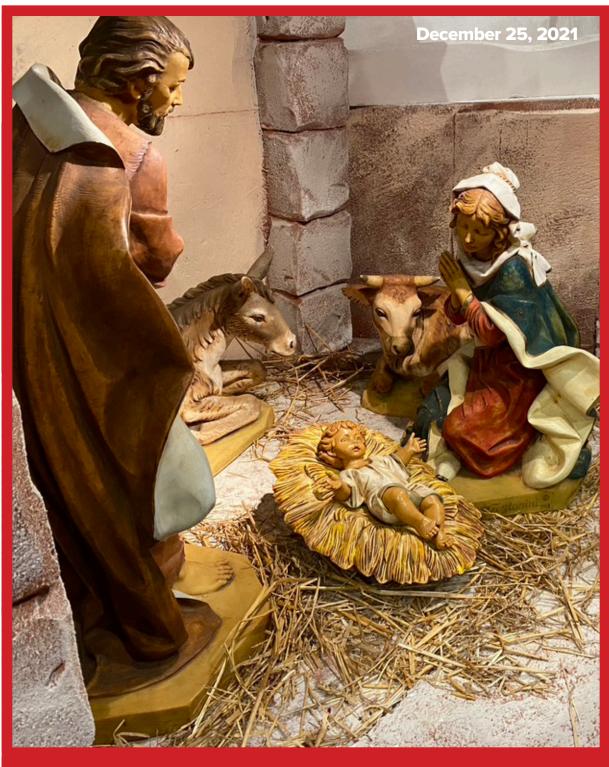
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church 1009 STAFFORD AVENUE - FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

announcements

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

Monday - Friday: 6:30am, 9am M/W/F: 12 Noon Saturday: 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, Monday, after 9am Mass Divine Mercy, Wednesday, 3pm

CONFESSION

Wednesday 11:30am-12pm, 6:30 - 8:30pm; Saturday, 8-8:30am & 3:30 - 4:30pm

PARISH OFFICE

540-373-6491 fax: 540-371-0251 stmary@stmaryfred.org stmaryfred.org Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm; Students staff office weekdays until 9pm, Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays 9:30am - 1:30pm

Fr. John Mosimann, Pastor Fr. Sean Koehr, Parochial Vicar Fr. Michael Folmar, Parochial Vicar Fr. Scott Sina, Parochial Vicar Fr. Phillip Cozzi, Parochial Vicar Deacon Alberto Bernaola Deacon Dick Delio

Business Manager, Elaine Stanislawski Director of Operations, Chris Lanzarone Facilities, Late-Lawson Drackey Custodial Services, Carmen Sanchez Parish Secretary, Jachebel Rios

MUSIC

Director of Music, David Uschold Asst. Director of Music, Malinda Jones

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

540-286-1600 250 Stafford Lakes Parkway Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406-7234 Principal - Dr. Stephen Fry, sfry@holycrossweb.com

HOLY CROSS PRESCHOOL

540-373-7553 Director, Sheri Castellarin

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Director, Aristides Lucas Associate Director, Karen Sturtevant Administrative Asst, Lori Barlow

YOUTH MINISTRY

Director, Tatiana Beltran

OUTREACH

Director, Elena Doyle

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 the parish six months in advance to begin preparation.

Articles must be submitted two weeks prior to publication. Send articles to bulletin@stmaryfred.org. Thanks!

> Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception 1009 Stafford Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401

LIVE-STREAMING NEWS

The 8:30am Sunday and weekday Masses are the ONLY live-streamed Masses.

Live-streaming will ONLY take place on Sunday's at the 10:30 and 12:30 Masses if needed due to overflow in the PLC. If the PLC is empty, no live-streaming will occur. Folks are encouraged to join the celebration of Mass in the church. For those with health concerns, Mass is being offered Sunday's at 8:30am at Holy Cross Academy – Mask are mandatory and Holy Communion is offered on the hand ONLY.

Please note, once the 8:30am live-stream is complete, the Mass is available to view all day long.

USHERS NEEDED

AT ALL MASSES

With the lifting of the dispensation for Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation by the Bishops, we will be in need of additional assistance at ALL MASSES

Sign up by following the link below signupgenius.com/go/70a0b48a9af29aaf58-ushers

from our pastor

pax et bonum

Dear Folks,

Merry, Merry Christmas!

May the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph help us to live the Mystery of Christmas with renewed gratitude to the Lord. In the midst of the frenetic activity of our day, may this Season give us some calm and joy and enable us to feel tangibly the goodness of our God, who became a Child to save us and to give new encouragement and light on our journey. This is my wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas. To each and every member of our parish family, to your relatives and to your friends, in particular to the sick and the suffering, as well those who have no one to celebrate this feast with.

Sometimes folks ask me, "How can we make practical changes that bring the faith more directly into our homes?" Christmas is probably the easiest time to do so!

In this bulletin, we offer you a Christmas tree blessing which can be one such way to keep the celebration focused on more than piles of presents. Pray it with your family today: maybe before dinner, or before dessert, or before gift exchanges. I believe in your creativity!

Alternatively, or additionally, will you remember to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus? Why not? Among the many Christmas carols that my family will sing tonight, we will include HBD as the last song before the youngest (great-grand)child blows out Jesus' birthday candles.

Morrina

Merry Christmas!

pax et bonum,

Fr Mosimann

The Christmas SEASON at Saint Mary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

Saint Mary Church

7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7pm

Holy Cross Academy 8:30am (High Risk Covid Mass) & 10:30am

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saint Mary Church
Vigil Mass 6pm | 12am (midnight)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD (Not a Day of Obligation)

Saint Mary Church
7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30 (Bilingual)
No Saturday Confessions

VIGIL for the EPIPHANY

5pm & 7pm at Saint Mary Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

FEAST of the EPIPHANY

Saint Mary Church

7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7pm

Holy Cross Academy

8:30am (High Risk Covid Mass) & 10:30am



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord (Lk 2:11).

How blessed are we to celebrate with profound joy the birth of Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary and Joseph! He is "Light from Light," and for more than 2,000 years, we have walked in the light that he brought the world at his birth.

Born in the midst of darkness, Jesus' light heals the world. He calls us in turn to carry that light and, by his grace, to illuminate a world in desperate need of his compassion, love and healing. The Wise Men followed a star shining in the sky, and, because of their trust and faithfulness, they saw the face of Christ. Likewise, each time we choose to follow the Lord and share his light, he transforms us little by little, and we grow closer to the newborn King, the King of Kings.

As we reflect on the challenges we have experienced this past year, we should consider whether we journey through our circumstances like the Wise Men, journeying closer to God in trust. This Christmas season, reflect on the word Emmanuel, which means "God with us." No matter our challenges and experiences, God is with us and wants to accompany us on our earthly journey.

Throughout this Christmas season and into the coming year, we have a unique opportunity to welcome Christ into our lives more deeply. In anticipation of our Golden Jubilee in 2024, I have called for two preparatory years in advance. The first year, which began on November 21, is devoted to the Eucharist. I encourage you to participate in one of the many 40 Hours Eucharistic devotions taking place throughout the Diocese this Christmas season. In adoration of Our Lord, we remember that he truly is with us—he is Emmanuel.

At this time of great joy and celebration, let us ask Our Lord to help us grow in love of him and of our neighbor and to trust in him just as the Wise Men trusted in him. He is our Light, our God.

Please be assured of my prayers for you, and may the peace and abundant blessings that only Jesus can give be yours at Christmas, throughout the New Year, and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge

Michael FBenlige

Bishop of Arlington



Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Hoy, nos ha nacido un Salvador, el Mesías, el Señor (Lucas 2:11)

¡Qué bendición es celebrar con profunda alegría el nacimiento de Jesús, Hijo de Dios e Hijo de María y José! Él es Luz de Luz y, por más de 2.000 años, hemos caminado en la luz que trajo al mundo con su nacimiento.

Jesús, nacido en medio de la oscuridad, sana al mundo con su luz. Él nos llama a llevar esa luz y, por su gracia, a iluminar a un mundo que necesita desesperadamente su compasión, amor y sanación. Los Reyes Magos siguieron una estrella que brillaba en el firmamento y, por su confianza y fidelidad, vieron el rostro de Cristo. Asimismo, cada vez que optamos por seguir al Señor y compartir su luz, Él nos transforma poco a poco y nosotros nos acercamos más al Rey de Reyes recién nacido.

Al reflexionar sobre las dificultades que hemos experimentado este año pasado, debemos pensar si recorrimos el camino de nuestras circunstancias como los Reyes Magos, más cerca de Dios con confianza en Él. En esta temporada de Navidad, reflexionemos sobre la palabra Emmanuel, que significa "Dios con nosotros". No importa cuáles sean nuestras dificultades y experiencias, Dios está con nosotros y quiere acompañarnos en nuestro peregrinaje terrenal.

En esta temporada de Navidad y el año entrante, tenemos una singular oportunidad de acoger a Cristo en nuestra vida de una manera más profunda. En anticipación de nuestro Jubileo de Oro en 2024, he designado un período de dos años de preparación. El primer año, que comenzó el 21 de noviembre, está dedicado a la Eucaristía. Los animo a participar en una de las muchas devociones eucarísticas de las 40 Horas celebradas en toda la Diócesis en esta temporada de Navidad. En adoración de Nuestro Señor, recordemos que Él verdaderamente está con nosotros, que Él es Emmanuel.

En esta época de gran alegría y celebración, pidámosle a Nuestro Señor que nos ayude a crecer en el amor de Él y de nuestro prójimo y a confiar en Él como lo hicieron los Reyes Magos. Él es nuestra Luz, nuestro Dios.

Tengan la seguridad de que todos ustedes estarán presentes en mis oraciones. Que reciban la paz y las abundantes bendiciones que solamente Jesús puede darles en la Navidad, durante el Año Nuevo y siempre.

Fielmente en Cristo.

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge Obispo de la Diócesis de Arlington

+ Mickel 7. Burlidge

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Holy Cross Academy

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 1:00 - 3:00PM

> SCHOOL HOURS 8:10AM - 3:10PM

AVIAT
BEFORE & AFTER CARE

REQUEST A TOUR TODAY

It's All About the Children!

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence offering a strong academic program, daily religious instruction, character formation, numerous extracurricular opportunities, a variety of music and art programs, and much more! Come discover what a blessing Holy Cross Academy can be for your family! Holy Cross Academy administration, faculty and staff would like to wish you a blessed and merry Christmas!



CONTACT US: 250 Stafford Lakes Parkway Fredericksburg, VA 22406

dlanier@holycrossacademy.com

To learn more, visit us at holycrossweb.com





The Choice Wine Program to Begin January 2022

We will gather the 3rd Saturday of every month at St. Mary's Parish Life Center
6:30pm for Wine & Cheese (refreshments/social)
7:00-8:30pm Program

Contact: Elena Doyle edoyle@stmaryfred.org to register

Monthly Meetings

January 15 July 16
February 19 August 20
March 19 September 17
May 21 October 15

June 18

TAY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

THE VISION OF MAN FULL Y ALIV E

Saturday Mornings at 6:30am

Breakfast followed by a presentation and small group discussion

Contact Peter 540-847-1243 or Stephen 714-305-7553 to learn more

our faith

tree blessing

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **R/**. Thanks be to God.

The intercessions are then said. The leader says:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R/**.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord. **R**/.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. **R**/.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God,

we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R/**. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

