**Announcements**

***Many of you have made annual giving pledges to support the ministries of St. Mary’s in 2016. Thank you. If you have not turned in your annual giving pledge card for 2016, we need you. St. Mary’s depends on the generous support of all of us.***

**Giving thanks, always and everywhere.** Before indulging in delicious Thanksgiving foods, come celebrate the day and opportunity to give thanks for all we have been given.  St. Mary's will offer **Holy Eucharist: Rite One** at **9 a.m. in Little St. Mary's on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26**.

**Before Christmas trees come Advent wreaths.** Advent wreaths, which symbolize the passage of Advent, are a **meaningful way for people to observe the Advent season**. Join with family and St. Mary's friends of all ages to make an Advent wreath for your home on **November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall**. St. Mary's will provide all materials (but please bring greenery if you can). Suggested contribution is **$10 per wreath.**

**Speaking of Advent.** Advent is a special time of our liturgical year that invites us into contemplation as we consider the light Christ brings to our world. We hope that St. Mary’s can enrich your observance of Advent this year. Consider joining us for one or many of our Advent offerings:

* **Advent wreath-making** *(see above)* on Sunday, November 29 at 10 a.m.
* **Evening Prayer** in Little St. Mary’s on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.
* **Mary, Mother of Jesus Class** with Emily Rowell Brown, Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. beginning the first week of December.
* **Adult Forums featuring the Jesus birth narratives** with John Miller and Weezie Blanchard, Sundays at 10 a.m.
* **Advent Tour and Lunch at VMFA** with Weezie Blanchard, Tuesday, December 15 at 10 a.m.
* **Children’s Christmas Carols**, Wednesday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m.
* **Parish Supper with Children’s Carols**, Wednesday, December 16 from 5:30-7 p.m.
* **Advent Lessons and Carols**, Sunday, December 20 at 11 a.m.

**A virtual Advent.** Society of Saint John the Evangelist creates **a digital Advent calendar** each year featuring images from around the world inspired by Advent themes. Learn more about and participate in the project by visiting [**http://aco.org/adventword**](http://aco.org/adventword). Post your own contributions to the St. Mary’s Facebook page during Advent to inspire others in their observance of the season.

**A bookish beginning to the morning.** This Sunday, November 22, **St. Mary's Episcopal School,** our resident preschool, is holding a **book sale** featuring holiday-themed, religious, and preschooler-appropriate books. Check out the selection in the Sunday School Building after church today.

**A time to give.** Outreach within St. Mary's, the surrounding community, and beyond is a testament to the vibrant life of our parish. Learn more about St. Mary's and some of our outreach partners by joining in one or more of the following opportunities:

* Give **presents**: To brighten the Christmas of children served by the Goochland Mother and Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services, take an ornament from our Giving Tree and return presents listed on it by Sunday, December 13.
* Give **blood**: St. Mary's parishioners (age 16 and up) have the opportunity to donate blood at St. Mary's from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 13. St. Mary's youth volunteers may help with sign in and other support by calling contacting Matt Rawls at **mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.**
* Give **quarters**: We will provide clean laundry for our homeless guests from CARITAS while they are at St. Mary's from January 30-February 6. Please donate quarters for the laundry in the "Quarters for CARITAS" jar in the Café between the kitchen and the New Parish Hall.
* Thank you!

**Calling the Vestry Class of 2016.** The **Nominating Committee of the Vestry** of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church is receiving nominations for the 2019 class of the Vestry through **December 6, 2015.** The 12-member Vestry consists of three rotating classes of four St. Mary's members in good standing; each class is elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a three-year term. The next **Annual Meeting** of St. Mary’s will be held **Sunday, January 31, 2016**.

* According to Canon 12, Section 13 of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of

 Virginia, *“Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and a biblically-based standard of proportional giving. Each Vestry member shall also continually encourage the members of the  congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of the programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.”*

* The **Nominating Committee** is chaired by outgoing Vestry member and Senior Warden **Rich Lundvall**. Other members are outgoing Vestry members **Bill Gooch, Michelle Lewis,** and **Ben Weimer,** and at-large members **Eddie Goode, Susie Patton, Gray Stettinius,** and **Sue Thompson.**
* Please submit nominations to Lori Smiley at **lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org****.**

**We gather together.** The **221st Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia** will taken place **January 21-23, 2016** in Reston, Virginia. Annual Council, attended by clergy and lay delegates, is the governance meeting of all Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Virginia. If you would like to learn more, including information about the opportunity to attend, please contact Weezie Blanchard at **wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org****.**

**What’s in a name?** Don’t forget to wear your nametag! Find your nametag in the narthexes of Little and New St. Mary’s hanging on the blue ribbons. If you do not have a nametag, we would like to make one for you. Sign up using the clipboards in the narthexes, or ask an usher for assistance. We thank you all for helping us to get to know one another and making St. Mary’s seem a little bit smaller.

**The one time it’s okay to take your phone out during church.** Are you on Facebook? Like our **Facebook page** **(**[**http://facebook.com/St.MarysGoochland**](http://facebook.com/St.MarysGoochland)) to catch glimpses of life around our church and community. We share pictures, relevant articles, and interesting links throughout the week.

**Stay tuned**. Next week we will make available special handouts in the narthexes of Little and New St. Mary’s. Look for our **St. Mary’s December calendar**, which lists all of our December offerings, and a creative take on the **daily Advent calendar**.