**Announcements**

**“Make her a faithful pastor, a patient teacher, and a wise councilor.”** Those were just some of the words spoken by the Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia, as she ordained our Associate Rector, Emily Rowell Brown, and four other men and women as priests yesterday, December 12, at the Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna.People from St. Mary’s and Emily’s former parish in Washington, DC joined Emily’s family and friends for the service, which can be found in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 525. Congratulations, Emily!

**On this Third Sunday of Advent, our schedule—and hearts—are full!** In addition to Holy Eucharist, Rite One at 9 a.m. in Little St. Mary’s, Sunday School for age 3 through 8th grade in the Sunday School and Education Buildings, and Morning Prayer, Rite One at 11 a.m. in New St. Mary’s, you are invited to:

* Enjoy **parish breakfast** from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the New Parish Hall
* Stay for **Adult Forum**, which will take another look at the Jesus birth narratives, **at 10:10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall**
* **Train (or renew training) as an** **usher** at 10:10 a.m. in New St. Mary’s
* Delight in our **Children's Choir** joyful singing at the 11 a.m. service in New St. Mary’s
* **Help save lives by giving blood** between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Education Building and
* Share the gifts of Christmas by bringing your wrapped presents for the **Giving** **Tree** to the New Parish Hall (today is the deadline)

**Slow down, though.** Advent is a special time of our liturgical year that invites us into contemplation as we consider the light Christ brings to our world. Special Advent offerings at St. Mary’s that continue during the week include:

* **Advent Tour and Lunch at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** with Weezie Blanchard, Tuesday, December 15 at 10 a.m.
* **Mary, Mother of Jesus Class** with Emily Rowell Brown, this Wednesday at 5 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.
* **Evening Prayer** in Little St. Mary’s on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.
* **Children’s Christmas Caroling**, Wednesday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m.
* **Parish Supper with Children’s Carols**, Wednesday, December 16 from 5:30-7 p.m.
* **Greening of the Church,** Friday, December 18 beginning at 9 a.m. (more information below).

**What would Advent be without an Advent calendar?** It’s not too late to keep track of the season in this time-honored way. Here are some options:

* **Pick up** a copy of “Slow down. Quiet. It’s Advent!” a creative take on the daily Advent calendar, in the narthexes of Little St. Mary’s and New St. Mary’s and in the church office.
* **Participate** in a digital Advent from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE), which features images from around the world inspired by Advent themes. Visit [**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.
* **Receive** weekly Advent reflections from St. Mary’s clergy. If you would like to receive these special messages in your email inbox**,** contact Emily Rowell Brown at [ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org).
* **Don’t forget** our St. Mary’s December calendar, which lists all of our December offerings.

**Deck the halls…of the church.** Bring your greenery, your clippers, and your helping hands, and join St. Mary’s Altar Guild in **decorating the church for Christmas**, beginning at **9 a.m.** on **Friday, December 18** in New St. Mary’s. All are welcome. This is a wonderful way to get in the spirit of the season, and all are welcome. Call Sue Thompson (389-3631), Betty Rinehardt (282-8374), or Joanie Robins (741-6393) with questions.

**A season to remember. Order poinsettias** nowto remember and honor your loved ones at Christmastime. St. Mary’s will accept **donations for flower memorials** to be placed around the church during the Christmas services. Please send your donation for $25.00 for each memorial to St. Mary’s Church, 12291 River Road, Richmond, VA  23238. Checks may be made payable to St. Mary’s Altar Guild.