

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2025



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



from the bishop christmas letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas shines as a season of joy, unity, and renewed hope. The Child of Bethlehem comes to draw us together as one family of faith, bridging every distance and healing every division. His radiant light pierces the darkness reminding us that in Christ love triumphs and peace endures.

As we gather once more around the manger of Bethlehem, our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude for the gift of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we rejoice in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation—God made man, dwelling among us to share our humanity, joys, and sorrows. In Him, heaven and earth are united, and through Him, we are reconciled to our Creator. The birth of our Savior reveals that God's love knows no boundaries.

I invite you to celebrate this holy season with renewed thanks for the gift of one another. May we follow the example of the Holy Family, who in faith and love welcomed the will of God with trust and serenity.

May the joy of this Christmas strengthen the bonds of unity among us and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



del obispo carta de navidad

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

La Navidad resplandece como una temporada de alegría, unidad y esperanza renovada. El Niño de Belén viene a reunirnos como una sola familia de fe, superando toda distancia y sanando toda división. Su luz radiante atraviesa la oscuridad y nos recuerda que en Cristo el amor triunfa y la paz perdura.

Al reunirnos nuevamente en torno al pesebre de Belén, nuestros corazones se llenan de asombro y gratitud por el don del amor de Dios hecho visible en Jesucristo. En Navidad, nos regocijamos en el maravilloso misterio de la Encarnación: Dios hecho hombre, que habita entre nosotros para compartir nuestra humanidad, nuestras alegrías y nuestras penas. En Él, el cielo y la tierra se unen, y por medio de Él somos reconciliados con nuestro Creador. El nacimiento de nuestro Salvador revela que el amor de Dios no conoce fronteras.

Los invito a celebrar esta santa temporada con un renovado agradecimiento por el don que somos los unos para los otros. Que sigamos el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia, que con fe y amor acogió la voluntad de Dios con confianza y serenidad.

Que la alegría de esta Navidad fortalezca los lazos de unidad entre nosotros, y que la paz de Cristo reine en sus corazones y en sus hogares.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de Arlington



from our pastor pax et bonum

Dear Folks,

Every Christmas the last thing that stood between me and opening presents would be a poem read by my mother. My Dad has taken over this reading now. But I share it with you and wish you blessings beyond your imagination.

And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.

—Sigrid Undset

As a pastor, I have also come to appreciate even more how much work goes into everything we celebrate. To make our Christmas celebrations beautiful, St. Mary's army of elves, reindeer, volunteers, and KofC have been decorating, singing, planning, training, cleaning, trying to keep the parking lot moving, and much much more. Just as children have no idea how hard parents work to make Christmas magical, so too the average parishioner is unaware of the work behind the scenes. Please say a prayer of thanksgiving for all the elves, knights, and volunteers!

Happy Birthday Jesus!
Merry, Merry Christmas!

pax,

Fr. Mosimann

Thank You for Your Generosity

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parishioners of St. Mary for your extraordinary generosity in support of this year's Giving Tree Program. Because of your kindness, countless individuals and families, as well as many local ministries, were blessed during this season. Your willingness to give so freely reflects the love of Christ alive in our parish and brings hope, dignity, and joy to those we serve. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Jesus in our community.

Example of one of the sweet notes written to a Micah client in support of the Christmas Pocket's Program.

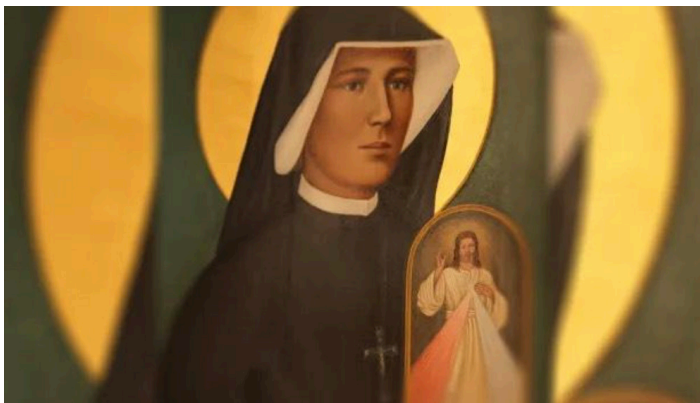


capital campaign

Growing Our Legacy of Faith

St. Faustina wanted the entire world to experience God's Mercy!

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, who lived during the 1930s, had private revelations from **Jesus Christ** himself. The miraculous visions that she had would later be defined as the "Divine Mercy" devotion inspiring St. John Paul II to establish "Divine Mercy Sunday" on the 2nd Sunday after Easter. While her feast is on October 5, her Diary is a



gold mine of teaching regarding *the great mystery of Christmas!*

As we approach the Christmas solemnity, we wanted to share with you the immense comfort, joy, hope and healing that is found in her writings. From her Diary, we know that there were times when Jesus appeared to her as a child to fill her heart with his joy and deepest love. On Christmas Eve of

1937, St. Faustina records one such visit that the Holy Child made to her: *...When I arrived at Midnight Mass, from the very beginning I steeped myself in deep recollection, during which time I saw the stable of Bethlehem filled with great radiance. The Blessed Virgin, all lost in the deepest of love, was wrapping Jesus in swaddling clothes, but Saint Joseph was still asleep. Only after the Mother of God put Jesus in the manger did the light of God awaken Joseph, who also prayed. But after a while, I was left alone with the Infant Jesus who stretched out His little hands to me, and I understood that I was to take Him in my arms. Jesus pressed His head against my heart and gave me to know, by His profound gaze, how good He found it to be next to my heart. [Diary 1442]*

Please prayerfully consider a Memorialization Opportunity

Nothing is Impossible for God! As we continue to work together to make the Divine Mercy Chapel a sacred space for our Lord and bring the parish improvements across the finish line, please support our efforts and those of the Building Committee with your prayers. This Advent, we continue to place our hope in the Lord! Please consider an enduring act of memorialization, offering a lasting tribute to your family and loved ones while leveraging end-of-year charitable contribution tax benefits, for the good of our community. If you have any questions, please call Donna Haring at (540)373-6491.

education

holy cross academy

Forming Hearts and Minds from Preschool to Eighth Grade

Since 1998, Holy Cross Academy has proudly served families in the Fredericksburg area, offering a vibrant Catholic education for children from Preschool (age 3) through eighth grade. Rooted in faith and academic excellence, our mission is to form young men and women to be saints, scholars, and leaders in the image of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother.

At Holy Cross Academy, we believe in forming the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. Our students are empowered to be their authentic selves in an environment where faith is the foundation of everything we do. Through a rigorous Catholic academic curriculum, we prepare them not only to succeed in high school and beyond, but also to live lives of integrity, service, and leadership.

Beyond academics, Holy Cross Academy is a place where friendships flourish and last a lifetime. The bonds formed here—rooted in shared values, community, and faith—become a source of strength and joy for years to come.

We are thrilled to announce the completion of a major campus expansion, designed to enrich our students' learning experience with:

- A beautiful new chapel for prayer and reflection
- A spacious cafeteria for community and nourishment
- Expanded Preschool classrooms to welcome our youngest learners
- A state-of-the-art STEM lab to spark innovation and discovery
- A brand-new middle school wing to support growth and leadership

We warmly invite you to experience the spirit and excellence of Holy Cross Academy. Schedule a tour today by calling 540-286-1600 or visiting holycrossweb.com.

Come see how we are building a foundation of faith, knowledge, character, and lifelong friendship—one child at a time

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY
JANUARY 25
1-3 PM

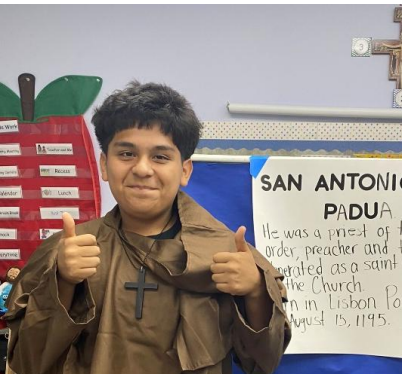
Call 540-286-1600 to RSVP
250 Stafford Lakes Parkway
Fredericksburg, VA 22406



education religious education

*Merry
Christmas*

from the
St. Mary's Religious Education Office



The gift of faith is the most important gift we can give to our children. More important than any physical gift, it's their compass, it's their guide, it's JESUS, the One who loves them above all else. We are here to help you give this beautiful gift to your child. Reach out to us in 2026!

our parish youth ministry

ST. MARY YOUTH MINISTRY
1009 STAFFORD AVE
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22401

We are praying for
you and your families
every week! We hope
you choose to join us
at our many Youth
Ministry events in
2026! You are
ALWAYS welcome!

to:

All middle
and high
schoolers!

May God bless you abundantly!



Merry Christmas!
and Happy New Year!



vida parroquial noticias en español

Únete a los

GRUPO DE ESTUDIO de FÁTIMA Y LOS PRIMEROS SÁBADOS



El Grupo de Estudio abarca lo siguiente:

- 1) Las apariciones del **Ángel de la Paz**.
- 2) Las **seis apariciones de Nuestra Señora** en Fátima.
- 3) Las **tres importantes apariciones después de Fátima**.
- 4) Información esencial y adicional de las **cartas y locuciones de la Hermana Lucía** hasta 1945.
- 5) Cómo es que todo este contenido está relacionado con los **Primeros Sábados**.

**Conoce la importancia única de los
Primeros Sábados en el contexto de
todo el mensaje de Fátima.**



Regístrate aquí:



www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org/es/gruposdeestudio-usa

Comienza la semana del 18 al 22 de Enero del 2026.

our parish happenings

THEOLOGY ON TAP *Fredericksburg*

This month

Peace of Heart – The Ultimate New Year's Resolution

Wife, mother, counselor, and St. Patrick's parishioner Karen Cruess is back! As we round out the Christmas season and enter 2026, come hear about one New Year's Resolution we all need – finding and maintaining peace of heart in the midst of challenges, disappointments, failures, suffering, and loss. Join us for good friends, good beer, and great conversation.

Presenter
Karen Cruess



MONDAY, JANUARY 5

Strangeways Brewing

350 Landsdowne Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Connect with us! fredericksburgtot@gmail.com

Doors open at 5pm
Presentation at 6:30pm



EXODUS 90 | SAVE THE DATE | JANUARY 5

What is Exodus 90?

Exodus 90 is a 90-day spiritual exercise for Catholic men that begins on the 5th of January 2026, ending on Easter Sunday. Rooted in the Church's tradition of prayer, asceticism, and fraternity, Exodus 90 invites men to grow in interior freedom, virtue, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Men who participate commit to:

- Daily prayer, including Sacred Scripture
- Ascetical disciplines that foster self-mastery and freedom
- Daily Check-in with an accountability partner
- Weekly fraternity meetings with a small group of men for mutual support and accountability
- Exodus 90 is not a study or discussion group. It is a shared spiritual journey that draws from the wisdom of the Church and prepares men to live their vocations more faithfully as husbands, fathers, sons, and leaders.

Men of all ages and stages of faith are welcome.

**Informational meeting Saturday, January 3rd 8:00am in the PLC.
(NOTE TIME CHANGE – NOW STARTING AT 8AM)**



our parish happenings

Join a

FATIMA AND THE FIRST SATURDAYS STUDY GROUP!



The Study Group covers the following:

- 1) Discussion about the **apparitions of the Angel of Peace.**
- 2) Discussion about **Our Lady's six appearances** at Fatima.
- 3) Discussion about the **three important appearances after Fatima.**
- 4) Discussion about additional crucial information found in **Sr. Lucia's letters and locutions** up to 1945.
- 5) How all of this content is related to the **First Saturdays.**

Join with others online to understand the unique importance of the First Saturdays within the context of the entire Fatima Message.



To register go to
www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org/study-groups
or scan the QR code.



Register here.

Starts the week of January 18th to 22nd, 2026.



outreach get involved

May peace and blessings be yours this Christmas! You are warmly invited to engage in your faith life in a new and profound way this coming year at St. Mary's! We need your gifts!

Please consider getting involved in one of the highlighted ministries below or check out the entire catalog of ministries on our website stmaryfred.org

Questions? Please reach out to Stewardship at stewardship@stmaryfred.org.

You have gifts that ONLY YOU can give. Please consider sharing them with your parish family.

Liturgy

USHER – We are in desperate need of more ushers! Help provide assistance to your fellow parishioners. Contact: Tom Fish fishtbx@gmail.com

LECTORS – Proclaim the scripture readings at Mass.
Contact: Karin Lea lea.karin.j@gmail.com

PARISH CHOIR/CANTORS – We have several choirs. If you can sing, we are welcoming new members. Contact: Joseph Ciskanik musicdirector@stmaryfred.org

Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – We are always looking for catechists and substitutes to help. Please reach out. Contact: Katherine Evans kevans@stmaryfred.org

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY – Substitute teachers needed. Contact: Angie Tomayko atomayko@holycrossweb.com

SCRIP VOLUNTEERS – Needed to help sell SCRIP gift cards after Mass. Join our team! Contact: Lloyd Keeton scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com

Outreach

BRISBEN DINNER TEAM: Once a month on Wednesday evenings. Help our crew prepare dinner, serve and clean up at the shelter. Contact: Jim Shall jimshall1@yahoo.com

MICAH COMMUNITY DINNER TEAM: 1st & 5th Monday evenings. Help our crew prepare dinner, serve and clean up. Contact: Torie Baldwin stmarycommunitydinners@gmail.com

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL: Workers needed at the Thrift Store and/or Thursday evenings to interview folks seeking financial assistance. Contact: Amy Pata Ramrap94@hotmail.com

LEGION OF MARY: Consider joining this group of amazing parishioners who pray together and visit nursing homes, hospitals and homes of those in need of companionship – bring Christ's love to them! Contact: Donna Harring donnaharring2@gmail.com



our parish contact us

contact us

stmaryfred.org

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 5 & 7pm
Sunday 7, 8:30, 10:30am, 12:30,
2:30pm (Spanish), 5pm, 7pm
8:30 & 10:30am at Holy Cross Academy

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday 6:30am, 9am, & 12pm
Saturday 9am
Holy Days of Obligation, as announced

DEVOTIONS

Adoration, Daily between 6:30am & 9am Mass,
Wednesday 12:30pm - Friday 9am
Divine Mercy, Wednesday, 3pm
First Friday 7pm Novus Ordo (Latin Mass)
First Saturday 8:00am – Fatima Prayers & Rosary
followed by 9am Mass

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 - 9pm;
Students staff office weekdays until 9pm,
Saturdays 9-5pm, Sundays (Closed)

Very Reverend John P. Mosimann, Vicar Forane, Pastor
Reverend Tim Courtney, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Kevin Dansereau, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Joseph Connor, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Alberto Bernaola

Business Manager, Elaine Stanislowski
Director of Operations, Chris Lanzarone
Facilities, Late-Lawson Drackey
Custodial Services, Carmen Sanchez
Parish Secretary, Lori Barlow & Gio Camacho

MUSIC

Joseph Ciskanik
Director of Music, musicdirector@stmaryfred.org
Assistant, Music Ministry, Emily D'Isidoro

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

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

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY PRESCHOOL

Director, Allison Gardner
540-286-1600

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Director, Dr. Katherine Evans
Associate Director, Amy MacKinnon
Administrative Assistant, Sonia Spencer

YOUTH MINISTRY

Director, Tatiana Beltran
Assistant Youth Minister, Catie Espiritu

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)

Director, Dr. Katherine Evans
kevans@stmaryfred.org

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 or Margaret Bereit
margaret@stmaryfred.org

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