

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 16, 2017

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through 4-year-olds from 8:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Nursery Director Meg Zehmer and Cassie Vestal 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. They also have a wonderful parent-focused message on the back to help you talk about the day's reading with your child. Worship bags are in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

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, *New St. Mary's*

10:15 a.m. Annual Easter Egg Hunt, *Churchyard*

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

Mary's

Noon Cookies and Coffee, *New Parish Hall and Terrace*

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

AN EASTER MESSAGE

FROM THE REV. LOUISE BROWNER BLANCHARD,
RECTOR OF ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Greetings! I hope that this glorious day takes you a bit by surprise, just as it did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary when they arrived at the tomb. After all, this past Holy Week has marked a week of increasing sorrow. What began as a joyful Palm Sunday procession through the churchyard and into the church shifted quickly when we heard the dramatic rendition of the Passion and ended the service in sober silence. On Maundy Thursday, we commemorated the Last Supper that Jesus shared with the disciples before what he knew would be their abandonment, at best, and betrayal, at worst. On Good Friday, in a bare church, we heard the unrelenting story of the torture that Jesus endured on the way to his crucifixion and the almost unimaginable horror of his death on the cross. Nothing that we experienced this past week would have led us to believe that today would be a joyful celebration.

And yet it is. In a turn of events that no one would have expected, today we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Matthew's version is particularly dramatic, with its earthquake and super hero-like angel and Jesus who suddenly appears to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary with a cheerful "Greetings!" But whatever version of the Easter story we hear, it proclaims that Jesus' presence will prevail, even in the face of what seems improbable, overwhelming, and impossible. No one, no situation, no thing is beyond redemption.

Sometimes we realize that as clearly as the blue sky on a cloudless day. We feel it in prayer and hear it in children's laughter and see it in the faces of those we love. Other times, it is not so easy to believe. The world is a scary place. People suffer from famine, persecution, and war. We lose health, jobs, and the people we care about most. We need help to keep faith in resurrection.

We hope that St. Mary's Church is a place that nurtures your faith in resurrection. During our Lenten Supper series, we explored ways that being involved in the community of St. Mary's - as it manifests itself on these grounds, in Metropolitan Richmond, the Diocese of Virginia, the wider Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion - can deepen our connections to God and one another. We invite you to explore the many ways that St. Mary's can be a part of a deeper and sustaining life in the risen Christ. May it take you a bit by surprise.

We are delighted that you are beginning your Easter celebration with us today. Thank you for being here.

WELCOME! Whether it is your first time 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 clergy member, and consider filling out a welcome card. St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a community of faith where people come from different backgrounds and many different places to worship God in one of the most peaceful settings one can imagine. St. Mary's is vibrant and growing. It is a great time to be a part of this wonderful community! Throughout the week, our buildings and grounds hum with people of all ages who are here to worship, to learn, and to simply be together. Please read on to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

WORSHIP

Worship is at the heart of our common life. We invite you to join us on Sundays at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or at 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.



PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE:

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Choirs
- Intercossors
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Readers
- Ushers & Greeters

FELLOWSHIP

St. Mary's by definition is a large parish, but we still have the "small church" feel that comes from strong fellowship and personal connections. Through monthly Sunday breakfasts, Wednesday suppers, seniors lunches, teas at Westminster Canterbury and Cedarfield, and many more events, parishioners strengthen and deepen personal relationships with each other, our parish, and, ultimately, God.



JOIN US FOR:

- Parish Breakfasts & Suppers
- Seniors Lunches
- Special Events & Celebrations

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES



St. Mary's has a dynamic program for children and youth. Children of all ages are invited to worship at all our services. We also offer a nursery for infants – 4 year olds during our 9 and 11 a.m. worship and, also, during the 10 a.m. education hour. There are engaging formation classes for children ages 3 years old – grade 12 during the school year. Sixth – 12th graders are invited to join our youth groups, which meet regularly for fellowship, food, fun, and outreach. In addition, St. Mary's is home to St. Mary's Episcopal School, a thriving preschool for children ages two-JK. All children ages three through rising 5th graders are invited to join a week of fun activities during Vacation Bible School, July 10-14.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION & EDUCATION

Spiritual formation and education are ever-increasing and influential aspects of life at St. Mary's. From young children to adults of all ages, we seek to offer opportunities to listen, discuss, wrestle, and grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge. Adults participate in offerings ranging from Bible studies, classes, forums, book studies, and special offerings throughout the year. While some offerings stay constant, new groups, new leaders, and new topics give elasticity to the available experiences.



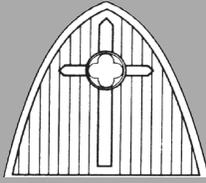
OUTREACH

Did you know that St. Mary's was founded as an outreach mission to local coal miners and farmers? There is a rich history of outreach here, both in giving and receiving. You may know that St. Mary's members were instrumental in founding the agencies that now make up one of our current outreach partners, Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services. Also, this summer the high school and middle school youth head out on mission trips to South Dakota and West Virginia. St. Mary's is continually exploring ways to do God's work in the world through outreach.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is, quite simply, how we care for one another at St. Mary's. Parishioners who are homebound or otherwise in need of a special touch receive visits, notes, birthday cards, prayer shawls, and communion from their fellow parishioners. Pastoral Care Teams and the Prayer Shawl Ministry group meet regularly to coordinate care and make sure that we are aware of each other's needs. Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those who are unable to receive it in church on Sunday.



ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238
804.784.5678
www.stmarysgoochland.org

| Growing in Faith |
| Building Community |
| Giving Joyfully |

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

Gersain Agudelo, *Assistant Sexton*
Adam Bailey, *Children's Choir Director*
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Cassie Vestal, *Nursery Assistant*
Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*

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

Vestry Members:

Al Rider, *Senior Warden*
Tracey Ragsdale, *Junior Warden*
Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*
Charmaine Trice, *Register*
Karen Huennkens, **Fay Lohr**, **Kim O'Shea**, **Doug Pera**, **Betsy Rawles**, **Bruin Richardson**, **David Rose**, **Tom Slater**, and **Russell Wyatt**

COMING UP AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, April 17

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 19

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

Dr. Frank Eakin, St. Mary's parishioner and Weinstein-Rosenthal Professor of Jewish and Christian Studies at the University of Richmond, leads the Bible Study, which meets every week.

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

Join us midweek for a quiet, centering service in Little St. Mary's.

Seniors Lunch, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Once a month, St. Mary's (self-identified) seniors are invited for lunch and a special speaker. Do not let the name dissuade you: all ages are welcome to attend!

Thursday, April 20

Downtown Coffee Hour, 8 a.m., *Pop's Market (415 E. Grace Street)*

Before you head into the office, join your St. Mary's community for casual conversation, a cup of coffee, and a prayer to start your day. Meet at Pop's Market. Come for the full hour or just pop in!

Saturday, April 22

Rebuilding Together Richmond, 8 a.m., *Highland Park*

Band together with fellow St. Mary's parishioners in partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church parishioners to improve the safety and health of a home of low-income homeowner in Highland Park. Skilled workers, children, and youth are all welcome!

Sunday, April 23, Second Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*

Spiritual formation and education offerings for children and youth are located throughout St. Mary's between Sunday services.

Adult Forum: "I will with God's Help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

This adult spiritual formation hour explores the promises of the baptismal covenant, what they mean, and how they inform the ways we live our faith in the world.

Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*

Want to know more about what it means to be an Episcopalian? Whether you desire to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church, are new to the Episcopal Church and just want to know more, this is the class for you!

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

St. Mary's Episcopal School Spring Carnival, 12 p.m., *Churchyard*

Gather your friends and family and join in on the fun of bounce houses, kid-friendly carnival games, face painting, and more! Hamburgers and hot dogs and a gluten-free food truck will be available.

Thursday, April 27

Easter at the VMFA, 10 a.m., *Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

Join the Rev. Weezie Blanchard (long ago VMFA docent) as she continues her seasonal series of looking for the holy in the outstanding collections of the VMFA.

Saturday, May 6

Youth Mission Fundraiser: Yard Sale, *New Parish Hall*

St. Mary's youth are hosting a yard sale to support their summer mission trips.

Sunday, May 7, Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*

Adult Forum: "I will with God's Help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, Children and Youth Sunday, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Help us appreciate our amazing children and youth members who will be leading a majority of the worship service on this Sunday. We will recognize the 5th graders and graduating seniors as well as the committee members and Sunday School teachers who are vital to our programming and ministries.

Wednesday, May 17

Parish Supper, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

On the third Wednesday of every month from October through May, everyone of all ages are invited to a delicious supper. Following supper, there are activities for young children and youth, grades 6-12, and time simply to talk and be together for adults.

Sunday, May 21, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Holy Baptism and Confirmation, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Join us in welcoming the Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick, Assistant Bishop, as we gladly receive the newly baptized and those who are committing and confirming their faith.

Bishop's Reception, 12:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*