

**Second Sunday  
of Advent**

**08 Dec 2013**

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



# what's coming

## december

### 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:  
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.

### 10 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

10am, St. Mary Book Club, John Paul II House.  
12noon, Parish Senior Luncheon, Parish Life Center.  
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Renewal Prayer Group, Courtyard Meeting Room.

### 11 Wednesday, Advent Weekday (St. Damasus I, pope)

6:30-8pm, YOUCAT - Youth Ministry Program, JP II House.  
7pm, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.  
7pm, Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Meeting Room. *This class is full, watch the bulletin for what is next.*

### 12 Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

4:30am, Mananitas (Spanish Songs and Praise), church. Followed by a coffee reception in the Parish Life Center at 6am.  
9:30am, Adult Bible Study, Courtyard Meeting Room. *This class is full, watch the bulletin for what is next.*  
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.  
7:30pm, Mass (bi-lingual) for Our Lady of Guadalupe, church. Followed by a reception in the Parish Life Center.

### 13 Friday, St. Lucy, virgin and martyr

9:45am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Mom's Group), John Paul II House.  
7:30pm, Advent Lessons and Carols, church.  
9pm, Middle School Lock-In, Holy Cross Academy.

### 14 Saturday, St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church

9:30am, Spanish Presentation on Catholicism, Courtyard Meeting Room.  
SCRIP Sales after 5pm Mass. Christmas Card sales after Masses. Prayer Quilt Tying after Masses.

### 15 Sunday, Third Sunday of Advent

Coffee and Donuts after morning Masses in Parish Life Center. (CYM)  
SCRIP Sales after all Masses. Christmas Card sales after Masses. Prayer Quilt Tying after Masses.  
12noon-1:45pm, English as a Second Language Classes, 2nd Fl., Parish Life Center.  
2pm, Korean Prayer Group, John Paul II House.  
3:30pm, Las Posadas (bi-lingual), Parish Life Center.  
6pm, Catholic Youth Ministry Dinner, Parish Life Center.  
7-8:30pm, CYM Youth Group, Parish Life Center.





this week's  
bulletin:

5  
catholic  
education

6  
from the  
bishop

7  
liturgy

9  
education

10  
operations

11  
outreach

12  
parish life

NOTA BENE (*note well, please*):

- ☞ On **Monday, December 9** we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, Patroness of the United States and Patron Saint of our Parish. Masses are 6:30am, 9am, 12 Noon, 6pm & 7:30pm. There are no Religious Education classes on Monday, December 9.
- ☞ Celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** on **December 12**, with Mananitas at 4:30am, and a special Mass at 7:30pm. Read this bulletin for details.
- ☞ Join us for **Advent Lessons and Carols** in the church on Friday, **December 13 at 7:30pm**. Saint Mary Choirs present Advent songs along with scripture readings and hymns for all to sing. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the season.
- ☞ **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.
- ☞ Please be sure to visit the display of **Handmade Olive Wood Carvings** and other articles outside the Church after all the Masses on **December 14 & 15!** Any purchase you make supports our Bethlehem Christian families who continue to endure much hardship in the Holy Land.
- ☞ **Sunday Coffee Shop** is scheduled to be open this weekend, after the 7, 8:30 & 10:30 Masses.



## from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

Mostly I just write the bulletin article in the office. Sometimes, it's from a cool place like Jerusalem or Italy. Today it's from the hospital.

As I had mentioned at Masses a couple weeks ago I had some surgery scheduled to fix some lingering effects from my semicolon procedure almost two years ago. I guess it may have been a little optimistic to think I'd actually be back to work in three days, but we gave it our best shot. I actually came home in four, but learned quickly that I had sleeping guts that just wouldn't wake up and found myself back in the hospital the next day, last Saturday night. Since then all I can do is just wait it out. I'm still here...it has been painful and miserable but things seem to be finally waking up and I hope to be out by midweek and get on with life. I'm sorry to all who have been looking for me or needed something from me while I've been out of commission. We will gather it all up again soon and go back to work and get done what needs to be done. If anyone calls me "sleepy guts" I'll call you back last!

It has been an interesting experience watching the parish remotely, as it were. You can learn things from other perspectives. For example, every once in a while I like to just attend Mass as a "normal" person. You learn new things about celebration styles (how others do it), you watch how people respond, or not, there is a lot to be learned.

As I've been watching our communications to you I realize that they are particularly heavy on the asking side this year. It is the season of giving, to be sure, and we receive a large number of solicitations each year for the parish to support just about every cause and project you could imagine. The churches have become easy solutions for people who need funds and lack creativity, and the expectation is often that we do their promotion and collection for them, as well. We try to help people help themselves when it comes to these solicitations, and you don't hear about them officially from us.

Even with regard to things so vitally important to the life of the Diocese like Catholic Charities. This year it almost seems like a second Bishop's Lenten Appeal. This is an indication that it is truly that important - and requires our attention. Professionals in this area say that today this is the only way we get anyone's attention for a collection so necessary as this is. But something inside me mourns the fact of it.

So I ask your patience and earnest support for one further collection this year, our annual Special Christmas Charities Collection. We take the second collection and divide it three ways, traditionally: one third goes to a particular need of our Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales (worldwide), one third to a Bethlehem charity, and one third to an ongoing local social concern that involves many of our parishioners.

This year, we ask your second collection donation next weekend to support:

1. The needs of the Oblate Sisters' Father Brisson Institute in Alausi, Ecuador. Following a flood, the roof of the school was so damaged that continued deterioration of the property has continued. They recently applied for and received a grant for a new roof and are rebuilding - much work on walls and ceilings will follow and our parish can make a significant contribution to this.
2. We will continue to give an annual donation to the Creche Orphanage in Bethlehem, Palestine (could there be a more perfect Christmas charity?). The 120 or so orphans who are cared for by the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul since 1884 are provided additional medical possibilities through donations such as ours.
3. Community Dinners in Fredericksburg have become one of the most successful and popular ministries among our many parishioners, and all churches in town. Our annual Christmas collection pays our parish's three dinners a month which we prepare and serve.

God bless you. *Fr. Don*

## In Everything Give Thanks

Kind, loving, caring, spiritual, dedicated and inspirational are only a few of the words generated by our students when asked to describe Sister Susan Louise and Mrs. Sandkuhler. We honored and thanked both on Principal Appreciation Day following our school Mass. Julia Squillante and Grace Hall, SCA President and Vice President, represented the students in saying how much they appreciate these two dedicated leaders. The PTO also presented each of them with very generous gifts. It was a simple way to thank them for all they do each day.

Our kindergarteners joined together for their annual Thanksgiving feast. After parading down the hallway they met in the lobby to sing a song reminding us of the meaning of this beautiful holiday. They ate turkey, popcorn and homemade cranberry bread with butter. Later they played early American games and made crafts. It was a true reminder of our many blessings.

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](http://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*



*Kindergartners enjoy the annual Thanksgiving feast.*



from our bishop

# catholic charities



December 8, 2013

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the Mass for the Inauguration of his Pontificate, Pope Francis called the faithful to love courageously, to love with goodness and tenderness. He called to mind Saint Joseph—the foster father of Jesus Christ—who was depicted as a strong carpenter, yet also showed a great tenderness of heart. “Tenderness,” Pope Francis says, “is not the virtue of the weak, but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others for love.”

Today I echo the call of our Holy Father, inviting you to love courageously and tenderly, sharing that compassion and concern for others. Acts of charity reveal God’s love in a tangible way as we empty ourselves for others, just as the Lord Jesus emptied Himself for us. One way we can serve others is by giving of our time, talents and resources to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington.

Catholic Charities is the heart of our diocesan Church, bringing Christ’s love and desperately needed services to the poor of body, mind or spirit. Catholic Charities touched the lives of 78,608 individuals last year by providing food and emergency assistance, housing homeless families and adults, offering Catholic-integrated mental health counseling, as well as many other professional and life-transforming services.

Will you partner with Catholic Charities and tenderly and courageously love the marginalized? Will you help rebuild broken families in our diocese? This weekend, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, at all Masses, each parish and mission will hold the annual second collection to support our diocesan Catholic Charities. To grow and further develop its services to assist those in need, Catholic Charities needs your support. Adequately addressing these problems is made more complex by the size and diversity of our growing diocese and by Catholic Charities’ firm commitment to serve all people, regardless of their religious affiliations.

Jesus identified Himself with those who were the weakest and most vulnerable in our society. As a way to live out your faith concretely, I encourage you to identify with the weakest and most vulnerable members of society, and prayerfully reflect on how you can love courageously, tenderly and generously. Please remember and support those served by Catholic Charities during its annual second collection on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul S. Loverde".

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde  
Bishop of Arlington

# honoring mary

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Solemnity is actually December 8, but the celebration is transferred since that is the Second Sunday of Advent. The Solemnity celebrates the saving work of God in preserving the Blessed Virgin Mary from the stain of original sin. Because of His foreknowledge that Mary would consent to bear Christ, God kept Mary free from original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

The Parish will celebrate Mass at 6:30am, 9am, 12noon, 6pm and 7:30pm. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, however it is our parish feast day and we hope you will come celebrate with us.

## 8:30pm on Monday, December 9

We invite all Christians to gather in the peace of Christ at St. Mary on Monday, December 9 as we “prepare a place for unity and peace” in Fredericksburg.

*Praying with one voice, let us ask God to bring healing to our world and end the divisions that separate peoples.*

You are invited to a monthly gathering of prayer in the ecumenical tradition of the Taize community in France, the second Monday of every month. This month the service begins at 8:30pm.

## Advent Lessons & Carols Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm

*A service of Scripture Readings and Music celebrating the Advent Season.*

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

## The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join the Hispanic Ministry on December 12 as they honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, starting at 4:30am at the church with “Las Mañanitas,” followed by the Holy Rosary. There will be a Bilingual Mass at 7:30pm at the church followed by a reception in the Parish Life Center. Everyone is welcome!

## Celebracion de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Se les invita a todos los feligreses a la celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe, el día 12 de Diciembre. Empezaremos con las mañanitas a las 4:30am en la Iglesia. El Padre Lino dará la bienvenida y luego se rezará el Santo Rosario. Se realizará la Santa Misa bilingue a las 7:30pm. Después de la Santa Misa se ofrecerá una recepción en el Parish Life Center. Todos son bienvenidos!

# taize prayer

It is our hope that this monthly prayer brings together Christians of all churches, pastors and flocks, as together we realize a bit more each day that we must rely upon God’s power to bring about unity among all who follow Jesus, “as he and the Father are one.” It is something we are unable to do ourselves.

This Unity which embraces all people stands at the very heart of Christ’s mission...and belongs to the essence of this community. Let us provide a place where his Spirit can come and accomplish this plan for us.

# advent concert

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.

Music for Advent goes far beyond *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* to hymns and chants both ancient and new. Many parishes, including our cathedral in Arlington, are renewing the tradition of an evening service of Advent music and scripture. A rich experience of Advent deepens the celebration of Christmas – so come pray, listen and sing!

## church

Daily Mass Intentions  
and Readings

## December

## 9 MONDAY

6:30 +Larry Johnson  
9am Fr. Cummings  
12noon +Arthur & Vera Berry  
6pm +Tricarick Family  
7:30pm +Rene & Vincent Reamy  
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

## 10 TUESDAY

6:30 Barbara Carneal  
9am Beth Merriman  
Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

## 11 WEDNESDAY

6:30 +Michael Guesman  
9am +John F. Carneal, Sr.  
Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

## 12 THURSDAY

6:30 +John & Jean Rura  
8:20 +Dave Rudolf  
9am +Betty Niederkofler  
7:30pm +Victor & Lucienne Schirmer  
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a;  
Jdt 13; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

## 13 FRIDAY

6:30 +William Novitsky  
9am Fr. Bresnahan  
Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

## 14 SATURDAY

9am Julie Appleton  
5pm Andrew Mullady  
7pm +Alice & Tony Beal  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

## 15 SUNDAY

7am +Christopher Dudziak  
8:30 Donna Green  
10:30 +Raoul Lherisson  
10:30\* +Steven Atwood  
12:30pm +Robert Johnson  
2pm For the Parish  
5pm +George Konkle  
7:01pm Frances Murad  
Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

\*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

## 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.

## A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Dearest Lady of Guadalupe,  
fruitful Mother of Holiness,  
teach me your ways of  
gentleness and strength.  
Hear my prayer, offered with  
deep-felt confidence to beg this favor .  
O Mary, conceived without sin,  
I come to your throne of grace  
to share the fervent devotion  
of your faithful Mexican children  
who call to thee under the glorious  
Aztec title of "Guadalupe"  
— the Virgin who crushed the serpent.*

*Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate  
Heart was pierced by seven swords  
of grief, help me to walk valiantly  
amid the sharp thorns  
strewn across my pathway.  
Invoke the Holy Spirit of Wisdom  
to fortify my will to frequent  
the Sacraments so that,  
thus enlightened and strengthened,  
I may prefer God to all creatures  
and shun every occasion of sin.  
Help me, as a living branch of the Vine  
that is Jesus Christ,  
to exemplify His divine charity  
always seeking the good of others.*

*Queen of Apostles, aid me to win souls  
for the Sacred Heart of my Savior.  
Keep my apostolate fearless,  
dynamic and articulate,  
to proclaim the loving solicitude of  
Our Father in Heaven, so that the  
wayward may heed His pleading  
and obtain pardon,  
through the merits  
of your merciful Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.



# religious ed.

## Feast of our Patron, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

This past week all classes began in the church for the blessings of the medal of the Immaculate Conception popularly known as the Miraculous Medal. At the end of class each child received a Miraculous Medal pamphlet and medal. Please discuss the pamphlet with your child and encourage her/him to wear the medal.

## Children's Offering

The beneficiaries for October, Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center, wrote us a letter of thanks. They said, "Mere words cannot begin to tell you how grateful we are for your ongoing support! ... You have helped make our communities a safer place for children."

The Children's Offering for December will be sent to Catholic Charities for the "We Care Project." This project was initiated to awaken in students an awareness of the needs of others in our diocese. Please continue encouraging your children to put their quarters into their envelopes.

## 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!



# youth

## Save the Date!

Family Life's Art of Marriage Conference is coming to St. Mary February 14 and 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. Watch the bulletin for registration instructions or email sweetcaroline003@gmail.com for more information.

## Learn About Vocations

Look at today's bulletin insert or visit [www.arlingtonvocations.org](http://www.arlingtonvocations.org) for more details on the upcoming Days of Discernment. RSVP with the Office of Vocations at 703-841-2514 or by email at [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).

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 [j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:j.jaffe@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.

# adult ed.

# staff

[www.stmaryfred.org](http://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.

## Weekly Offertory

Offertory Collection for 11/24/13	36,765.
Offertory Collection for 12/1/13	40,837.
Campaign for Human Development	10,014.
Phillipines Typhoon Relief (add'l)	11,050.
Parish Building Fund	10,193.
Poor Box for St Vincent de Paul (2 wks ending 11/24/13)	459.
SCRIP Profit week ending 11/24/2013	257.
week ending 12/1/2013	387.
YTD profit	2,737.

*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

*Win a Meat and Cheese Gift Box!*  
This month we are partnering with the Share Program and giving away a Sausage and Cheese Gift Box to the family who orders the most SCRIP. The totals will be from sales starting November 23 to December 20. The package will be delivered on December 22 just in time for the holiday! The package includes 3 Beef Summer Sausages and

three cheeses. Online SCRIP orders will count for double so start ordering today. SCRIP Gift Cards are a great way to shop for all your Christmas presents or just to send as a gift!

To set up an account online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and use our school code, 7B876EB-B188L2, so Holy Cross Academy gets credit for your purchase. If you have any questions about SCRIP please email Torie Baldwin at [scripcoordinator@holy-crossweb.com](mailto:scripcoordinator@holy-crossweb.com) or 571-330-3448. Thanks for using SCRIP!

## Parish Christmas Collection for Special Charities - Dec. 14 & 15

Every year at Christmas we take up a special collection for charity. None of the money collected stays at St. Mary, but is distributed as a gift from our Parish to different charities. The collection this year will be taken up on December 14 and 15 for the following:

*The Holy Land Christians Society for the benefit of the Creche Orphanage in Bethlehem in the Holy Land.*

*The Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales run a school, the Father Brisson Institute in Alausi, Ecuador which is in very bad condition.*

*The monthly Community Dinners in Fredericksburg for those in need receives much financial assistance and volunteer support from our parish.*

We know you will be generous, as you have always been, and we thank you for sharing the joy of this holy season with those who are less fortunate.

Articles must be submitted two weeks prior to publication. Send articles to [stmary@stmaryfred.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryfred.org). Thanks!

# “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 need socks all winter long. Please drop off your donation of white socks to the Parish Office.

## Catholic Charities Baby Closet

Our Catholic Charities baby closet is in desperate need of DIAPERS, WIPES, FORMULA, BOTTLES, and BABY FOOD. We provide emergency resources to parents/guardians with children younger than 24 months. Donations may be delivered to St. Matthew's Thrift Store, 10639 Courthouse Rd. Fredericksburg, 22407, in the Breezewood Shopping Center next to Food Lion, Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm and Saturday, 9:30am-2:30pm.

## A Thanksgiving Thank You!

On behalf of all those who will benefit from the collection conducted at St. Mary on Thanksgiving Day, thank you!

During our Thanksgiving Day Mass, we collected food for the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank. 1,288 pounds of food was received. Also, \$120 was included with the food. This will provide enough resources for 1,390 meals.

Thank you very much for all that you do!

## St. Mary Giving Tree

Thanks to everyone who has participated with this year's Giving Tree. Please remember to bring your items back by December 15. We have the privilege of supporting the following charities this year:

- Mary's Shelter
- Micah Ministries
- Greenfield Nursing Home
- Woodmont Nursing Home
- Golden Living Assisted Living
- Refugee Services
- Hope House
- St. Vincent De Paul

## For Unto Us a Child Is Born, Christ the Savior! Give a Gift for Life

This Advent, include a Gift for Life on your Christmas List, by supporting Project Rachel or the Gabriel Project. It is easy to make a small, tax-deductible contribution as a gift in the name or memory of a family member or friend, and it will make a big difference in a woman's life. You have the opportunity to assist a frightened young woman who has just learned she is pregnant, or a woman who opted to abort her child and is now experiencing the after effects of her choice. Your gift directly supports the cost of an expectant mother's prenatal vitamins, or counseling for a woman who is experiencing the emotional distress of an abortion. Please pick up a flyer in the vestibule of the Church and follow the directions, or go to the following link to donate online: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife).

## Today! 2013 Catholic Charities Christmas Collection

Today marked the second collection to support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. Their mission is vital to the diocese's work to serve the poor with Christian love and compassion—and your support enables us to perform these works. 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. All gifts stay in the diocese. Visit [www.ccca.net](http://www.ccca.net) to learn more or to make a year-end gift.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:emgccw@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office.



# 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.

## 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.

## St. Mary Book Club Dec. 10

The book club will meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 10am in the John Paul II House. Members will give a short report on any selection of their choice from the parish library which is open during regular office hours. More information? Contact Kathleen Mahoney at 540-371-2073 or bmah761569@aol.com

## St. Anne's Sisters in Faith

St. Anne's Sister's in Faith Join us Friday, December 13, as we continue to delve into *Courageous Women*. We pray you can join us for 9am Mass followed by refreshments at 9:45 at the JP II house. We will discuss lesson 6. We are nearly at the end of the current study. Our next book study will be *Marriage: small steps, big rewards* by Dr. Ray Guarendi. Babysitting is available. Please contact Rocio at Rocio.o.atkinson@gmail.com or Suzi Eggleston at 540-834-0752 for more information.

## 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.

## Hispanic Ministry "Posadas de Navidad"

All parishioners are invited to join us in a special celebration! On December 15 we will start with "Las Posadas." The first one will be held in the Parish Life Center at 3:15pm; it will be bilingual and is sponsored by the Outreach Committee. We would appreciate it if you could donate a can of food to help the Food Bank of Fredericksburg.

## Ministerio Hispano "Posadas de Navidad"

Se les invita a todos los feligreses a la primer posada del mes de Diciembre. El 15 de Diciembre tendremos nuestra primer posada y será en el Centro de Vida Parroquial a las 3:15pm. Todos son bienvenidos! Esta posada será bilingue y es patrocinada por el Outreach



# life is mission

Committee. Se estarán reco-  
giendo productos enlatados, los  
cuales serán donados al Banco  
de comida de Fredericksburg.  
Gracias!

## Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

The Knights of Columbus Christ-  
mas Tree sales continue through  
Sunday, December 22. Trees will  
be sold at St Jude Catholic Church -  
10725 Courthouse Rd., Spotsylvania  
on weekends from 8am to 8pm  
and weekdays from 3pm to 8pm,  
but not during Mass.

If you buy a live tree please  
consider helping the Knights of  
Columbus with this important  
fundraiser. Questions about  
the Tree Sales can be directed to  
Tim Fleming at [tim.g.fleming@comcast.net](mailto:tim.g.fleming@comcast.net) or Mark Williams at  
[mark.a.williams64@gmail.com](mailto:mark.a.williams64@gmail.com).

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

## Theology Courses at Christendom Graduate School

Registration is now open for  
spring theology courses at the  
Christendom Graduate School.  
Earn your MA in theology  
or take a course for personal  
enrichment! Courses at our  
convenient Alexandria campus  
include Liturgy and Sacra-  
ments, Catholic Social Teach-  
ing, Christology, Philosophical  
Errors, New Testament, Moral  
Theology, and Introduction to  
Ecclesiastical Latin. We have  
several online courses including  
two new real-time, inter-active  
online courses on the The Syn-  
optic Gospels and The Penta-  
teuch taught by Dr. Sebastian  
Carnazzo. The semester runs  
from January 13 until May 3,

and there is a special discounted  
rate for catechists, seniors, and  
religious who wish to audit  
courses. For more information,  
please visit [www.christendom.edu/grad](http://www.christendom.edu/grad), call 703-658-4304, or  
email us at [NDGS@Christen-  
dom.edu](mailto:NDGS@Christendom.edu).

## Pro Life Reflection

Mary was full of grace from  
the first moment of her concep-  
tion. She was not exempt from  
the need of a Savior; He simply  
shared with her in a unique way  
the victory over sin that He of-  
fers all of us. For those tempted  
to abort, there is always suf-  
ficient grace to do what is right.  
Mary, pray for us and for all  
tempted to abort, that they may  
say yes to life.

Blessed be the holy and Immac-  
ulate Conception of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary, Mother of God!

*O Virgin Immaculate, who, after  
the Ascension of thy Divine Son,  
didst console thy exile on earth by  
the Real Presence of Jesus in the  
Sacrament, and didst spend before  
the Tabernacle the greater part of  
thy days and even thy nights, make  
us comprehend the treasure we pos-  
sess on the altar. Inspire us to visit  
often the God of Love in the Sacra-  
ment in which He abides to receive  
the homage that He deserves by so  
many titles, and to guide, protect,  
and console us in this exile! Amen.*

## World Wide Marriage Encounter

John the Baptist tells us to  
reform our lives. Learn how  
to use the graces of your Sacra-  
ment of Marriage to renew your  
marriage and draw closer to  
God. Let the Lord strengthen,  
renew, and rekindle your mar-  
riage sacrament by attending  
one of the upcoming Worldwide

Marriage Encounter Weekend  
on Feb. 21-23, Sep. 12-14, Nov.  
14-16 in Herndon, VA; Apr. 11-  
13 in Fredericksburg, VA. Early  
registration is highly recom-  
mended. For more information  
visit our website at: [renewmar-  
riage-vanorth.org](http://renewmar-<br/>riage-vanorth.org) or call 703-  
378-4150.

## Giant A+ Bonus Bucks

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

## 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.

## 2014 Diocesan Science Fair Needs Judges

We need individuals with a  
science background to help  
judge seventh and eighth grade  
students' research projects for  
the 2014 Science Fair. These  
projects encompass such catego-  
ries as botany, health, chemistry,  
zoology, behavioral science,  
engineering, physics, math and  
other areas of life and physical  
science. If your calendar allows  
you to spend the morning (8am  
- 12pm) on Saturday, April 12,  
2014 at Paul VI High School in  
Fairfax to judge projects, please  
call Janet Vetrano at the Office  
of Catholic Schools 703-841-  
2560.