

**Second Sunday
of Advent**

6 December 2015



what's coming



SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

december

6 SUNDAY, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (CCW)
CCW Mini Bazaar during morning Masses, Parish Life Center.
3:30pm, Middle School Youth Group, Parish Life Center.
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass.

7 Monday, Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

6pm and 7:30pm, Vigil Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Church.
No Religious Education Classes this week (Holy Day of Obligation)
7:30pm, Catholics' Divorce Survival Guide class continues, Courtyard Meeting Room.
8:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, Parish Life Center (following Mass).

8 Tuesday, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—Holy Day of Obligation

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 6:30am, 9am, Noon, 6pm, 7:30pm.
No Religious Education Classes this week (Holy Day of Obligation)
10am, Saint Mary Book Club, John Paul II House.

9 Wednesday, Advent Weekday (Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin)

No Religious Education Classes this week
6:30pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.
7pm, Introductory meeting for Adult Confirmation Classes, Parish Office Library.

10 Thursday, Advent Weekday

No Religious Education Classes this week
9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, Room 100.
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House.

11 Friday, Advent Weekday (Saint Damasus I, Pope)

9am, St. Anne Sisters in Faith, John Paul II House.
7:30pm, Advent Lessons and Carols, Church.

12 Saturday, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Mañanitas, 4:30am, Church, followed by coffee in the Parish Life Center.
9am, Bilingual Mass, Church.
SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass.
Family Dinner **Frank Battista Italian Night**, 6:30 to 8pm, Parish Life Center.
Handcrafts from the Holy Land on sale after 5 and 7pm Masses.

13 SUNDAY, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Handcrafts from the Holy Land on sale after all Masses.
Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (CYM)
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass.
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass.

14 Monday, Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

7:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, Church.
7:30pm, Catholics' Divorce Survival Guide class continues, Courtyard Meeting Room.
8:15 to 9pm, Taizé Prayer Gathering, Church.

15 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

10am, CCW General Meeting, Courtyard Meeting Room
Noon, **Senior Luncheon**, Parish Life Center.
7pm, Adult Confirmation Class, Parish Office Library. First of six classes; registration required.
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering, Courtyard Meeting Room.

16 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

6:30pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.

17 Thursday, Advent Weekday

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

nota bene (*note well, please*):

- ✂ The second collection this weekend is for the **Parish Building Fund**.
- ✂ Celebrate our Parish Feast Day and Holy Day of Obligation: **Immaculate Conception, December 8. Vigil Masses at 6pm and 7:30pm on Monday** evening and Masses throughout day on **Tuesday, December 8 at 6:30am, 9am, Noon, 6pm and 7:30pm.**
- ✂ **Today is the CCW Mini Bazaar**, up until 2pm in the Parish Life Center
- ✂ There will be **no Religious Education Classes on December 7-10** in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Classes will resume on Wednesday, December 9 as regularly scheduled.
- ✂ **Advent Lessons and Carols**, our annual Advent prayer service, is on **Friday, December 11 at 7:30pm**. Saint Mary Choirs present Advent songs along with scriptures and hymns for all to sing.
- ✂ **Handcrafts from the Holy Land will be on sale after all Masses December 12 and 13.** 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.
- ✂ Complete some of your holiday shopping by purchasing **SCRIP gift cards!** Set up an account today and earn rebates for HCA. Email Torie Baldwin at scripcordinator@holycrossweb.com for the school enrollment code.
- ✂ **Subscribe to the Saint Mary website**, stmaryfred.org and receive important updates via email. The subscription box is on the homepage. Enter your email address, click "subscribe."

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 Lois Sullivan, RN, FCN
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 bulletin@stmaryfred.org. Thanks!

this week's
bulletin:

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from our
pastor

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holy cross
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education

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from our
bishop

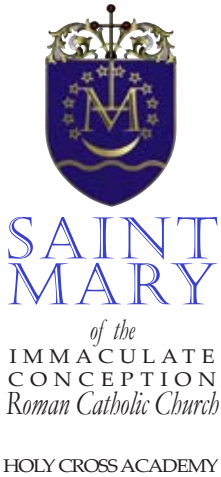
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parish life

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liturgy

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outreach

from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

Before I get started I just want to tell all of you how edified I am by your generosity, your visible kindness to one another and the way you go out of your way to do good for others during this season of preparation. Every moment, your kindnesses are giving glory to God as you donate food, wrap giving tree gifts, drop off blankets and coats. There sure is a lot of need in the world today; there are also your many generous hearts who give in ways that may never be accounted for. Thank you.

As Bugs Bunny used to say, "*Tempus fugit*." We find ourselves going forward ever faster into the year. 18 weeks until Easter. I invite all of you to take this special time particularly and treat it like you might a course. Most courses run about 23 classes during the Church year: count each Sunday as an installment as we live again the unfolding of God's mercy and love in the story of his revelation, the incarnation of his Word, Jesus, his gracious love in giving over the mission of Jesus to his Church, ultimately his institution of Eucharist, passion, death, and resurrection. Do your homework each week and read the next Sunday's reading thoughtfully and prayerfully. If you can, join a small group to gather and share the reflection of the next Sunday's Scriptures. Imagine yourself actively involved in the scene, as if listening to the words for the first time.

Ask yourself two questions:

1. Where does this Word have a particular message for me at this time in my life?
2. In what ways is God inviting me to draw closer to him in my life today?

Ultimately it is a matter of attention, I believe. As long as we are paying attention, the time will not fly quickly past in vain leaving us unchanged.

To help chart the days as they pass, you will be receiving our annual Parish Calendar in the mail soon, our gift to you. Please put it in a handy place, and keep track of all the feasts, celebrations and parish events in the upcoming year.

Of course, this coming year 2016 is the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis, a time that we will concentrate on the depths of the love and mercy of God. Bishop Loverde's letter about it is in today's bulletin.

As with most of Pope Francis' writings, this proclamation is based on a simple foundation of relationship. For mercy to matter, there must be one who is merciful, and there must be one who needs it. People who need mercy are aware of some wrong they have done that needs to be set right, it is never a need taken lightly because it is something we can't do for themselves. For one who is truly merciful, he or she must be freely able to choose to give it, or not. It is a tension between one's large-heartedness and another's heartfelt remorse and helplessness. It is a sacred exchange. There is also an interdependence in the relationship: a truly merciful person must have persons who can receive their mercy in order to know his or her own fulfillment, as well as the need for the seeker of mercy to be forgiven, delivered, redeemed.

What makes this most beautiful in the relationship between God and us is that God has no need of fulfillment in this way, yet he still freely chooses to pour out his mercy upon us.

The parable of the prodigal son in the Bible might better be described as the parable of the prodigal Father.

The result of this relationship is pure joy. Pope Francis sees this as one of the greatest needs in our world today—not only mercy, but the utter joy that is the product of its work. Real, authentic, abiding and unshakable joy. It is what lies at the heart of the Good News, a kind of news that the world is waiting to hear. We proclaim it by our actions, becoming people of mercy, as our heavenly Father is merciful. Having received it ourselves, we know how to share the gift of joy.

The Vatican has put together a really great website for the Jubilee of Mercy: check it out at <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>. Here is the prayer by Pope Francis for the Jubilee: <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/preghiera.html>

God bless you.

Fr. Don

holy cross academy



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*

Exploring nature

Sixth grade students in Sister Frances Carol's Nature Elective have spent several classes outside taking water samples and exploring the creek located on Holy Cross's grounds. Funded by a grant awarded by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and help of VA Master Naturalist Julie Appleton, students have been learning all about local waterways and tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. Our students have learned how to test the temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen level (DO) of the water. Students are learning that these tests are good indicators of overall health of the waterway. We were so pleased with the excellent readings!

We spent time identifying the types of trees at Holy Cross Academy and the various bushes

and plants. We went on our school nature trail to find evidence of erosion, runoff, or other environmental activity. We write weekly journals to document all that we have learned. Most recently, we learned what type of macro-invertebrates show a healthy water system. It's been a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved!

Our school is a place your child can flourish, grow and learn. We would love to give you a tour of our National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. We look forward to telling you all about the wonderful opportunities we provide for our students. Learn about our parish school by visiting our website, www.holycrossweb.com. If you would like to see what we can do for your child, please call our HCA office at 540-286-1600 or St. Mary Preschool at 540-373-7553.

education

religious education

No Religious Education classes

There will be no Religious Education classes this week, December 7-10. This is in honor our parish patron, Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

Parents and students are reminded that it is a holy day of obligation and all parishioners are obligated to attend a **vigil Mass on December 7** at 6pm or 7:30pm or a **Mass on December 8** at 6:30am, 9am, noon, 6pm or 7:30 pm.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

During this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive we **collected 583 items, weighing 623 pounds.** The parish, Knights of Columbus Council 4034 and a donor provided the turkeys. Special thanks to everyone who made Thanksgiving special for so many families.



Gift from Loyola Press to all Catechists

Loyola Press donated a copy of the book *2016: A Book of Grace-Filled Days* by Jessica Mesman Griffith to each Catechist. We invite you to enjoy these readings and reflections each day throughout the Christian year, starting this Advent.



youth ministry



Middle School Youth Group

Join us Sunday **December 6 at 3:30pm for our last MSYG of the year!** Lots of games, fun with friends and a powerful message on Advent.



Giving Tree items due next week!

Please make sure that you bring back your Giving Tree items to Saint Mary **by Monday, December 14.** Gift cards and checks should be returned to the main office, all other items should be placed in the Parish Life Center under the wall crucifix. Thank you all for your support!



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vocations

Are you seeking?

Are you seeking "knowledge and full insight to help you determine" your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Call Father J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, or write: j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

¿Está usted buscando ?

¿Estas buscando "el conocimiento y la visión completa para ayudar a determinar" tu vocación en Cristo como un sacerdote, diácono o en la vida consagrada? Llama al Padre J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, o escríbele a: j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.



November 23, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our Holy Father Pope Francis will signal the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy as he opens the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica. On the following Sunday, December 13, he will open the Holy Door at Saint John Lateran Basilica, his cathedral in Rome and the Mother Church of all Catholic churches. On that same day, I will open the Holy Door at Saint Thomas More Cathedral here in Arlington. This Year of Mercy will continue until November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

A "jubilee"—from the Latin for "joy"—is a special year of grace for the Church. Our most recent Jubilee Year was fifteen years ago in the year 2000. Ordinarily, a jubilee occurs every twenty-five years. However, the pope can declare an extraordinary jubilee in other years for special circumstances.

So what special circumstances would urge the Holy Father to declare this jubilee? In a word, the Holy Father has sensed that our world needs to know of and to experience God's mercy. Pope Francis said in his Bull of Indiction, *The Face of Mercy*, "The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God's mercy. Her life is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy" (25).

The benefits of the Jubilee of Mercy will extend beyond the Church to the whole world if we witness to the Father's mercy with the joy of the Gospel. Is it not this kind of witness that ultimately wins hearts over to the Lord and to His Church? In this Jubilee of Mercy, let us dedicate ourselves to contemplating the Father's mercy and allow ourselves to be flooded with the inner joy that comes from receiving it. Then we will become the convincing heralds of mercy that Pope Francis desires us to be, and we can bring hope to a world which so hungers to know the incomparable love of the Lord Jesus.

The opening of the Holy Door, something most of us see only a few times in our lives, is meant to be a great symbol of Christ. When a pilgrim walks through that door, he or she should be reminded of how the Lord Jesus is the gate through which we pass from sin to grace (cf. Jn. 10:9). I invite each of you during this Jubilee to make a pilgrimage to Saint Thomas More Cathedral, to pass through the Holy Door, and in doing so, to reflect on the many ways and times you have, through Christ, encountered God's merciful love. When you know God's mercy, you will experience Gospel joy. And that enduring joy will make you a convincing herald of the gospel!

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

+ Paul S. Loverde

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

parish life
happening here

Advent Lessons and Carols



Friday, December 11, 2015 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.

parish life happening here

Year of Mercy kick-off event for families

Please join us **today 2:30-4:30pm** for a festive family gathering to kick off the Year of Mercy! We will host an informal discussion of Pope Francis' papal bull *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy), and discuss plans for future holy hours, gatherings, and activities for families in 2016. There will be sweet treats for all and St. Nicholas Day activities for the children. All are welcome! **Questions and/or RSVP** to Michael and Kara Horne: [540.371.4538](tel:540.371.4538), karahorne@gmail.com.

Conversation and Coffee

Get to Know Your Parish Ministries. **Beginning today, December 6** and on the first Sunday of each month thereafter, volunteers from three different ministries will be available in the Parish Life Center **after the 10:30 am Mass** to share their ministries with you. Volunteers from **Birthright, the Parish Health Ministry** and **Young Adult Ministry** look forward to conversation and coffee with you on **Sunday, December 6**.

Cursillo Ultreya gathering

Please join the Cursillo community for an Ultreya gathering on **December 6 at 5pm**. If you have ever attended or are interested in attending a Cursillo retreat, come and learn more, find a group reunion, and listen to a short talk by our guest speaker. The meeting is a potluck and will be held at Lily Alarcon's home, 6 Stratford Hall Court, Fredericksburg. If you have any questions, please contact Lily at [540-752 0974](tel:540-752-0974).

Adult Confirmation classes: Dec./Jan.

Deacon Dick Delio will begin Adult Confirmation classes for all those who have already been baptized and have received first Communion, but have not been confirmed, as well as for those who might want a short refresher course on the Catholic faith. There will be an **introductory meeting on Wednesday, December 9 at 7pm, followed by six, Tuesday evening classes at 7pm**. Please call the parish office to register, leaving your name, phone number and email address.



Sale of handmade olive wood carvings & articles

Please be sure to visit the **Bethlehem Carving Group's display** of handmade olive wood carvings and other articles outside the Church **after all the Masses on December 12-13**. Any purchase you make supports our Bethlehem Christian families who continue to endure much hardship in the Holy Land. Thank you for your support!

CCW general meeting

This month's CCW general meeting will be **Tuesday, December 15, at 10am** in the Courtyard Meeting Room. **Our guest speaker will be our chaplain, Father Lino Rico Rostro**, who will speak about the holy season of Advent. Please join us for

fellowship, refreshments, and the true spirit of Christmas.

Saint Mary book club

The book club will meet on **Tuesday, December 15, at 10am** in the John Paul II House. Instead of following our regular practice of everyone reading the same title, members will report briefly on their free-choice selections from the parish library. The group will also develop its reading list for the 2016 year. Interested parishioners are always invited to attend. For more information, contact Kathleen Mahoney, bmah761569@aol.com or [540-371-2073](tel:540-371-2073).

Caroling with St. Mary Young Adults

Please join Saint Mary Young Adults in singing Christmas Carols to the residents of Hughes Home which is a local assisted living facility in our community. All adults and children welcome! On **Sunday, December 20**, meet outside of the side of Hughes Home (100 Caroline St. Fredericksburg 22401) at 12:15pm. Any questions, email Courtney Sanner at csanner@mix.wvu.edu. RSVPs welcome.

Frank Battista Italian Night

The Frank Battista Italian night will be held on **December 12 in the Parish Life Center from 6-8:30pm**. It will be a candlelit dinner. The menu includes lasagna, spaghetti and marinara sauce, garden salad, and Italian rice custard. The profit will be used to provide a Christmas party and gifts for needy kids. **Santa Claus will be the guest of honor after the 5pm Mass**. The dinner is open to the public and pay-at-the-door. Takeouts are available. The cost is Adults: \$8, Seniors (60&up): \$7, Children (7-12): \$5, Children (under 7): Free. **The max cost per family is \$30**.

happening here



Our Lady of Guadalupe—December 12, Patroness of the Americas

4:30am Mañanitas followed by hot chocolate, 9am Bilingual Mass

Mary to Juan Diego:

"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."

Prayers:

Jesus, I can see your special love of those who are so often invisible in this world. You sent

your mother to give hope to the poor by appearing to Juan Diego.

Open my heart to fill with compassion for those who are hungry and without dignity. Grant me the ability to live simply and to see you in the faces of those around me.

In the darkness of these Advent nights let me be guided by the light of your word. Give me the humility to be led by you and the wisdom to learn from you.

I am grateful for the Savior who awaits us, and eagerly await the time of rejoicing. Let me look forward in hope and

turn to you with great trust, knowing you will guide my steps along the unknown path of this day.

O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...

Amen.



Christmas tree and wreath sales

Christmas tree and wreath sales have begun. The KofC Saint Mary 4034 / St. Jude 13599 Councils' Christmas Tree and Wreath Sales will continue through Sunday, December 20. **Trees will be sold at St. Jude Catholic Church located on 10725 Courthouse Road (Route 208).** Virginia-grown, freshly-cut Fraser Fir prices are

the same as last year and are based on tree height. The best selection and freshest trees are available when the trees first arrive. **The trees will be sold on weekdays from 3pm–8pm and on weekends from 8am–8pm, but not during Mass.**

Please let us know if you are interested in **volunteering**. **Questions** about the Tree Sales can be directed to Tim Fleming at Trees@kofc4034.org. Please

help support our churches and community with your purchase at the Knights of Columbus live Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.

Keep Christ in Christmas: Christmas card sales

Help all to remember God's gift to the world—send religious Christmas cards. **On sale after all Masses.** If you have any questions, please e-mail KCIC@kofc4034.org.



Catholic Mens Group

The next meeting of the Optio Secundus or "Second Option" of the Catholic Men's Group will be **Thursday, December 17** at the Blue & Gray Brewing Co. Deacon Alberto will be there to share his guidance, fellowship and good camaraderie. **The meeting topic** is on how we should strive to focus on the glorious birth of Christ and not the secular and commercial madness that

surrounds us. The Optio Group strives to bring Catholic men together in an ever increasingly secular world to discuss daily applications of our faith, duties and responsibilities to our families and communities. **Happy hour at 6:30pm, followed by an open discussion and optional dinner from 7:30–9:30pm.** **Questions?** Call Kevin Wilkinson at 540-898-8353 or email kwlknsn@yahoo.com.

liturgy called in love

Prayer and Life workshops: Starting February 2016

Develop a relationship with the Lord while learning beautiful prayer methods each week.

Prayer and Life Workshops is a service approved by The Holy See and inspired by Father Ignacio Larrañaga where participants learn and deepen their faith with the art of prayer. This **16-week workshop** will be held at Saint Mary on **Saturdays, from 9.45am–11.45am starting February 6, 2016.**

To register, contact Nannie Espinoza, at ngespinoza@aol.com or **571-236-6904**, or call Leticia Gonzalez at **703-473-7218**. The last day for enrollment is Saturday, February 20. For more information, visit www.tovpil.org.



Shrine to the Holy Family

One of the outward signs of our parish commitment to human life and family will be a shrine to the Holy Family located in front of the Parish Life Center. Please prayerfully consider a donation to support the installation of this shrine. Call Fr. Don directly if you can help.

Saint Mary prayer list

Please pray for those who are sick or in need,

especially: David Arnold, Tracy Biddulph, Carole Page, Christopher Kelly, Ann Dunsmore, Lisa Herr, Madeline Doyle, Elizabeth Ames, Elise Valez, Mary Ullmer, Virginia Bare, Bobbi Palumbo, Joanne Deangeous, Carol Eggleston, Patrick Eggleston, Mary Jean Williams, Don Williams, Tom Bowen, Thomas Novotnak, Peter Stafford, Josephine Kreider, Suzi Eggleston, Melvyn Schreckinger, Betty Ann and Bill Dateno, Harold Gardiner, Marianne Ford, the Carlos Ortiz Family, John Haas, Karen Jones, Jennifer Carlson, Adelyn Wood, Elizabeth Ryan, Dave Kelly, Kevin Murray, Robin Humphries, Jimmy Zollman, Charleen Arnold, Joshua Burgh, Brian Keller, Linda Kaila, Cynthia McCready, Jesse Madison, Kelly Ann Carpenter, Martha Ferrara, Tom and Prov Moeller, Debbie Lloyd, Shana Callirgos, Cameron Richard North, Karen Danis, Maureen Flanagan, Gretchen Maia, Mary Ellen Normand, D.J. Smetek, Jim Evans, Megan Ramsey, Robert and Tenya Mosier, Cesar Corretjer, Josh Oltman, Donelda Wellwood, Keith Kovalefski, Bruce Bates, Joseph Bozicevic, Dyke Stabler, Helen Kozyra, Meredith Dean, Bernice Douglas, Paul Johnson, Alana Cross, Joseph O'Byrne, Veronica Johnson, Hal Ehrhart, Lillian Held, Prudy Tarpey, Mike and Mary Lou Gray, Martha Clemens, Holly Smith, Byers Family, Hunsley Family, Mike Harwich, Charles Dillman, Janie Sherry, Nancy Stewart, Randy Knebal, Larry Hudson, Tracey Hansen, Connie Whatcott, John Whatcott, Patrick Clarke, Jacqui Herr, Valconi Family, Joan Carroll, Larry Dillman, Jessica Ryan, Matt Marshall, John Stehle, Jerome Murphy, Christy Charlebois, Callie Freed, Atkins Family, Paul Johnson, Sandy Martin, Ryan Mott, Tim Murray Family

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

Glenn Dickinson, Paul Fischer, John Moring, Dominick Joseph Petro, Jamal Williams, Lance Schulte, Brian Hellman, Sean Plunkett, Roy Selvidge, Patrick Fenton, David James, Shawn Tupta, Vincent Petillo, Geoff Mann, Christopher Johnson III, Patrick Desmond, Andrew Marshall Smith

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

Masses next weekend

12 December— SATURDAY

5pm Fr. Holmes
7pm Fr. Don

13 December— SUNDAY

7am Fr. Cummings
8:30am Fr. Lino
10:30am Fr. Holmes
HCA10:30 Fr. Don
12:30pm Fr. Lino
2pm Fr. Don
5pm Fr. Cummings
7:01pm Fr. Don

Daily Mass intentions and readings

december

7 MONDAY

6:30 +Maureen Forrester
9am Edward Holzworth
6pm +Peggy McCue
7:30 Beth and Chris Stokes
Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

8 TUESDAY

6:30 Louis Farrell
8:15* +John Hofstee
9am +William Minoque
Noon For the Parish
6pm +John C. Adams
7:30 Matthew and Janett Prohaska
Gn 3:9-20; Eph 1:3-12; Lk 1:26-38

9 WEDNESDAY

6:30 Private Intention
9am Luis Pacheco
Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

10 THURSDAY

6:30 Maureen Flanagan
9am +Barbara Mertens
Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

11 FRIDAY

6:30 +Martha Sewell
9am Holy Souls
Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

12 SATURDAY

9am +Betty Niederkofler
5pm For the Parish
7pm +Andrew Mullady
Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38

13 SUNDAY

7am +Christopher Dudziak
8:30 +Joann James
10:30 +Dorothy Manning
10:30* Catherine Sturtevant
12:30 +Mary Kober
2pm +Pastor Benjamin Velis Martinez
5pm +Bill Andrews
7:01 John Prohaska
Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

22 November Offertory \$33,158.
Cath. Campaign-Human Dev. 8,335.
Parish Building Fund (add'l) 3,140.
29 November Offertory 30,927.
Poor Box for St. Vincent de Paul 699.
Thanksgiving donations-Food Bank 1,051.

The second collection on December 12-13 is for the annual Catholic Charities Collection. 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.

Children's Charity for December

Our Children's Charity for the month of December is the **Office of Migration & Refugee Services (MRS) in Fredericksburg**, which assists refugee families and children, who fled their homeland due to persecution and in fear for their lives. After a lengthy resettlement process through the US Government, approved families arrive with no material possessions other than the clothes on their back. With only 1 to 2 weeks' notice, MRS "Welcomes the Stranger" and assists families with housing, food, employment, schooling for their children and many other urgent needs. For more information visit, www.arlingtondiocese.org/mrs.

Pro-Life reflection for December 6

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



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

This Advent, include a Gift for Life on your Christmas List, by **supporting Project Rachel or the Gabriel Project**. It is easy to make a small, tax-deductible contribution as a gift in the name or memory of a family member or friend, and it will make a big difference in a woman's life. You have the opportunity to assist a frightened young woman who has just learned she is pregnant, or a woman who opted to abort her child and is now experiencing the after effects of her choice. Your gift directly supports the cost of an expectant mother's prenatal vitamins, or counseling for a woman who is experiencing the emotional distress of an abortion.

Please pick up a flyer in the vestibule of the Church and follow the directions, or go to the following link to donate online:
www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife.

way the victory over sin that He offers all of us. For those who feel helpless and hopeless, there is always sufficient grace to do what is right.

Mary, pray for us and for all who feel abortion is the only alternative, that they may say yes to life. Inspire us to visit often the God of Love and Life in the sacrament in which he abides to give the homage that he deserves, that he may guide, protect, and console us! Amen.

SHARE looking for new distribution site

We learned last month that we will no longer have the use our

current location for distribution of our SHARE Program to local participating churches. **The program currently serves 450+ families** within a community of approximately 15 local churches from Bealeton to King George. Participants provide over 1,000 hours of community service each month.

If you are aware or can offer an alternate location within a ten mile radius of Saint Mary it would be greatly appreciated. The need is as follows: approximately 1,000 square feet, indoors preferable (to be out of the bad weather) but not absolutely necessary, access

called in love

to a commercial loading dock and use from 6am–8:30am the third Saturday of each month. We have our own pallet jacks, and take all pallets and packing materials with us. **Please contact Rick Caporali, 540-373-6491.**

Cold Weather Shelter now open

The Cold Weather Shelter will remain open each evening until mid-March. **Teams of Saint Mary volunteers assist on Tuesday evenings** by greeting and checking in clients, setting up sleeping areas, and providing hospitality for the 30+ individuals that utilize the facility. Each participating church is asked to bring 3 dozen items (white socks, small toiletries, etc.).

We are collecting donations of men's underwear sizes medium and large. Please consider how you might be able to support this need—all donations are gratefully accepted at our Parish Office. Although it is a good thing that the temporary shelter will be available during the harsh winter months, it highlights the continuing need for sustainable housing and support mechanisms in our community. For more information about community efforts to help the homeless, please visit **Micah Ecumenical Ministries**, www.dolovewalk.net or **Thurman-Brisben Homeless Shelter**, www.thurmanbrisbencenterv.org.

History submissions

Help us write our history from the missionary period prior to 1858 to the present day. **Please contact Donna Davis at LadyDee519@aol.com or 540-752-5502.**

Welcome to SHARE at St. Mary Parish!

Order Deadline: Dec. 7
Food Pick-Up: Dec. 19

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

(\$22 + 2 hrs community service)
 • Festive and seasonal, healthy and nutritious items such as Roasting Chicken, Potatoes, Onions, Stuffing Mix, Sausage, Elbow Macaroni, Pollock Fillets, Celery, Apples, Oranges, and a Holiday Pie

Pure and Simple Turkey Dinner

(\$33 + 2 hrs community service)
 • 10-14 lb. TURKEY with traditional (frozen) sides: Mixed Vegetables, Green Beans, a Sweet Potato Pie, Candied Yam Patties

Spiral Honey Ham

(\$27+ 2 hrs Community Service)
 • 9-10 lb. Spiral Honey Ham

Groceries for the Holidays: Value & Turkey

(\$44 + 2 hrs Community Service)
 • 10-14 lb. Turkey with Festive and seasonal, items such as a Roasting Chicken, Potatoes, Onions, Stuffing Mix, Sausage, Elbow Macaroni, Pollock Fillets, Celery, Apples, Oranges, and a Holiday Pie

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



SHARE Order Form

Value Package (\$22)
 _____ x \$22. = \$ _____
 Turkey Dinner (\$33)
 _____ x \$33. = \$ _____
 Spiral Honey Ham (\$27)
 _____ x \$27. = \$ _____
 Value + Turkey (\$44)
 _____ x \$44. = \$ _____

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.