

**First Sunday
of Advent**

**27 November
2016**



what's coming



**SAINT
MARY**

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

november

27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

No Coffee Shop after morning Masses
8am-Noon, K of C Christmas Card Sales, Parish Life Center
No High School Youth Group this evening
SCRIP Sales after all Masses except 2pm, Parish Life Center

28 Monday, Advent Weekday

Religious Education Classes resume
7:30pm, RCIA & RCIC, Church

29 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering, Fr. Don Rooney Community Room

30 Wednesday, Saint Andrew, Apostle

Noon, Mass, All Those in the All Souls Novena and Those Whose Names are in the Book of the Dead
6:30pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House

december

1 Thursday, Advent Weekday

7pm, Nar-Anon meeting, John Paul II House
7:15pm Walking with Purpose, Parish Life Center, Rms 100 & 204
7:15pm Walking with Purpose, Parish Life Center, Rm 203 (En Espanol)
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House (upstairs)

2 Friday, Advent Weekday

8pm, First Friday Mass followed by All Night Adoration, Church
State LARCUM Conference, Ashland VA (see express announcements for more info)

3 Saturday, Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

10am, Al Anon Meeting, Parish Life Center, Rm 204
2pm, Spanish Baptism Class, Parish Life Center, Room 203
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass

4 SUNDAY, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center. (CCW)
8am-Noon, CCW Mini Bazaar during morning Masses, Parish Life Center.
3:30pm, Middle School Youth Group, Parish Life Center
4pm, CYM Core Meeting, Parish Life Center
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass

5 Monday, Advent Weekday

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

6 Tuesday, Advent Weekday (Saint Nicholas, Bishop)

7 Wednesday, Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

6pm, Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Church
7pm, Confession and Adoration as scheduled
6:30pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House.

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

No Religious Education Classes.
Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 6:30am, 9am, Noon, 6pm and 7:30pm (bilingual)
9:30am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, Room 100
Walking with Purpose
7pm, Nar Anon Meeting, John Paul II House
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House



The advent season 2016 at saint mary

*One additional week of Confessions is added to the regular schedule in preparation for Christmas. All are encouraged to plan to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession **early** in the season to avoid the last-minute rush and crowded lines, and the risk of coming too late.*

Please note well: There will be no additional Parish Confessions after **Friday, December 23.**

Daily Mass

Monday—Friday • 6:30 , 9am & Noon (M,W,F); Saturday • 9am

December 3—14: Regular Confession Schedule

Wednesdays • 7pm (during Adoration, before Benediction at 9pm)

Saturdays • 8am & 3:30pm, or by appointment.

All are kindly asked to observe these times and arrive as near as possible to scheduled times, and to be patient if the line is not completed once Mass begins. Due to the sheer volume of Confessions, it is sometimes physically impossible to finish.

Holy Day of Obligation: Immaculate Conception, December 8

*Our Parish Feast! December 7: 6pm; December 8: 6:30 & 9am, Noon, 6 & 7:30pm
Confession/Adoration on Wednesday, December 7, as scheduled*

Additional Parish Confessions

*Religious Education Confessions will be offered during regular class times the week of November 28 and Tuesday, December 6 for those who attend class at Holy Cross Academy
Holy Cross Academy Students will be offered Confession on Tuesday, December 13.*

•
Thursday & Friday, December 15-16 • 7pm until finished

Saturday, December 17 at 8am & beginning at 3:00pm until Masses begins

Tuesday through Friday, December 20-23 • 7pm until finished

Please note: there will be NO confessions on Saturday, December 24.

SAINT MARY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
1009 Stafford Avenue + Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401 + 540-373-6491 + www.stmaryfred.org

The Christmas SEASON at Saint Mary 2016



S A T U R D A Y , D E C E M B E R 2 4

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

4pm at Saint Mary Church & **4pm** at Holy Cross Academy
6:30pm at Saint Mary Church (En Español)
6:30pm at Holy Cross Academy (English)
8:30pm at Saint Mary Church
11pm, Festival of Carols before **Midnight Mass** at 12am

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 2 5

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Midnight Mass at Saint Mary Church
7:00, 8:30, 10:30am & 12:30pm at Saint Mary Church
N.B.: There is **NO 10:30 Mass** at Holy Cross Academy,
2:00pm en español/in Spanish, nor a **5pm** or **7:01pm Mass**
on Christmas Day at Saint Mary Church

F R I D A Y , D E C E M B E R 3 0

FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

We will follow the regular Friday Weekday Mass schedule for the parish

S U N D A Y , J A N U A R Y 1

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

We will follow the regular Saturday Vigil / Sunday schedule for the parish

S U N D A Y , J A N U A R Y 8

SOLEMNITY of the EPIPHANY of the LORD

We will follow the regular Saturday Vigil / Sunday schedule of the parish

M O N D A Y , J A N U A R Y 9

SOLEMNITY of the BAPTISM of the LORD

We will follow the regular Monday Weekday schedule for the parish

nota bene (*note well, please*):

- ✂ Celebrate our **Parish Feast Day and Holy Day of Obligation: Immaculate Conception, December 8**. Vigil Masses at 6pm on Wednesday evening and Masses throughout day on Thursday, December 8 at 6:30am, 9am, Noon, 6pm and 7:30pm (bilingual).
- ✂ There will be **no Religious Education Classes on December 8** in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Classes will resume on Monday, December 12 as regularly scheduled.
- ✂ **Handcrafts from the Holy Land** will be on sale **after all Masses December 10 and 11**. 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 scripcoordinator@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.: 6:30am, 9am, Noon (M,W,F) Sat., 9am First Friday 8pm Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
DEVOTIONS	Adoration & Benediction, Wed., 7-9pm Novena with Exposition, Mon., 7-7:30pm All Night Adoration, First Friday Miraculous Medal Novena, Mon., after 9am Mass Divine Mercy, Wed., 3pm
CONFESSION	Wed., 7-9pm; Sat., 8am & 3:30pm, or by appt.
PARISH OFFICE	540-373-6491, fax 371-0251 stmary@stmaryfred.org Mon.-Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm; <i>students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm</i> Pastor, Fr. John Mosimann Fr. Keith Cummings Fr. Stephen Holmes Fr. Colin Davis 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 the pastor

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from the pastor

pax et bonum



SAINT
MARY

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

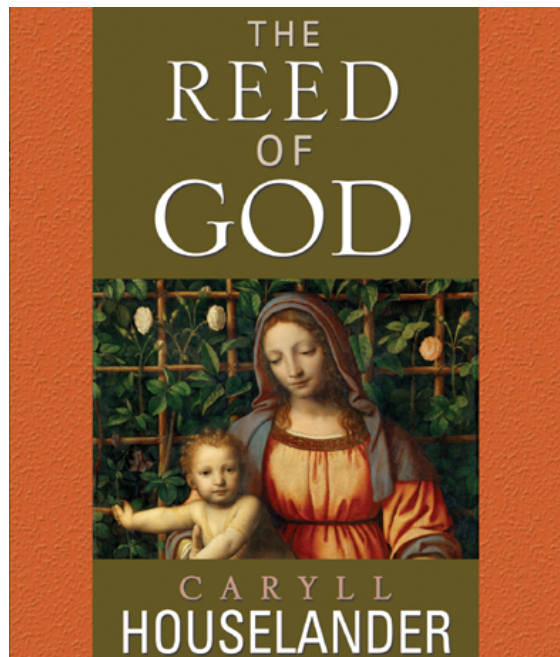
Dear Folks,

I hope you had a wonderful thanksgiving and that your giving thanks lasts all year. This Sunday we begin the season of advent and thus all of our frenzied preparations for Christmas. I hope you picked up a copy of the Magnificat Advent Companion that we set out for you to have a daily assist to your prayers.

I will share with you one of my favorite Advent books: *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander. She beautifully builds the image of the Blessed Mother as a reed: empty and open to becoming an instrument of God. How do we perceive emptiness? The virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not barren emptiness, but a beautiful receptivity to the Lord. This thanksgiving weekend we are grateful for the abundance of God's blessings, and let us move forward with an eye to avoiding the excesses of our culture by focussing on the life giving, virginal, receptivity of the Blessed Mother. The more generously we can imitate her this Advent, the more fully we can help bring Jesus into the world this Christmas.

Pax,

Fr Mosimann



St. Mary's Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be set up
in the vestibule with
color-coded tags with a gift
request for a particular charity

We encourage everyone to take
this opportunity to help those less
fortunate, and bring some
Christmas joy into others lives. If
you choose to give, please bring
your gift to church by the specified
date on the back of the tag

Remember, the most
fulfilling way to enjoy
Christmas is to give!

May God bless you for your generosity!

education

holy cross academy



Our School Invites You

We invite you to visit our school website, 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 to arrange for a tour or to let us tell you all about Holy Cross Academy, our parish school. Don't forget to sign up for GIANT Bonus Bucks. Go to giantfood.com/aplus and enter our school code 02320. Every time you use your Giant member number, our children benefit.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012*

Breakfast with Dad

Each year we host all our HCA Dads for a special breakfast with their children before our school day begins. Whenever possible, we hold Doughnuts with Dad on Veterans' Day, or on a date very close to it.

Our very devoted PTO provides the breakfast treats of doughnuts, juice and coffee. Many of our Dads stay with us for Morning Prayer and our Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge, our school chorus, Youth of Note, lead all of us in a patriotic song.

Leading up to Veterans' Day, our families send in photos of family members who have served or currently serve in our military. Our Wall of Heroes reminds all of us of the many sacrifices that the members of our armed forces have made for all of us.

We look forward to having our Dads with us each year and we respectfully salute past and present members of our American military.



education

religious education

Religious Education Classes

There will be Religious Education classes this week, **Nov. 29 - Dec. 1.**

FORMED.org

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Parish Code - F6F228

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The drive yielded **648 items weighing 976 pounds**. Fifteen families will have a bountiful Thanksgiving meal, turkey included. Thanks for your generosity!

Deacon Alberto with Spanish Speaking Parents

Parents of children who attend class on Mondays at 6:30pm attended their first session with Deacon Alberto. He explained to parents the importance of the Sacraments, namely, the Christian Initiation: Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. He also spoke about the sacraments of Healing and Service. He spoke in particular about the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and how important it is in maintaining holiness within the family. *The next session with Deacon Alberto will be on Monday, Dec. 5 at 6:30pm.*



youth ministry

follow StMaryCYM



#GetInvolvedBeTransformed



Life is VERY Good & March for Life Rally

On **January 27**, St. Mary Youth Ministry is heading to the Eagle Bank Arena and Washington DC for a morning of prayer and praise at the Diocesan Life is Very Good Rally. We will have Mass with our Bishop, hear musical performances by The Afters and Ben Walthers Band and inspirational speaker Mark Hart, Sr. Miriam James Heldland, and Fr James Searby. Then we will head to the March for Life in Washington DC in prayerful protest and March to the Supreme Court for an end to Roe vs. Wade. **Permission slips are available on our website.**



Join us Sunday, December 18th for our Annual Ugly Sweater Christmas Party at High School Youth Group

knights of columbia

Give the Gift of Life

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a blood drive on Nov. 30 in St. Mary's parking lot from 1-6pm. To schedule call **1-800-RED CROSS** or go to **redcross.org**. Walk-ins are welcome. Bring a photo ID. The American Red Cross issued an emergency call. 208,000 donations are needed – the number of people to fill 3 football stadiums.

Keep Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus will continue the annual Keep Christ in Christmas card sales. Sales will continue after most Sunday Masses beginning Thanksgiving weekend until the weekend before Christmas.

Trail Life & Wreaths Across America

In October the Trail Life and American Heritage Girl Troops were honored to support the Honor Flight at Quantico Museum. The boys and girls enthusiastically cheered for our cherished veterans of the Korean, Vietnam, and World War II. If you would like to support our veterans, please consider sponsoring a wreath as part of Wreaths Across America. Go to <https://goo.gl/zrUaHh>.

Coats for Kids

Last November, the Knights of Columbus partnered with generous parishioners of St Mary's and the City of Fredericksburg to provide 130 coats to needy kids in the Fredericksburg area. Please consider donating again. More info: charity@kofc4034.org.

December Family Dinner with Santa Claus

The December Family Dinner, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be held on **Sat. Dec. 10 from 6-8:30pm in the Parish Life Center**. Santa Claus will be our special guest but he can only stay for the 1st hour or so because he has a very busy schedule. The menu includes smokey mountain chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, steamed cheesy broccoli, icecream sundae. The net proceeds will be donated to the Christmas Party for Disadvantaged Children. The dinner is open to the public and pay-at-the-door. Takeouts are available. **The cost is Adults:\$7, Seniors (60&up):\$6, Teens:\$6, Children (7-12):\$5, Children (under 7): Free. THE MAX COST PER FAMILY IS \$25.**



Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sales

Our annual Christmas tree sales are under way! These are freshly cut Virginia grown Fraser Firs. Tree are being sold at **St Jude Catholic Church - 10725 Courthouse Rd. (rte. 208)**. Tree prices are based on tree height. **Sales are on weekdays from 3-8pm and on weekends from 8am-8pm, but not during Mass.** We also will be glad to work with church groups or individuals interested in fulfilling service requirements in volunteering to help with set-up and/or sales. Questions? Trees@kofc4034.org

Religious Education Assistance Program (REAP) Grants

Fredericksburg Council of the Knights of Columbus is pleased to announce the award of six \$1,000 need-based grants to help pay part of the tuition of Saint Mary parish students who attend Holy Cross Academy, John Paul the Great High School, and Saint Michael the Archangel High School. Six families applied and all were found to meet the criteria for a grant award. Each of the three schools received two grants each. Since its inception in 2011, a total of \$36,000 have been awarded.



parish life happenings

Cold Weather Shelter Now Open

The Cold Weather Shelter will re-open for the winter season on November 15 and 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.). Saint Mary will be 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. 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**, dolove-walk.net or **Thurman-Brisben Homeless Shelter**, thurman-brisbencenterv.org

Raffle Tickets

The Council of Catholic Women urges you to get your raffle tickets in before the drawing which will happen at the Mini Craft Bazaar on Sunday, December 4. First prize is \$500, second \$250 and third \$100. If you still have the tickets that were mailed to you, they can still be mailed or taken to the church office. The drawing will be sometime after the 10:30am Mass.

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Being Catholic takes more than simply believing in God or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend. To help you answer this call to deeper friendship with Christ, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception will begin **Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John** on **January 4 or 5, 2017 at 9:45 am**. To register, contact the **Parish Office at 540-373-6491**. The cost is \$15.00. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together.

Parish Book Club

The book club has a busy agenda for its **Monday, December 12**, meeting at the St. John Paul II House at 10am. Members will first make a short report on their free choice selection from the parish library. It has been a ministry tradition that, rather than everyone reading the same title in December, members sample something from our own excellent library. Second, members will develop their reading list for the 2017 year. The group always welcomes title suggestions from parishioners of good works of Christian fiction and non-fiction.

Finally, the club will celebrate another successful year of reading and fellowship with a cooperative luncheon. To make the required reservations for lunch or for more information, contact **Kathleen Mahoney at bmah761569@aol.com or 540-371-2073**.

Adult confirmation classes December/January

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 14 at 7pm

Followed by six, Wednesday evening classes

December 21, January 4, 11, 18 and finishing on January 25.

Classes will last about an hour.

If you would like to sign up for these classes, or to just come to the introductory meeting to hear more, please call the Parish Office to register, leaving your name, phone number and email address.

November is American Diabetes Month

Here's to managing your diabetes for a longer, healthier life.

There isn't a cure yet for diabetes, but a healthy lifestyle can really reduce its impact on your life. What you do every day makes the difference: eating a healthy diet, being physically active, taking medicines if prescribed, and keeping health care appointments to stay on track.

More than 29 million people in the United States have diabetes, but 1 out of 4 of them don't know they have it. There are three main types of diabetes: type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes (diabetes while

given in love

pregnant). Most people with diabetes—9 out of 10—have type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes risk factors include:

Being overweight.
Being 45 years or older.
Having a parent, brother, or sister with type 2 diabetes.
Being physically active less than 3 times a week.
Ever having gestational diabetes or giving birth to a baby who weighed more than 9 pounds.
Race and ethnicity also matter: African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, American Indians, Pacific Islanders, and some Asian Americans are at higher risk for type 2 diabetes.

Know Your ABCs

Work with your doctor to manage your diabetes ABCs, and keep a record of your numbers. Results will help determine if your treatment plan is working and you're able to stay in your target range.

A—the A1C test, which measures average blood sugar over 2 to 3 months.

B—blood pressure, the force of blood flow inside blood vessels.
C—cholesterol, a group of blood fats that affect the risk of heart attack or stroke.

s—stop smoking or don't start.

Put Care on Your Calendar

Every day: stay active, eat a healthy diet, and take medication if prescribed; check feet for redness, swelling, pain, or sores.

Each health care visit (at least 4 times a year): blood pressure check; foot check.

Twice a year: A1C test; dental checkup.

Once a year: cholesterol test; kidney function test; podiatrist (foot doctor) and eye doctor visits; flu shot (and other vaccines as recommended by your doctor).

Welcome to SHARE at St. Mary Parish!

Order Deadline: Dec. 5

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 8-9am. 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.

Value Package

(\$22 + 2 hrs community service)

- Whole Roasting Chicken – 5 lb average, Gwaltney Ground Pork Sausage Meat – 1 lb, Pollock Fillets – 1 lb, Holiday Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Elbow, Macaroni, Stove Top Stuffing Mix, Plus fresh seasonal produce such as sweet potatoes, onions, apples or oranges

Holiday Dinner

(\$33 + 2 hrs community service)

- 10-16 lb. Butterball Turkey, Sweet Potato Casserole, Holiday Pie, Collard Greens, Green Beans, Wax Beans & Carrots

Value + Turkey

(\$44 + 2 hrs Community Service)

- 10-16 lb Butterball Turkey, a Whole Roasting Chicken, Ground Pork Sausage Meat, Pollock Fillets, a Holiday Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Elbow Macaroni, Stove Top Stuffing, Fresh Seasonal Produce Such As Sweet Potatoes, Onions, Apples Or Oranges

Holiday Produce Box

(\$16 + 2 hrs Community Service)

- 8-14 lbs of the Season's Freshest Bounty

Spiral Ham

(\$22 + 2 hrs Community Service)

- 7lb Average w/ Spiced Glaze Packet

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. = \$_____

Holiday Dinner (\$33)

_____ x \$33. = \$_____

Value + Turkey (\$44)

_____ x \$44. = \$_____

Holiday Produce Box (\$16)

_____ x \$16. = \$_____

Spiral Ham (\$22)

_____ x \$22. = \$_____

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 or MONEY ORDER.

No CHECKS; Payment due when order is placed.

Money Orders should be made to: SHARE FOOD NETWORK.

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

Due to early bulletin deadlines because of Thanksgiving, the next Financial Report will be published in the Dec. 4 Bulletin.

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 have fled their homeland in fear of 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 arlingtondiocese.org/mrs.

Pro Life Reflection

The word "Advent" means "coming," and the season focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time, and then on His first coming at Christmas. The joy of Advent is joined by a strong warning that we must be prepared for His coming. Promoting justice and human rights is a key element of our preparation. A society that aborts its children is not prepared for the coming of Christ. *Come, Lord Jesus. May we be prepared to welcome You by welcoming all human life.*

Parish Christmas Collection for Special Charities

As many of you know, every year at Christmas we take up a special collection for charity. None of the money collected stays at St. Mary, but is distributed as a gift from our Parish to different charities. The collection this year will be taken up on December 5 and 6 for the following charities:

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.

The Oblate Sisters of Sr. Francis de Sales lost two schools in Ecuador due to the earthquakes – St. Francis de Sales School in Rocafuerte and St. Leonie Aviat School in Tarqui. The Sisters would be most grateful for your support to help rebuild these two schools.

The Fredericksburg Office of Catholic Charities, located next 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.

Daily Advent Prayer

O Jesus, little child, come into my heart on Christmas morn, to wash away my sins and remain there in eternity. O Mary, Mother of my Savior, prepare for Jesus a cradle in my heart. Amen.

All Night Adoration First Friday, Dec. 2

"The Divine Child whom we will worship in the Nativity scene is Emmanuel, the God with us Who is really present in the Sacrament of the Altar" (Saint John Paul II). All Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 8:00pm First Friday Mass on December 2. O Come Let Us Adore Him in the Eucharist! Please sign up today.

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: arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife.

happening here

SCRIP gift cards

Set up an account today and continue earning rebates for HCA! Email Torie Baldwin at scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com for the school enrollment code so HCA gets credit for your purchase. **Thanks for using SCRIP gift cards!**

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.

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Join the other 526 parishioners who have subscribed to stmaryfred.org. By subscribing, you will receive announcements via email. The subscription box is on the homepage, below the Mass schedule. Enter your email address and click on "subscribe."

**Saint Mary prayer list**

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: Betty & John Gil, Daniel Burke, John Druett, Margaret Gralton, Cheryl Wood, Barbara McCoy, Leroy Spangler, Francine Ochman, Veronica Johnson, John Storm, Joshua Oltman, Gladys Bowen, Frances Schwab, Martha Clemens, Lynn Dennis, Anne Shelton, Barbara Gillette, John Gannon, Maureen Mizzles, Miles Wood, Smoot Major, Marian Wolinski, Holly Smith, Mike Harwich, Larry Dillman, Jerome Murphy, Jim Evans, Keith Kovalesky, Patrick Clarke, Cody Harrell, Janie Sherry, Michael Tallarita, Chris Szynal, Judith Cantell, Delores Renninger, Phil Kronsberg, Tamlyn Leaf, Paul Godwin, Patricia Phillips, The Valconi Family, Tim Murphy & family, Matt Dombro, Regina "Gina" Wood, Amber Hedegty, Josephine Kreider, Darlene Guinn, Boyd Woodside, Lillian Held, Duska Green, Mary Jean and Don Williams, O'Neta Shorter, Alice Rowles, Melvyn Schreckinger, Mary Ulmer, Mary Branham, Jessica Dowling, Kelly Keiser, Lauren McKeever, Janese Morris, Mary Keaton, Montgomery Wood, Harold Gardiner, Gerald Gardiner, Betty Ann & Bill Dateno, Jennifer Smith, Patricia Von Nieda, Corrine Gardine, David Arnold, Matt, Elsie and Riley Seidlinger, Jeanette Ann Williams, Maureen Flanagan, Fannie Manning, April Gray, Tim Conway, Andy Costa, Ellen Cupka, Cheryl Kellett, Jim Matarese, Hugh Fleming, Thomas Moeller, Marianne Ford, Ortiz Family, Diane Beverly, Jaiden Scelzo, Elisea Opeka, Adrian Foshay, Claire Matthews, Matt Traugh, Rosemarie Gortler, Jonathan Nogueira, Jim Mann, Charles Nickols, Ted Major, Maggie Lampman, Chuck Boyert, Adrienne Foshay, Stephanie Downing, Ray Heath

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, Christopher Johnson III, Patrick Desmond, Andrew M. Smith, Nelly Garcia, Mindy Hakenson, Xavier Alas, Gary Rotsch, Anthony Howell, John Anthenor, Andrew Dowdy, Sean McCullum, Josue Bermudez

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

Electronic Offertory

Faith Direct enables your family to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards. With *Faith Direct*, you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings. The parish gains predictable cash flow which helps us with planning our parish needs and programs. *Faith Direct* also offers you personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. You may enroll securely online by visiting www.faithdirect.net.

Our parish code is VA635.

Daily Mass intentions and readings**november****28 MONDAY**

6:30am +Janet Abohasen
9:00am +Isaac Anere
Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11

29 TUESDAY

6:30am +Rafael Bernaola
9:00am Joe Espirito Barrios
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

30 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Axam Galdamez
9:00am Leo Chavarria
Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22

01 THURSDAY

6:30am +Joe O'Connor
9:00am +Lucy Jenkins
8:00pm +Robert Grossman
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

02 FRIDAY

6:30am Mary Anne Holzworth
8:15am* The McLaughlin Family
9:00am +Lee Mikalcs
8:00pm Robert Grossman
Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

03 SATURDAY

9:00am Edward Holzworth
5:00pm For Our Parish
7:00pm +Patricia Gasper
Is 30:19-26/Mt 9:35B-10:1, 5a, 6-8

04 SUNDAY

7am Tamesi Galdamez
8:30am Huynh Hieu Family
10:30am Those Who Died in November
10:30am* +Charles Rowe
12:30pm +Michael Coughlin
2:00pm Marcos Bermudez
5:00pm Theresa & Matt Wolski
7:01pm Francisco Ayala de Paz
Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9 /Mt 3:1-12

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