

**Second Sunday
of Advent**

7 dec 2014

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



what's coming



december

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, John Paul 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.
4:30pm, Parish Offices close.
7:30pm, Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, followed by a reception, Parish Life Center.

13 Saturday, Advent Weekday (St. Lucy, virgin, martyr)

6pm, Knights of Columbus's Frank Battista Italian Night.

14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses (Youth Ministry), Parish Life Center.
Noon, English as a Second Language class, Parish Life Center 203.
CYM Dinner and HS Youth Group following 5pm Mass, Parish Life Center.

15 Monday, Advent Weekday

7:30pm, RCIA/RICA program, Parish Life Center.

16 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

10am, CCW General Meeting, Courtyard Meeting Room.
7:30pm, Advent Lessons and Carols, Church. All invited.
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Gathering, Courtyard Meeting Room.

17 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

6:00pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.
7pm, Additional Advent Confessions, Church.

18 Thursday, Advent Weekday

7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.
7pm, Additional Advent Confessions, Church.

19 Friday, Advent Weekday

9:30am, St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Moms' Group), John Paul II House.
7pm, Additional Advent Confessions, Church.
7pm, Bunco, Parish Life Center.

nota bene (*note well, please*):

✠ Celebrate this Holy Day of Obligation and our Parish Feast Day: Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 8 with special Masses throughout the day: 6:30 and 9am, Noon, 6 and 7:30pm.

✠ Our December Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service will follow the 7:30pm Mass on Monday evening, about 8:30pm. All are welcome.

✠ 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;
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
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

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from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

It always makes me stop and pay attention: each year as we begin a New Year of Grace with the First Sunday of Advent we reset the clocks and begin to unfold Christ in his Mysteries lived in the events and observances of the liturgical year. I guess “observances” is the wrong word, because the Word that we live is anything but a spectator experience. We are not standing by as passive observers. Rather, as member of that Body of Christ, it is we who are literally unfolded and brought to life again each year.

We start that year in the darkness with the light of only one candle—a light that grows, surely—but still one solitary flame. And a quiet call that is heard for the first time probably four thousand years ago by a man who had nothing but hope in a promise that he heard, no credible claim to any solution to the sin and pain that surrounded him in his world. The voice was speaking—why was Abraham the only one who heard it?—but all the same the promise gave him hope to leave his native land and follow a new God who spoke, listened, and responded. The novelty was breathtaking. God speaks. Listens. Responds. And his divine Action requires somehow that we interact, communicate, hear the promise, respond with faith (or not) and live in hope—that all might be fulfilled.

Now we hold on to that candle’s light and quiet Word that begins to grow, to explain and unfold: the Word-made-flesh fulfilled in his utter silence and desolation of the Cross; the flame to be fulfilled in the Easter Candle of resurrection only five months from now, “a flame divided but undimmed” as it is spread throughout the assembly at the celebration of Baptism at the Vigil Mass. By it we are redeemed and our sins forgiven, the promise of new life is real.

“But I don’t know how to pray,” we say. How can I make a return for the goodness of God? I think the first clue is that God has given us this very silence. It isn’t neces-

sary to fill it with our noise. How difficult noise makes our lives to focus, to concentrate on even the things we seek, not to mention the things that we find challenging! When people tell me they don’t know how to pray I always ask them what they are doing? Usually, it is many formulas. Like our words might work some kind of magic spell. Listen, my people: “*my sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*” (Jn 10:27). I propose to you that praying isn’t *doing* at all. It is adopting a humility that says that what God has to say to me is so much more important than what I might say to him. Doesn’t he already know anything I might say? Doesn’t he know my needs? Would not a loving God then seek to provide a remedy by a message? Praying isn’t doing. Ninety per cent of praying is simply listening. But we need silence and simplicity to be able to do it. Don’t think for a minute that the world doesn’t intentionally bombard us with more data than we can endure, just to keep us from hearing truth.

How can I make a return, then, for the goodness of God? Freely paraphrased by a responsorial psalm setting that I dearly love based on Psalm 116, we learn that prayer is the way we live, receptive to the gifts of God and ready to respond *with love* when called:

*I will take the cup of life,
I will call God’s name all my days.*

*How can I make a return for the goodness of God?
This saving cup I will bless and sing,
and call the name of God!*

*The dying of those who keep faith is precious to
our God. I am your servant called from your
hands; you have set me free.*

*To you will I offer my thanks and all upon your
name. You are my promise, for all to see,
I love your name, O God.*

So join me as we enter the quiet and Advent beginnings of Christ himself. On a quiet cold night by the light of a candle, he is born in us.

God bless you.

Fr. Don

holy cross academy

From Thanksgiving to Preparation

Although they could not be transported back in time to experience life in early America, our fourth graders recently spent some time simulating life in the colonies. The learned how to make butter like the early settlers would have done, baked bread that they were very proud to take home, and created a clove-scented pomander ball. One of the students declared that her mother no longer needed to buy butter; she can just make it herself. We are not so sure that her Mom will agree.

Thanksgiving has now passed and we are in the grace-filled season of Advent. Our students are following the story of the patriarchs and prophets and their preparation for the coming of the Messiah. We will have Christmas programs and our Giving Tree as the month goes on, but right now we are focusing on God's chosen people and their experience preparing for the birth of Jesus.

We wish all in our parish a very blessed feast day of the Immaculate Conception on Monday as we celebrate together this great mystery which is the feast day of our nation and our parish.

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

No Classes on Monday, December 8

There will be no Religious Education classes on Monday, December 8, in honor of the patronal feast day of our parish, the Immaculate Conception. **There will be Religious Education classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.**

In class last week each child received a Miraculous Medal on a chord donated by the Farrell family and blessed by Pope Francis. They also were given a Miraculous Medal prayer and were asked to pray the prayer for nine days.

Miraculous Medal Prayer

O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate,
We dedicate and consecrate ourselves to you
under the title of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

May this Medal be for each one of us
a sure sign of your affection for us and
a constant reminder of our duties toward you.

Ever while wearing it,
may we be blessed by your loving protection
and preserved in the grace of your Son.

O Most Powerful Virgin, Mother of Our Savior,
keep us close to you every moment of our lives.
Obtain for us, your children, the grace of a happy death;
so that in union with you,
we may enjoy the bliss of Heaven forever.
Amen.



First Week of We Care Donation

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 donations 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 an envelope, write "We Care" on it and bring it to class. Please note that this donation will only be collected in class.

www.ccda.net/programs_christhouse_shelter.php
www.ccda.net/programs_fredericksburg.php

Middle School Lock-in— 7th and 8th Graders

Join us for our annual Middle School Lock-in at Holy Cross Academy on Friday, December 12, at 9pm until Saturday December 13 at 7am. We will gather for a night of fun, games, food, friends and much more.



Permission slips are available online and due December 5. Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to go directly to the permission slip. You will need a QR Code reader on your phone.



2014 Giving Tree

Don't forget to take a tag from the tree and purchase the item on the tag. Please return items to the Parish Life Center in the main hall to the left of the crucifix (gift cards to the office).

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

Advent Lessons and Carols



Tuesday, December 16, 2014 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 all the Choirs of Saint Mary Church 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.

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!



For more information, contact David Mathers at dmathers@stmaryfred.org or 540 373-6491 x 217.



Annual Christmas Collection

December 13-14, 2014

"And it is important to be able to make people welcome; this is something even more beautiful than any kind of ornament or decoration. I say this because when we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them – some food, a place in our homes, our time – not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched."

Pope Francis



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

 CatholicCharitiesArlington

*88 cents of every dollar goes to direct services and programs

94,419
Lives Were Touched
in 2014

Did You Know?

- ♥ \$175 will help teach homeless fathers & mothers new job skills
- ♥ \$99 will help provide meals & activities for lonely seniors
- ♥ \$45 will help give pro-life counseling to a couple
- ♥ \$25 will help stock food pantry shelves near you



Help us help our neighbors

Please give generously to the Catholic Charities' Annual Christmas Collection in your parish on December 13th & 14th.

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

The World as Loved by a Glorious God

By John Armstrong, 2014 State LARCUM
Conference Speaker

The enduring, eternal love of God is out in the open. It has been revealed in Jesus Christ once-for-all. We know how God actually feels about the world and precisely how he responds to its pain and lostness. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17).

In Jesus everything, as Phil Needham so eloquently says it, "is out in the open for those who are willing to risk seeing such a God" (*When God Becomes Small*, p. 43). My question is simple: Are you willing to risk seeing the world as loved by such a glorious and near God?

Many Christians cling to a Greek-based theology, thus they have taken on Greek-style ideas about God's nature and perfection, ideas which are overturned by a robust doctrine of the Incarnation.

The Incarnation of God is a frontal attack on our persistent attempts to impersonalize, oversize, and distance God. It undermines the comfort of a God-too-far whom we can either refashion or dismiss for our convenience, and it creates the disturbance of a God-too-close whose loves sees us as humans created in his image and calls us to the terrifying prospect of being nothing less than who we are (*When God Becomes Small*, p. 44).

God invites all of us to discover and know divine love by encountering the man Jesus who is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Another way to say this is to reflect upon the season of Advent. Jesus is coming again, and again, and again. Each year he comes and reminds us that he is here to stay. This is what Advent is really all about.

Jesus is the embodiment of a promise that Jewish theologian Martin Buber concluded is the real meaning of the name of God. This name is first

revealed to Moses when God called the runaway leader to return to Egypt and lead his people to freedom. When anyone asks who sent you, God says to Moses, tell them that "I-will-be-there" (Yahweh) has sent you (Exodus 3:14). God says to tell the people that he is the "I am always-there-for-you-God." This is what the covenant meant – God's loving and protective presence for his people. In Jesus this all becomes material and fleshy. Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us." In this way Jesus is born every day. This is what Jesus promised in the Great Commission when he said to his disciples: "Look, *I myself will be with you every day* until the end of this present age" (Matthew 28:20b).

Jesus is coming
again, and again,
and again. Each
year he comes and
reminds us that he is
here to stay.

Where should we look for Jesus? Not in flashy parties nor as the star of his own show. We should see him in the small places, in the blessings of hope and love. We should see him in a life saved, through his love for the precious worth of a person, and in the sharing of great grace with others who are so underserving.

God is everywhere. There are no limits on him or his residence. But he dwells particularly with those who are lowly in spirit and humble.

When Jesus came to earth he came with nothing. He gave everything by giving himself. He still gives himself. He gives himself to every person whose heart is open to his love and grace. Why do we miss this?

I think the answer is relatively simple. Christian faith is a *way of life*. It involves the mind for sure. But we have reduced the faith to doctrines and then use our brains as if they were the center of everything in the world. But the Gospel is a story and it is not just any story. It is the story of God's great love. This story uses words, and words have meanings. This process produces theology, but theology is *not* life. The truth is that Jesus calls us to a way of life that *mirrors* his life. This is discipleship. By *reducing* this to learning truths we miss the story. The answer is to get the story right and then put ourselves into it with imagination through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. This will change everything!

happening here

Adult Confirmation Classes Start December 9

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 Delio, 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 first meeting to hear more, please call the Parish Office to register, leaving your name, phone number and email address.

Young Adults Advent Retreat

Young Adults will 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, 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.

Book Club's December Meeting

The Saint Mary Book Club will meet Tuesday, December 9, at the John Paul II House. Rather than an assigned book this month, members will have a free choice from the parish library (opened during regular office hours). Participants will report briefly on their selection. Members will also vote on their selections for the 2015 year. More information: Kathleen Mahoney, 540-371-2073 or bmah761569@aol.com.

Raffle Drawing This Week

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 or online at holycrossweb.com/fundraising.htm.

*Refugee Thanksgiving
Dinner with Laurel
Collins.*



Frank Battista Italian Night with Santa Claus

The Frank Battista Italian Night, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be held on Saturday, December 13 from 6 to 8:30pm in the Parish Life Center.

Santa Claus will be our special dinner guest. The menu includes lasagna, spaghetti and meatballs, garden salad, and cake. The proceeds will provide food for those in need.

The dinner is open to the public and is pay-at-the-door. Takeouts are available. The cost is Adults \$8; Seniors (60 & up) \$7; Children (7-12) \$6; Children (under 7) Free. The maximum cost per family is \$28.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Cards, Trees and Wreaths Sales

The Fredericksburg Council Knights of Columbus are selling Christmas cards, magnets, ornaments, and pins in our effort to *Keep Christ in Christmas!* outside of Masses until December 21.

In partnership with St. Jude Council 13599, they are 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). Questions about the Tree Sales? Contact Tim Fleming at Trees@kofc4034.org.

Saint 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 Sowieja, 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 Schulsky, 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, Mary Ellen Normand, John Castagna

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, 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

8 MONDAY

6:30 Louis Farrell
9am Maureen Lesley
10am* + Eleanor Mungum
noon For the parish
6pm + Jack & Clara Schirmer
7:30 + Maria Alessio
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

9 TUESDAY

6:30 Fr. Keith Cummings
9am + Christopher Ford
Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

10 WEDNESDAY

6:30 + Lloyd Staggs
9am Barbara Carneal
Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

11 THURSDAY

6:30 + Christopher Ford
9am Felix Fraraccio
Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

12 FRIDAY

6:30 + Jim Kilduff
9am + Betty Niederkofler
7:30 + Those Immigrating who died
Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38

13 SATURDAY

9am + Christopher Ford
5pm For the parish
7pm + Andrew Mullady
Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:9-13

14 SUNDAY

7am + Charles Bates
8:30 + Peggy O'Rourke
10:30 + Christopher Dudziak
10:30*+ Timothy Hanlon
12:30 + Christopher Ford
2pm + Pastor Benjamin Velis
5pm + Anita & John Jenkins
7:01 Jackie Richards
Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8

Please remember that Mass intentions may be requested at the parish office for any remaining Masses of the year.

*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

23 November Offertory	34,768.
Catholic Campaign for	
Human Development	8,993.
30 November Offertory	31,684.
Poor Box/Vincent de Paul (2 wks)	348.

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.

Immaculate Conception Dec. 8 Mass Schedule

Monday, December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are at 6:30am, 9am, 12 Noon, 6pm, and 7:30pm. There will be no evening Miraculous Medal Novena.

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.

Our Lady Of Guadalupe December 12

Mañanitas, 4:30am
Guadalupe Mass and Reception, 7:30pm



Mary's words at Guadalupe to Juan Diego:

"What is happening, dearest and youngest of my sons? Where are you going? Where are you headed?"

"Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that disturbs you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing. Do not let your countenance, your heart be disturbed. Do not fear this sickness of your uncle or any other sickness, nor anything that is sharp or hurtful. Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you.

"Go up, my dearest son, to the top of the hill, to where you saw me and received my directions and you will find different kinds of flowers. Cut them, gather them, put them all together, then come down here and bring them before me."

"My youngest and dearest son, these different kinds of flowers are the proof, the sign that you will take to the Bishop. You will tell him from me that he is to see in them my desire, and therefore he is to carry out my wish, my will. And you, who are my messenger, in you I place my absolute trust. I strictly order you not to unfold your tilma or reveal its contents until you are in his presence. You will relate to him everything very carefully: how I sent you to the top of the hill to cut and gather flowers, all you saw and marveled at in order to convince the Governing Priest so that he will then do what lies within his responsibility so that my house of God which I requested will be made, will be built."

called in love

Give a Gift for Life

For Unto Us a Child Is Born, Christ the Savior! — 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.

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.

Pro Life Reflection For December 7

Mary was full of grace from the first moment of her conception. 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 offers all of us. For those tempted to abort, there is always sufficient 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 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God!

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.