

**Third Sunday
of Advent**

**11 December
2016**





**SAINT
MARY**

of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

december

11 SUNDAY, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center (Youth Ministry)
Handcrafts from the Holy Land on sale after all Masses.
New Family Welcome after 10:30am Mass
4pm, CYM Core Meeting, Parish Life Center
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass

12 Monday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mañanitas, 5:30am, Church, followed by coffee in the Parish Life Center
7pm, Bilingual Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe
7:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, (this week in the Parish Life Center)
8:30pm, Taize Prayer Gathering, Church

13 Tuesday, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

10am, CCW General Meeting, Fr. Don Rooney Meeting Room
Noon, Senior Luncheon, Parish Life Center
7:30pm, Life in the Spirit Prayer Gathering, Fr. Don Rooney Meeting Room

14 Wednesday, Saint John on the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6:30pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House
7pm, Adult Confirmation Intro Meeting w/ Deacon Dick Delio, Parish Office Library,
first of six classes; registration required

15 Thursday, Advent Weekday

7pm, until the line ends, Additional Advent Confessions, Church
7pm, Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House, Upstairs
7pm, Nar Anon Meeting, Fr. Don Rooney Community Room
7:15pm Walking with Purpose, Parish Life Center, Rms 100 & 204
7:15pm Walking with Purpose, Parish Life Center, Rm 203 (En Espanol)

16 Friday, Advent Weekday

9am, St. Anne Sisters in Faith, John Paul II House
7pm, until the line ends, Additional Advent Confessions, Church

17 Saturday, Advent Weekday

7-10am, Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Parish Life Center, Main Hall
Confessions, 8am as scheduled, afternoon confessions begin at 3pm, until the line ends or Mass begins
10am, Al Anon, Parish Life Center, Rm 204
SCRIP on sale after the 5pm Mass

18 SUNDAY, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses, Parish Life Center (Trail Life 4034)
3:30pm, Health Ministry Meeting, Fr. Don Rooney Community Room
4pm, CYM Core Meeting, Parish Life Center
CYM Dinner and Youth Group meeting following the 5pm Mass
SCRIP on sale after all Masses except 2pm Mass

19 Monday, Advent Weekday

No Religious Education Classes this week
7:30pm, RCIA/RICA class, Parish Life Center

20 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

7pm, until the line ends, Additional Advent Confessions, Church

21 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

6:30pm, YOUCAT, John Paul II House
7pm, Confessions as scheduled
7pm, Adult Confirmation Meeting with Deacon Dick Delio, Parish Office Library



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 24

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 25

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 30

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):

- ✂ 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 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.
- ✂ Please join us for our monthly **Taizé Prayer Service this Monday, December 12**. Please note the **change in time to 8:30pm**. Now in our 9th year, we have met each month to pray for Christian unity in our community and in the world. All Christians are warmly invited; invite your friends!
- ✂ **Religious Oil Paintings Exhibition** this **Sunday through the 2pm Spanish Mass**. A percentage of the sales supports St. Mary Parish and the remainin proceeds will be used to encourage artists who paint works which give glory to God.
- ✂ **Remember someone you love, either living or deceased**, with a donation for our beautiful **Christmas Flowers**. Envelopes are available in your envelope packets, in the Church, and in the Parish Office.
- ✂ 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**."
- ✂ **Saint Mary Calendars** are now available in both English and Spanish in the vestibule of the church. Please, one per family.

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; students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm Pastor, Fr. John Mosimann Fr. Keith Cummings Fr. Stephen Holmes Fr. Colin Davis Deacon Alberto Bemaola 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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education

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parish life

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outreach

from the pastor

pax et bonum



SAINT
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of the
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Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Dear Folks,

"Shave by the Headlights." Ok, that may seem non-sensical. And explaining might make it more confusing. But let me try. I hate shaving. When I entered religious life, I was traumatized by the fact that now I had to shave EVERY DAY! I would whine about it, try to not shave, and get called out by my superiors for not shaving. One day in Mexico, the head of our community said to me, "Shave by the Headlights." Huh? I literally pictured taking my razor and shaving in the early morning hours by the light of our car's headlights. He went on to say that when driving it is always much easier to drive by the light of the headlights, able to see what is in front of you and just dealing with it. Imagine if you tried to drive only by looking behind you, or if you always had to backtrack to catch the turns that you missed because you are reacting after the car has passed. If we take care of unpleasant tasks first thing when they present themselves, they just are no real big deal. It is the agony, whining, and avoidance that make simple tasks a big deal. Or to use another cliché, we can avoid turning mountains into molehills by just shaving by the headlights.

Yes, I still sometimes celebrate a day off by not shaving (even if I spend all day working, I feel as if I got some sabbath rest)! But the ridiculous image of literally taking a razor and shaving in the headlights of my car so stuck with me that I now use it to rally my will and strength to some unpleasant task.

And one more insight that I discovered at a young age: household chores could be accomplished in a fraction of the time when done willingly and cheerfully! I found that if I did my Saturday morning chores while my parents were at the morning Mass, I could be done before they got home and have the rest of the day for play! Yeah, at first they were so shocked that they would let me off with less work required, but the real key was found in freely and generously embracing these duties!

Maybe going to confession is your personal version of shaving or Saturday morning chores. Maybe it is saying your daily rosary, or reading scripture, or whatever daily devotional prayer you might have. In what way do you need to "shave by the headlights?"

nax

tr mosimann

Join us this Monday at 8:30pm



TAIZÉ

**Monday
December 12, 8:30pm**

**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.

*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

holy cross academy

Sharing Christmas Joy

Last Sunday, our Holy Cross Academy community was able to share some of the joy of our Christmas anticipation with many people in our community. Our PTO sponsored a Book Fair at Barnes and Noble. As patrons were shopping for Christmas gifts and new books, they were treated to some of our HCA talent.

Throughout the afternoon, Mrs. Lise Schmiegel shared her storytelling and puppeteering skills as she enthralled the children with the story of the Gingerbread Man. The children could then make their own gingerbread man at the craft table. She brought along her puppet friend, Hannah, to share this delightful classic. As always, the children enjoyed the tale, especially since they could all join in telling the story.

Our chorus, Youth of Note, shared their favorite Christmas Carols with the families and their friends. Our young people sang with all the joy of this holy season.

Sr. Frances Carol delighted her audience with several Science demonstrations, including inserting pencils through a bag of water without springing a leak, making a balloon moan, using dish soap to mix and spread colors and, the children's favorite, turning a glass of water upside down without spilling it.

Our entertainment ended with the a cappella chorus from Mountain View High School led by HCA graduate, Emily Dalton who sang many Christmas favorites and a new tune about texting Merry Christmas, a perfect Christmas song for our times.



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*

religious education

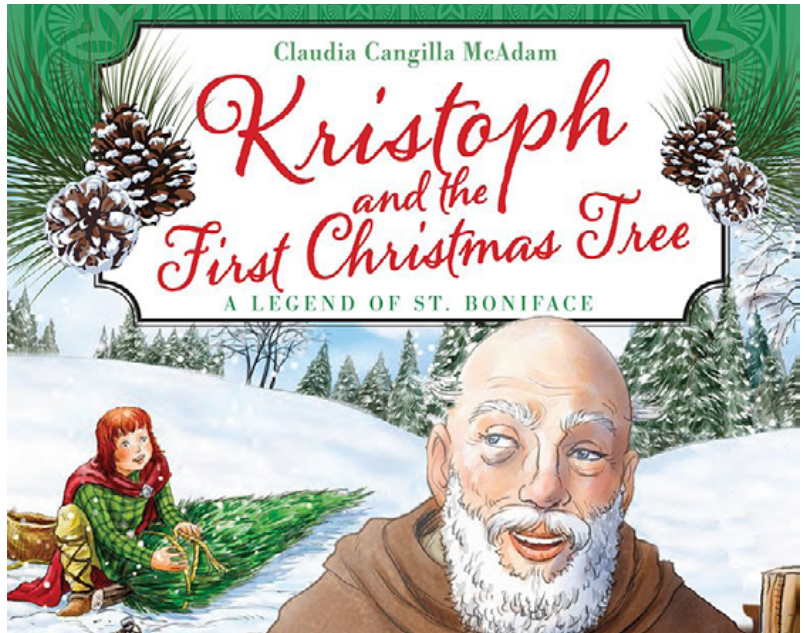
Christmas Gifts for Families

In about half an hour after the email was sent to Religious Education parents the ten families had all found sponsors. The quick response and your generosity are truly keeping Christ in Christmas. Some families have even brought in their gifts to the office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

"At least three things have to happen for our people to rediscover the beauty and power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First, they need to regain an awareness of the destructive power of sin. Second, they need to recover a healthy sense of their own sinfulness. Third, they need to attain a clear vision of the tangible benefits that come from experiencing the healing and strengthening power of God's mercy in this Sacrament."

FORMED.org
Parish Code - F6F228



Based on an ancient legend, *Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree* is a video production drawn from the family-friendly story written by children's author Claudia Cangilla McAdam and illustrated by Dave Hill. What happens next recalls the legend of how evergreen trees became part of the celebration of Christmas. This story beautifully retells an incident from the life of St. Boniface, the martyr who became the patron saint of Germany.

youth ministry



#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

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.



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

Bethlehem Handmade Olive Wood Carvings

Please be sure to visit the display of handmade olive wood carvings and other articles outside the Church after all the Masses on December 10-11! Any purchase you make supports our Bethlehem Christian families who continue to endure much hardship in the Holy Land. Thank you for your support!

Religious Oil Paintings Exhibition

All are invited to enjoy a wonderful exhibition of religious art in the Parish Life Center on Sunday December 11, after all the Masses. The paintings are framed in hand-carved wood and are exclusively about religious images: The Virgin, alone or with the Child, The Holy Family, Madonnas, Archangels and Angels, etc. The paintings are available for sale at reasonable prices. A percentage of all sales will go towards the support of St. Mary Parish, and the remaining proceeds will be used to encourage artists who paint works which give glory to God.

Senior Luncheon

The next parish senior luncheon will be held in the **Parish Life Center on Tuesday, December 13**. Doors open at noon and lunch is served at 12:15pm. All Seniors in the parish are invited and admission is free. Entertainment will be provided till 2pm. Come and enjoy the company of your fellow seniors in the parish. No reservation required. Questions? Call Maria D'Amico, 540-785-3580

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.

Council of Catholic Women

The next meeting of the Council of Catholic Women will be held on **Tuesday, December 13**. Please join us in the Father Don Rooney courtyard meeting room at 10am. Our featured guest speaker is Vivian Mestey who will be telling us about her ministry of Our Lady of Guadalupe's Image which should be a very interesting talk. Refreshments will be served and there will be a very short business meeting.

Thanksgiving Mass Food Collections

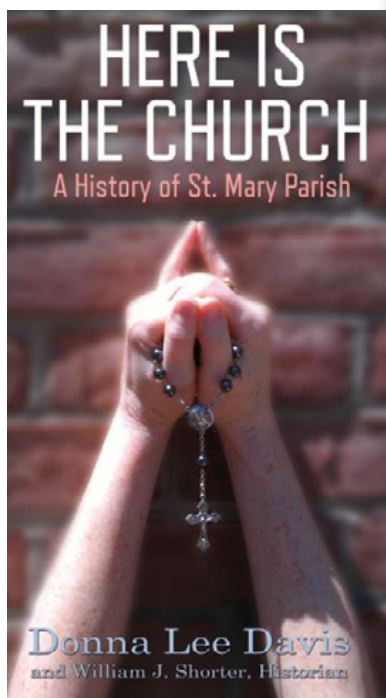
Thanks to all those who participated in donating food this year for our Thanksgiving Mass. Our totals are in and are wonderful! A total of 1,452 pounds of food was contributed. This was enough food to provide 1,200 meals to those in our community who struggle to feed their families. The Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank truly values our partnership with St. Mary. In addition, for every dollar that was contributed, enough food for two meals can be provided. Again, thank you for those who contributed and may you and your loved ones have a blessed holiday season.

happenings

A History of St. Mary

"Fredericksburg's St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church is steeped in history, from its antebellum roots in overwhelmingly Protestant Virginia through the carnage of the American Civil War and its aftermath to the modern age which finds its congregation nearly 17,000 strong. Its story comes alive in *Here Is The Church: A History of St. Mary Parish* through the chronicling of local newspapers and first person accounts." Our parish history book is a celebration of all that we have been and all that we are today.

Reserve your copy for \$25 at StMaryCCWNews@aol.com or 540-752-5502 or visit the online bookstore at store.bookbaby.com/book/Here-Is-the-Church



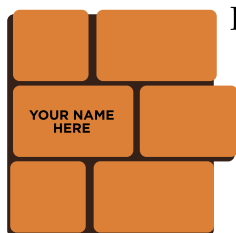
Making Room for our Children to Learn and Grow

After nearly twenty years Holy Cross Academy is going to make more room to grow — not for more students, but for the learning and growth of our families' children.

This much needed expansion of our facility will allow us to add on a cafeteria, world language classroom, full-sized computer lab, athletic flooring for our gym, new music and art rooms, new science lab, and enlarged honors math and reading resource rooms. We will also be able to expand our kitchen and library.



We need your help to make this happen



Help fund our

Hallway to Learning



Become part of this expansion by purchasing a commemorative brick for our new Hallway to Learning. Middle School students will enjoy our glass-covered Hallway to Learning as they go to their next class and our entire community will appreciate the facelift to our foyer and our new Saint Joseph Chapel.

Our Hallway to Learning Campaign allows you to be part of this expansion as you memorialize loved ones or commemorate special events such as graduation.

With your name or that of a loved one inscribed in this hallway you will always be part of the learning experience at Holy Cross Academy.

To order your brick and learn more visit holycrossweb.com/buildingexpansion.

Other ways to help

Consider making a tax free donation to our school! Your tax-deductible charitable donation will help to ensure the future of Catholic education, the mission of our school and to enrich our exceptional academic programs.

Also, attend our Riverside Pops supports Holy Cross Academy Evening on February 14th at the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts - more information coming soon.

To find out more about our school visit holycrossweb.com

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

December 4 Offertory \$35,166
Parish Christmas Collection \$9,437
Parish Building Fund (add'l) \$1,984
Poor Box for St Vincent de Paul \$82

Second Collection December 17
& 18 is for Our Building Fund

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

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.*

Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12 - Special bilingual mass Monday evening, 7pm

Dearest Lady of Guadalupe, fruitful Mother of Holiness, teach me your ways of gentleness and strength. Hear my prayer, offered with deep-felt confidence to beg this favor... O Mary, conceived without sin, I come to your throne of grace to share the fervent devotion of your faithful Mexican children who call to thee under the glorious Aztec title of "Guadalupe" – the Virgin who crushed the serpent. Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate Heart was pierced by seven swords of grief, help me to walk valiantly amid the sharp thorns strewn across my pathway. Invoke the Holy Spirit of Wisdom to fortify my will to frequent the Sacraments so that, thus enlightened and strengthened, I may prefer God to all creatures and shun every occasion of sin. Help me, as a living branch of the Vine that is Jesus Christ, to exemplify His divine charity always seeking the good of others. Queen of Apostles, aid me to win souls for the Sacred Heart of my Savior. Keep my apostolate fearless, dynamic and articulate, to proclaim the loving solicitude of Our Father in Heaven, so that the wayward may heed His pleading and obtain pardon, through the merits of your merciful Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(No Evening Miraculous Medal Novena & Benediction; Taize Ecu-
menical Prayer Service will begin im-
mediately following the Mass)*

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.

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 faithdirect.net. Our parish code is VA635.

happening here

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.

Sister Joan Rohan

Daughter of Wisdom and former principal of Montfort Academy in Fredericksburg, died November 20 at the age of 84. Sister Joan was a Daughter of Wisdom for 65 years and served as principal of Montfort Academy from 1983 until it closed in 1998. Many local families have fond memories of Sister and their years at the school. She was known for her kind and gentle spirit, and for her wonderful leadership of the Montfort Community.

**Saint Mary prayer list**

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially:

Betty & John Gil, Daniel Burke, John Druiett, 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 Kovalsky, Patrick Clarke, Cody Harrell, Janie Sherry, Michael Tallarita, Chris Szydal, Judith Cantell, Delores Renninger, Phil Kronsberg, Tamlyn Leaf, Paul Godwin, Patricia Phillips, The Valconi Family, Tim Murphy & family, Matt Dombro, Regina "Gina" Wood, Amber Hedgty, Josephine Kreider, Darlene Guinn, Lillian Held, Duska Green, Mary Jean and Don Williams, O'Neta Shorter, 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, Anna Marie Johnson, Emma Gilbert, Tracey Hansen, Bill Herr, Richard Fadden, Michelle Williams, Diana and Mike Pabrinkis, Zachary Payne, David Nimmer

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.

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.

Daily Mass intentions and readings**december****12 MONDAY**

6:30am Matthew & Janett Prohaska
9:00am Ruth Quade+
Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38

13 TUESDAY

6:30am Janet Reynolds+
9:00am Michael Coughlin+
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

14 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Francis Murray+
9:00am Salvatore DeTrane+
Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Lk 7:18b-23

15 THURSDAY

6:30am Fr. Colin Davis
9:00am Donna Green
Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30

16 FRIDAY

6:30am Vianca Coleman
8:15am* Joan Reynolds+
9:00am Daniel Burke
Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36

17 SATURDAY

9:00am Trung Trinh and Ngat Vu+
5:00pm Robert Kaila+
7:00pm Catherine Sturtevant
Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

18 SUNDAY

7:00am For Our Parish
8:30am Raymond Corpe+
10:30am Anna Ban & Than Nguyen
10:30am* Joseph Bauer+
12:30pm Eugenia Velasquez+
2:00pm Ismael Bermudez
5:00pm Salvador DeTrane+
7:01pm Bettylou Richardson+
Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7 /Mt 1:18-24

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*