

**First Sunday of
Advent**

30 nov 2014

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



what's coming



november

30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

No Coffee Shop today after Morning Masses.
8:30am Mass, Knights of Columbus Corporate Communion.

december

1 Monday, Advent Weekday

Religious Education "We Care Week" to benefit Christ House and Catholic Charities.
7:30pm, RCIA/RICA program, Church. All invited to class at 7:30.

2 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

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

3 Wednesday, St. Francis Xavier, priest

6:00pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.
7:15pm, Keeping in Balance Women's Group, Courtyard Meeting Room.

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

9:30am, Craft Group, Parish Life Center 100.
6:30pm, Prayers and Squares, Parish Life Center 100.
7pm, Baptism Preparation Class, Parish Life Center 202.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.
7:15pm, Choosing the Better Part Bible Study, Parish Life Center 204.

5 Friday, Advent Weekday

9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Moms' Group), John Paul II House.
State LARCUM Conference begins in Norfolk, 6pm. Call Fr. Rooney for information.
8pm, First Friday Mass followed by all-night adoration, Church.

6 Saturday, Advent Weekday (St. Nicholas, bishop)

2:30pm, Spanish Baptism Class, Parish Life Center 204.
SCRIP Sales after 5pm Mass.

7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CCW Mini Bazaar Coffee Shop 7am-1pm, Parish Life Center.
Noon, English as a Second Language class, Parish Life Center 203.
12:30pm, Mass with Rite of Acceptance for RCIA Members, Church.
CYM Dinner and HS Youth Group following 5pm Mass, Parish Life Center.

8 Monday, The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

Parish Feast Day: Holy Day Masses at 6:30 and 9am, Noon, 6 and 7:30pm.
7:30pm, RCIA/RICA program, Parish Life Center.
8:30pm, TAIZE Ecumenical Prayer Service follows 7:30pm Mass, Church. All invited.

9 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

10am, Saint Mary Book Club, JP II House, downstairs
Noon, Senior Luncheon, Parish Life Center Main Hall
7pm, Adult Confirmation Class series begins, Parish Office Library.

10 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

6:00pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.
7:15pm, Keeping in Balance Women's Group, Courtyard Meeting Room.

11 Thursday, Advent Weekday (St. Damasus I, pope)

9:30am, Craft Group, Parish Life Center 100.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.
7:15pm, Choosing the Better Part Bible Study, Parish Life Center 204.
7:30pm, Parish Council, Courtyard Meeting Room.

12 Friday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

4:30am, Mañanitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe, Church
9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Moms' Group), John Paul II House.
7:30pm, Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, followed by a reception, Parish Life Center.

nota bene (note well, please):

- ✠ **Sister Elaine Davia, Bon Secours**, will speak about her vocation as a Sister at selected Masses on **next weekend, December 6 and 7**. Sister is joining us next weekend as the Church begins a year-long celebration of the Consecrated Life.
- ✠ **Celebrate our Parish Feast Day / Holy Day of Obligation: Immaculate Conception, December 8** with special Masses throughout the day: 6:30 and 9am, Noon, 6 and 7:30pm.
- ✠ **Advent Lessons and Carols**, our annual Advent prayer service, is on **Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30pm**. Saint Mary Choirs present Advent songs along with scripture readings and hymns for all to sing.
- ✠ **SCRIP is on sale** this weekend in the Parish Life Center after most Masses. Please use SCRIP and help our school.

Looking forward:

- ✠ **Handcrafts from the Holy Land will be on sale after all Masses December 13 and 14**. A perfect Christmas gift from Bethlehem will complete your shopping list for Christmas giving and help people in great need in the land where Jesus was born.

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,</i> <i>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 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
HEALTH MINISTRY	845-3031 Steven Haughton, RN, and Beth Palacios, RN
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 held in the church on fourth Sundays, following the 10:30 Mass. Please notify us of any contact changes.

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

this week's bulletin:

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from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

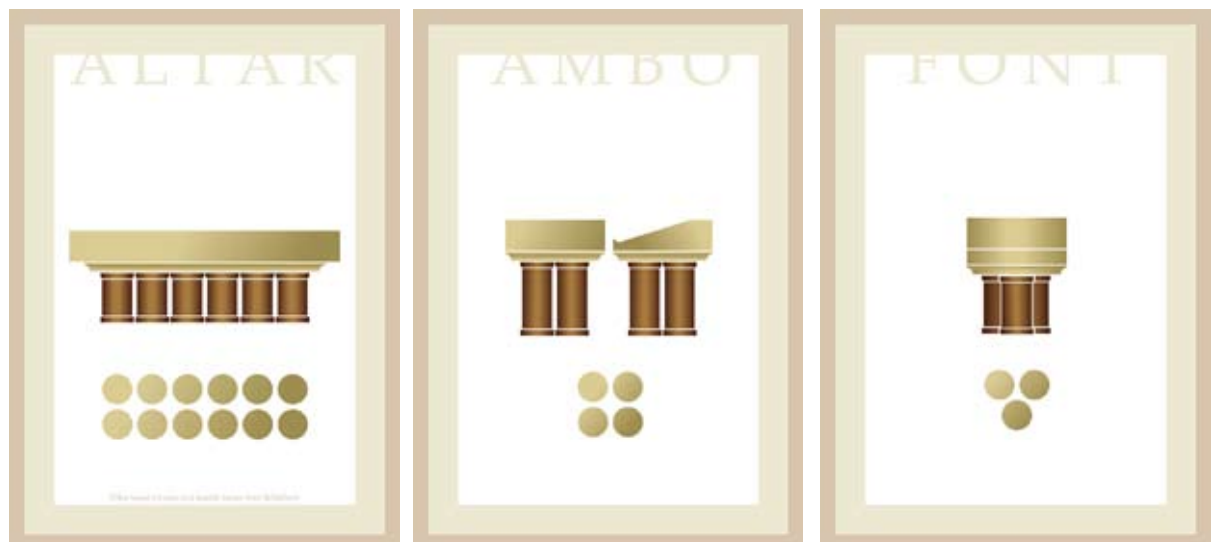
Last weekend we observed the fourth anniversary of our church renovation, when Bishop Loverde came and dedicated the new altar on November 22, 2010. With so many new parishioners all the time, we realize that many don't know the stories, the growing pains that the parish put up with, the real change that happened. Actually, there are too many stories to put down on paper. Somebody said the other day that we should make a brochure for visitors that explains all the art, the organ, the new design of the church. Well, not just for the visitors!

Recently I was adding some photos to a thumb drive for a class at Holy Cross and I came across my preliminary drawings for the new church. And a rare photograph of what the church used to look like. I have put it on page 10, where this article continues. I also came across my designs for the altar, ambo and font. Not too many people know about these pieces. They were skillfully produced by Pat Kearney of Kearney and Associates (also owner of Old House Vineyards) this side of Culpeper. The columns are solid cherry with oak inlays and support marble tops of limestone quarried from beneath the old city of Jerusalem. Think of it, a baptismal font made from the same stone that formed

the bedrock for a hewn tomb where Jesus himself was buried. "In baptism we have died with Christ, that we might also share his resurrection." The altar stands on 12 columns for the Apostles. The ambo stands on 4 columns for the Evangelists. The font? Three, for the Blessed Trinity. Each stone (also including the stone beneath the tabernacle) weighs hundreds of pounds. If you've ever been to Jerusalem, you will recognize the stone immediately: the old churches are all made of it. I put my designs here - they were made a bit differently in fabrication, but the idea is there. The altar worked better for the space with 3x4 columns rather than 2x6.

When we went to place the new openings in the back wall so that the sound from the nearly 4,000 pipes in the newly-constructed chambers behind would be clearly heard, we discovered that there was no steel in the wall! Those large beams that hold up the ceiling? They were supported only by masonry walls filled with construction rubble. The architect was astounded. It is certain that the roof would have come down in the earthquake that happened less than one year after our dedication. There was a gentleman in the church praying when the earthquake hit; I was outside with a man who was installing the new letters of the name on the

continued on page 10



holy cross academy

We are Amazing at Math

We are happy to report that when Mom and Dad came to class last week, they were very attentive. Our HCA teachers held 3 parent sessions in November to introduce our new math program. Parents were invited to learn all about bar modeling, number bonds solving abstract problems through concrete and pictorial representations.

HCA students in kindergarten through fifth grade are working hard in math and feel very successful. As one 2nd grader announced last week: "We are amazing at Math." They know that it is alright if they don't "get it" the first time; their teachers are happy to reteach the concept in a new way tomorrow. Although it can be a challenge to learn new vocabulary and to look at problems in a different way, we are hearing a lot of comments like, "Ah-ha, now I get it. That makes sense!"

Last month a new after-school club started at HCA. Our elementary students signed up to work together to build Lego creations according to specific directions. Their last challenge included building a vehicle with wheels. There was a lot of excitement when it came time to try them out and see whose would go the farthest. The children were delighted to see their Lego creation take off down the hallway. Our parent volunteers just enjoyed witnessing the children's enthusiasm and love of learning.

If you want to learn about our school and what we can do for your child, call us at 540-286-1600 or visit our website, www.holycrossweb.com. For St. Mary Preschool, please call 540-373-7553. Our school is a place where each child can flourish, grow and learn. 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 opportunities we provide for our students.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*



education

religious education

Catechists Donate to Students

On Monday, December 8—the feast of our parish patron, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception—each child will get a Miraculous Medal donated by the Farrell family. Carolyn and Louis Farrell have been 7th and 8th grade catechists for many years and their son Joseph was recently ordained a transitional deacon at the Vatican.

All of the medals were blessed by Pope Francis during his weekly audience before thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square on the morning of

October 1, 2014. Louis, Carolyn, and Joseph Farrell held the medals a few feet from the Pope as he blessed them on the steps of St. Peter's Square. The next day, October 2, Joseph was ordained a transitional deacon in St. Peter's Basilica. On the bag for the medals the

label reads: "951 medals blessed by Pope Francis at the general audience at St. Peter's Square on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 10:30 am."

Please encourage your family to pray to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Pray also that more young people will emulate Deacon Joseph Farrell.

We Care Week 2014—Donations

This week is WE CARE WEEK. Students are asked to make small sacrifices to raise funds for Catholic Charities. Their programs serve the most vulnerable in the Diocese of Arlington. Last year they touched the lives of more than 90,000 persons from the donation from parishes, schools and individuals.

This week we ask each child to make a small contribution. Each child is to put their donation into one of their unused Children's Envelope for September or October, write "We Care" on it and bring it to class. Please note that this donation will only be collected in class.

www.cdda.net/programs_christhouse_shelter.php
www.cdda.net/programs_fredericksburg.php



CYM FoodBank Service Trip

Join us Saturday, December 6, from 8:30am to 11am as we help serve at the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank. We will help with their "Food for Life program" that assists low-income elderly who are 60 years of age and older.

This program provides a box of nutritious food each month to the elderly to supplement their nutritional requirements. Volunteers help pack boxes in an assembly-line process. If interested please contact Leo.

2014 Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree will be ready the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week. Please take a tag from the tree and purchase the item on the tag. If it is a gift card, please make sure to return it to the Parish Life Center office. If the item on the tag is not a gift card, please drop it off in the Parish Life Center to the left of the crucifix.

This year we are sponsoring: Micah Ministries, Mary's Shelter, Refugee Resettlement Office, Hope House, St. Vincent DePaul, Greenfield and Woodmont Nursing homes. Your generosity is appreciated.





December 2014

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have long treasured this observation recorded in the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: "...that though he was rich, [Jesus Christ] became poor for your sakes, so that through his poverty, you might become rich" (cf. 2 Cor 8:8). As the feast of Christmas draws near, you and I are reminded of the poverty which Jesus embraced. Setting aside the heavenly glory of His divine nature, He assumed our humanity, being born in a cattle stable and allowing Himself to be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. How helpless and poor He became! Our Savior bypassed all heavenly and earthly riches and embraced a life of true poverty.

Even more, the Lord Jesus identifies Himself with the poor and the needy (cf. Mt 25:31-46). So we actually encounter Jesus Christ in every person in need and, therefore, we truly can reach out to Him, unseen but present in them, through our generosity to our diocesan Catholic Charities, whose relentless efforts enables us to encounter Christ in the poor.

Pope Francis encourages us to pursue these encounters fearlessly. "Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually...which brings us joy and gives meaning to our lives," (cf. Apostolic Exhortation: *Joy of the Gospel*, n. 269).

What a wonderful opportunity we have to draw near to the poor and touch the Person of Christ in them through the mission of **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington**. It is vital for each of us to partner in this diocesan mission through the second collection for Catholic Charities on the weekend of **December 13 and 14**. I encourage you to reflect prayerfully on how your support will unite your heart to Christ's in His identification with and love for the poor.

Our Holy Father tells us, "No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted." Please join with me in making real and tangible the love of the Poor Christ with those most in need by generously and even sacrificially supporting Catholic Charities on December 13 and 14.

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

happening here

CYM FoodBank Service trip

Join us Saturday, December 6, from 8:30am to 11am as we help serve at the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank. We will help with their "Food for Life program" that assists low-income elderly who are 60 years of age and older. This program provides a box of nutritious food each month to the elderly to supplement their nutritional requirements. Volunteers help pack boxes in an assembly-line process. If interested please contact Leo.

Cursillo Women's Retreat December 4-7

Looking for spiritual renewal? Cursillo is a lay Catholic movement; the name means "short course in Christianity." On a Cursillo weekend you will examine and celebrate your relationship with Christ and Christian community. There will be a series of talks and discussion, times of quiet, opportunities for spiritual direction, Mass and Reconciliation, and fun, too. Plus you'll meet new friends with whom you can share your walk with Christ. Weekends run from Thursday evening to Sunday evening. There will be a Women's Weekend at San Damiano, the Diocesan Spirituality Center in White Post, VA, on December 4-7. If you're interested or just want to know more, contact Joyce Bodoh at jbodoh@gmail.com or 540-521-0588.

Young Adults Advent and Christmas Events

Spread Christmas joy with St. Mary Young Adults! We are going caroling at two area nursing homes on December 6. We will attend the 9am Mass at St. Mary, meet for breakfast at Blackstone Coffee, and then start caroling at 11am. You are welcome to join us for the whole morning or meet us at one of the locations.

Young Adults will also be hosting an Advent Day Retreat on December 13 at the Catholic Campus Ministry building at Mary Washington from 9am-1pm. Please join us for prayer, a talk, discussion, lunch and Adoration. Fr. Vaccaro will be speaking on "What does it really mean to prepare for the coming of the Child Jesus?"

For more information on these activities, please join our email list by contacting Allison Gatrone at StMaryYA@gmail.com.

Senior Luncheon, December 9

The next parish senior luncheon will be held in the Parish Life Center on Tuesday, December 9. Doors open at noon and lunch is served at 12:15pm. All Seniors in the parish are invited. For additional information, call Maria D'Amico at 540-785-3580. Entertainment will be provided till 2pm. Come and enjoy the company of your fellow seniors in the parish.

Adult confirmation classes December/January

We will begin Adult Confirmation classes for all those who have already been baptized and received First Communion, but have not been confirmed. There will be an introductory meeting and then six class sessions led by Deacon Dick, each lasting about one hour on Tuesday nights. The tentative schedule is: December 9, 16, January 6, 13, 20, 27 finishing on February 3. If you would like to sign up for these classes, or to just come to the introductory meeting to hear more, please call the Parish Office to register, leaving your name, phone number and email address.

Advent Fish Fry

The St. Jude Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a fish fry in the St. Jude Church Activity Center on December 12, 2014 from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy a traditional penitential meal on the second Friday of Advent with deep fried cod, tilapia and catfish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and beverage. Cake will be sold separately. Tickets will be sold only at the door: Adults—\$8.00, Children 12 and under—\$5.00. Seconds—\$5.00. 50 percent of the net proceeds goes to the St. Jude Building Fund.

Advent Lessons and Carols, December 16

Saint Mary Music Ministry presents our third annual Advent Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30pm in the church. Our Children's, Youth, Folk and Adult Choirs present Advent songs along with scripture readings and hymns for all to sing. Experience a beautiful service of scripture and song for the Advent Season.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Cards Sale

The Fredericksburg Council Knights of Columbus are selling Christmas cards, magnets, ornaments, and pins in our effort to Keep Christ in Christmas! All profits gained are earmarked for charities in our parish and our community. Cards are available in English, Spanish, Polish, and Italian languages as well as ethnic cards for Native American, African American, and Philippine American. We will be outside the Church and Holy Cross Academy through December 21.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sales

The Knights of Columbus St. Mary Council 4034, in partnership with St. Jude Council 13599, is selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths. Sales continue through Sunday, December 21.

Trees will be sold at St Jude Catholic Church, 10725 Courthouse Road (Route 208). These Virginia-grown, freshly cut Fraser Firs have beautiful long-lasting soft needles and that great evergreen smell. Tree prices will remain the same as last year and are based on tree height. The trees will be sold on weekdays from 3pm to 8pm and on weekends from 8am to 8pm, but not during Mass.

Interested in volunteering to fulfill your individual or group's community service requirements? Questions about the Tree Sales? Contact Tim Fleming at Trees@kofc4034.org.

St. Mary Prayer List

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially:

Patricia Snellings, Jan Kozyra, Melvyn Schreckinger, Linda Klein, Kevin Ahern, Angie Calloway, Holly Smith, Cathy Thompson, Joseph Bozicevic, Charlie and Esther White, Martha Clemens, Veronica Johnson, Wilma Evans, Phyllis Timms, Tyler Hansen, Dawn Vigil, Michael Wood, Bob Young, Katy Cornell, Thomisita Devilla, Robert Lyman, Anna Castagna, Beth Malaby, John Paul Baksy, Dan Owens, David Arnold, Steve Keene, Daniel Bustamonta, Joseph Rooney, Dianne Stephens, MaryBeth Stephens, the Clasen Family, Mary Jean and Don Williams, Mary Ullmer, Charlie Catalano, Billie Stewart, Lisa Storm, Charles Lee, Irene Sweeney, Marcella Sowiejka, Carlita Aberle, Daniel and Forrest Theiss, Ed Buzicky, Kati Johnston, Marianne Ford, Richard Fadden, the Carlos Ortiz Family, Martha Ferrara, Harold Gardiner, Betty Ann & Bill Dateno, the Goldsmith Family, Shaun Williams, Lori Horner, Heidi Wilbrandt, Josephine Kreider, Sr. Marie de Chantal, Jo Ann James, Frances Scott, Dennis Hahn, Barbara Leone, Debbie Lloyd, Nancy Hursey, Chris Balut, Linda Kaila, Rose Sisco, Jeff Shinrock, Donald Estes, Johnny Wharton, Phyllis Woolverton, Ellen Kozyra, Glenn Nichols, Sr., Thomas Schulskey, Julie Fabula, Amelia McDevitt, Gerald Gardiner, Prov Moeller, The Girth Family, Marie Rooney, Dylan and Brandon Meade, Lisa Storm, Barbara Stauble, Juan Barrios, Michael Coughlin, Karen Danis, Marian Wilinski

Please pray for all the men and women in our military and civilian support services overseas, especially:

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, Raymund Haskell, Michael J. Herbek, James Helm, James Hoffnagle, Jr., Robert Horner, Danny L. Howard, Jr., Anthony Howell, Matthew Kearney, Daniel Kramer, Julio Laffitte III, Chris Lammers, Stephen Lammers, Scott LaRousse, Ryan Larsen, Jeffrey Lawrence, Kenneth Linstrom, Ryan Lynch, Sean Malloy, Geoff Mann, Josh Martin, Samantha Martin, Justin McClelland, Patrick McGroarty, John Moring, 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, Nick Schulz, Duayne Scott, Tim Smetek, Andrew Smith, Douglas Stransky, Shawn Tupta, Heidi Urben, Christopher Williamson, Daniel Zeytoonian, Justin Carter, Julianne Rogers, Jamal Williams

Please pray also for those who have died, especially the benefactors of Saint Mary Church.

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

december

1 MONDAY

6:30 + Christopher Ford
9am Vincent Eastman
Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

2 TUESDAY

6:30 + Robert Grossman
9am + Alfredo Catolico, Sr. & Jr.
Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

3 WEDNESDAY

6:30 Brandon & Katherine Fessell
9am Thomas Eastman
Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37

4 THURSDAY

6:30 + Windsor Mendenhall, Jr.
8:15* + Molly Bennett
9am Thomas Eastman
Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

5 FRIDAY

6:30 + Vincent Himelright
9am Vincent Eastman
8pm + Julio Callirgos
Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

6 SATURDAY

9am + Bryan Pitts
5pm + Timothy Hanlon
7pm + Ann Sienkiewicz
Is 30:19-26; Mt 9:35-10:1-8

7 SUNDAY

7am Fr. Don Rooney
8:30 James Crockett
10:30 + Those who died in Nov.
10:30*+ Elaine Wheeler
12:30 The Bowen Family
2pm + John Massaro
5pm + Ryan & Bryan Pitts
7:01 For the Parish
Is 40:1-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8

Please remember that Mass intentions may be requested at the parish office for any remaining Masses of the year. If dates are no longer available for the date you desire, you are welcome to request an intention that is "unscheduled," and one of the priests will gladly celebrate Mass for your intention at an extra Mass during the week or as a concelebrant.

*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

from our pastor

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front of the church and could barely stand in the parking lot. I ran in the church to see if he was okay. He was, but shaken. When I went in I saw the large crucifix shaking back and forth like a metronome.

That man, incidentally, was one of our biggest critics. When we started demolition, it scared a lot of people. I remember him saying that what we had was good enough and at least we knew what we had. How were we to know what the church would become? He would repeatedly ask me, "What have you done to my church?" It was a mess, truly. We had walled off the sanctuary part of the church set up folding chairs sideways in the church with a little platform with a temporary altar in front of the cry room windows. It was the hottest summer on record; we survived with these bizarre little robot looking air conditioning units that puffed out a little cool air now and then. People were so patient. Now when people say it's hot in church, I think, "Well, you should

have been..." Anyway, he lived a couple of years following the dedication, and would be found every afternoon in the church praying — earthquake or not, I guess — and later told me that he came there every day because he didn't know a more beautiful place to go.

There wasn't a single curve in the church before the renovation. It had that kind of unbending 70s geometry. We had a vision of what the Mass might look like in architecture, with a back wall (*raredos*) which was made out of art and music. Art becomes organ and pipes become architectural elements. And the central focus of that environment of the Mass is unashamedly the cross of Jesus and him crucified. The cross is cured Virginia white oak from Powhatan; right at the crossing of the timbers is a tiny plug of dogwood, the Virginia state tree which, according to popular legend was the tree on which Jesus was crucified. After his crucifixion, it is said, the tree changed so as never to be strong enough to carry such suffering.



We asked Orange, Virginia sculptor Thomas Marsh for a representation of the moment that Jesus says, "I thirst." We look at Mary who draws all our attention to her Son in love. Jesus looks out and says his Word, and John suddenly looks out to see to whom Jesus speaks: us. It is the moment he is sent to carry this message both as apostle and evangelist. In this way we are brought into this traditional grouping of figures in a living way. At the base of the cross is the curve of the earth, an ancient traditional element. And where that cross impacts with the earth, like that earthquake, rippling circles go out from the center: first the steps of the sanctuary, then the pews. We become part of that echoing impact, formed in concentric circles that ever widen and flow out into the world after Mass is over, after the sacrifice is given.

The space of heaven (the order of archangels represented by Gabriel with the horn and Michael with the sword) is united to earth by Jesus and the saints, oil on panel paintings,

with sculptures of Peter (with the net) and Paul (with the scroll) who concelebrate every Mass offered at Saint Mary. The saints, from top, left to right, are Miriam (Moses' sister who sang and played the tambourine at the liberation of Israel through the Red Sea), David playing his harp, the prophet Isaiah pointing toward Jesus, the prophet John the Baptist pointing back to Jesus, Saint Anne for all grandparents, and Saint Cecilia with her pipe organ, the patron saint of music. We dedicated the church on her feastday. On the lower level, left to right, are St. Joseph, then the four patrons of parishes who were formed from Saint Mary — Jude, Patrick, William of York and Matthew, and Saint Leonie Aviat, founder of our Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales, whose relic was placed in the altar at the dedication.

Maybe we'll write a book yet, but I thought this might be a fun way to observe our anniversary.
God bless you. *Fr. Don*



operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

Due to early bulletin deadlines because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the next Financial Report will be published in the December 7 Bulletin.

Thank you for your 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.

THE SECOND COLLECTION
DECEMBER 6-7 IS FOR THE
PARISH BUILDING FUND.

Children's Charity For December

December has been designated "We Care Month" for our Children's Charity. The We Care Project was initiated in 2006 by dedicated Catholic Charities Ball volunteers 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' Program 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.

an online account. To set up an account online at www.shopwithscrip.com. Please email us for our school code, so Holy Cross Academy gets credit for your purchase. If you have any questions about SCRIP please email Torie Baldwin at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com or 571-330-3448. Thanks for using SCRIP!

Mystic Monk Coffee

Purchase coffee, mugs and other products from Mystic Monk Coffee, using the link below and earn an 18% Rebate for our Parish. Subscriptions also earn rebates and save you money! Jingle Bell Java makes a great gift for Christmas! Visit www.mysticmonkcoffee.com/store/?aid=181.

Raffle Tickets to Support our Oblate Sisters

Our Oblate Sisters are working to complete construction on two new classrooms for the preschool children of St. Francis de Sales School in Rocafuerte, Ecuador. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10, 3 for \$25. Drawing is December 8. Purchase tickets at Holy Cross Academy Office or Saint Mary Parish Office (provide contact information and payment in person or by mail) or online at HCA website. holycrossweb.com/fundraising.htm

New SCRIP Retailer... McDonald's!

Starting this week you may purchase \$25 gift cards to McDonald's and St. Mary/HCA will receive a 10% rebate! Get your cards today. They make great gifts for Christmas or for on-the-go dining.

Stop by the SCRIP table to get more information or set up

Pro Life Reflection For November 30

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.

All Night Adoration First Friday, December 5

"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



The November 12, 2014 thank you note from Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center to the children of St. Mary.

called in love

Sacrament follows the 8:00pm First Friday Mass on December 5. *O Come Let Us Adore Him in the Eucharist!* Please sign up today.

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.

Electronic Offertory Faith Direct available

Faith Direct enables your family to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards. Now you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you may now use it to make your mortgage, car or tuition payments.

With *Faith Direct*, the parish will gain predictable cash flow that will help us with planning our parish needs and programs. *Faith Direct* also offers you personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket.

You may enroll securely online by visiting www.faithdirect.net Our parish code is VA635.

A Legacy of Family Names

We continue to take orders for the "Living Stones" in our new courtyard, each featuring the last name of the family sponsoring it. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. The investment for each stone is \$500 and helps cover the cost of this landscaping project. You may make installment payments. Please place your order by December 19 to be included in the next installation.

Welcome to SHARE at St. Mary Parish!

Order Deadline: 8 December
Food Pick-Up: 20 December

This is a food cooperative program with a community service requirement. Package Pick-up is typically the fourth Saturday of the month at the Parish Life Center between 8 and 9am. The following month's menu will be available at the time of pick-up.

Please contact Rick Caporali for more information and details, rcaporali@stmaryfred.org.

Shopping for December:

Value Package

(\$21 + 2 hrs community service)

Fresh, seasonal items such as sweet potatoes, white potatoes, onions, celery, apples, oranges, stuffing mix, elbow macaroni, a holiday pie, and meats/fish to enjoy in a variety of ways:

- Chicken drums, Harvestland kielbasa, Ground turkey, Cod or other fish filets

Turkey Dinner

(\$31 + 2 hrs community service)

- 10-14 lbs. TURKEY with GENEROUS, traditional side dishes:
- Candied yam patties, Corn, green beans, Sweet potato pie

Value Package + Turkey Dinner

(\$41 + 2 hrs community service)

- 10-14 lbs. TURKEY with fresh seasonal produce such as:
- Sweet potatoes, white potatoes, onions, celery, apples, oranges, dried pasta, a holiday pie, and 4-5 lbs of meats/fish to stock the freezer.

Spiral Honey Ham, 9-10 lbs.

(\$29 + 2 hrs community service)

Ready to cook Raw, Breaded Shrimp, 3 lbs.

(\$21 + 2 hrs community service)



Menu items are always subject to change. When we must substitute, we try to give better value.

SHARE Order Form

Value Package (\$21)
_____ x \$21. = \$_____

Turkey Dinner (\$31)
_____ x \$31. = \$_____

Value + Turkey Dinner (\$41)
_____ x \$41. = \$_____

Spiral Honey Ham (\$29)
_____ x \$29. = \$_____

Raw, Breaded Shrimp (\$21)
_____ x \$21. = \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Name

Address

City ST zip

email

cell/phone

Community Service Hours:

___ hrs Church	___ Host site
___ hrs Youth	___ Transport
___ hrs Shelter	___ Comm. Dinner
___ hrs Seniors	___ Vincent de Paul
___ hrs Micah	___ MW Hospital
___ hrs School	___ Parish Ministry
___ hrs Community Service	
___ hrs Other	___ hrs Other

PAYMENT METHODS:

CASH, MONEY ORDER, or EBT.
No CHECKS; Payment due when order is placed.

Money Orders should be made to: SHARE FOOD NETWORK.