

**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

**20 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

### 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 Committee 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.  
No YOUCAT meeting.

### 24 Thursday, Advent Weekday, Christmas Vigil

**Vigil Masses for Christmas** 4 and 6:30pm (Church and Holy Cross), 8:30pm (Church)  
11pm, Carols, Concert preceeding the Midnight Mass.  
Parish Offices closed.

### 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.  
Parish Offices closed.

### 26 Saturday, Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass.  
No confessions.

### 27 SUNDAY, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (Saint Anne's Sisters in Faith)  
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass.  
No CYM Dinner or HS Youth Group.

### 28 Monday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

No Religious Education Classes this week.

### 29 Tuesday, The Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas (Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr)

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

### 30 Wednesday, The Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

No YOUCAT meeting.

### 31 Thursday, The Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas (Saint Sylvester I, Pope)

6pm **Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (Holy Day of Obligation), Church.  
Parish Office closes at 4:30pm.

### 1 Friday, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30am, and 2pm (Spanish), all in the Church.  
Parish Offices closed.

### 2 Saturday, Saint Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass.  
6pm, KofC Monthly Family Dinner, Parish Life Center.

nota bene (*note well, please*):

✂ This weekend, our **Parish Christmas Collection** will support the **Creche Orphanage in Bethlehem**, Palestine; the Oblate Sisters' mission school **St. Joseph's School** in Gabis, Namibia; and our **Fredericksburg Family Counseling Center of Catholic Charities**. Thank you for your generosity!

✂ **Vigil Masses, Christmas Eve:** 4 and 6:30pm (Church and Holy Cross), 8:30pm (Church), **Carols concert** at 11pm leading up to Midnight Mass.

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

✂ Please note that there will be no confessions on Saturday, December 26. The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25, and from 4:30pm on December 31 until Saturday morning, January 2.

✂ Already it is only two weeks before we begin Bishop Barron's 6-week series with Fr. Don on **The Mystery of God: Who God Is and Why He Matters** (please see p. 7) on January 5!! The Study Guide for the program costs \$20. Fr. Don needs to know if you are coming for planning purposes. **RSVP by 4:30pm on DECEMBER 31:** call the office or email him [frrooney@stmaryfred.org](mailto:frrooney@stmaryfred.org) by and let us know you will join us.

*We wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas holiday - may this celebration fill us with a deep and abiding sense of the nearness of God with us, and bring healing and peace to our families and to our world. Merry Christmas!*

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](mailto:stmary@stmaryfred.org)  
Mon.-Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm;  
*students staff office weekdays until 9pm,*  
*Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm*

Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney  
Fr. Keith Cummings  
Fr. Stephen Holmes  
Fr. Lino Rico Rostro  
Deacon Alberto Bernaola  
Deacon Dick Delio

Executive Assistant, Rick Caporali  
Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski  
Director of Sacred Music, David Mathers  
Secretary, Mary Fitch

**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY** 540-286-1600  
250 Stafford Lakes Parkway  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406-7234  
Principal, Sr. Susan Louise Eder, O.S.F.S.

**ST. MARY PRESCHOOL** 373-7553  
Director, Nanci Scharf

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE** 373-6491  
Director, Aristides Lucas  
Associate Director, Karen Sturtevant

**YOUTH MINISTRY** 373-6491  
Director, Leo Chavarria

**HEALTH MINISTRY** 845-3031  
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](mailto:bulletin@stmaryfred.org). Thanks!

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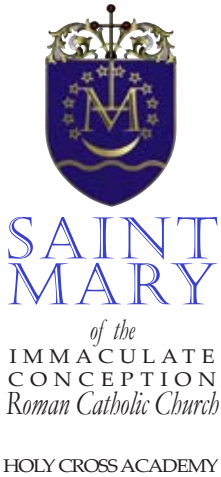
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## from our pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Mary,

A week ago Saturday I was walking from our usual 8am Confessions to celebrating a 9am Mass at our Sisters' Convent. I was cutting through the Courtyard Meeting Room and I came upon this bunch of wrappin' elves. I took a picture. It is group of women in the parish who are always quietly going about their business doing all kinds of things you probably will never know about. I am very grateful to them for all that they do.

They were wrapping books for children: children at Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, children in the Migrant and Refugee Services program of Catholic Charities, and children at the Children's Oncology Ward and Mary Washington Hospital. The books themselves—more than 100—were donated by our children at Saint Mary Preschool.

I was just filled with joy. (It was the basis of my homily for this past Sunday—see page 9 if you're interested in hearing it.) Joy because I know God is SO pleased with the work that we do. We are building a culture of joy. And you inspire me.

Actually, that is what I love most about our community at Saint Mary. We just do these things because it is *normal* for us to do them. Without a lot of fanfare, without any expectation of being recognized. I am so grateful that you "get it."

I recently did a summary of all the things we do for Catholic Charities: we are able to check every box in their survey which seeks to know how parishes are involved in outreach in the diocese. We are involved in emergency assistance for providing clothing (both collections and distribution), financial assistance and emergency food boxes for people who come to us. We have huge

collections of food for the Food Bank and have several significant ministries who prepare food for people and deliver it. We support and collect furniture for our Refugee Services.

We are deeply involved in Micah Ecumenical Ministries as a principal source of volunteers as well as support in their amazingly successful rapid rehousing programs to end homelessness and care for our neighbors who are less fortunate. Our involvement with Mary's Shelter, Birthright the cold night shelter, as well as community dinners, homeless lunches (Holy Cross) and summer meals for kids at Stafford Junction are an incredible blessing in the lives of so many.

Our sponsorship of the Family Counseling Center next door is one of the best things we have ever done as hundreds of people receive the care they need through Catholic Charities. Counseling and support groups for teens and families continue to be a vital outreach. This year we added a staff nurse to care for our physical health, as well.

We reach out to our parishioners in need with the senior luncheons, ministry visits to nine nursing homes and the hospital by staff, volunteers, religious education teams and Holy Cross Academy programs, and receptions at funerals. More than a dozen Christmas programs crown the year with your goodness. Thank you for being so generous with your time, your talents and your treasure for the good of all God's good people. May our example continue to widen the circle of God's love, especially now that his love is about to become visible among us. Merry Christmas. May your goodness return to you a hundred-fold.

God bless you.

*Fr. Don*



# holy cross academy



*A National  
Blue Ribbon  
School of  
Excellence,  
2012*

## Giving and helping others

Advent at Holy Cross Academy is filled with many traditions and activities to help all of us prepare for the great feast of Christmas. Most of these traditions involve giving and helping others during this blessed season.

Since Holy Cross opened in 1998, we have collected items for the 'Baby Closet' at Catholic Charities. Last week, our children came to school loaded down with diapers, baby lotion, formula and everything else that is needed to take care of God's precious children. After each child brought forth his or her gift for the babies, our 8th graders presented their traditional telling of the Christmas story. This ceremony is a cherished tradition in our school and one we look forward to each year.

To help us to get into the Christmas spirit, our school chorus, *Youth of Note*, joined with our band, strings and keyboard program to fill our school with Christmas music. The songs delight

our hearts and pointed us toward the beauty of this season.

Each class at Holy Cross chooses a Hope Project to assist a group of people who need the gift of hope in their lives. Several classes sponsor a family for Christmas so that they can experience the joy of this season as well.

The Oblate Sisters, faculty, staff, students and families of Holy Cross Academy wish you a most Blessed Christmas!

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](http://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 until January

There will be no Religious Education classes for the next two weeks. **The next week of classes is January 4-7.** This will be Family Week and **parents should attend class with their children.** The parish is once again preparing another program for Family Week based on our parish theme of "People of Thankfulness." Sister Susan Louise is writing a curriculum where we will reflect and share



about all the things for which we are truly thankful, and bring that visually into the church

once Christmas Decorations are taken down on January 10..

### Christmas gifts for families

This year Religious Education families have again generously donated gifts to bring Christmas cheer to families in our program.

**Our sincere thank you to all donors.** Your generosity is truly keeping Christ in Christmas. Merry Christmas to you and all your family members.

# youth ministry



### Tonight! Last High School Youth Group of the year

**Join us this Sunday** (6pm dinner; 7pm meeting) for our last High School Youth Group of the year with a night of games, fun, Christmas music and our ugly Christmas sweater contest.

### Calendar notes

**High School Youth Group:** We will not meeting December 27 or January 3. **YOUCAT:**

We will not meet December 23 or 30. See you again in January!

### Join us next year: Youth Ministry opportunities

On **Wednesdays from 6:30pm-8pm**, YOUCAT meets at the John Paul II House. On **Sundays, join us at 6pm** for dinner followed by High School Youth Group at **7pm-8:30pm**.

### Search our hashtag

**Get Involved, be transformed!** Whether you are on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, you can always search our hashtag to see what our youth group has been up to. (Please remember to always use the internet wisely and remember that not all that you find there is true or consistent with people of faith!)

**#GetInvolvedBeTransformed**



### Life is VERY Good

On **January 22**, Saint Mary Youth Ministry is heading to the Patriot Center and Washington, D.C. 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 Jackie Francois Angel and Josh Blakesley Band. We will then head to the **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. in prayerful protest and March to the Supreme Court for an end to Roe vs. Wade. Permission slips are available on our website. **Space is limited so sign up early!**

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twitter.com/StMaryCYM

# parish life called in love

## Caroling with Saint Mary Young Adults

Please join Saint Mary Young Adults **Sunday, December 20**, outside Hughes Home (100 Caroline St., Fredericksburg) at 12:15pm. Any questions, email Courtney Sanner at [csanner@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:csanner@mix.wvu.edu).

## Called by God? ¿Llamados por Dios?

**It is by God's will that we have been sanctified**—How is God calling you to grow in holiness? He may be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Contact Father J.D. Jaffe at (703) 841-2514 or [j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org). **Es por la voluntad de Dios que hemos sido santificados**—¿Cómo está Dios llamándote a crecer en la santidad? Quizás por una invitación al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada. Llame al Padre J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, o escríbele: [j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org).

## Talleres de Oración y Vida: comenzando febrero 2016

Desarrollar una relación con el Señor mientras aprenden métodos de oración hermosas cada semana. **Talleres de Oración y Vida** es un servicio aprobado por la Santa Sede e inspirado por el Padre Ignacio Larrañaga donde los participantes aprenden y profundizar su fe con el arte de la oración. Este **taller de 16 semanas** serán ofrecido aquí en Saint Mary los **sábados, de 9:45–11:45am comenzando el 6 de febrero, 2016**. Para inscribirse, póngase en contacto con Nannie Espinoza, en [ngespinoza@aol.com](mailto:ngespinoza@aol.com) o 571-236-6904, or llame a Leticia Gonzalez al 703-473-7218. El último día para la inscripción es el sábado, 20 de febrero. Para más información, visite [www.tovpil.org](http://www.tovpil.org).

## looking ahead... grow in your faith

### The Mystery of God and Why He Matters

**What do we really mean by "God"?** Atheism is on the rise. Skeptical thinkers vigorously attack belief in God as irrational or, even worse, dangerous. The so-called New Atheism has attracted millions of young people thanks to bestselling books such as *The God Delusion* and *God Is Not Great*. How should Christians respond? How can we turn the tide of secularism and draw people back to God?

**Join us in the church on Tuesdays January 5 & 12, Wednesday January 20, and Tuesdays January 26, February 2 & 9, all from 7:30-9pm** for this new film series and study program.

**The Study Guide costs \$20** for each participant, and we ask that as many as are able to purchase the book. Fr. Don will purchase 100, but **RSVP by 4:30pm DEC 31** to be sure. Call the office or email Fr. Don at [frrooney@stmaryfred.org](mailto:frrooney@stmaryfred.org).

Who is God? And why does he matter? Learn the answers yourself, and also discover how to share them with others - especially those who no longer believe.



### Pray with Scripture: Lectio Divina

Fr. Don Rooney will offer this class on a second occasion next year on the great tradition in the Church of how to pray with Sacred Scripture. Did you know that the Bible is, first and foremost for Catholics, not a textbook but a prayerbook? We need to practice our skills of listening! Come and learn a way of prayer that might change your life. **We will meet in the church 7-9pm Thursday, February 11.**

## all are welcome. join us.



parish life

# happening here

*Eighth graders at Holy Cross Academy celebrate Advent with their traditional telling of the Christmas story.*





# parish life happening here



*Holy Cross Academy's Advent Tree: Students donate diapers, baby lotion, formula and everything else that is needed to take care of God's precious children. These items are donated to the 'Baby Closet' at Catholic Charities.*

## Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

PEOPLE of THANKFULNESS SOWING SEEDS of MERCY.

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### For your weekly meditation

Did you know that since the middle of October, Fr. Don has made his Sunday homilies available as an audio recording on the Saint Mary website?

Visit [stmaryfred.org](http://stmaryfred.org), hover over "Welcome" in the menu and then select "Meditations."

Or, if you **subscribe to our website**, you will receive an email with a link when the audio has been posted on the site. To subscribe, scroll to the bottom of the page and **enter your email address in the text box above the purple "Subscribe" button**.

Included in each post is the text to all of that Sunday's readings.

# 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.

## CCW thanks you!

The CCW mini Craft Bazaar was very successful! A special thank

you to Wanda Cushing and her craftyladies who meet weekly making all the wonderful crafts for sale. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group. A big thank you also to all those who once again baked for the bake/cookie sale and to Arlene and Lucy who work so hard making this such a huge success. Winners of the annual raffle have been notified and over all the total profit was \$3,122.11 (\$666.91 of this was from the bake sale) all of which will be added to our account for charitable giving this Spring.

## Buy gift cards for all your Christmas shopping

Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://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](mailto: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.**

## Last day to buy your Christmas trees

**The KofC Christmas Tree sales fundraiser ends today, Sunday, December 20.** Stop by St. Jude Catholic Church, 10725 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania from 8am-8pm (trees not sold during Masses). Questions about the Tree Sales can be directed to Tim Fleming via e-mail at [Trees@kofc4034.org](mailto:Trees@kofc4034.org).

December 8, 2015

## Dear Fr. Rooney & Good People of Saint Mary,

**On behalf of the mothers, families and babies served by Birthright, Thank You,** Fr. Rooney and Saint Mary for your generous monthly contributions that have allowed Birthright to provide needed services to women seeking our assistance and so by serving mothers, we serve their unborn babies. As a result, many women considering abortions have

chosen life. How far we've come as an organization and as a presence in the Fredericksburg community! In 1976, a few good souls knew that to combat the "choice of abortion" another choice needed to be made available to women in our community facing an unplanned pregnancy. They simply asked, "How can we help you have your baby?" And so began the quiet, purposeful presence of Birthright of Fredericksburg.

**Thirty nine years later, we have**

**just completed a record year both in terms of donations, women served by Birthright and dedicated, talented volunteers.**

**We're often asked:** Who do we serve? Who are our Moms and babies?

Our Moms are all ages and come to us from all ethnic, economic and social backgrounds. They are married, single, separated and divorced. Many are abandoned by family and friends. They often feel alone and have lost hope.



# liturgy happening here



## Advent Lessons and Carols

We were filled with joy by the beautiful Lessons and Carols program prepared by our com-

bined choirs from all Masses, adults, teens and children's choirs on Friday, December 11. Our choirs truly have never sounded more beautiful as they continue to grow! We thank

David Mathers, Donna Green, David Garrison and all our musicians for providing such a memorial and prayerful addition to our spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus this year.

Birthright volunteers provide the ears to listen nonjudgmentally, the eyes to see the women as the individuals they are and the heart to offer unconditional assistance with love. By serving the mothers, we serve their babies.

So how do we measure our success? **The following is one of our favorite stories**—It is Birthright in a nutshell:

Years ago, a mother came to Birthright with her pregnant teenage daughter. The mother wanted her daughter to have an abortion. The

embarrassment, financial responsibilities, "what would her church members think" all added up to what felt like a hopeless situation. The young woman and Birthright volunteer counselor were able to convince the mother that abortion was not the answer. Years later the volunteer ran into the mother who began crying as she thanked the Birthright volunteer for taking the time to listen to her fears and talk her through a seemingly hopeless situation. But most of all, the tears flowed as she looked at the gift of her beautiful young

grandchild, the joy of her life. This is how Birthright measures success.

We could not do this work without your support and prayers. Thank you.

Let us pray for each other, that we have the courage to continue this Pro-Life work in whatever capacity we have been blessed with—one mom and one baby at a time.

## Peace and Blessings!

**Lily Alarcon**  
*Director*



# operations given in love

## Weekly Offertory

The financial report will be published in the December 27, 2015 bulletin due to early holiday deadlines.

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](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/mrs).

## New Year's Day, January 1

...is much more than merely the beginning of the new year, thought that is a great reason to attend Mass. It is **the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation** this year... Plan now to attend Mass at our special Mass schedule: December 31 (Vigil) at 6pm, and Masses on January 1 at 7am, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 and 2pm in Spanish. Please note: **there will be no 8pm First Friday Mass or Adoration on January 1.**

## 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](http://www.faithdirect.net). Our parish code is VA635.

## End-of-year tax savings through a gift of stock

You may make a gift of stock as a donation to our parish or our diocese. **In exchange for a gift of long-term, appreciated securities (stock), you can receive an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes on stock appreciation.** For more information, call (703) 841-3896 or visit: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/giving/gifts\\_stock.aspx](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/giving/gifts_stock.aspx).

## Give the Gift of Faith

More and more Catholics are responding to the idea of giving a gift that perpetuates our Catholic faith. **Please consider remembering Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception in your Will.** By doing so, you establish a legacy of love for others by enabling the Church to continue the expansion of our Catholic faith through its

many ministries. For more information on naming our parish, school, or the diocese in your Will, please call Matthew Dwyer in the **Planned Giving Office at the Diocese of Arlington** at 703-841-3819 or visit [www.arlingtondiocese.planyourlegacy.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.planyourlegacy.org).

## Cold Weather Shelter

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 boxer 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](http://www.dolovewalk.net) or **Thurman-Brishen Homeless Shelter**, [www.thurmanbrishencenters.org](http://www.thurmanbrishencenters.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.

# outreach called in love

## Al Anon Surviving the Weekend group

Al Anon is for those who have been affected by someone else's drinking. 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 the Parish Life Center.

## Pro-Life reflection for December 20

Jesus' Incarnation began already nine months ago. *Lord Jesus, you lived for nine months within the body of the Virgin Mary. Give success to the efforts of all who believe in your Incarnation to protect every life in the womb.*

## Unscheduled Masses in November

Masses were offered in November for the following unscheduled intentions: +Ruth Weaver, +Sean Dickerson, +Mary Cornelia Borden, +Eva Scelzo, +Christopher Ducic, +Celia Hildago, +Robert Rohan, +Bon Van Than, +Henry Kensek, +Kenneth Kensek, +Grace Donaghey, +Mike George, Barbara Carneal, +John F. Carneal, Sr., Alyssa Hellmann, and +Juan Expedito.

## Saint Mary prayer list

**Please pray for those who are sick or in need,**

**especially:** Elizabeth Ames, Elise Valez, Mary Ullmer, Bobbi Palumbo, Joanne Deangeous, Carol Eggleston, Patrick Eggleston, Mary Jean Williams, Don Williams, 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 Calligos, 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, Paul Bartman, David Duke, Betsey Ellis, Don Markol

**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.**

## Daily Mass intentions and readings

### december

#### 21 MONDAY

6:30 Roy Joseph  
9am +Emmanuel Lucia  
Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

#### 22 TUESDAY

6:30 In Thanksgiving to St. Jude  
9am +Addie Comerford  
Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

#### 23 WEDNESDAY

6:30 Ted and Lorette Major  
9am +Patrick Leo Petro, Sr.  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

#### 24 THURSDAY

6:30 +Daniel McCarthy  
9am Annie Hocter  
4pm +Mary Kaye Stein  
4pm\* +Patricia Gasper  
6:30 +Robert Kaila  
6:30\* +Theodore Smolen  
8:30 +Elaine Wheeler  
2 Sm 7:1-16; Lk 1:67-79

#### 25 FRIDAY

12 Midnight +Lane Edwards  
7am +Gina Lenox  
8:30 +Marc Allen Smolen  
10:30 +Robert Kaila  
12:30 +Grace and Janie Sherry  
2pm +Christopher Keegan  
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

#### 26 SATURDAY

9am +Dominick Delio  
5pm Dr. and Mrs. Sambat  
7pm +Robert Kaila  
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

#### 27 SUNDAY

7am For the Parish  
8:30 The Sambat Family  
10:30 +Theodore Zbrzezni  
10:30\* +Joseph Desio  
12:30 Our Military Living and Deceased  
2pm Roseanne Nash  
5pm +Edmond Ridgeway  
7:01 +Keith Snellings  
1 Sm 1:20-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24;  
Lk 2:31-52

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

\* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

## Next Masses

Deacon Alberto will preach at the 12:30pm and 2pm Sunday Masses on 27 Dec.

### 24 December— CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm: CH Fr. Don; HCA Fr. Cummings  
6:30pm: CH Fr. Lino; HCA Fr. Holmes  
8:30pm: CH Fr. Don

### 25 December— CHRISTMAS DAY (all at Church)

Midnight Fr. Don and All Priests  
7am Fr. Don  
8:30am Fr. Cummings  
10:30am Fr. Don  
12:30pm Fr. Holmes  
2pm Fr. Lino

### 26 December— SATURDAY

5pm Fr. Lino  
7pm Fr. Cummings

### 27 December— SUNDAY

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