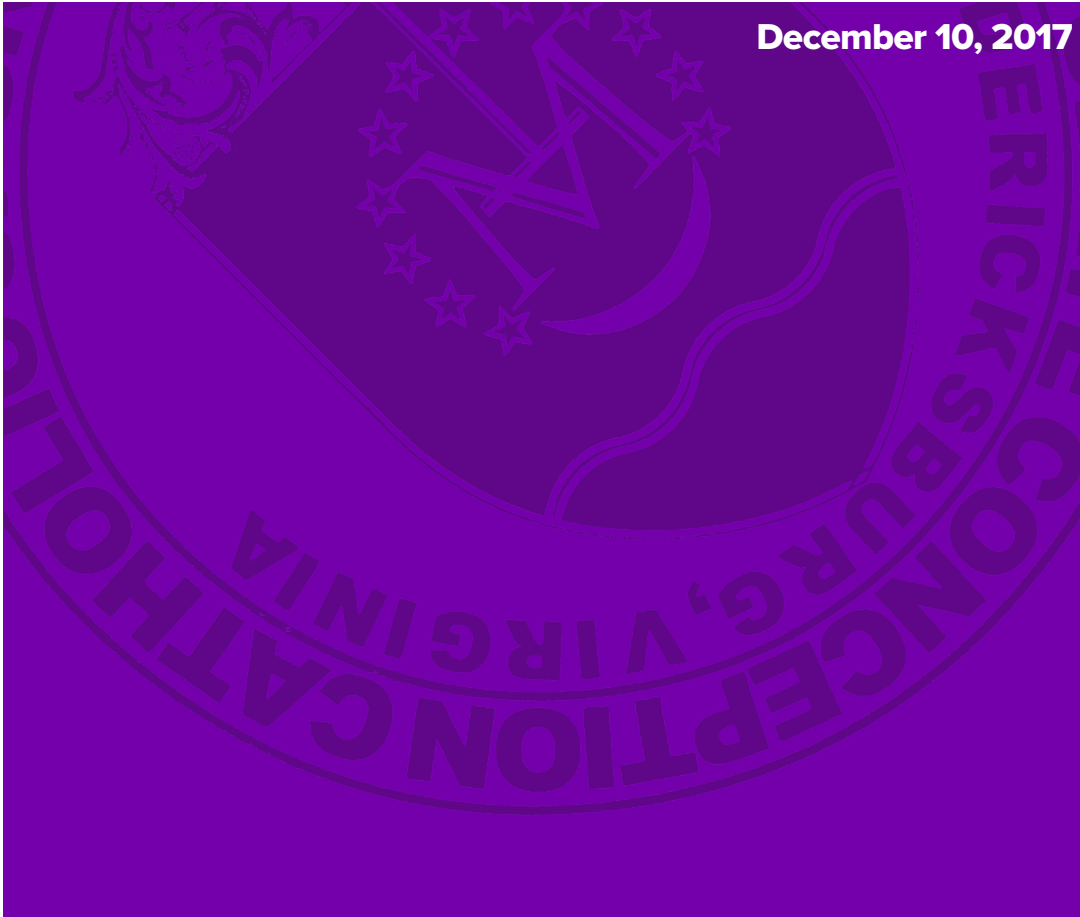


Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017



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

upcoming events



**SAINT
MARY**
of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Roman Catholic Church

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

December

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

10am, CCW Meeting followed by Caroling with David Uschold, Church

12pm, Senior Luncheon, Parish Life Center

Mass in Spanish at 7pm, followed by reception in the Parish Life Center

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

13 Wednesday, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

6:30pm, YOUCAT, Parish Life Center

14 Thursday, Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

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

15 Friday, Advent Weekday

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

7pm, Advent Lessons and Carols with David Uschold, Church

16 Saturday, Advent Weekday

17 SUNDAY, THIRD SUNDAY ON ADVENT

Coffee Shop after morning Masses sponsored by St. Mary Youth Ministry

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

Candle Light Mass at 7pm

11:30am, Evangelization Meeting, Courtyard Meeting Room

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

18 Monday, Advent Weekday

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

19 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

No Walking with Purpose Classes

20 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

6:30pm, YOUCAT, Parish Life Center

21 Thursday, Advent Weekday [Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church]

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

No Walking with Purpose Classes

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

22 Friday, Advent Weekday

6:30-7:30pm, Additional Advent Confessions

No Middle School Youth Group

express announcements

nota bene (note well, please):

- **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
- **Advent Lessons and Carols** this upcoming Friday, December 15 at 7pm, the choirs of St. Mary will present Advent Lessons and Carols as part of the St. Mary Concert Art Series. More information on page 9.
- Complete some of your shopping by purchasing **SCRIP gift cards!** Set up an account today and earn rebates for HCA. Email **Christi Greenwell** 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.**"
- Stop by our **Coffee Shop every Sunday morning** to meet your fellow parishioners and enjoy coffee and donuts.

contact us

stmaryfred.org

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;
students staff office weekdays until 9pm,
Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30-1:30pm

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, 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 our pastor

pax et bonum

Dear Folks,

So what Mass are you going to for Christmas? Let me make a suggestion: 'anything but the 4pm.' Yep, I typed that.... I personally don't get the fascination with the earliest possible Mass. We have the overflow Mass at Holy Cross Academy and it is also packed. Why not try the 6:30 HCA or 8:30pm Church if you have to go to Mass on Christmas Eve? Getting a seat will not require arriving an hour early.

And seriously, last year someone called the fire marshal to complain about overcrowding. This resulted in a visit from the fire marshal Christmas eve and already this month warning us of overcrowding. There is a very real possibility that the fire marshal will be watching us like a hawk this year.


Christmas Eve — Doors open at 3pm!!

Oh, and yes, in order to try to minimize the frustration of folks saving entire pews, the doors to the Church will open at 3pm for the 4pm Mass. I know that the 'seat-savers' will fill the church in minutes, but that is better than one person holding 2 pews by arriving 2 hours early.... which I have seen in parishes that don't have a specific times the doors open. If you insist that 'early is the only way,' then in the words of the Christmas carol... "God Bless You."

Or even better... As a Christmas gift to yourself, come on Christmas morning. The Masses on Christmas morning are far more prayerful than the ones on Christmas eve!

But, you ask, what about our family traditions? I get it. 2 years ago, my unmarried siblings and parents moved the gift exchange to the AM of Dec 26th! This was a traumatic change that took years of negotiations. Now on Christmas day, after all the Masses, I go to my parents home and we have a few calm minutes of rest, food, and conversation before my parents house is taken over by 23 Grandchildren. It worked! Christmas is now much more peaceful and prayerful!

Pax et Bonum,


Fr Mosimann

From the Pews at St. Mary

As I reflect on my new passion to take a more active role in serving the members of our community, I give much of the credit to the Called & Gifted Program, which I was fortunate to attend in August of 2016. This program has had a remarkable effect on my spiritual growth and my desire to fulfill a mission of outreach as a Catholic. Through this program, I learned the difference between our responsibility to be a disciple of Christ and our calling to be an Apostle of Christ. In addition, I was led to understand the difference between the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit that have been given to us for us, versus the gifts of Charisms that we have been blessed to have received from the Holy Spirit to give and share with others.

I left the Called and Gifted weekend with a heightened awareness of the many blessings that I have received from our Lord. I was filled with much encouragement and enthusiasm to open my heart to His calling for me to discern and use my charisms to bring members of our community closer to God. Renewed and invigorated, I feel that I have made wonderful strides over the past 14 months to be a better example of the words that we have on a plaque in our home: "Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God will come to know God because they know you."

As I continue my journey in growth as a Catholic servant to our Lord, I am most thankful for the knowledge and wisdom that I gained through Called & Gifted. I would truly recommend this program to anyone who has a desire or feels a calling to serve the St. Mary Parish or our parish community. I can assure that you will find the program to be extremely informative and inspirational, and one that will deepen your faith and understanding of what Jesus is asking of us in return for what we ask of Him.

education holy cross academy

A Truly Blessed Community

Our Holy Cross community is blessed by many generous people who support us in our work of providing an excellent Catholic education for the children of our parish. Thank you for all your help and support. We have two events that we invite you to consider during this season of giving.

Twenty years ago, Saint Pope John Paul II said to an audience of Catholic educators in New Orleans: "Yours is a great gift to the Church, a great gift to your nation." The National Catholic Education Association is sponsoring A Day of Giving for Catholic Schools, Many Gifts, One Nation, on January 30, 2018 to support Catholic school throughout our country. In anticipation of this, a generous alumni family has offered us a \$10,000 challenge grant. If we can raise \$10,000 between now and the Day of Giving, they will match that amount. This money will help to finance our school expansion. We ask you to consider a gift in support of Catholic Education either before the end of this year, making it a deduction for 2017, or any time in January. If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Susan Louise at principal@holycrossweb.com or 540-286-1600. We hope you will help us to reach our goal of \$10,000 for our school expansion!

Consider joining us at Barnes and Noble on Sunday, December 10, 1-5pm. We will have performances by our 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 on December 10, and for the next five days online, be sure to share the **Voucher Number 12235248** so that 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 your friends from our school and parish.

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 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.



*A National
Blue Ribbon
School of
Excellence*



Consider our School

We hope that you will consider our parish school for your children. To learn more, 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.



education

religious education

Preparing for Advent

During Religious Education classes students prepared for Advent. They colored and made advent wreaths, listened to stories, participated in short skits and learnt that during the season of advent we prepare for the coming of Jesus.



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Tuesday, December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, there will be no Religious Education classes. Students are encouraged to participate in parish activities or watch the documentary "Guadalupe" on FORMED.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Guadalupe

The Miracle and the Message

Explore the Marian Event that Transformed the World

Over the course of four days in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego and ignited an extraordinary transformation of the Americas. This gripping film explores the beautiful mystery and ongoing relevance of Our Lady's apparition at Guadalupe.

JOIN FORMED 1. [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) 2. click register
3. enter parish code: **F6F228**

youth ministry

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!



Above a Confirmation team packages lunches for the Stafford Junction Brain Builders program.

Stay Up-to-Date

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

StMaryCYM



#GetInvolvedBeTransformed

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.

Fa 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).



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.

CCW Updates

CCW News for December
Congratulations to the winners in our annual raffle:

First Place - Sharon Adinolfi

Second Place - Mark Olchoway

Third Place - Deanie Ryder

A thank you goes out to all of our bakers and crafters whose donations made our Mini Bazaar successful. The CCW wishes all of you a Blessed Christmas Season. We will see you on December 12!

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.

Health Ministry

Community Resource Diabetes Prevention Program

If you're at risk for type 2 diabetes, you can make small, measurable changes that can reduce your risk and help you live a happier, healthier life. Change is tough – we can help. This program features:

25 sessions delivered over the course of one year, led by a trained Lifestyle coach, and a group that offers motivation and support. New classes begin, January 15 from 7-8pm
January 23 from 12:30-1:30pm
Please contact, **Naomie Murdock, Rappahannock Area YMCA**, 540-371- 9622 ext. 1023

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

Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) 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!

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.

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 areas 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.

Birthright of Fredericksburg

Invites you to an information session to learn more about Fredericksburg's first pro-life service organization which was founded here in 1976. By meeting some current volunteers while enjoying refreshments and watching a short video, participants will get a clear idea of its mission and be better able to decide about becoming a member of the volunteer ranks. The "meet and greet" is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2018, from 7:30-9pm. To register, contact Kathleen Mahoney, 540-371-2073 or bmah761569@aol.com

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

Pilgrim Virgin Mary

The Legion of Mary is offering to have the Pilgrim Virgin statue visit your home for one or two weeks. If interested, please call or email Mary Lou Felts, 571-723-3333, maryloufelts@gmail.com

parish life happenings

Advent Lessons and Carols

On Friday, December 15 at 7pm, the choirs of St. Mary will present a service of Advent Lessons and Carols as part of the St. Mary Concert Art Series. In addition to the readings and music presented by the choirs, there will an opportunity for the congregation to participate in singing carols of the Advent Season.

The tradition of the Festival of Lessons and Carols was established in England as the adaptation of an earlier service on Christmas Eve, 1918, in the chapel of Kings College, Cambridge University, for the university community and for the city of Cambridge. The Kings College service was first broadcast by radio in 1928; and, excepting the year 1930, these broadcasts have continued to this day. This wonderful tradition, moreover, has been duplicated in cathedrals and churches throughout America.

It is my hope that all who can will attend this beautiful and most spiritual service of the season.

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.

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.

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 portorage fees, an audio guiding system, and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Contact Margaret Ford at 540-373-6900



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 & Saint Mary Church
7pm Mass at Saint Mary Church (Bilingual)

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

operations given in love

Weekly Offertory

Collections for December 3

Offertory Collection	\$37,327
Special Charities	\$10,230
St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box	\$763

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

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.*

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.**

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.

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.

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.

liturgy

daily bread

Micah Furniture Bank

Help needed on Saturday, December 30 9am-12pm. We are in need of people (teens encouraged) to help pick-up or deliver items to/from the Micah Furniture Bank. Our St. Mary Team meets at 9am at the Micah Warehouse. Please contact Rich LaRoche for more information at stone48@verizon.net. Thank you!

Christmas-Adopt-A-Family

St. Mary's has many families that need extra help this Christmas season. If you are interested in adopting a family (or a few members of a family) and can purchase gifts and/or food, please contact the front office by calling 540-373-6491 or come by and speak with Lori or Liz. God bless you.

Homeless Memorial Day

Join us Thursday, December 21 at 7pm in Market Square on the first day of winter and longest night of the year to remember our neighbors in need who have passed away in 2017. Many have gone without funerals or family to grieve. Service is sponsored by Micah Ministries and Fredericksburg Interfaith Leaders.



Saint Mary prayer list

Please pray for those who are sick or in need, especially: 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 Upterti, 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, Maria Celia Brandao Lage, Leah Sapphire, Felicity Stanfield, Michael Kraljevich, Steve Zawisa

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, 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

11 MONDAY

6:30am All Souls in Purgatory
9am John Carneal, Sr.+
Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

12 TUESDAY

6:30am Mike Harwich+
9am Betty Niederkofler+
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

13 WEDNESDAY

6:30am Deborah June King+
9am George Dixon+
Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

14 THURSDAY

6:30am Rufino Mercurio+
9am Charles White+
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21-27

15 FRIDAY

6:30am Artemio Robleza+
8:15am* Marion & Hubert Ricard+
9am Donna Green
Gn 3:9-20/Eph 1:3-12/Lk 1:26-38

16 SATURDAY

9am Ruth Stelliano+
5pm For Our Parish
7pm Stuart Cleveland+
Is 30:19-26/Mt 9:35-10:1-8

17 SUNDAY

7am Kathleen Kilmartin
8:30am Jessica Casillas Stenover+
10:30am Matthew Tomas Sampson
10:30am* Mary Linda Kaila+
12:30pm Late Lawson Drackley
2:30pm Asencion Alvarez+
5pm Michael Harwich+
7:01pm Catherine Sturtevant
Is 40:1-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

* Indicates Mass at Holy Cross Academy

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.