



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 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 Nursery Assistant 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 card** from one of our ushers or in the back of a pew.

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 and Confirmation Class, *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
10 a.m. Adult Forum: *The Path*, *New Parish Hall*
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*
4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, *Boomerang Air Sports*
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, *Pool Table Room*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

One of my most cherished activities is my book group. There are nine of us, and I'm amazed at the bonds that we've formed over the three years that we've gathered monthly. The books that we've read have been catalysts for deep discussions about important issues of our day - those writs large, like race and relationships and religion, and those that affect us more intimately in our roles as daughters, sisters, mothers, wives, ex-wives, and widows.

Our latest book, *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders, is based on an actual visit Abraham Lincoln made in 1862 to the cemetery where his 11-year-old son Willie had just been buried. The book is narrated by a chorus of souls who can't quite let go of the lives they've lost as they watch Lincoln grieve the death of his precious son amidst the grief of a nation torn apart by war. At one point Saunders' Lincoln poignantly realizes "*that whatever way one took in this world, one must try to remember that all were suffering (none content; all wronged, neglected, overlooked, misunderstood), and therefore one must do what one could to lighten the load of those with whom one came into contact.*" One of the many gifts of my book group is that I do not have to reflect on the sober truth of those words alone.

Paul has a similar message to the Thessalonians in today's lesson. His grim warning of sudden destruction is lightened by his encouragement that faith and love will be our salvation and that we must encourage and build each other up. One of the many gifts of our St. Mary's community is that we do that for each other. The richness of who we are and who we aim to be as followers of Jesus transforms each of us. There is no burden, disappointment, or sorrow that any of us must bear alone, and the troubles of the wider world are less threatening when we face them together. Thankfully, our common bonds amplify our joys, as well. What blessings to contemplate as we head into the holiday season!

Weezie Blanchard

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, an usher, or one of our clergy, and **consider filling out a welcome card**. We invite you to join us on future **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** and **New St. Mary's** are 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 AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S

Advent is the first season of the new church year, when we prepare for Christmas, the coming of the incarnate Christ into the world. Because this is a **special season of joyfully awaiting what's coming**, you will notice different hymns and prayers in our Sunday services, and we will celebrate Holy Eucharist at both services throughout Advent and Christmas. Some other highlights of Advent and Christmas at St. Mary's include:

- ❖ **Men's Spiritual Practice** with Bob Hetherington returns during Advent on **Tuesday mornings** (November 28, December 5, 12, and 19) at **7:30 a.m.** in the Old Parish Hall.
- ❖ **Book of Joy** book study with Andrew Moore on **Wednesday evenings** (November 29, December 6, and 13) at **6 p.m.** in the Old Parish Hall.
- ❖ **Soul of Christmas** book study with Weezie Blanchard on **Thursday mornings** (November 30, December 7, 14, and 21) at **10 a.m.** in the Library.
- ❖ **Evening Prayer** on **Advent Wednesdays** (November 29, December 6, 13, and 20) at **5:30 p.m.** in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ **Pre-Advent Quiet Day** on **Wednesday, November 29** from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ **Advent Wreath-Making** on **Sunday, December 3** at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall.
- ❖ **Lessons and Carols** on **Sunday, December 10** at 5 p.m. in New St. Mary's.

Please note the following schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

- ❖ **Advent IV Holy Eucharist Rite Two** service at **10 a.m. on Sunday, December 24** in New St. Mary's
- ❖ **Christmas Eve** services on **Sunday, December 24**, will include **Children's Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m.** in New St. Mary's, **Choral Prelude and Holy Eucharist Rite Two at 7 p.m.** in New St. Mary's, and **Holy Eucharist Rite One at 11 p.m.** in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ The **Christmas Day** service will be **Holy Eucharist Rite One at 10 a.m.** in Little St. Mary's.

STEWARDSHIP

As of **Thursday, November 16, 213 households have pledged totaling \$665,764**. The incredible part is 51% of those households increased their pledge from 2017! But our work is not yet done! **Please help us reach our goal of \$1,150,000!** There is still time to renew your relationships, revive your faith, and help us to continue to grow our parish's opportunities and missions through your time, talent, and treasure. If you have any questions or need more information, please **contact Mike Koschak** at (804) 784-5678 or mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Men's Spiritual Practice returns for four weeks during Advent. Bob Hetherington invites men of all ages to **participate** in a spiritual practice on Tuesday mornings **beginning November 28 through December 19 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Old Parish Hall. This offering is a one-hour time of silence, reflection, sharing, and prayer that focuses on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

As we continue to explore how we at St. Mary's tell our story, a series of Adult Forums this fall will go back to the bedrock of our faith. **Using the book *The Path*, we'll delve into the earliest stories from the Old Testament.** What have we forgotten from Sunday School? How can a nuanced understanding inform our faith journeys? **Join Weezie Blanchard this morning at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall and Andrew Moore next Sunday, November 26** as we look at the stories of Moses and the Judges. Read chapter 5 and 8 of *The Path* in preparation or just join us for lively conversation. **Pick up a copy of *The Path* for \$15 in the Café.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Giving Tree goes up next Sunday, November 26 in the Dover Lounge! St. Mary's will once again **sponsor four families from the Goochland Christmas Mother** as well as collect Food Lion gift cards to be distributed for Christmas. Once the tree is up, **please grab an ornament or two with the gift needs on them.** The gifts will be collected by Sunday, December 10.

Middle School Youth Group this afternoon for all middle school (grades 6-8) students! Meet at **Boomerang Air Sports** (205 Towne Center W Blvd, Richmond, VA 23233) **from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Advent wreaths are a wonderful tradition to incorporate into your family's celebration of the season. **Next Sunday, November 26 during the 10 a.m. forum,** 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. There is a suggested donation of **\$15 for the materials.** If you have any questions, please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

Children's Lessons and Carols is at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. We are busy getting ready for one of our dearest services of the year. **Volunteers are always needed** to help our littlest members tell the story. Adults who are **interested in assisting with the program, please contact** Anne McCoy at ritterah@gmail.com or Nancy Ritter at nancy.ritter@gmail.com.

WORSHIP

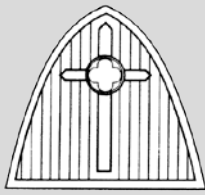
Join us this **Thursday, November 23 on Thanksgiving Day at 10 a.m.** for a warm, quiet service of **Morning Prayer Rite One** as we gather together to give thanks for our many blessings.

You are **invited to fully enter into the expectant season of Advent.** St. Mary's is **hosts a Pre-Advent Quiet Day on Wednesday, November 29** that will consist of opportunities to contemplate the season throughout the morning in Little St. Mary's beginning at 8 a.m. and concluding with Noonday Prayer at 12 p.m. We hope you will **take the time to slow down, reflect, and pray.**

The holiday season brings on powerful memories and emotions, and it can be a particularly painful time for those who have lost a child. **If you have experienced this loss, or know someone who has,** we want you to know about a **special service to be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6000 Grove Avenue, tomorrow Monday, November 27, at 7 p.m.,** and co-sponsored by several area congregations – Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish. This service is open to all, and is followed by a simple reception. For additional information, visit ststephensRVA.org/holidaymemorial.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Book Fair today! St. Mary's Episcopal Schools hosts a book fair Sunday, November 19 through Tuesday, November 21. Find a **table in the Dover Lounge** filled with books for children in early childhood and elementary school. **Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.** All Scholastic book credits from sales will be donated to Peter Paul Development Center, one of St. Mary's outreach partners. Also, shop online at scholastic.com/bf/stmarysepiscopalpreschool.



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*
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Deedi Trabosh, *Accountant*
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 Huennekens, **Fay Lohr**, **Kim O'Shea**,
Doug Pera, **Betsy Rawles**, **Bruin Richardson**,
David Rose, **Tom Slater**, and **Russell Wyatt**

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, November 19, the Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*
Adult Forum: *The Path: Moses*, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
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, 4:30 p.m., *Boomerang Air Sports*
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m., *Education Building*

Monday, November 20

Pastoral Care Team 3, 10 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, November 21

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*
Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Wednesday, November 22

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, November 23

Morning Prayer Rite One, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Church Office closed in honor of Thanksgiving holiday

Friday, November 24

Church Office closed in honor of Thanksgiving holiday

Saturday, November 25

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

Sunday, November 26, Christ the King Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*
Adult Forum: *The Path: Judges*, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Up

Tuesday, November 28

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Vestry, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Wednesday, November 29, Pre-Advent Quiet Day

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Book of Joy Book Study, 5:30 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Evening Prayer, 6:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, November 30

Soul of Christmas Book Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild, 10:30 a.m., *Dover Lounge*

Sunday, December 3, The First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Education Building*
Advent-Wreath Making, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*