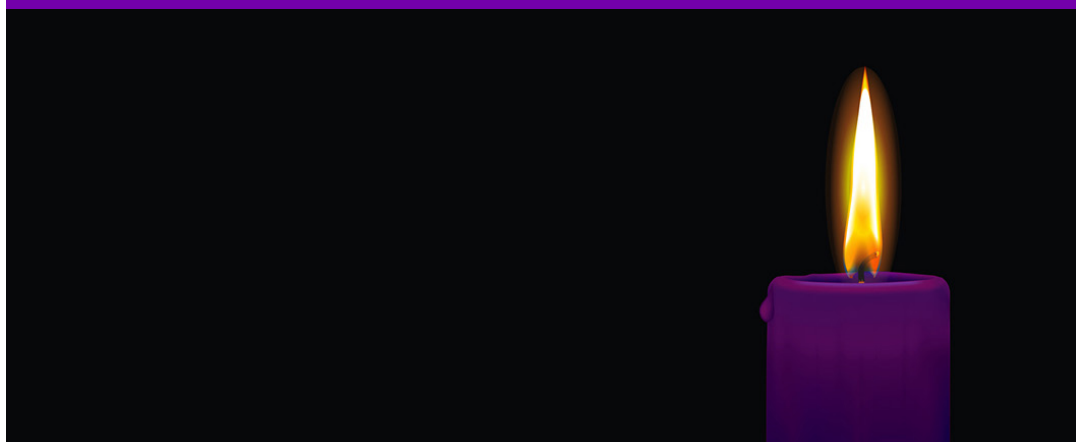
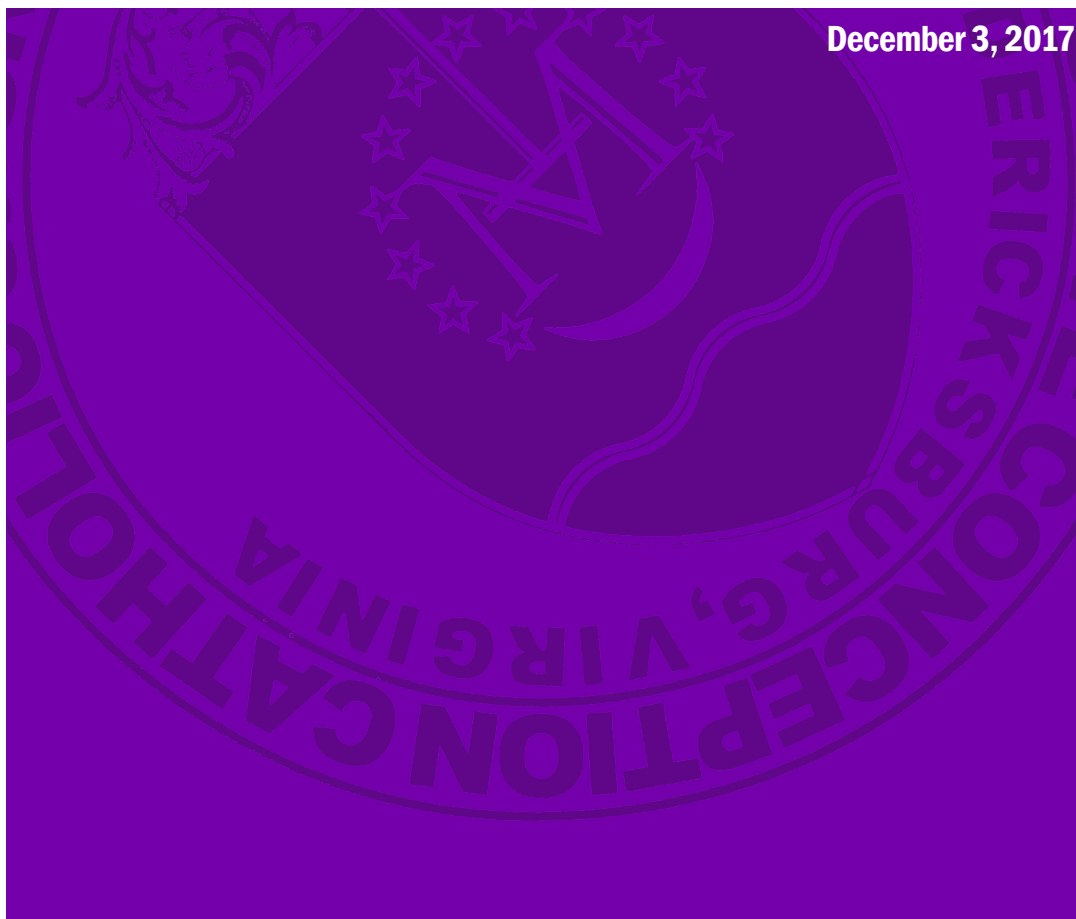


First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017



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

3 SUNDAY, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses sponsored by CCW (Mini Bazaar)

7:30am-12pm, CCW's Mini Bazaar and Christmas Cookie Sale, Parish Life Center

12pm, Spanish Legion of Mary, Parish Life Center, Room 100

6pm, High School Youth Group, Parish Life Center - *6pm Dinner, 7pm Meeting*

7pm, Candlelight Mass, Church

4 Monday, Advent Weekday [Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church]

10:15am, Legion of Mary Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Parish Life Center, Room 100

7:30pm, RCIA, Church

5 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

7pm, Gospel of John Class with Deacon Dick in Parish Office Library

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

No Walking with Purpose Class

7:30pm, Spanish Legion of Mary, Parish Life Center, Room 204

6 Wednesday, Advent Weekday [Saint Nicholas, Bishop]

9:45am, Bible Timeline Series, Courtyard Meeting Room

6:30pm, YOUCAT, Parish Life Center

7 Thursday, Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9:45am, CCW Craft Group, Parish Life Center, Room 100

7-8pm Nar-Anon Meeting, Parish Life Center, Room 204

No Walking With Purpose Classes

6:30pm, Legion of Mary, Parish Life Center, Room 201

6pm & 7:30pm, Immaculate Conception Vigil Masses, Church

7pm, Baptism Preparation Class, Parish Life Center, Room 202

8 Friday, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation & Feast Day)

Mass Schedule - 6:30am, 9am, 12noon, 6pm, Bilingual Candle Light at 7:30pm

6pm, Middle School Youth Group, Parish Life Center

7pm Spanish Prayer Group, John Paul II House, Upstairs

9 Saturday, Advent Weekday [Saint Juan Diego, Cuauhtlatoatzin]

6-8:30pm, Knights of Columbus Family Dinner with Santa, Parish Life Center

10 SUNDAY, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses sponsored by Trail Life VA4034

12pm, Spanish Legion of Mary, Parish Life Center, Room 100

6pm, High School Youth Group, Parish Life Center - *6pm Dinner, 7pm Meeting*

Candle Light Mass at 7pm

11 Monday, Advent Weekday [Saint Damasus I, Pope]

10:15am, Legion of Mary Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Parish Life Center, Room 100

12 Tuesday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

5am, Mañanitas, Church

12pm, Senior Luncheon, Parish Life Center

Mass in Spanish at 7pm

7:30pm, Spanish Legion of Mary, Parish Life Center, Room 204

13 Wednesday, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

6:30pm, YOUCAT, Parish Life Center

nota bene (*note well, please*):

- ✂ **Bethlehem Carving Group Sale Of Handmade Olive Wood Carvings & Articles this weekend!**
Please be sure to visit the display of hand-made olive wood carvings and other articles outside the Church after all the Masses. Any purchase you make supports our Bethlehem Christian families who continue to endure much hardship in the Holy Land. Thank you for your support!
- ✂ **Shred Event** in the Church parking lot on **Saturday, December 2 from 10am-1pm.** Shred-it will be on site to shred any personal or financial documents. All are welcome to bring items to be shredded.
- ✂ **Advent Season information can be found on pages 10 and 11.**
- ✂ **Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule** (*Holy Day Of Obligation & Feast Day Of Our Parish*)
Thursday, December 7 - Vigil 6pm & 7:30pm.
Friday, December 8 - 6:30am, 9am, 12 Noon, 6pm, and 7:30pm Bilingual Candle Light
- ✂ **Christmas Flowers** are now available. 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 shopping by purchasing **SCRIP gift cards!** Set up an account today and earn rebates for HCA. Email **Christi Greenwell** at **scripcordinator@holycrossweb.com** for the school enrollment code.
- ✂ **Subscribe to the Saint Mary website, stmaryfred.org** and receive important updates via email. The subscription box is on the homepage. Enter your email address, click "subscribe."
- ✂ Stop by our **Coffee Shop every Sunday morning** to meet your fellow parishioners and enjoy coffee and donuts.

SUNDAY MASS	Saturday Vigil 5 & 7pm Sunday 7, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30, 2:30pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7pm 10:30am at Holy Cross Academy
DAILY MASS	Mon.-Fri.: 6:30am, 9am M/W/F: 12 Noon Sat.: 9am First Friday 8pm Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
DEVOTIONS	Adoration, Daily between 6:30am & 9am Mass, Wednesday 12:30pm - Friday 9am Miraculous Medal Novena, Mon., after 9am Mass Divine Mercy, Wed., 3pm
CONFESSION	Wed., 6:30-8:30pm; 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. Stephen Holmes Fr. Colin Davis Fr. Michael J.R. Kelly Deacon Alberto Bernaola Deacon Dick Delio Operations Manager, Jim Florio Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski Parish Secretary, Elizabeth Tellez Director of Music & Organist, David Uschold
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	540-373-7553 Director, Nanci Scharf
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE	540-373-6491 Director, Aristides Lucas Associate Director, Karen Sturtevant
YOUTH MINISTRY	540-373-6491 Director, Leo Chavarria Tatiana Beltran
OUTREACH	540-373-6491 Elena Doyle - outreach@stmaryfred.org
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 Parish Life Center 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!

from the pastor

pax et bonum



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY



Dear Folks,

How do you celebrate Advent? I re-read a blog post titled, "Baby steps for celebrating Advent: 24 super simple ideas." Google it, and you should be able to find it on ConversionDiary.com. I liked how practical these recommendations are for families. Advent wreaths, Nativity sets, special Advent books for children. Little traditions like these in your own home go a long, long way to connecting with children and demonstrating that the faith is not a 'Sunday-Only' proposition. I recall how my family had a special area where Christmas presents would be piled up during the weeks that led to Christmas. I loved to lie on the floor and stare at them and dream of what might be behind the wrapping paper. And when I could get my gifts wrapped and added to the pile, my smile only got bigger. Advent wreath praying might be hit-or-miss some years, but we were still committed to it as a family, despite the many distractions and trials of scheduling big families. And I often consider that my parents 'forcing' me to participate in those prayers, even leading them sometimes, taught me how to be comfortable praying in public and leading others in prayers. Seeds planted for my vocation.

A reminder that this Friday is our patron feast and Holy Day of Obligation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass times are in the bulletin here. Of special note is a 7:30pm Mass on Friday the 8th will be a candlelight Mass like our advent ones. A kindly reminder that to miss Mass on a Sunday and Holy Days is a precept that binds every Catholic, and to deliberately fail this obligation is matter for grave sin (CCC 2180-83).

I pray that this Advent will be a season of great prayer for you and your families....

Pax et Bonum,

Fr Mosimann

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 12:30pm - Friday 9am

Come and adore Our Lord in the most beautiful Blessed Sacrament of the Altar and honor His Holy Mother by saying the Rosary in His Divine Presence. We have continuous Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday after the 12 Noon Mass until Friday morning before the 9am Mass. We also have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7am to 9am.

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your school every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at **smile.amazon**, you'll find the exact low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as **Amazon.com** with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Holy Cross Academy.

Visit smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1889183, or sign up and choose Holy Cross Academy from the list of charitable organizations. Thank you!

holy cross academy

November Wrap Up Testimonial

The month of November ended with lots of harvest and thanksgiving activities. We all thank God for the many blessings we share, one of the greatest blessings being our families. Our Holy Cross community is enriched by the participation of so many of our parents in the life of our school. The partnership that we form with them blesses all of us. A recent testimonial from one of our parents expresses it best:

As a parent, one of the hardest things to do is to say goodbye to your children and leave them for the day. That being said, there is no other place I feel more comfortable leaving my children for the day than Holy Cross Academy. This is our fifth year at HCA, with my oldest being in 4th grade and my middle child in 1st grade this year. Each year we wrap up the year saying, this was the best year yet. And each year we are proven wrong, as the next year is just as good...and perhaps even better!? I appreciate that my children are taught in so many different ways. From basic spelling tests to hands on STEM projects and creative reports and activities, they are not only learning, but applying what they learn to different aspects of life. They are challenged, encouraged, supported, and rewarded in a positive and caring environment that ultimately reinforces our religious beliefs and values. With God at the center and a loving, devoted, and talented staff teaching and caring for my children, it is no wonder that they love school, love learning, and are enjoying building their own special relationship with God. Each teacher we've had at HCA has more than exceeded our expectations, as they have built a beautiful relationship with each of my children, creating a bond of mutual respect and making them feel special and eager to work toward their full potential. The close relationships carry throughout the school with my children being greeted every morning by the assistant principal and wished a wonderful afternoon on their way home by the principal. So, while it should be hard to say goodbye to my kids every morning, it is not. Instead of feeling sad or being full of worry, I enjoy watching them being welcomed for the day by their school family, where I know that they are growing into some remarkable young people!

Please Save the Date: February 25, 2018. We will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary at Holy Cross Academy and would love to have you join us!

Holy Cross Barnes & Noble Book Fair

This book fair will be held on December 10 from 1-5pm. We will have performances by the school chorus, readings and puppet shows for the little ones, science experiments and student art on display. When shopping at the Central Park Barnes & Noble location on December 10, and for five days after online, be sure to share the **Voucher Number 12235248** and a percentage of your purchase will go to support Holy Cross Academy. This fundraiser works for all purchases including the café, so consider having lunch, enjoying a special chocolate-mint Holy Cross Academy spirit drink, and getting some of your Christmas shopping done while enjoying the sounds of Youth of Note and visiting with some of your friends from the school and parish.



**A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence,
2012**

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIRS

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.*

The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, video games, digital devices including NOOK, purchases made at Cafés owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not included in bookfair totals. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.

#BNBOOKFAIRS

Holy Cross Christmas Ornaments

Holy Cross Academy 20th anniversary ornaments are now on sale. These beautiful ornaments were created by Mrs. Christine Lush-Rodriguez, our former Art teacher. Each ornament is \$20. Ornaments can be purchased in the school office or at the preschool. You can download an order form from our school website or call the office at 540-286-1600. Just let us know how many ornaments you would like and where you would like to pick up your ornament.



education

religious education

Baptismal Certificates

Parents of Religious Education students preparing for First Holy Communion are reminded that a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate must be submitted to the Religious Education Office by the end of the year.

Deacon Alberto

Parents of the Religious Education students to be baptized on Saturday, January 13, 2018 are required to attend the Baptism class for parents this Monday, November 27 at 6:30pm in the Parish Life Center. Deacon Alberto Bernaola will conduct the class.

In 1591 Juan Diego found himself between two worlds, that of the Spanish conquerors and that of his own Aztec heritage. Because of his love for his people and his strong faith, Juan Diego turned to Jesus and His Mother, Mary for help in uniting his people. The answer to Juan Diego's prayers has become one of the greatest events in the history of the Americas.



Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe is the true story of how the Blessed Mother chose a hero for a key role in a beautiful miracle that would unite diverse peoples and change the course of history. In the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the miracle of the tilma of Juan Diego may still be seen, just as it was seen by the bishop in 1531.

JOIN FORMED 1. formed.org 2. click register 3. enter parish code: **F6F228**

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Prepare the Way of the King

by Dr. Scott Hahn

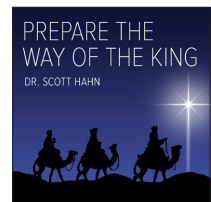
Make the Most of Advent



Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as Dr. Scott Hahn reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord with this captivating talk.

[Listen on formed.org](http://formed.org)

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.



"The speaker has done his homework and has a vast knowledge of the life and times of the ancient Jewish people. He was also so witty and funny, making it easy to listen to."

—Natalie, Ontario, CA

God Is Calling You To a Deeper Relationship with Him

New Bible Study Classes

Discover who the prophets were, what their message was, and why they are important to us. See how God is constantly calling you to a deeper relationship with him. Discover the ar-

eas in your life that prevent you from drawing closer to God. Understand how the central message of the prophets is one of love, proclaiming the mercy of God for his children. See how their powerful words speak to us today, shedding light on our faith and our lives. Discover the ways you are called to be the voice of God to others.

Classes Begin on Monday, February 5, 2018 and meet for the next 10 Mondays.

Classes meet from 1-2:30pm in the Fr. Don Community Room. Cost is \$23, collected at first class. Classes are facilitated by Suzette Young and are limited to 40 participants. Please sign up early in the Parish Office or call 540-373-6491.

parish life happenings

Life is Very Good Rally

On January 19, Saint Mary Youth Ministry is heading to the Eagle Bank Arena 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 Burbidge, hear musical performances by Ben Walther 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, sign up early!

Stay Up-to-Date

Be sure to stay in the know with St. Mary CYM by visiting stmaryfred.org/youth-ministry

StMaryCYM



#GetInvolvedBeTransformed

Keep Christ in Christmas (KClC) Campaign

The annual Knights of Columbus' Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign (Christmas card sales) will occur outside all Masses. The Knights of Columbus will use all proceeds gained to support our Religious Education Assistance Program for our local religious education schools, for Vocations, and for other local charities. Help "Keep Christ in Christmas" by sending religious cards as an evangelization message from you!

Breakfast with Santa

On December 16 between 7-10am, KofC Fredericksburg Council #4034 will partner with St. Mary's, Toys for Tots, Fredericksburg City Agencies, our Trail Life Troop, and local businesses to provide a Breakfast with Santa for kids who have been victims or witnesses of crime, severely economically disadvantaged, or in need of a little love and compassion. The number may change if more toys become available. We will provide a breakfast for the families; the children will meet with Santa; and, we will provide gifts for the children. We will need families from Saint Mary and our Council to host the families and make them feel welcome. Please contact Stephen Stoecker if you can help (grandknight@kofc4034.org).

December Family Dinner with Santa

The December Family Dinner will be Dinner with Santa and will be held on Saturday December 9 from 6-8:30pm in the Parish Life Center. The menu will be Baked Smokey Mountain Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Sweet Corn, Green Beans, & Ice Cream. It is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and proceeds will support the Christmas Party for Needy Children. The dinner is open to the public and is 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

Christmas tree sales are under way! These are freshly cut Virginia grown Fraser Firs.

Trees are being sold at St. Jude Catholic Church - 10725 Courthouse Rd. (route 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 about the Tree Sales can be directed to Tim Fleming – through e-mail at Trees@kofc4034.org

Please help us support the church and the community through helping the Knights of Columbus with your live Christmas tree purchase.

Giving Tree



Please take a tag and bring back the item(s) no later than **December 11**

Please return gift cards to the Parish Office

parish life happenings

Senior Luncheon

The next parish senior luncheon will be held in the Parish Life Center on Tuesday, December 12. 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.

Saint Mary's Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12, at 10am in the JPPII House. Please select a book of interest from either our parish library, public, or home library to share with us. For further information, please email Maureen Guilfoyle at maureenpsg@verizon.net.

Adult Confirmation Classes

We 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 and then six class sessions led by Deacon Dick, each lasting about one hour on Tuesday nights. **The tentative schedule is: January 9, 2018 (introduction), 16, then April 3, for 5 weeks ..** 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.

Call to Evangelization

Empower your witness! Every day we have opportunities to share our story about why we love being Catholic, but do we?

Or, do we hide our light under the proverbial bushel?

In July, Father Colin led an engaging series on evangelization. That gave birth to a small group whose purpose is to support and encourage each other in our efforts to share our faith. We discuss opportunities we've had to evangelize, what worked and what didn't, or what prevented us from trying. If you want to engage others in conversation about our faith, join us. We meet every 4th Sunday between the 10:30am and the 12:30pm masses (except on holiday weekends) in the Courtyard Meeting Room. **For more information contact Bryan Richardson at br22406@cox.net.**

Teams of our Lady

"The couple that prays together, stays together" - The Teams of Our Lady (teamsofourlady.org) are a fantastic way for couples to deepen their spirituality in marriage. Each couple takes time to pray and prepare spiritual material together, and then meet monthly to pray and share with the other couples over dinner. The second Fredericksburg team is almost complete! Contact us to learn more, **Helene (540 361 5662) and Gonzague (540 361 5673) de Bonfils, or hdebonfils@gmail.com.**

Micah Cold Weather Shelter

The Micah Cold Weather Shelter opened for the winter season on November 15 and will remain open each evening until mid- to late-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 is asked to collect 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 is 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, thurmanbrisbencenterv.org

Health Ministry

Community Resource – Cancer Support Group

General cancer support for patients, survivors, caregivers and families facing the issue of cancer. Discussion is an open forum that provides support, encouragement, understanding and sharing of information and experiences. No registration required. 1st Mondays - 7pm, Radiation Oncology Lobby - 1300 Hospital Drive, Suite 101 Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Pray with Health Ministry for the sick in our Parish Community as we pray from Psalm 147:3

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

parish life happenings

Catholic Charities Helps Ex-offenders Get Back On Their Feet

Arlington Diocesan Catholic Charities is helping ex-offenders returning to their communities after incarceration. Sadly many re-offend and return to prison within three years of their release. Part of the problem is their lack of connection with their community. The heart of the Catholic Charities Welcome Home Re-Entry Program is helping ex-offenders establish that connection. The program "seeks to reduce recidivism, educate the community, and develop strong systems of support by building relationships and matching returning individuals with compassionate volunteer mentors".

Through the program, the returning citizens are assigned a trained mentor to help with different areas such as housing, transportation, employment and how to stay sober. Sally O'Dwyer, director of volunteers for Catholic Charities, said 10 mentors have been trained, but they are in need of more. Mentors will work with individuals and determine their needs, but Catholic Charities wants to have a team approach. "Once the mentor is able to find out what the needs are, we try and work as a team to identify resources to help the mentor to be successful by stepping in when needed," said O'Dwyer. Connecting the ex-offender with a faith component also is important. The program will help them get to a church meeting or service of their choice to encourage that development of their faith.

Knights of Columbus Freedom 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser - January 21

Lace up your shoes and join us for the 1st Annual Knights of Columbus Freedom 5K Run/Walk fundraiser! This USATF-certified run/walk benefits many charitable organizations in the Stafford, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania community. Food, refreshments, and music post-race! Fun for the whole family!



Questions? Contact info@kofc4034.org. Early bird registration until December 15 (\$20). General registration December 15 - January 7 (\$25). Late registration January 8-14 (\$30). Register online at racetimingunlimited.org. Like us on facebook - @kofcfreedom5k

Fa La La La La!

All are welcome Tuesday, December 12 at 10:30am in the church for Christmas Caroling at the Organ! Our very own, David Ushold will be performing with the Council of Catholic Women (CCW).



We invite all Christians to gather in the peace of Christ at St. Mary this **Monday, December 11** as we "prepare a place for unity and peace" together.

You are invited to a monthly gathering of prayer in the ecumenical tradition of the Taizé Community in France, the second Monday of every month at 8:15pm.

It is our hope that this monthly prayer brings together Christians of all churches, pastors and flocks, as together 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." It is something we are unable to do ourselves.



This Unity which embraces all people stands at the very heart of Christ's mission...and belongs to the essence of our community. Let us provide a place where his Spirit can come and fulfill his plan for us.



The Advent Season 2017 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 **Saturday, December 23.**

Daily Mass

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

December 3—14: Regular Confession Schedule

Wednesdays • 6:30-8:30pm

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: Vigil at 6pm & 7:30pm

December 8: 6:30am, 9am, 12noon, 6pm, & Bi-Lingual Candle Light at 7:30pm

Additional Parish Confessions

Thursday & Friday, December 14-15 • 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, December 16 at 8am & beginning at 3:30pm until Masses begins

Monday through Friday, December 18-22 • 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, December 23 • 7:30-9am & 2:30-5pm

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

Sunday Advent Candlelight Masses

7pm Candlelight Masses will be offered during the first **three** Advent Sundays

The Christmas SEASON at Saint Mary 2017



Please note: Because Christmas falls on a Monday, we are obligated to attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent either at a Saturday Night Vigil or on Sunday Morning up to the 12:30pm Mass. Masses fulfilling your obligation for Christmas will begin that Sunday Night at 4pm.

S A T U R D A Y , D E C E M B E R 23

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT VIGIL MASSES

5pm Mass at Holy Cross Academy

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 24

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

4pm & 6:30pm Mass at Holy Cross Academy

4pm and 8:30pm Mass at Saint Mary Church

6:30pm Spanish Mass at Saint Mary Church

M O 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 Mass at Saint Mary Church

Please Note: There are NO

10:30am Holy Cross Academy, 2pm en español/in Spanish

5pm or 7pm Masses on Christmas Day at Saint Mary Church

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 31

FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

Candle Light Mass at 7pm

Please note there will be no vigil Masses for The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, due to the Sunday Masses taking precedence.

M O N D A Y , J A N U A R Y 1

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

Mass at 7:00, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30pm, Spanish Mass at 2:30pm

S U N D A Y , J A N U A R Y 7

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 8

SOLEMNITY of the BAPTISM of the LORD

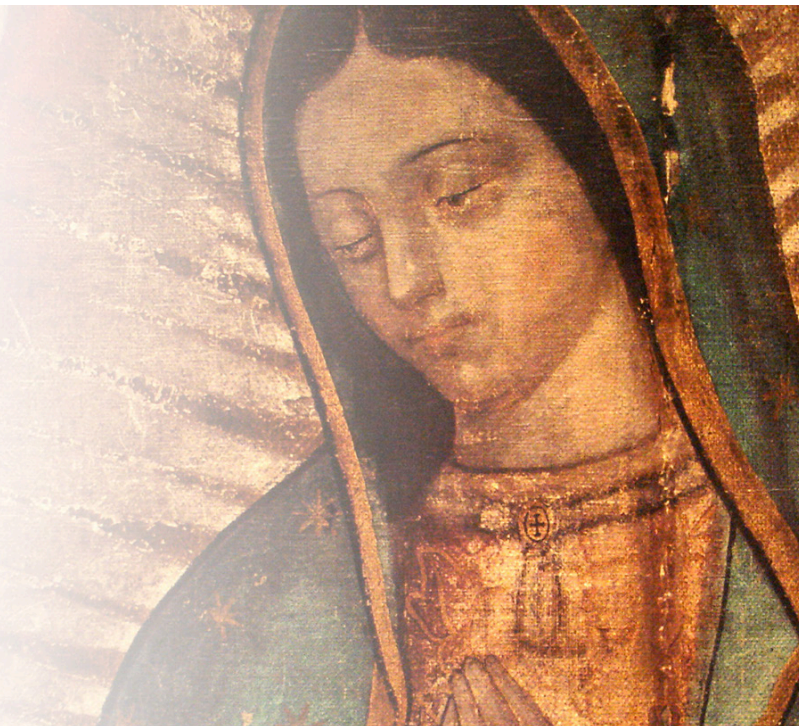
We will follow the regular Monday Weekday schedule for the parish

parish life happenings

Welcoming back the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The miraculous image of Our Lady returns to Saint Mary on Tuesday, December 19 from 5:00-8:30pm in the church.

A digital copy of the original tilma of St. Juan Diego in the basilica in Mexico City, this image communicates the loving presence of Mary, our Mother, through some beautiful signs. You, too, can experience these graces, signs and wonders through Mary's mediation and respond to our bishops' call for a culture of life in our country.



St. Mary 2018 Holy Land Pilgrimage with Father Holmes

February 2 - 13, 2018

Come and see where Christ saved the world! Join Rev. Stephen Holmes for this exciting Parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Price is \$3250 per person, with round trip airfare from Washington Dulles to Israel, 10 nights hotel accommodations (4 nights in Nazareth and 6 nights in Jerusalem), breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, English speaking tour guide, deluxe transportation around Israel, all entrance and portage fees, an audio guiding system, and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Contact Margaret Ford at 540-373-6900



advent quirks

Advent and Christmas Scheduling Quirks

As we prepare to enter the Season of Advent, many are already beginning their Christmas planning, Saint Mary included! This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Sunday, December 24, and, as always, Christmas falls on December 25. This creates a situation that is a little confusing when it comes to determining when we should go to Mass. We are obligated to attend Mass twice between December 23 and December 25: Once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas. There is not one Mass that satisfies the requirement for both (no two for ones!). In short, Fourth Sunday of Advent is celebrated started at 5pm Mass on Saturday December 23 and ending at 12:30pm on December 24. Christmas begins a few hours later on Sunday, December 24, at the 4pm Mass. That means that to satisfy your obligations for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas, you need to attend Mass for the

Fourth Sunday of Advent at any of the following times: **Saturday, December 23rd at 5pm** in the church and an additional Mass added for that Saturday only at **5pm at Holy Cross Academy**, and there will also be a 7pm Vigil in the church which will be bi-lingual. On Sunday Morning, we will have Mass at **7am, 8:30am, 10:30am in the church, and 10:30am at Holy Cross Academy, and 12:30pm in the church.** That means the last Mass satisfying your obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the 12:30pm Mass. Christmas is such an important Solemnity that as soon as the evening approaches we begin celebrating it, so it takes precedence over what would be our normal Sunday evening Masses. **Masses for Christmas begin at 4pm**, both in the church and at Holy Cross. **The 6:30pm Mass in the church will be in Spanish, and the 6:30pm at Holy Cross will be in English.** We will have a **8:30pm in the church in English**, and caroling at 11pm followed by **Midnight**

Mass at 12am. On Monday, Christmas morning, we will have **7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, and 12:30pm Mass all in the church.**

This year, The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is **NOT a Holy Day of Obligation**. This means that, while still a holy day, you are **not** obligated to attend Mass on Monday January 1. You still are obligated to attend on Sunday December 31, the Feast of the Holy Family, at our usual Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass Schedule. On that Monday, January 1, we will be offering at **7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, and 2:30pm Spanish** for those who still wish to celebrate the Holy Day and start the New Year off with Mass.





CHRISTMAS COLLECTION DECEMBER 2017

ENCOUNTERING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

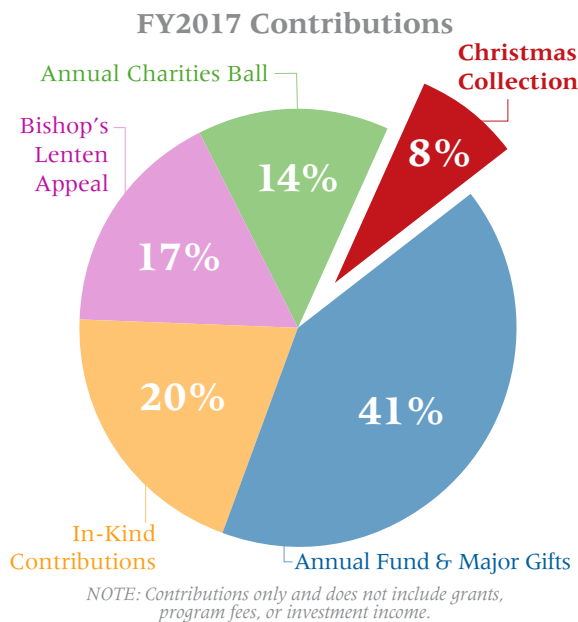


IN 2017, YOUR SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAS BROUGHT HOPE TO THOSE IN GREATEST NEED AS FOLLOWS:

 **nearly 1M**
pounds of food
given to the poor

 **1,174**
people helped with
emergency
assistance

 **86¢**
of every dollar
spent goes to
programs
and services



\$700K
Goal for 2017
Christmas Collection


Catholic Charities
shared more than
18,000
meals with the
hungry in 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every day presents us with opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those we meet. In each of these encounters, we are called to respond with the authentic charity that identifies us as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This year, the theme of the Christmas Collection on behalf of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is *Encountering Each Other in Christ*. In this sacred time of year, we are encouraged to seek opportunities to carry the love of Jesus to our neighbors, especially those most in need.

One way to reach out to others is to offer a sacrificial gift for the 2017 Christmas Collection on the weekend of December 9 and 10. Through your generosity, you will be supporting the programs of our diocesan Catholic Charities, which serve God's people throughout northern Virginia and beyond.

May Our Lord Jesus bless you with His peace in this sacred season of Advent and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



FOR 2018, YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP WITH THESE GOALS



Distribute **1.1 million pounds of food** through the St Lucy Program



Provide **18,250 free meals** to those in need at Christ House



Provide **13,000 mental health counseling sessions** to 1,000 individuals at 22 locations which includes 16 parishes



Provide Emergency Assistance help to **1,250 clients**



Provide adoption and pregnancy related services to **700 clients**



Provide English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes to **1,500 new students** and **2,193 continuing students**



Provide naturalization application services to **167 Lawful Permanent Residents**, with **157 becoming citizens**



Provide workforce development classes to **200 unduplicated** or **220 duplicated registrants**



Provide **60 Cars** to families in need



Between **12 and 24 ex-offenders** will receive housing and supportive services through new prison ministry aftercare initiative

TO MAKE A GIFT IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, PLEASE PLACE THIS ENVELOPE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION BASKET OR MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS LISTED.

YES! I/WE WILL SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH THOSE IN GREATEST NEED IN OUR DIOCESE

☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ (to receive CCDA updates)

Phone: _____ Parish: _____

DONATE ONLINE
WWW.CCDA.NET
SECURE • EASY • FAST

If using your Parish collection basket, please make checks payable to your Parish and note Catholic Charities Collection in the memo.
If mailing your gift to Catholic Charities, please make checks payable to Catholic Charities and note Christmas Collection in the memo.

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

Collections for November 19 & 26

Offertory Collection 11/19	\$28,939
Offertory Collection 11/26	\$27,545
Retirement Fund (add'l)	\$3,095
Catholic Human Dev.	\$6,573
St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box	\$226
Thanksgiving Food Bank	\$499

*Second Collection on December 9
& 10 benefits the Annual Catholic
Charities Collection*

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Mary was full of grace from the first moment of her conception. She was not exempt from the need of a Savior; He simply shared with her in a unique way the victory over sin that He offers all of us. For those tempted to abort, there is always sufficient grace to do what is right. *Mary, pray for us and for all tempted to abort, that they may say yes to life.*

*Blessed be the holy and Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, Mother of God!*

O Virgin Immaculate, who, after the Ascension of thy Divine Son, didst console thy exile on earth by the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament, and didst spend before the Tabernacle the greater part of thy days and even thy nights, make us comprehend the treasure we possess on the altar. Inspire us to visit often the God of Love in the Sacrament in which He abides to receive the homage that He deserves by so many titles, and to guide, protect, and console us in this exile! Amen.

Al Anon Surviving the Weekend Group

All 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. It's important to know that you are not alone and there is help. **Al Anon meetings are every Saturday at 10am in Room 204 of St. Mary's Parish Life Center.**

Nar Anon Support Available

Nar Anon is a program that offers support to family members and friends of loved ones struggling with substance abuse. All information and discussion is non-judgemental, informative and strictly confidential. Our meetings are in **Room 204 in the Parish Life Center on Thursday from 7-8pm** and are open to the community at large. **Contact Cathy at 703-2018821, burgh757@gmail.com or Wayne at 540-840-5230.**

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.

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.

Christmas Flowers

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.



liturgy

daily bread

SCRIP Helping HCA

SCRIP provides wonderful financial support for Holy Cross Academy. The support the SCRIP program provides has averaged over \$9,400.00 for the past six years. Even if you do not have children who attend HCA you are encouraged to participate. These funds go directly to HCA for such costs as assistance for books, supplies, and our upcoming school expansion.

How it works: Most of us shop at various local vendors that are supported through SCRIP. These include Giant, Weis, Wawa, Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Target as well as popular restaurants like Olive Garden, Red Lobster, IHOP and Outback. Complete list at shopwithscrip.com

There are several ways you can order/purchase gift cards through the SCRIP program. One is to visit a SCRIP table after most Masses (including HCA). There is a volunteer who will provide info and help you purchase gift cards. Checks or cash accepted. You can also order online for delivery to either HCA (after 10:30am Mass or during school hours when school is in session) or for pickup after Saturday or Sunday Masses at the Church. And the most convenient way, set up a Presto Pay account and order gift cards online. You will need St. Mary's enrollment code to set an account. For the enrollment code and assistance, please contact Christi Greenwell at scripcordinator@holycrossweb.com or 703-994-2142. She will help get you started.

Your thoughtful consideration for this wonderful program is much appreciated. Remember, your shopping can provide direct benefits for HCA.

Saint Mary prayer list

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

Tracey Hansen, Bill Herr, Richard Fadden, Michelle Williams, Mike Pabrinkis, Zachary Payne, David Nimmer, Keri Nelson, Marc Wood, Jack Brush, Sandra Frietas Smith, Elise Velez, Virginia Gannon, Daisy McGuiney, Russell McGuiney, Kari Nelson, Ellen GilHool, Patricia Russo, Gail Russell, Urbano Negre, Nimfa Cloud, Daniel Burke, Prudy Tarpey, Barbara McCoy, Lee Bishop, Nora Ellen Lloyd, Tanh Lam, Joseph Mikulka, Lillian Kendall, Martha Clements, Judy Diehl, Terry Givens, Rose St. John, Jason Sully, Danny Thiebolt, Mary Rau, David Phillips, Re MacArthur, Theresa Petrill, Bob Rekowski, Gerard Fitzpatrick, Christina Wiley, Maureen Mizzles, Charles Dittmer, Bernice Douglas, Miles Wood, Bruce Mattern, Maria Wood, Shannon Triola, David Marcs, Roseanne Mash, Jeanne Burke, Indira Murillo, Christie Greenwell, Holly Smith, Anthony Yantiss, Larry Dillman, James Evans, Gabriel Galarza-Torres, Keith Kovalefsky, Joaquin Perez, Amber Moser, Stan Guzik, Barbara Butler, Mary Walsh, Elizabeth Murray, Jacqueline Murray, Robert Gomer, Carla Gomer, Robert Wayne Thompson, Robert Arthur Ouellette, Douglas Meyer, Betsy Murray, Monica Hannan, Eldon Ulmer, Linda Jamison, Karla Dorsey, Maria Eliza Franca Maciel, Eileen Bourne, Marty T., David A, Pedro Rios, Cathy Burgh, Roger Dewayne, Rose Anne Sharpe, Angus Johnson, Peter Wood, Jude Murphy, Paula Snellings, Mary Jean & Don Williams, Harold Gardiner, Gerald Gardiner, Tina Ott, Michael Carr, Stephen Daley, Deanna White, Maria Stein, Elizabeth Davis, Jeanette Williams, Deborah June King, Ann Gallagher, Robert & Brittani Horner, John D. Zaloudek, Roger Sharpe, Mary Ulmer, Antonio Christianson, Thomas Moeller, Marianne Ford, Ortiz Family, Maryann Seidlinger, William Hackbarth, John Michael Ides, Sylvia Pressley, Tamlyn Leaf, Matthew Roberts, Deanna Uperti, Gabriela Mason, Maria Stine, Joy & Larry Kligman, David Duke, Dennis Morris, James Murphy, Joan Cheek, Ted Mayor, Tim Conway, Billy LaPietra, Bob Rekowski & Family, Daniel Bustamonta, Maryann Devenas, Frank Spatt, Micheal Chen, Joseph Stefano, Fred Becker, Chuck Boyer

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 Tupia, Vincent Petillo, Christopher Johnson III, Patrick Desmond, Andrew M. Smith, Nelly Garcia, Mindy Hakenson, Xavier Alas, Anthony Howell, John Anthenor, Andrew Dowdy, Sean McCullum, Josue Bermudez, Monica Hannan, Brian Mahoney, Julio A. Alarcon, Gabe Gonzalez, David Oechslein

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

Daily Mass intentions and readings

december

4 MONDAY

6:30am Judy Fritz+

9am Glenn Derouin+

Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

5 TUESDAY

6:30am Royal Schmith Sr.+

9am Rocio Atkinson

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

6 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Mark Broadway+

9am Jerome Murphy

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

7 THURSDAY

6:30am Dorothy LaBiaca+

9am Ruth Quade+

6pm Elaine Wheeler

7:30pm Phap Nguyen

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21-27

8 FRIDAY

6:30am Lou Farrell

8:15am* Maureen Lesley

9am Linda Anne Pavlick

12pm For Our Parish

6pm Luis Pacheco+

7:30pm Loretta Carter+

Gn 3:9-20/Eph 1:3-12/Lk 1:26-38

9 SATURDAY

9am Father Cummings

5pm Andrew Mullady+

7pm Paul Johnson+

Is 30:19-26/Mt 9:35-10:1-8

10 SUNDAY

7am Jessica Casillas Stenovec+

8:30am Billy Wenzcliff+

10:30am Mary Elstner+

10:30am* Barbara Cameal

12:30pm Claudia Golemboski+

2:30pm Pastor Velis Marinez+

5pm Linda Kaila+

7:01pm For Our Parish

Is 40:1-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy