

Advent

LISTENING FOR
WHAT'S COMING

Expectant Waiting. Hopeful Anticipation.
Cheerful Preparation.

FAITH

Spiritual Practices
and Traditions to
incorporate into this
joyful season of
anticipation.

HOPE

Opportunities to
spread hope to the
wider community
at home and
abroad.

LOVE

Come spread
love and cheer
by breaking
bread, singing,
and celebrating
together.

FAITH

Advent is a gift of time. It is a season of anticipation, transformation, and simply waiting. If we embrace and dive into that time to slow down and be still, our presence to God deepens. Open yourself up to develop your faith in this time of preparation through spiritual practices, a Bible study, a book study, or gathering your family around an Advent Wreath. Through the stillness, listen to what's coming and where God is calling you.



Men's Spiritual Practice

Tuesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 7:30 a.m.

Bob Hetherington invites men of all ages to participate in a spiritual practice on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Parish Hall. It is a one-hour time of silence, reflection, and prayer.



Lectionary Bible Study

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20 at 10 a.m.

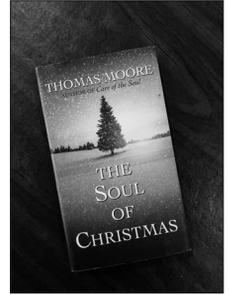
Focus on the upcoming Advent lessons each week in the Lectionary Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library.



The Book of Joy Book Study

Wednesdays, December 6 and 13 at 6 p.m.

Sit down with Andrew Moore to talk about how to find joy in a dark and difficult world and, most importantly, how to cultivate joy. Discuss the Pillars of Joy each Wednesday evening.



The Soul of Christmas Book Study

Thursdays, December 7 and 21 at 10 a.m.

Join Weezie Blanchard to discuss the ways that Thomas Moore invites us to deepen our appreciation for what is holy in all our lives throughout the year.



Advent Wreath Liturgy

Advent Wreaths are a wonderful tradition to incorporate into your family's celebration of the season. Pick up a copy of the Advent Wreath Liturgy in the Café area.



Advent in a Box

This box contains simple items and meditations for old and young alike. It is a helpful way to bring a sense of joyful and expectant waiting home for yourself and for your family.



Good Deeds Manger

Prepare a manger for baby Jesus Christ with good deeds. Put a piece of straw in the manger for a good deed done each day so that the Christ Child will have a bed.



Noonday and Evening Prayer

Take a moment mid-week to slow down, be still, and be quiet. You are invited on Wednesdays to Noonday Prayer at 12 p.m. and Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m.



Ecuador Mission Adult Forum

Sunday, December 17 at 10 a.m.

Join the mission team which recently returned from a week in Quito, Ecuador during the Adult Forum on Sunday, December 17. Come hear about the amazing work the Episcopal Church is doing, the connections made between Emaus Episcopal Church and St. Mary's, and learn about how to become involved.



The Giving Tree

Return gifts by Sunday, December 10

The Giving Tree is up in the Dover Lounge! St. Mary's will once again sponsor four families from the Goochland Christmas Mother as well as collect food and additional gifts to be distributed for Christmas. Once the tree is up, please grab an ornament or two with the gift needs on them and sign the board. Please return the gifts wrapped with the ornament.

GFCFS Clothes Closet Drive

Collection ends on Sunday, December 17

Throughout Advent, St. Mary's is collecting gently used and clean items for infants, children, teenagers, and adults. Collection boxes are located in the New Parish Hall. A list of needed items can be found on the table in the Café area.



Advent gives us the courage to hope - to hope for salvation and redemption. A spirituality of hope allows us to look at the future with joyful expectation and to recognize that God has something important in store for each and every one of us. What a blessing that is to share that hope with those within our wider community at home and abroad.

HOPE



LOVE

God sent his only Son in flesh and blood to give us the greatest example of how to love one another. Advent invites us to open our hearts to receive this love and not back away. Love keeps us leaning in with gracious and open hearts to each other. During this season, allow love to connect each of us to one another by singing, breaking bread, and celebrating together.



Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 10 at 5 p.m.

Listen to readings and choral music telling the story of the birth of Christ, and raise your voices in song with the St. Mary's Choir and Children's Choir in traditional carols of Advent and Christmas.



Parish Breakfast & Parish Supper

Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m. &
Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Take a moment to pause from the hustle and bustle of this season and sit down with the St. Mary's community to break bread together. Join us for meals for all ages at breakfast on Sunday, December 10 and supper on Wednesday, December 13.



Seniors Lunch

Tuesday, December 12 at 12 p.m.

This month is a special Christmas edition of seniors lunch. Students from St. Mary's Episcopal School will be performing their pageant and leading the seniors in carols. All ages are welcome—you need not be a senior to enjoy the delicious food and wonderful company!



Youth Tacky Lights Tour

Middle School on Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.
High School on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.

'Tis the season for fun! Meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. to hop on a bus and see some of the best and tackiest lights Richmond has to offer. Then gather back at St. Mary's for a white elephant gift exchange and food.

