



# THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 17, 2017**

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## 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 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 are in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

## Rector Search Committee

The Rector Search Committee (Chair Tracey Ragsdale, Brantley Holmes, Andy Howlett, Michelle Lewis, Kim O'Shea, Nancy Reed, Al Rider, Susie Salsitz, Carrie Schaeffer, Armistead Talman, Joan Wilkins, and Russell Wyatt) invites you to share comments, concerns, recommendations and questions. Please email

[stms.rectorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:stms.rectorsearch@gmail.com).

## 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.

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*Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at [acameron@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:acameron@stmarysgoochland.org)*

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## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

**10 a.m.** Adult Forum: Ecuador Mission Team, *New Parish Hall*

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

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

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

**6:30 p.m.** Middle School Youth Group Tacky Lights Tour & Christmas Party, *Education Building*

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*Do you receive email from us?*

Visit [stmarysgoochland.org/communications](http://stmarysgoochland.org/communications) to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

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## A WEEKLY REFLECTION

I don't know about you, but waiting is hard for me. Whether it's waiting for a long planned trip, moving to a new home, or for my children to finally graduate and move out of the house! It seems I spend a lot of time saying "I can't wait until thus and so happens." But is that really true? Isn't it the waiting and preparing part that makes the anticipation and appreciation of a long desired event so valuable?

Advent is about the waiting – we all get caught up in Christmas shopping, decorating, and parties. I spend a lot of time trying to find the perfect gift for everyone on my list. I know many people wait until Christmas Eve to shop, but not me. I wander the stores, often buying nothing, as I think and reflect on each person and wanting to truly make them happy. I don't buy anything until I find just the right thing. I enjoy the search and the thrill of finding something unexpected.

But the anticipation of the season is often the best part. I always enjoyed having an Advent wreath when I was young. Each week, a new candle would be lit to signify getting closer to the big day ahead. I have found, though, as I've grown older and my children are beginning to lead their own lives, if I slow down and enjoy each moment with our friends and families as Christmas draws near, that is the big gift of the season.

This season, I am trying to slow down, to appreciate the small moments, the ones that are sometimes frustrating, sometimes challenging -- but often very rewarding in the end. Like finding the perfect gift that brings my loved ones joy, God has given us Jesus and this special season to reflect, to be thankful, and to find ways to be better stewards of His greatest gift of all.

*Sarah Jane Wyatt*

**WELCOME!** Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. MARY'S

### Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24:

- ❖ 4 p.m. Children's Lessons and Carols, *New St. Mary's*
- ❖ 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Choral Prelude, *New St. Mary's*
- ❖ 11 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*

### Christmas Day service on Monday, December 25:

- ❖ 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*

### New Year's Eve service on Sunday, December 31:

- ❖ 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Today is the last Sunday of Sunday School and Confirmation Class until after the New Year. Enjoy the holiday break! Classes resume Sunday, January 14, 2017.

Children's Lessons and Carols is at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. 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](mailto:ritterah@gmail.com) or Nancy Ritter at [nancy.ritter@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ritter@gmail.com). Save the date for a full rehearsal on Saturday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m. Also, please plan on being here at 3:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 24.

Save the date for Tacky Lights Tours and Christmas Parties! On Wednesday, December 20, the High School Youth Group will meet from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. for a Tacky Lights Tour and Christmas party! 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 food, soft drinks, and a white elephant gift exchange to end at 8:30 p.m. Please bring a \$10 gift and \$15 to help cover food and transportation. For more information, please contact Matt Rawls at [mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org).

St. Mary's youth will participate in an Epiphany Giving Tree in 2018 that will raise money to purchase an X-Box for the Elk Hill Residential Treatment Home. The tree is located in the pool table room of the Education Building and is decorated with envelopes labeled \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20. To give, just take an envelope off the tree, put in the corresponding dollar amount, and drop the envelope in the lock-box beside the tree. On January 21, 2018, the entire youth group (middle and high school) will gather to deliver the present and end with a pizza party at the church.

## OUTREACH

Today is the last day to drop off your donations for the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Clothes Closet drive. Please place gently used and clean items for infants, children, teenagers, and adults in the collection boxes in the New Parish Hall. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed!

**Ecuador Mission Team Adult Forum this morning!** Join the mission team that recently returned from a week in Quito, Ecuador at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall. 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.**

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Rector (and long ago VMFA docent) **Weezie Blanchard completes her seasonal series** of looking for the holy in the outstanding **collections of the VMFA. On Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 10 a.m.** we'll focus on Epiphany and how it is represented. **An optional lunch at the VMFA restaurant Amuse** will follow our tour. To sign up, please contact Elizabeth Baker at [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org) or call (804) 784-5678.

**Spiritual practice for men finishes in 2017 and resumes in 2018.** Join Bob Hetherington for one hour to deepen your faith in the Old Parish Hall **this Tuesday, December 19** for the final Advent practice. Then beginning **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.,** this opportunity continues until Easter.

## WORSHIP

**This is the last week of Advent** when we prepare for Christmas, the coming of the incarnate Christ into the world. St. Mary's has these events left during this **special season of waiting and watching:**

- ❖ **Men's Spiritual Practice** this **Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Old Parish Hall.
- ❖ **Noonday Prayer** this **Wednesday, December 20** at 12 p.m. in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ **Evening Prayer** this **Wednesday, December 20** at 5:30 p.m. in Little St. Mary's.
- ❖ **Advent 4 Holy Eucharist Rite Two** at 10 a.m. on **Sunday, December 24** in New St. Mary's.

Save the date for **Rector Weezie Blanchard's last Sunday on January 7, 2018.** Join us for a **service of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two** at 10 a.m. in New St. Mary's. Following the service, **come celebrate Weezie's ministry** and help send her off **with a reception in the New Parish Hall.**

## YEAR END GIVING NOTICE

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with that comes **an annual list of reminders.** First, thanks to all you who have paid or continue to faithfully pay your pledges. **Please help us stay on budget by paying your 2017 pledge** before the year ends. Check out the **Year End Giving Notice on the website** (<http://www.stmarysgoochland.org/year-end-giving-notice/>) regarding information **about stock gifts, gift designation, and other pledge information.** As always, your graciousness and generosity in giving is so appreciated, and many of you have gone above and beyond this year. **Thank you.** It is a privilege to have you as a part of the St. Mary's family. For further information or any questions, please contact Mike Koschak at [mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org) or call (804) 784-5678.

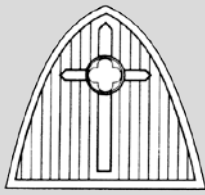
## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

**Each year at our Annual Meeting** on the last Sunday in January, **four members of the Vestry complete their three-year terms of service** on the 12-member Vestry, and four new Vestry members are elected. At St. Mary's, **the Vestry Nominating Committee**, which is appointed by the Vestry and includes the four outgoing Vestry members (Betsy Rawles, Bruin Richardson, David Rose, and Charmaine Trice) and four at-large members (Michael Blanks, Jesse McCoy, Peggy Talman, and Molly Snow), meets to consider and propose qualified nominees. This year's annual meeting will take place on **January 28, 2018.** **If you would like to nominate someone,** please contact Betsy Rawles at [betsy.rawles@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.rawles@gmail.com).

## ALTAR GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

**Altar Guild needs you, your clippers, and greens.** Please bring greens and/or help decorate for Christmas beginning at 9 a.m. on **Friday, December 22** in New St. Mary's. For more information, call Elizabeth Baker at (804) 784-5678.

**Order Poinsettias to remember your loved ones this Christmas.** Please send your **donation of \$50 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. For further information or any questions, please contact Elizabeth Baker at [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org) or call (804) 784-5678.



**ST. MARY'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238  
(804) 784-5678  
[www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org)

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

**CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY**

**Gersain Agudelo**, *Assistant Sexton*  
**Elizabeth Baker**, *Administrative Assistant*  
ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Adam Bailey**, *Children's Choir Director*  
**Louise Browner Blanchard**, *Rector*  
wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Ashley Cameron**, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*  
acameron@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Clarence Dixon**, *Assistant Sexton*  
**Robert G. Hetherington**, *Priest Associate*  
**Mike Koschak**, *Executive Director, Church Operations*  
mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Amelia McDaniel**, *Director of Children's Ministries*  
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**Andrew Y. Moore**, *Associate Rector*  
amoore@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Paul Pace**, *Sexton*  
**Matt Rawls**, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Ryan Tibbetts**, *Director of Music*  
rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org  
**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, December 17, The Third Sunday of Advent**

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: Ecuador Mission Team, *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 Tacky Lights Tour and Christmas Party, 6:30 p.m., *Education Building*

**Monday, December 18**

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

**Tuesday, December 19**

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*  
Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*  
Vestry, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

**Wednesday, December 20**

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*  
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
Children's Choir, 5 p.m., *Choir Suite*  
Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
High School Youth Group Tacky Lights Tour and Christmas Party, 6:30 p.m., *Education Building*

**Thursday, December 21**

Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

**Friday, December 22**

Altar Guild Greening of the Church, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

**Saturday, December 23**

Full Rehearsal of Children's Lessons and Carols, 9:30 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

**Sunday, December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve**

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Children's Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Choral Prelude, 7 p.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Holy Eucharist Rite One, 11 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

**Coming Up**

**Monday, December 25, Christmas Day**

*Church Office Closed*  
Holy Eucharist Rite One, 10 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

**Tuesday, December 26**

*Church Office Closed*

**Sunday, December 31**

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

**Monday, January 1**

*Church Office Closed*

**Thursday, January 4**

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

**Sunday, January 7, Rector Weezie Blanchard's Last Sunday**

Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Reception in Honor of Weezie, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall*