

The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph

29 Dec 2013



what's coming

december

29 Sunday, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

No Coffee Shop this weekend.

30 Monday, Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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

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

31 Tuesday, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (St. Sylvester I, pope)

6pm, Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Church.

january

1 Wednesday, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Parish Offices Closed.

Mass Schedule for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. *A Holy Day of Obligation.*

7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2pm (Mass in Spanish)

7pm, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

2 Thursday, Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the church

9:30am, Adult Bible Study, Courtyard Meeting. *Class is full, keep on eye on bulletin for future classes.*

7pm, Baptism Preparation Class, Room 204, Parish Life Center. Pre-registration required.

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

3 Friday, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

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

4 Saturday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

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

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

SCRIP Sales after 5pm Mass.

5 Sunday, Epiphany of the Lord

Coffee and Donuts after morning Masses. (Council of Catholic Women)

SCRIP Sales after Masses.

3:30-4:30pm, 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group, Parish Life Center.

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

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

6 Monday, Christmas Weekday (St. Andre Bessette, religious)

Religious Education Classes resume.

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

7:30pm, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, church. Topic: Grace and Sacraments.

All Parish adults welcome. 8:15pm, small group discussion continues for RCIA candidates in the Parish Life Center.

8pm, Young Adults Ministry meeting, John Paul II House.

7 Tuesday, St. Raymond of Penafort, priest

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

8pm, Adult Confirmation Class (1 of 6), Room 203, Parish Life Center.

8 Wednesday, Christmas Weekday

6pm, YOUCAT - Youth Ministry Program, John Paul II House.

7pm, Legion of Mary, Room 100, Parish Life Center.

9 Thursday, Christmas Weekday

9:30am, Adult Bible Study, Courtyard Meeting Room. *Class is full, keep on eye on bulletin for future classes.*

7:30pm, Parish Council Meeting, Courtyard Meeting Room.





this week's
bulletin:

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holy cross
academy

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operations

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education

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liturgy

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parish life

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outreach

nota bene (note well, please):

- ☞ **SCRIP is on sale** in the Parish Life Center after all Masses except Saturday 7pm and Sunday 2pm. Please use SCRIP, and a percentage of what you spend will be applied to our school.
- ☞ Our Mass schedule for the Holy Day of Obligation on January 1st, **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** is incorrect in the Parish Calendar that was mailed to you. Please note the correct schedule is 6pm on the 31st, and 7, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 and 2pm (Spanish). There will be no 5 or 7:01 on January 1st.
- ☞ **Religious Education** classes are on Christmas Break and will resume the week of January 5.
- ☞ Due to the holiday, the **Parish Offices will be closed** on January 1. The office will close at 4:30pm weekdays from December 30 through January 3.
- ☞ Sign up in the Church Vestibule for **All Night Adoration** immediately following the 8pm Mass on **First Friday, January 3**.
- ☞ Join us on January 4 at our **Monthly Family Dinner** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

On this feast of the Holy Family it seems to me we have a lot to pray about. I'm thinking of the many conversations I've had over the holidays when troubled people have expressed their family struggles: lack of unity, refusal to forgive, members who have left the Church, members who have turned their backs on their families. A kind of voluntary estrangement that is the fruit of self-centeredness. You see, in our culture of individualism, addiction and self-absorption, it is tough for the family to survive. The voices of the world are so loud that they have captivated the ears of youth—and many adults—and the old sacred structures of family values based on an understanding of a Divine Plan have lost priority.

We see a lot of new confusing concepts of "family" based on individualism. A lot of marriages are really more arrangements which allow individual license, situations established to allow for personal satisfaction. Divorce is so common. Often, secular values have replaced religious values and the world doesn't value life, or family, or tradition.

A family requires sacrifice, and a willingness to humbly submit to one another out of love. A time to willingly and gladly set aside our own wants and needs for the good of another. Family life is not easy (I think it gets harder and harder as the years pass), and the obedience and respect of children to parents is something that must develop into a mutual offering between adults when children grow to adulthood; the new generation needs the good example of the previous one to make good choices, and not reject it. But too often today the vital good example just isn't there. People are just confused.

For years now we have known that Fredericksburg has one of the highest rates of pregnancy outside of marriage in the state of Virginia, and a recent statistic quoted to me (shockingly) states that of the pregnancies which have happened in the City of Fredericksburg this year, 43% of them have

been aborted. It is a desperate society that would choose to terminate life and family in this way. And I can only imagine what kind of emptiness this can leave behind; it is hard enough to survive the loss of a loved one in a family when it is beyond our control.

So we must look first to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. A surprise family, to be sure. A great deal of trust in God, and obedience to a plan of faith. Remarkable hardship, poverty. Herod was seeking to kill Jesus. In his rage had all the boys under two years of age murdered throughout Judea. We just celebrated the Feast of the Holy Innocents Saturday this weekend, in memory of all those whose lives were not valued more than the self-will and hunger for control of King Herod.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph became homeless refugees fleeing for their lives to a pagan land—the land from which their ancestors had already fled from death—in order to save Jesus' life. I wonder if they were welcomed any more than immigrants are welcomed today?

Thank God, St. Mary responds profoundly in support of life with our various pro-life ministries, and our refugee resettlement program. We try to teach our families the values of faith and love, reconciliation and hope, to reach out to those who are in need seeking the truth and answers to their questions. We want everyone to know that they never need to feel alone, fearful, without a solution.

But we need to do more. Families need help, and we need to strengthen each other. We need to keep the message of family and tradition fresh in the minds of our children, and teach by example more than by words. And we need to turn again and again to the Holy Family of Bethlehem, of Egypt, and of Nazareth in their many transitions to see how we might be able to adapt and respond faithfully, like them, to life's many abrupt challenges and changes. May God strengthen you with his grace, and keep you together in his love.

God bless you. *Fr. Don*

holy cross

'Tis the Season

Each year Holy Cross Academy students assist local babies in need by donating diapers, wipes, baby wash and lotion, clothing and other necessities to Catholic Charities. Students met in Father Brisson Hall where a lone Christmas tree stood in the center of the Altar area. As Christmas carols filled the air, students were called up class by class to place their item around the tree. Before long, the tree was surrounded by items and the spirit of giving was visible for all to see.

Following the "Giving Tree", the story of Christmas was told and presented by our 8th graders. As the angels read and the choir sang, the students

prayerfully watched the true magic of Christmas unfold. With the tree in the background, the gifts for babies in need surrounding it and our 8th graders telling the story, many hearts were touched as we were all reminded of the true meaning of the season.

If you want to learn about our school and all that we can do for your child, please call us at 540-286-1600 or visit our website, www.holycrossweb.com. For St. Mary Preschool, please call 540-373-7553. Holy Cross Academy is a place where each child can flourish and grow. We would love to hear from you and will gladly give you a tour of our National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and tell you about the wonderful things happening here.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School, 2012*



Students participate in the preparation activities of Advent.

operations staff

www.stmaryfred.org

1009 Stafford Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22401

SUNDAY MASS	Saturday Vigil 5 & 7pm Sunday 7, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30, 2pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7:01pm 10:30am at Holy Cross Academy
DAILY MASS	Mon.-Fri.: 6:30 & 9am; Sat., 9am First Friday 8pm Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
DEVOTIONS	Adoration & Benediction, Wed., 7-9pm Novena with Exposition, Mon., 7-7:30pm All Night Adoration, First Friday Miraculous Medal Novena, Mon., after 9am Mass Divine Mercy, Wed., 3pm
CONFESSION	Wed., 7-9pm; Sat., 8am & 3:30pm, or by appt.
PARISH OFFICE	540-373-6491, fax 371-0251 stmary@stmaryfred.org Mon.-Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm; <i>students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm</i>
	Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney Fr. Keith Cummings Fr. Stephen Holmes Fr. Lino Rico Rostro Deacon Alberto Bernaola Deacon Dick Delio
	Executive Assistant, Rick Caporali Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski Director of Sacred Music, David Mathers Administrative Assistant, Kelly Keiser Secretary, Mary Fitch
HOLY CROSS ACADEMY	540-286-1600 250 Stafford Lakes Parkway Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406-7234 Principal, Sr. Susan Louise Eder, O.S.F.S.
ST. MARY PRESCHOOL	373-7553 Director, Nanci Scharf
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE	373-6491 Director, Aristides Lucas Associate Director, Karen Sturtevant
YOUTH MINISTRY	373-6491 Director, Leo Chavarria
BAPTISMS	Parish registration (90 days) and class required. Please contact the parish office to schedule the date at least four weeks in advance.
MARRIAGE	Parish registration required; contact parish six months in advance to begin preparation.
JOIN US	New Family Registration meetings are held monthly in the church on fourth Sundays, following the 10:30 Mass. Please notify us of any telephone/address changes.

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

Weekly Offertory

End of year statements will be mailed to all registered parishioners by January 31. Only contributions received using your offertory envelopes or a household check are recorded as your contributions.

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.

Due early bulletin deadlines, the next financial report will be published in the January 12, 2014 bulletin.

Children's Offering for January

The children's charity that will benefit from the offering in January is the local Hospice Camp Rainbow. Camp Rainbow is an overnight, weekend bereavement camp for children ages 5 to 12 who have experienced a loss or are currently living with a loved one with a terminal illness. The Camp is organized by Hospice Support Care, a non-profit, non-medical volunteer hospice support organization providing spiritual, practical, and emotional support to patients and their families. The primary goal of Camp Rainbow is to teach children how to grieve in a healthy manner, while building fond remembrances. Like Kids Helping Kids, Camp Rainbow also strives to normalize grief, understand death and dying, and improve social skills. For more information, go to www.hospice-supportcare.org.

New Year with SCRIP

Is setting and sticking to a budget one of your resolutions for 2014? SCRIP can help with that!

Let's say you budget \$500 for groceries.....buy \$500 of Giant SCRIP for the month. Give your kids a clothing allowance through SCRIP...purchase Old Navy, Kohl's, or Aeropostale. Do you want to dine out once a month? There are dozens of restaurants that participate in SCRIP.... Applebees, Bob Evans, Bonefish Grill, Mimi's Cafe, Outback, Olive Garden, Steak n Shake, Red Lobster and many others!!

To set up an account online at www.shopwithscrip.com and use our school code, 7B876EBB188L2, 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!

Second Collection January 11 & 12

The Second Collection on January 12, 2014 will be for the Parish Building Fund.

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks

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

Parish Office Holiday Schedule

Parish Offices will be closed on January 1 for New Year's Day. The office will be open December 30 & 31, and January 2 & 3 from 8:30am-4:30pm.

Religious Education classes will resume the week of January 5.

education religious ed.

Thank You for Your Generosity

The Office of Religious Education became aware of several parish families who were in financial difficulty at this time of year and needed help with getting gifts for their children. We sent out an email to our parents to see if we could get donations for these families. Within ONE hour after the email went out, most of the gifts were donated. The parents received the gifts and the wrapping materials needed to make Christmas special for their children. Thank you.

Programs for Parents

Here at St. Mary we strive to assist parents in the faith formation of their children. We sponsor two programs: Parent Gathering Speaker Series for all parents and Spanish Speaking Parents with Deacon Alberto Bernaola. Both programs run from January to April of each year and are held in the Parish Life Center during Religious Education classes (6:30 -7:45 pm).

The Parent Gathering Speaker Series are held on Tuesdays. At each session guest speakers who are experts on their topic assist parents in their faith formation and the faith of their children. The topics are so interesting that parents always stay behind to continue the discussion with the guest speaker. The first gathering for 2014 will on Tuesday, January 14. (*see below*)

Spanish Speaking Parents with Deacon Alberto Bernaola is for Spanish speaking parents. It is intended to deepen their knowledge in the faith so they can pass on a contemporary and more meaningful faith to their children. The first gathering for 2014 will be on Monday, January 13.

Blessed and Happy New Year - May your aspirations, hopes and resolutions for 2014 bring you closer to Christ.



High School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group

Attention 7th and 8th Graders! Start the NEW YEAR off with a bunch of fun on Sunday, January 5 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm in the Parish Life Center. All 7th and 8th graders are invited to come and get together for some games, inspiring talk on the faith and to have fellowship with their peers.

Parent Gathering Speaker Series: Tuesday, January 14th 6:30pm – 8pm. Full, Active, Conscious Participation in Liturgy, Life and Mission.

Fr. Don will talk about how we live out the values given 50 years ago in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II. God calls us to live our lives fully and actively in our worship and make conscious connections of how our work at Mass flows into every aspect of our lives. We will talk about the major reforms which were realized in Vatican II and how they are to be understood in our modern world today.

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!



adult ed.



Women of St. Mary!

Are you interested in getting together with a group of women to explore your faith? You don't have much scripture knowledge, but you would like to see how the scriptures apply to your everyday life? Or, you have some scripture knowledge but want to go deeper? If so, we invite you to consider joining our new Walking with Purpose group.

Walking with Purpose (WWP) is a weekly reflection that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Christ. Through personal study and small group discussions, the group helps to link our everyday challenges and struggles to the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Church.

Interested in learning more? Please join us for a WWP session on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:30 in the Courtyard Meeting Room and find out what it is all about! All women are welcome. Child care is not provided, however.

For questions or to RSVP, call the parish office or email Lori Mattson at lori@acumen-ea.com. Also, feel free to visit www.walkingwithpurpose.com for more information.

Retreat Opportunities

Loyola on the Potomac

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

St. Mary retreats dates:

Men's Retreat, 7-9- March 2014

Women's Retreat, 14-16 March 2014.

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

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

Art of Marriage Conference

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

from our pope



On this Feast of the Holy Family, contemplate Pope Francis' advice to families to "...always live in faith and simplicity, like the Holy Family of Nazareth."

Homily of Pope Francis

Saint Peter's Square, Sunday, 27 October 2013

The readings this Sunday invite us to reflect on some basic features of the Christian family.

1. **First: the family prays.** The Gospel passage speaks about two ways of praying, one is false – that of the Pharisee – and the other is authentic – that of the tax collector. The Pharisee embodies an attitude which does not express thanksgiving to God for his blessings and his mercy, but rather self-satisfaction. The Pharisee feels himself justified, he feels his life is in order, he boasts of this, and he judges others from his pedestal. The tax collector, on the other hand, does not multiply words. His prayer is humble, sober, pervaded by a consciousness of his own unworthiness, of his own needs.

Here is a man who truly realizes that he needs God's forgiveness and his mercy.

The prayer of the tax collector is the prayer of the poor man, a prayer pleasing to God. It is a prayer which, as the first reading says, "will reach to the clouds" (Sir 35:20), unlike the prayer of the Pharisee, which is weighed down by vanity.

In the light of God's word, I would like to ask you, dear families: Do you pray together from time to time as a family? Some of you do, I know. But so many people say to me: But how can we? As the tax collector does, it is clear: humbly, before God. Each one, with humility, allowing themselves to be gazed upon by the Lord and imploring his goodness, that he may visit us. But in the family how is this done? After all, prayer seems to be something personal, and besides there is never a good time, a moment of peace... Yes, all that is true enough, but it is also a matter of humility, of realizing that we need God, like the tax collector! And all families, we need

God: all of us! We need his help, his strength, his blessing, his mercy, his forgiveness. And we need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary! Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it's easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents....praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: prayer.

2. The second reading suggests another thought: **the family keeps the faith**. The Apostle Paul, at the end of his life, makes a final reckoning and says: "I have kept the faith" (2 Tim 4:7). But how did he keep the faith? Not in a strong box! Nor did he hide it underground, like the somewhat lazy servant. Saint Paul compares his life to a fight and to a race. He kept the faith because he didn't just defend it, but proclaimed it, spread it, brought it to distant lands. He stood up to all those who wanted to preserve, to "embalm" the message of Christ within the limits of Palestine. That is why he made courageous decisions, he went into hostile territory, he let himself be challenged by distant peoples and different cultures, he spoke frankly and fearlessly. Saint Paul kept the faith because, in the same way that he received it, he gave it away, he went out to the fringes, and didn't dig himself into defensive positions.

Here too, we can ask: How do we keep our faith as a family? Do we keep it for ourselves, in our families, as a personal treasure like a bank account, or are we able to share it by our witness, by our acceptance of others, by our openness? We all know that families, especially young families, are often "racing" from one place to another, with lots to do. But did you ever think that this "racing" could also be the race of faith? Christian families are missionary families. Yesterday in this square we heard the testimonies of missionary families. They are missionary also in everyday life, in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith! Keeping the faith in families and bringing to everyday things the salt and the leaven of faith.

3. And one more thought we can take from God's word: **the family experiences joy**. In the responsorial psalm we find these words: "let the humble hear and be glad" (33/34:2). The entire psalm is a hymn to the Lord who is the source of joy and peace. What is the reason for this gladness? It is that the Lord is near, he hears the cry of the lowly and he frees them



Fra Bartolomeo
*The Adoration of the
Christ Child, c. 1499*

from evil. As Saint Paul himself writes: "Rejoice always ... The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5). I would like to ask you all a question today. But each of you keep it in your heart and take it home. You can regard it as a kind of "homework". Only you must answer. How are things when it comes to joy at home? Is there joy in your family? You can answer this question.

Dear families, you know very well that the true joy which we experience in the family is not superficial; it does not come from material objects, from the fact that everything seems to be going well... True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something which we all feel in our hearts and which makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, of mutual support along life's journey. But the basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God, the presence of God in the family and his love, which is welcoming, merciful, and respectful towards all. And above all, a love which is patient: patience is a virtue of God and he teaches us how to cultivate it in family life, how to be patient, and lovingly so, with each other. To be patient among ourselves. A patient love. God alone knows how to create harmony from differences. But if God's love is lacking, the family loses its harmony, self-centredness prevails and joy fades. But the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society as a whole.

Dear families, always live in faith and simplicity, like the Holy Family of Nazareth! The joy and peace of the Lord be always with you!

liturgy church

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

December

30 MONDAY

6:30 Rosalina Canizares
9am Lori Barlow
1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

31 TUESDAY

6:30 Pat Corbett
9am +Freddy Arevalo
6pm +Judy Larken
1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

1 WEDNESDAY

7am +Norman & Rosemarie Trice
8:30am Vu & Trinh Families
10:30 For the Parish
12:30 +Alfred George Edwards
2pm Santana Isabel Bermudez
Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

2 THURSDAY

6:30 +Angela Snow Jordan
9am Barbara Ehman
1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

3 FRIDAY

6:30 +Stella Stofko
9am Francois Astier
8pm +Mrs. Jerry Harris
1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

4 SATURDAY

9am +Barbara Mertens
5pm +Pauline Lowery
7pm +Maria Ngat Thi Vu
1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

5 SUNDAY

7am +For the Parish
8:30 +Virginia Clay
10:30 Those Who Died in Dec.
10:30* +Angela Snow Jordan
12:30pm +William Simpson
2pm Special Intention
5pm +Tim Francois
7:01pm Huynh Hieu Le family
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

*indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

Pro Life Reflection

Thanks to Christmas, all the earth has seen the saving hand of God! A new and radiant vision of His glory has shone upon us, because human life has been joined to Him. He has raised human life to a greater dignity than it had before. Life was always sacred, because it is God's creation. But thanks to Christmas, human life is forever united to Divine Life in and through the Infant King of Bethlehem. *Lord, may all Your people continue to marvel at Your love for human life and reverence this gift as You do.*

Prayer For Families

*We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.*

*We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

First Friday, January 3

All night Eucharistic Adoration immediately following the 8pm Mass. "We fall down in adoration before the Son of God. As we adore Christ, born in a stable.... we feel the shepherds' same amazement and their same joy" (Pope John Paul II). Sign up sheets for All Night Adoration are in the vestibule of the Church, and our newborn King awaits you. Adore Him and honor His Blessed Mother – Come to Eucharistic Adoration!

St. Mary Prayer List

Please Pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: 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 Moebler, Harold Gardiner, Garafano Family, Grant Family, Casey Family, LaCombe Family, Cecelia and Charles Lee, Christopher Ford, Abraham Gomez Ramos, Joan Baker, Barbara Leone, Mary D'Amato, Sal Detrane, Tina Beaversdorf, Robert C. Murphy, Josephine Kreider, Eleanor Mitchell, Virginia Rose, Peter Fisher, Helen Kozyra, Catherine Gordon

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 Cecelia Davis, and all the benefactors of St. Mary Parish.

Young Adult Group

Young Adult Women will meet in the John Paul II house, Monday, December 30 at 8pm.

St. Anne's Sisters in Faith (Mom's Group)

The group will take a two week Christmas break. We will not meet December 27 or January 3. We will resume our meetings starting on January 10, 2014. We wish all of you a most blessed and holy Christmas season. Please contact rocio.o.atkinson@gmail.com for more information.

Optio Secundus Men's Group - Jan. 2

The "Second Option" of the St. Mary's Men's Group meets the first Thursday of each month.

The next meeting is January 2 at the Blue & Grey Brewery. Happy hour at 6:30pm followed by open discussion and optional dinner from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

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

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

Come join like minded Catholic men of the Parish for camaraderie, fellowship, great food and

beer in a relaxed environment. Any questions - contact Mike Storck at 571-289-7878.

Baptism Class - Jan. 2

All parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class before their child receives the sacrament. The class is held in English the first Thursday of each month. The class lasts about an hour to an hour and a half. Both parents are encouraged to attend, attendance by children is discouraged so as not to disrupt the class. The next class is Thursday, January 2 at 7pm and is held in Room 204 of the Parish Life Center. Pre-registration is required, call 540-373-6491

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

Book Club - January 14

The book club will meet on January 14 at 10am at the John Paul II House. Members will give a short summary of their choice from the shelves of the parish library which is open during regular office hours. In addition, attendees will discuss and develop their 2014 reading list. Book recommendations from parish members are always welcome. Kathleen Mahoney, 540-371-2073/bmah761569@aol.com

Mass Intentions

Traditionally, Mass intentions are offered for a loved one or family member, applying the saving reality of the Eucharist and the benefit of grace to anyone, living or deceased.

You may request an intention for a scheduled Mass or an "unscheduled" Mass. "Un-

scheduled" means that the Mass will be offered privately by one of our priests at a concelebrated Mass or a Mass away from the parish. When a surplus of Mass intentions is gathered, they may be sent to a parish in need of intentions, for example, perhaps a mission parish. It is called "unscheduled" because it will not be posted in advance in the bulletin. Unscheduled intentions that are celebrated here in the parish will be listed in the bulletin after they are said. Intentions sent to other parishes will not be listed.

Due to the large number of requests that we receive, a person is allowed to come and request intentions only once a month, and may request up to two scheduled Masses at that time in order to provide opportunity for more people to request Mass Intentions.

Legion of Mary

Need more grace in your life? Join with other men and women who want to make a difference in the community and parish. Visit a Legion of Mary meeting, the sooner the better. Mondays at 10am or Wednesdays at 7pm in the Parish Life Center.

Al Anon Surviving the Weekend Group

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

"as I have done for you

Circle of Love Ministry

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

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

SHARE Ministry

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

January 2014 Menu Value Package (\$21)

(1.6#) Perdue Chicken Drums; (1#) Canadian Bacon; (1#) Beef and Pork Meatballs; (1.5#) Del-Monte Pasta Sauce; (1#) Spaghetti; (1#) Chicken, broccoli, grain stir fry; Potatoes, Onions and 9-12 MORE pounds of fresh produce

Celebrate with Seafood (\$23)

Breaded Buttermilk shrimp (1.5#); 4-4oz portions Salmon; 4-4oz portions Perch; 4-4oz portions Cod

Fully Cooked Grilled Chicken Breast Strips (\$23)

6.5 # Total Weight; 26 – 4oz bags, ready to use in your favorite recipe.

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

We cannot store unclaimed packages. Unclaimed packages will be offered for sale or donated to local charities. Order forms are available at the Parish Office. Order deadline is January 10. Packages will be available for Pick-up, Saturday, January 25, 8am at the Parish Life Center. For more details and volunteer opportunities, please contact Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stmaryfred.org.

Virtual Baby Shower

Please join the CCW for a Virtual Baby Shower for our local Pro-Life groups: Catholic Charities, Paul Stefan Homes, Birthright and Mary's Shelter. We will be collecting baby items before and after each Mass the weekend of January 18th and 19th (Pro-Life Sunday). The Baby Shower is an opportunity to show our tangible support for those who choose life for their babies. So please help us make this a success!

All types of items are needed: blankets, layettes, formula (Enfamil or Similac), wipes, diapers, (all sizes 1 thru 6), laundry detergent, clothing (new only, please) up to 2 years of age; and maternity clothes, new or slightly used. Other things needed for moms are towels, twin size sheets and comforters and standard size pillows as well as gift cards so they can purchase new underwear. Also needed are baby bottles, large and small, sippy

The Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales invite you to a centenary celebration of the death of their foundress, Saint Leonie Aviat

Saint Mary Church on Friday, January 10 at 7:30pm.

Please join us for Solemn Vespers and a presentation on her life, followed by a reception in the Parish Life Center.

Learn more about this holy woman who founded our Oblate community and whose relic was placed in our altar at its dedication.

Join us in discovering how she lived the maxim, "Let us work for the happiness of others."



so you must also do"

cups, baby wash and diaper rash cream. SCRIP cards will also be accepted. You may drop SCRIP cards at the church office in an envelope marked CCW Baby Shower that weekend or before. Members of CCW will be in the back of the church and Holy Cross after all Masses the weekend of January 18th and 19th. If you want to help collect these items before or after mass that weekend, please contact Karen LaRoche at stone48@verizon.net or 540-370-4541. Should you feel as though you'd like to donate a larger item, a pack and play would be welcome as well as the bedding needs for the moms.

Donate Your Used Car to Catholic Charities!

If you own a car you are thinking of replacing, we need your donation. The Catholic Charities Car Ministry takes used vehicles and gives them directly to needy families (so the car needs to be in good running order). In return, Catholic Charities can help you get a tax deduction. We have a long list of families who need transportation. Please contact Bill Hall at 703-841 3898 or whall@ccda.net.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The SVDP Thrift Shop is located in Greenwich Plaza off Lafayette Blvd and open Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, 540-898-9066. The shop is supported by your donations of furniture, clothing and household goods. Monetary donations may be placed in the Poor Boxes near the church doors. The proceeds from the Thrift Shop and your donations are used to help families in need in our community.

Register Now for Catholic Advocacy Day

Join Virginia Bishops and Paul S. Loverde and Francis X. DiLorenzo and the Virginia Catholic Conference at the annual Catholic Advocacy Day on January 30, 2014, from 8am to 1:30pm in Richmond. Catholic Advocacy Day is an opportunity for Catholics to join and meet with lawmakers supporting public policies that protect life, the poor and vulnerable, and promote justice. Bus transportation from Arlington and Fredericksburg is available. For more information and to register, please visit www.vacatholic.org.

Augustine's Brothers: Men's Purity

Augustine's Brothers is a support/accountability group for men who struggle with pornography. With the help of God's grace and the support of other men, it is possible to be free from the chains that keep us from becoming the men that God intended us to be. Augustine's Brothers meets weekly in Reston. For more information call Tim at 727-207-2856 or contact us by email at augustinesbrothers@hotmail.com

Winter Retreat

The Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Mary Washington invites all college age young adults, ages 18-23, to join them for a good time of prayer, reflection, and fun! Friday, Jan. 31 – Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014, Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville, VA. Cost is \$25. Sign up at the Catholic Student Center or contact Alyssa Shaw at alyssa@umwccm.org. Catholic Campus Ministry - UMW, 1614 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. 540-373-6746

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

In today's second reading it tells us "Over all these virtues put on love." Does your marriage reflect the virtues of a holy family? Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you to re-ignite the vows you made on your wedding day. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Feb. 21-23, Sep. 12-14, Nov. 14-16 in Herndon, VA; Apr. 11-13 in Fredericksburg, VA. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: renewmarriage-vanorth.org or call 703-378-4150.

Volunteer at the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank

Warehouse Volunteers are needed on a daily basis, Monday - Thursday. Job duties include sorting through donated products, checking dates, cleaning and/or taping each product and repacking evaluated products in sorted boxes. Volunteers also stock shelves. This job is most important as it facilitates the process of getting food to our partner agencies and ultimately to our community members in need. This is a great task for high school and college students needing some community service hours. Individual and groups welcome. Orientation and training required. Age limit is 14 years old. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have parent/guardian consent.

Fredericksburg Area Food Bank, 3631 Lee Hill Dr, Fredericksburg, VA 22408 telephone: 540-371-7666, email: info@fredfood.org