am Dominic Tam Nguyen
8pm Tiem Vu Family
Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

7 SATURDAY

9am +Bronislaw Stanislawski
5pm +Sophie Conti
7pm +Elaine Wheeler
Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

8 SUNDAY

7am Louis Farrell
8:30 +Joseph Hopper
10:30 +Mark Lenzi
10:30* +Ellen Nora Conneen
12:30pm For the Parish
2pm +Pakita Chamorro
5pm +Vivianne Fulford
7:01pm John Buie
Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

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 8pm First Friday Mass on December 6. 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. Sing hymns, listen to our choirs, and experience the organ and other instruments as our Saint Mary Music Ministry leads a prayer-filled evening of joyful expectation and longing for Christ's coming! This beautiful service, featuring the Choirs of Saint Mary Church (including our Children's and Youth Choirs) and David

Mathers at the organ, is part of our Concerts at Saint Mary series of musical events. The service will last a bit over one hour and is appropriate for the whole family.



Daily Advent Prayer

O Jesus, little child, come into my heart on Christmas morn, to wash away my sins and remain there in eternity. O Mary, Mother of my Savior, prepare for Jesus a cradle in my heart. Amen.

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, Sal Detrane, Tina Beaversdorf, Robert C. Murphy, Josephine Kreider

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 Ebanal, 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 all the benefactors of St. Mary Parish.

“so you must also do”

Cold Weather = Socks

It's that time again....Cold Weather Shelter is now open and from now until March St. Mary volunteers will be going on Tuesday nites. Each time the parish serves at the Shelter, we are to bring thirty pairs of white socks.

WE ARE ALL OUT OF OUR SUPPLY OF SOCKS! Please drop off your donation of white socks to the Parish Office.

SHARE Ministry

Self Help And Resource Exchange is a cooperative food distribution program that that is being introduced this year at St. Mary Church.

December, 2013 Menus Best Value Package (\$21)

Whole Roasting Chicken, Stuffing mix, 2-3 more meats/fish, holiday dessert, fresh sweet potatoes, fresh white potatoes, fresh onions, and 5-7 more pounds of seasonal produce

Value Package plus a Turkey (\$40)

Jaindl's 10-14 lb., grain-fed, antibiotic-free turkey, Whole roasting chicken, Stuffing mix, 2-3 more meats/fish, a holiday dessert, fresh sweet and white potatoes, fresh onions, and 5-7 more pounds of seasonal produce

Spiral Honey Ham (\$31)

for you or as a gift!

8-9 lb. Hormel's Spiral-cut bone in honey baked ham, with honey glaze, spicy brown mustard, and pineapple tidbits

Meats and Cheeses Gift Box (\$23)

3 Beef Summer Sausages and three Cheeses – Mild Cheddar, Colby, and Spicy Pepperjack

Payment is due when your order is placed, CASH, MONEY ORDER or EBT – Sorry, No Checks.

We cannot store unclaimed package. Unclaimed packages will be offered for sale or donated to local charities. Order forms are available at the Parish Office. Order deadline is December 12. Packages will be available for Pick-Up, Saturday December 21, 8am at the Parish Life Center. For more details and volunteer opportunities, please contact Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stmaryfred.org.

Mission to Aide the Residents of San Vicente Matag-ob Leyte

A small village which has been devastated by the recent Typhoon in the Philippines is in desperate need of clothing, food and medical supplies. The homes were leveled, businesses and farms were destroyed, no hospitals or clinics are available for treatments. This small village of 40 square miles with a population of 17,000 is a rice farming community. The harvest was in September and the supplies have been spoiled from the rain. The homes were one-two rooms made of Bamboo/ metal roofs. Prior to the typhoon, the residents' diet consisted of rice, vegetables and fish. The roads leading into this village are not any wider than a dirt path in some areas and are

now completely water logged. Due to the location, this village has not received the survival supplies from the Tacloban city supply chain. The residents are living under tarps and broken banana trees. Their current diet is coconuts and bananas and the water is at a critical shortage. Supplies are needed to help this once beautiful, peaceful village return to its former existence. The residents are of the Catholic Faith and are clinging to hope for donations.

Two young St. Mary parishioners, Drew (a 7th grader) and Olivia (a UMW student) Nicotera, are organizing a donation drive to assist the village residents. They are asking each parish family to donate one to two items. These items do not need to be newly purchased; look into your closets and pantries for out-grown clothing, medical supplies, school supplies, tools, and canned or non-perishable food. Everything will be appreciated.

Collection boxes are located in the vestibule of the church; collection ends on December 13, 2013. Please direct any questions via email: aidetosanvicent-terp@gmail.com



liturgy is life

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.

Optio Secundus Men's Group - Dec 5

The "Second Option" of the St. Mary Men's Group meets the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting is December 5 at the Blue & Grey Brewery. Happy hour at 6:30pm followed by open discussion and optional dinner from 7:30 to 9:30pm.

The "Optio" group is an alternative version to the original St. Mary Men's Group which meets on the last Thursday of the month. The traditional 4th Thursday version of the men's group reads and discusses Church writings and doctrine and their impact on the daily lives of Catholic men.

The "Optio" group gathers for happy hour in the brew pub then usually a topic presented by one of our Parish Priests or Deacons followed by open group discussion. Topics generally focus on issues facing Catholic men and fathers in an ever increasing secular world.

Come join like minded Catholic men of the Parish for camaraderie, fellowship, great food and beer in a relaxed environment.

Any questions - contact Mike Storck at 571-289-7878.

Baptism Class - Dec. 5

All parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class before their child receives the sacrament. The class is held in English the first Thursday of each month. The class lasts about an hour to an hour and a half. Both parents are encouraged to attend, attendance by children is discouraged so as not to disrupt the class. The next class is Thursday, December 5 at 7pm and is held in Room 204 of the Parish Life Center. Pre-registration is required, call 540-373-6491

Classes for Spanish speakers are held the first Saturday of each month at 2:30pm in the same location.

Rite of Blessing for an Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is made of four candles and a circle of branches. Before the first candle is lighted, the household gathers for this blessing.

All make the sign of the cross.

The leader begins:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All respond:

Who made heaven and earth.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Our lives depend completely upon the goodness of our God. Around this wreath, as we wait for our time of fulfillment in Jesus, let us remember God's promise.

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing (Isaiah 9:1-2).

(The family's bible may be used for an alternate reading, such as Isaiah 63:16-17 or Isaiah 64:2-7.)

The reader concludes:

The Word of the Lord.

All respond:

Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and then in the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader invites:

Let us now pray for God's blessings upon us and upon this wreath.

After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples. He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All respond: Amen.

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life is mission

St. Anne's Sisters in Faith

Join us this Friday, December 6, as we welcome back Deacon Delio for the second part of his series on Women Saints. If you missed his last talk, you definitely do not want to miss this one. Please join us for mass at 9am followed by refreshments. We will pray the Rosary together and then enjoy Deacon Delio's talk. Babysitting is available. Please contact Rocio Atkinson at rocio.o.atkinson@gmail.com or Suzi Eggleston at 540-834-0752.

BUNCO Friday, December 6

It's fun, it's easy and all parish adults are invited to play the game! Please note that the next BUNCO night will be Friday, December 6 at 7:30pm.

December Family Dinner with Santa

The December Family Dinner, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 6 to 8:30pm in the Parish Life Center. **Our special dinner guest will be Santa Claus.** The menu includes pot roast, boiled potatoes, carrots, green beans, and ice cream. The profit will be used to provide a Christmas Party & Presents for Needy Children. The dinner is open to the public and pay-at-the-door. Takeouts are available. The cost is Adults:\$7, Seniors (60&up):\$6, Teens:\$6, Children (7-12):\$5, Children (under 7): Free. The maximum cost per family is \$24.

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 the church office at any time.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

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

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.

Pro Life Reflection

The word "Advent" means "coming," and the season focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time, and then on His first coming at Christmas. The joy of Advent is joined by a strong warning that we must be prepared for His coming. Promoting justice and human rights is a key element of our preparation. A society that aborts its children is not prepared for the coming of Christ. *Come, Lord Jesus. May we be prepared to welcome You by welcoming all human life.*

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.

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks

Please consider designating our parish school, Holy Cross Academy, when you use your Giant Food A+ Bonus card. It has to be done annually. Giant Bonus Bucks School Id: 02320