

**Third Sunday
of Advent**

13 December 2015



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

what's coming



SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

december

13 SUNDAY, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Olive wood 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 *until line ends*, Additional **Advent Confessions**, Church.

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

18 Friday, Advent Weekday

9am, St. Anne Sisters in Faith, John Paul II House.

7pm, Bunco, Parish Life Center.

7pm *until line ends*, Additional **Advent Confessions**, Church.

19 Saturday, Advent Weekday

Confessions according to the regular schedule: 8am and 3:30pm, *until the line ends or Mass begins*.

10am, Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas Party, Parish Life Center.

SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass.

20 SUNDAY, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (Trail Life 4034)

SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass.

3:30pm, Health Ministry Meeting, Courtyard Meeting Room.

CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass.

21 Monday, Advent Weekday (Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church)

No Religious Education Classes this week.

7pm *until line ends*, Additional **Advent Confessions**, Church.

7:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, Church.

22 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

7pm *until line ends*, Additional **Advent Confessions**, Church.

23 Wednesday, Advent Weekday (Saint John of Kanty, Priest)

7pm *until line ends*, Additional **Advent Confessions**, Church.

7pm, **Posada** (Bilingue/Bilingual), Parish Life Center.

24 Thursday, Advent Weekday, Christmas Vigil

Vigil Masses for Christmas 4 and 6pm (Church and Holy Cross), 8:30pm (Church)

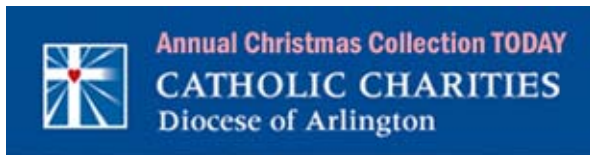
11pm, Carols, Concert preceeding the Midnight Mass.

25 Friday, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)

Masses for Christmas, 12am, 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2pm, all in the Church.

26 Saturday, Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

nota bene (*note well, please*):



- ✂ The **second collection** this weekend is for the annual **Catholic Charities Collection**. Thank you for your generosity!
- ✂ **Handcrafts from the Holy Land will be on sale after all Masses this weekend.** 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.
- ✂ Join us Monday, **December 14, at 8:15pm** for our **Taize Prayer Gathering** in the Church. During this ecumenical prayer service, we ask God to bring healing to our world and end the divisions that separate peoples.
- ✂ Our **Parish Christmas Collection** will be taken up **next weekend**. This year, our collection will support The Holy Land Christians Society for the benefit of the **Creche Orphanage in Bethlehem** in the Holy Land, **St. Joseph's School** in Gabis, Namibia, and the **Fredericksburg Office of Catholic Charities**. Thank you for your generosity!
- ✂ Watch your mailboxes! **Our Christmas gift to you**—our 2016 Parish Calendars—was mailed out on December 8.
- ✂ Please note that there will be **no confessions** on Saturday, December 26.

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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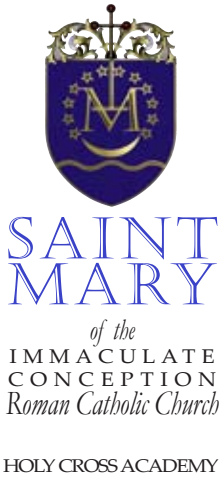
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from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

All of us have struggled with the reality of terrorism, particularly the randomness and the senselessness of acts of killing that are unthinkable to civilized people. All of us have imagined the pain of those who have been so broken by these criminals. It is natural to react in anger when confronted with our powerlessness to do anything to prevent this violence.

But the anger that has boiled over largely has not been properly directed. In the absence of someone to blame, without a good explanation, it is often the case that people blame God. How could God allow this? Think. If he didn't allow us to sin, nor could we freely choose to love. There would be no virtue in our human existence, because we would not be free to act.

Or else we look around and see who else is to blame. I'm hearing this happen too often these days, even outside church after Mass! Extremists breed extreme reactions: this means they have accomplished their goal of instilling fear and violent response. What happened at the community meeting in Spotsylvania a few weeks ago—we can call that exhibit A. Yet, I want to say that there are in our community so many more people who could have brought a balanced, rational dialogue to the front of the room had they attended. I only realized at the last minute there was a movement among some of our own parishioners to bring hate to the meeting. That is why I attended. If needed, I was going to stare down Catholics and remind them who they are.

When Pope Francis was in Nairobi, though he didn't specifically refer to the terrorism in Paris, he said that God must never be used to justify hatred and violence. This goes for both those who act in hate, and for those who respond in hate. The Pope warned the religious leaders that "young people are being radicalized in the name of religion to sow discord and fear, and to tear at the very fabric of our societies." "How important it is that we be seen as prophets of peace, peace-makers who invite others to live in peace, harmony and mutual respect," he said. The Vatican has said the Paris attacks have heightened the Pope's sense of urgency about the need for interreligious dialogue.

We must join in dialogue with our Muslim brothers and sisters, to learn that hatred and

killing is not the core teaching of Islam, but rather an extremist interpretation of a faith that has been confused with and manipulated by political power from its earliest days. Fundamentalism, in every religion, in every country in the world, has long produced the tragic effect of violence, persecution and the downward spiral of hatred.

Unfortunately, we live in a world today corrupted by self-interest and ignorance, a culture that will believe any blog or soundbite that seems to feed their fear and insecurity. Fundamentalism, by its nature, is the use of truth to serve the agenda of the individual. It is a twisting of something shared in common by all, whether in the form of scripture or tradition, to the exclusion of those who do not agree with the opinion of one person or sect. A sacred text, for example, may be read in different ways and interpreted in completely opposite, contradictory ways. This is true whether we consider the Hebrew Scriptures, the Christian Bible, or the Qur'an. Personal opinion reigns.

Leaders of Muslim communities across the world have come together with a consistent cry that this radicalization of Islam does not represent them. These are crimes and the ones who do these unthinkable acts in the name of God are criminals. We may not condemn an entire people for the individuals among them who are criminals. Consider, for example, how the extremists are attracting, "radicalizing," people from all countries and diverse backgrounds—not religious backgrounds, but more likely backgrounds of emotional and psychological sickness—who are "joining up" with the culture of hate and killing to feel powerful.

Let's remember what makes us Christian. We do not return hate for hate, killing for killing. While doing what is necessary for security and justice, we must remain open to dialogue so as to end the cycle of misunderstanding and ignorance, the very reality that the extremists are manipulating right now to promote fear, control our lives, and escalate world tension. Finally, we must intentionally discover, engage and promote what is good in each other in order to build a society that is free and seeks the good of all, building friendship through the encounter that will allow us to confront the evil of our world together and uncover a mutual foundation of peace.

God bless you. *Fr. Don*

holy cross academy



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*

Our first graders share their knowledge

First graders can make great teachers too. After completing a unit on habitats, our first graders created dioramas featuring one of the animals that lived in their chosen habitat. The children learned all about each environment and then had the opportunity to choose the animal they would like to feature. There was no limit to their creativity and ingenuity.

Learning about the ocean provided the children with many choices. One student decided to feature hammerhead sharks and another went with dolphins. Students who focused on ponds may have designed their dioramas around frogs or snakes. The desert made the children think about lizards and camels and the ways that animals adapt to the dry, hot environment. Students enjoyed exploring the many colorful animals that

populate rainforests. They explored the world of arctic foxes, black bears and caribou.

After completing their unit of study and finalizing their dioramas, the children invited the seventh graders down to their classrooms so that they could share their dioramas and all they had learned with them. The seventh graders enjoyed sharing this special time with their friends in first grade and learning about so many animals and habitats.

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

Christmas Break

This is the last week of Religious Education classes before Christmas break. **Classes resume with Family Week on January 4-7.** Parents are asked to accompany their children to class.

Parent Meeting

First Penance and First Communion Parents Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7pm in the church.

First Communion Prep

First Communion preparation is for the child who is about to receive Our Lord for the first time. It can also be a time of growth for the rest of the family.

We invite you to make this time a new chapter in your family's faith life. Just think, one more member of your family will be able to participate fully in the Eucharistic worship by receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Prayerfully consider how the entire family can experience an improved relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

May God bless you and your family on this faith journey—a preparation for a lifetime of faith.

Your parish is your partner in this preparation, and is committed to supporting you in your responsibility as Christian parents.

youth ministry



Giving Tree items due tomorrow

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!

Last High School Youth Group of the year: Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

Join us Sunday Dec. 20th for our last High School Youth Group of the year with a night of games, fun, Christmas music and ugly Christmas sweater contest.



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WE WELCOME YOU HOME. 540-373-6491

parish life called in love



HCA's Nativity Project

During Advent this year, the elementary grades at Holy Cross Academy decided that they would join together to tell the Christmas story all along the school hallway. Each grade worked on one of the Christmas mysteries and created a panorama of this holy event. The kindergartners started with the Annunciation. First grade illustrated Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Our second graders created their display of the Birth of Jesus. Third graders showed us the shepherds and fourth grade displayed the kings' journey to the manger.

Our Nativity display culminated in the fifth graders' interpretation of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Each mystery was portrayed twice, with each class joining in.

As the children went through the Christmas story, they decided how they could best portray their chosen event to the rest of the school. Under the guidance of their teachers, each child in kindergarten through 5th grade contributed to this beautiful rendering of the great gift of Christmas.



happening here



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.

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.**

Thinking of a vocation?

All were questioning in their hearts—Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, or write: j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Todos se cuestionaban en sus corazones—¿Estas considerando tu vocación como sacerdote, diácono o en la vida consagrada? Llama al Padre J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, o escríbele a: j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Second Monday of the month, 8:15-9pm.

TAIZÉ

Monday December 14, 8:15pm

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

Saint Mary Catholic Church

You are invited to a monthly gathering of prayer in the ecumenical tradition of the Taizé community in France.

It is our hope that this monthly prayer gathering brings together Christians of all churches as we realize a bit more each day that we must rely upon God's power to bring about unity among all who follow Jesus, "as he and the Father are one."

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

parish life happening here



Thanksgiving Mass helps fill the Food Bank

On Thanksgiving, the good people of Saint Mary donated **1,949 pounds of food** to the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank which will provide **over 1,500 meals** to those in need. A collection of **\$1,051** was also donated to the Food Bank which will provide another **2,000-plus meals**. *Thank you for your generous giving to the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank!*



Blankets for Refugees

The first graders coordinated collecting the blankets for the Syrian refugees here at HCA. They collected 78 blankets.

More Coats and Blankets

Thanks to all who delivered warm coats and blankets to help the 2.2 million refugees who have fled Syria into Turkey. Last Monday we filled half a 16-foot UHaul truck on its way to a container bound for Turkey! Our prayers go with these gifts with much hope for peace.

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.

parish life happening here



Saint Mary Apparel

Looking for last minute gift ideas? Saint Mary apparel is available for order at the parish office, we can prepare a gift certificate for January delivery.

Buy gift cards for all your Christmas shopping

Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and set up an online account to **place orders for gift cards to over 300 retailers!** For each gift card ordered, the retailer gives Saint Mary/Holy Cross Academy a rebate. It's a great way to support Saint

Mary and HCA and get all your shopping done. Orders placed Monday are ready by Friday. Some of the retailers you can purchase are Amazon, Macy's, Target, Walmart, JC Penny, Belk and so many more!

Email the Scrip Coordinator

at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com to get our school code so we get credit for your purchase. Then place an order, send in your payment, and pick up your cards at the church office or after Mass. It's that easy! **We will have sales after most Masses this weekend.**

Christmas trees: One more week

There is only one week left to get your Virginia grown Fraser Fir tree. The KofC Christmas Tree sales fundraiser continues through Sunday, December 20.

The trees are selling at St. Jude Catholic Church, 10725 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania on weekends from 8am-8pm

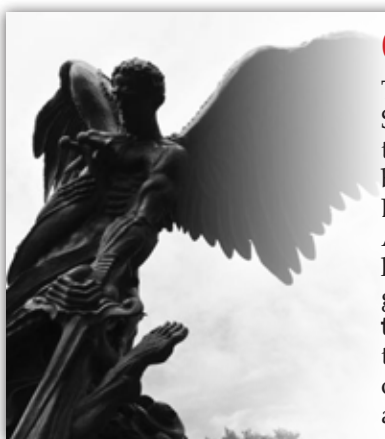
and weekdays from 3pm-8pm, but not during Mass.

If you like to buy a live tree, please consider helping the Knights of Columbus with this important fundraiser and buy from us. Our profits go back to charity and church support.

Questions about the Tree Sales can be directed to Tim Fleming via e-mail at Trees@kofc4034.org.

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

Now available: One-time gifts through Faith Direct

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

New this month is the option for making one-time gifts through Faith Direct. We invite you to consider this convenient payment method this Christmas season.

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



Gifts for Life: Project Rachel and 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. 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. Flyers are in the vestibule of the Church or donate online: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife.

Tis the Season...To Cover Your Cough

Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick! Influenza (flu) and other serious respiratory illnesses like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.

To help stop the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put your used tissue in the waste basket.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- You may be asked to put on a facemask to protect others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

How should you wash your hands?

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them

What should you do if you don't have soap and clean, running water?

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of microbes on them in most situations. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of microbes on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

Subscribe to the Health Link newsletter

Our Health Link newsletter features information about healthy living, disease prevention, and general health resources. To receive the next e-newsletter, email lsullivan@stmaryfred.org. Suggestions for future topics always welcome.



ST. MARY
of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HEALTH MINISTRY

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

6 December Offertory \$ 37,126.
Parish Building Fund \$ 8,145.
Poor Box for St. Vincent de Paul 355.

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 13

When Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego, the Aztecs were practicing human sacrifice. Mary's image brought the message that God was with them—so much, in fact, that He became a child carried in Mary's womb. This gave them hope, and they stopped their human sacrifice and became Christian. *Jesus, through Our Lady of Guadalupe may we spread Your hope everywhere.*

Parish Christmas Collection for Special Charities December 19-20

As many of you know, every year at Christmas we take up a special collection for charity. None of the money collected stays at Saint Mary, but is distributed as a gift from our Parish to different charities. The collection this year will be taken up on December 19-20 for the following organizations:

The Holy Land Christians Society for the benefit of the Creche Orphanage in Bethlehem in the Holy Land. The orphanage, managed by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, has a long history in Bethlehem and has welcomed orphans, since its foundation in the late 19th century. The Creche provides services of high quality for children and people of the Palestinian Authority Area and continues to function thanks to the support of its benefactors.

St. Joseph's School in Gabis, Namibia is administered by the Oblate Sisters of Sr. Francis de Sales. During the school year, the Sisters provide housing and food, as well as some clothing, for the 185 children who attend the school. The families cannot pay so the Sisters rely upon generous benefactors to help them provide an excellent Catholic Education for their children. The children of St. Joseph are very proud of their school and are grateful for all they receive.

The Fredericksburg Office of Catholic Charities, located on Stafford Avenue next door to the Parish, provides Family Counseling Services for Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties. Many times the children and adolescents who come in for counseling are in financial need, and contributions from our parish will be used to assist with the financial cost of their counseling.

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

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.

Especially at this time of year, 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 St. Mary's Parish Life Center.

outreach called in love

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. For more information about community efforts to help the homeless, please visit **Micah Ecumenical Ministries**, www.dolovewalk.net or **Thurman-Brisben Homeless Shelter**, www.thurmanbrisbencenters.org.

SHARE looking for new distribution site

We learned last month that we will no longer have the use of 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.** Please contact Rick Caporali, 540-373-6491.

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.**

Saint Mary prayer list

Please pray for those who are sick or in need,

especially: 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, Felipe and Mildred Sanchez, Dale Meyn, Raymond and Barbara Stauble, Gloria Fontenot

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

Deacon Delio will assist at the Sunday 7am and 10:30am Masses.

Deacon Alberto will assist at the Sunday 8:30am and 10:30am Masses.

19 December—SATURDAY

5pm Fr. Cummings
7pm Fr. Don

20 December—SUNDAY

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

Daily Mass intentions and readings

december

14 MONDAY

6:30 All Souls
9am +Peggy O'Rourke
Nm 24:2-7,15-17; Mt 21:23-27

15 TUESDAY

6:30 +John Doherty
9am Donna Green
Zep 3:1-2,9-13; Mt 21:28-32

16 WEDNESDAY

6:30 +Nell Weld
9am +Aldo Orlandi, Sr. & Family
Is 45:6-8,18,21-25; Lk 7:18-23

17 THURSDAY

6:30 +Theresa Winiesdorffer
8:15* +Craig Daniel Bennett
9am All Souls
Gn 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17

18 FRIDAY

6:30 +Raymond Corpe
9am Maureen Lesley
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

19 SATURDAY

9am Ismael Bermudez
5pm +Larry Smith
7pm For the Parish
Jgs 13:2-7,24-25; Lk 1:5-25

20 SUNDAY

7am +David Niederkofler
8:30 +Helen Novick
10:30 +Jacob Michael Storck
10:30* +John Murphy
12:30 +Joseph Michell
2pm John Prohaska
5pm +James Caplin
7:01 +Adam Lincoln
Mi 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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