



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
November 20, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

This Sunday is the last Sunday after Pentecost. It marks the end of the church year. Next Sunday, the season of Advent begins. This is a time of change both personally and for our country. Change makes us anxious. Will it be good or bad? It can make us fearful. Will it be transformational in the best sense or apocalyptic in the worst sense? Change can be very exciting. How we engage change depends a lot on the attitude we bring to it. The reality is that we cannot avoid change. We have never lived here before. Time marches on.

The last Sunday after Pentecost is also known as Christ the King Sunday. We are reminded of God's reign over history. The circumstances of our lives may change dramatically but God continues to work out God's purposes. As we move forward God has important things to teach us. As we move into a new church year, what new things does God want us to know?

In light of strong polarization in our country, we need to be patient with each other. We need to listen to one another. No need for demonization or building walls between us. We are in this together and life needs to work for all of us.

Tips: Pray for our nation. Pray for President-elect, Donald Trump. Pray for those with which we disagree. Celebrate the small victories.

The Baptismal Covenant reminds us to "respect the dignity of every human being". That attitude helps us build bridges of understanding.

The mission of the Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ". God intends us to be reconcilers. We win together or we lose separately.

As we approach Advent, the season of new beginnings, let us ask God to open our hearts to new possibilities. Let us go forward together with a sense that God is walking with us each step of the way. Let us not overreact to the challenges that come and let us celebrate the moments of promise when our path forward becomes clear.

Thank you, God, for the gift of a new day.

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Hetherington

Nursery

We have nursery available for **infants through 4-year-olds** from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Our nursery leader, Meg Zehmer, and Melissa Alicea will be happy to help you get your child settled into the nursery.

Worship bags

We provide worship bags that contain a coloring page based on the Gospel reading of the day. It also has a wonderful parent-focused message on the back to help you talk about the day's reading with your child. Worship bags are located in wood bins near the entrances to the church.

Sermons available

Find past sermons available in hard copy in the narthex of New St. Mary's, or visit stmarysgoochland.org/sermons to hear audio and download print versions.

Connect with us

We would love to learn more about you! If you are a visitor, please pick up a **welcome packet** from one of our ushers.

Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 9 a.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*
- 10 a.m.** Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Education, *Sunday School and Education Buildings and New Parish Hall*
- 10 a.m.** Advent Pop-Up Class, *Library*
- 11 a.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
- Noon** Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*
- 4 p.m.** Middle School Youth Group, *Education Building*

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WELCOME! Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401st, we're glad that you're with us. Please feel free to introduce yourself to a greeter, usher, or a clergy member, and consider filling out an information form. We invite you to join us on future **Sundays** at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or 11 a.m. for Eucharist or Morning Prayer, on Wednesdays for **Noonday Prayer** at 12 p.m. in beautiful and quaint Little St. Mary's, for a **class** or **Bible study**, or for many of our other **fellowship** and **outreach** offerings. **Little St. Mary's** is also **open** Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and available to you for prayer and reflection. See the back page to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Advent wreaths are a wonderful tradition to incorporate into your family's celebration of the season. Each candle on the wreath represents one of the weeks of Advent. Families are encouraged to gather each week to light the candles and have a short prayer to remind us of the true meaning and importance of this waiting time before Christmas. **Next Sunday, November 27 during the 10 a.m. education hour**, we will gather to **make wreaths together**. We will provide oasis rings and candles, as well as a simple prayer service bulletin for you to take home to use when lighting the candles. **We are asking for the congregation to bring in cut greens to share to complete the wreaths**. Children will also be able to make ornaments for children to help fill up our Giving Tree as the gift ornaments are taken down. There is a **suggested donation of \$15** for the materials. If you have any questions, please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Please do NOT bring in Boxwood greens.* There is currently a **deadly blight spreading** across the area which is killing boxwoods. Thank you for understanding!

WORSHIP

Join us for a **warm, quiet Morning Prayer service to give thanks** on the morning of **Thanksgiving Day**, Thursday, November 24 at 10 a.m. in Little St. Mary's.

You are **invited to fully enter into the expectant season of Advent**. St. Mary's is **adding several worship opportunities** and events to enrich your Advent season. Please join us **Wednesday evenings for Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m.** in Little St. Mary's. **Advent Quiet Day on Thursday, December 1** will consist of opportunities to contemplate the season throughout the day in Little St. Mary's beginning at 7:30 a.m. We hope you will **take the time to slow down, reflect, and pray**.

ADULT EDUCATION AND MORE

Spiritual practice for men. Join Bob Hetherington in the Old Parish Hall this **Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 a.m.** This spiritual practice is an opportunity to deepen faith and is **open to men of all ages**. This popular offering will resume in early 2017.

Advent Pop-Up Class today at 10 a.m. in the Library! Today, Amelia McDaniel will be bringing in a wide variety of ideas of **ways to celebrate Advent in your homes**. Set your family and you on a path toward a **lighter, brighter Advent** and Christmas towards Bethlehem.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you! Again, thank you for choosing to "Walk in Love" with St. Mary's Church family. Today during both services and at Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall, the **Stewardship Committee** looks forward to **updating everyone on the progress of the campaign**. There will also be time during the forum to **share feedback and ask questions**. And it's not too late to pledge at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge or call Gina Alexander at (804) 784-5678.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawl blessings. Today at 9 and 11 a.m. services, we will bless prayer shawls that have been prayerfully knit, woven, or crocheted by participants in the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, which meets every **third Thursday of the month** at 10 a.m. in the Library. Each shawl represents the loving witness of prayer offered by a community knit together by the Spirit of God. The end product is a lovely source of warmth, as well as a tangible means of comfort. If you are interested in taking part in this prayerful ministry, please contact Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org.

OUTREACH

Save the date! St. Mary's will **host a movie night** for children and youth (kindergarten through middle school ages) on **Saturday, December 3 from 4-6 p.m.** We'll show everybody's favorite, *Elf*. The **suggested donation is \$10/child**. **All proceeds go towards *Gifts for Life***, a program of Episcopal Relief and Development that allows individuals to buy animals and agriculture, green gifts, health and wellness items, and economic opportunities to benefit individuals and communities throughout the world. ERD says, "By putting your faith into action, *Gifts for Life* **empowers both individuals and communities all over the world to transform their lives.**" Once all funds have been collected, **the 8th-grade confirmation class will decide which gifts to give on behalf of St. Mary's.** If you are unable to attend the event but would like to contribute or if you have questions, contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

The Giving Tree goes up next week! St. Mary's will once again **sponsor three families from the Goochland Christmas Mother** as well as collect food and additional gifts to be distributed for Christmas. The Giving Tree will be up and ready on **Sunday, November 27** for you to take ornaments with the gift needs on them. **The gifts will be collected by Sunday, December 18.**

Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Clothes Closet drive starts next week! St. Mary's will be **collecting items for infants, children, teenagers, and adults** throughout Advent. There will be boxes in the New Parish Hall where you can place the items. **Lists of items needed can be found on the table** in the Café area and on the bulletin board. For further information or if you have questions, contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Middle School Youth Group meets today at 4 p.m.! Join us at the church for fun, food and fellowship. Please let Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org know if you have any questions.

Sign up to Acolyte! Matt Rawls is calling all acolytes to **sign up for the remaining Sundays of 2016.** Please follow the link to sign up for either 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. service. For anyone who would like training but has not yet received it, please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org about an afternoon during the week (Monday through Thursday) that works best for you. Training takes about 15-20 minutes.

Advent books available in the New Parish Hall! The table has moved to the New Parish Hall just for this week due to the St. Mary's Episcopal School book fair. Please stop by to purchase a **book relating to Advent for all ages.** Prices range from \$10-20. **Please place cash or check** made out to "St. Mary's Episcopal Church" in the mason jar.

Christmas Lessons and Carols for Children will be held at **4 p.m.** (rather than 5 p.m. as in previous years) on **Saturday, December 24.** The children who are participating in the pageant will need to be here at 3:15 p.m. to prepare. **More information about the pageant will be coming shortly,** but we want to ensure you have the updated schedule as you make family celebration plans. Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org for further information.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Need a gift for a young child or grandchild? Stop by **St. Mary's Episcopal School's book fair** in the Dover Lounge **today.** A representative from the school will be available to take **cash or check payments.** If you cannot make it on Sunday, the **book fair will continue** during the school hours, 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. on Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, November 20, Last Sunday after Pentecost:

Christ the King

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult

Education, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education*

Buildings and New Parish Hall

Preparing for Advent, 10 a.m., *Library*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Middle School Youth Group, 4 p.m., *Education Building*

Monday, November 21

Pastoral Care Team 3, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, November 22

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, November 23

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Education Building*

Library

Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day

Church Office Closed

Morning Prayer Rite One, 10 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Friday, November 25

Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 19

A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Advent Wreath-Making, 10 a.m.,

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Up

Wednesday, November 30

Evening Prayer, 5:45 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, December 1

Advent Quiet Day, *Little St. Mary's*

Saturday, December 3

Gifts for Life Movie Fundraiser, 4 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Coming Soon

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

Cake for Anniversaries and Birthdays, Noon, *Café and*

New Parish Hall

Thursday, December 8

Mary at the VMFA with Weezie, 10 a.m. at *Virginia*

Museum of Fine Arts

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

Gersain Agudelo, *Assistant Sexton*

Gina Alexander, *Parish Administrator*

galexander@stmarysgoochland.org

Melissa Alicea, *Nursery Assistant*

Adam Bailey, *Children's Choir Director*

Louise Browner Blanchard, *Rector*

wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org

Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*

acameron@stmarysgoochland.org

Tammy Click, *Accountant*

W. Dwight Graham, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*

Amelia McDaniel, *Director of Children's Ministries*

amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org

Paul Pace, *Sexton*

Matt Rawls, *Director of Youth Ministries*

mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org

Lori Smiley, *Assistant to the Clergy*

lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org

Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*

Susan Rawls, *Director of St. Mary's Episcopal School*

Vestry Members:

Al Rider, *Senior Warden*

Jane duFrane, *Junior Warden*

Bill Gooch, *Treasurer*

Charmaine Trice, *Register*

Scott Barton, Steve Guza, Brantley Holmes, Fay Lohr,

Tracey Ragsdale, Betsy Rawles, Bruin Richardson,

David Rose, and Tom Slater

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, for presiding over the service, to the Rev. Dr. Thom Blair, Jr. for a wonderful message, to the Children's Choir and St. Mary's Choir for beautiful music, to the Vestry, and to all the participants. Thank you to everyone who came to witness the celebration welcoming our new Rector! Special thanks to the Fellowship Committee for spectacular receptions before and after the service.