



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018

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, Bruin Richardson, 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.

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

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

10 a.m. Adult Forum: Abide in Me, *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*

12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee, *Café*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

When I was in the second grade the word, *practice*, made my heart sink. There, always on a beautiful sunny afternoon, I would hear, "Sydna, come inside and practice your music." I would drag in with dread, of course, as I was picturing the upcoming spring recital.

Only in the last few years has the word *practice* become a positive word. All it took was a slight reframing of the word to turn me around. A soft voice of instruction, "remember, this is *just practice*."

"It's just practice, not a performance" ... suddenly my shoulders softened, my thoughts stopped racing, my breath slowed and deepened.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it this way in *The Book of Joy*, "physical and spiritual practices are not ends in themselves. *There is no spiritual competition*. Practices reward and deepen through continued efforts. The more we practice, the more we benefit."

The Brothers of SSJE have provided us with a Lenten offering, *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*. The beautiful workbook and thoughtful meditations have offered me "practice time." I call it "Be Still time."

"Be still and know that I am God." -Psalm 46:10

After listening to and reading the Brother's message, it's time to practice being still, to allow the body and mind to let go, to fast from words and be quiet, and I simply breathe. A favorite practice of mine is a simple breath prayer to be done while sitting or walking.

Simple Breath Prayer:

- ❖ Breathe in deeply.
- ❖ Breathe out as slowly as possible. Continue simply breathing and listening to your breath.
- ❖ After several breaths you may add a word or a prayer, such as...
- ❖ Breathe in "Our Father" or a favorite name of God.
- ❖ Breathe out "Hallowed be thy name" or a favorite phrase.
- ❖ Or breathe in, "breathe in me," and breathe out, "breath of God" or any favorite word or phrase will do.
- ❖ Continue simply breathing and listening to your breath.

Remember, it's just practice!

Sydna Street

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.

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Rector Search Committee (Chair Tracey Ragsdale, Brantley Holmes, Andy Howlett, Michelle Lewis, Kim O'Shea, Nancy Reed, Bruin Richardson, Al Rider, Susie Salsitz, Carrie Schaeffer, Armistead Talman, Joan Wilkins, and Russell Wyatt) **is making great progress in the search** for St. Mary's next rector. The job posting expired at the end of February and the committee is no longer accepting applications. During the time the posting was active the committee discussed and communicated with 45 applicants. From those applicants, **Skype interviews were conducted with 11 candidates**. Further discussion and **follow-up interviews will continue over the next several weeks**. As always, **please keep your hearts and minds open during this process** and keep this committee in your prayers as they continue this important work.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

During Lent, we are focusing on how we relate to Jesus, particularly in the Gospel of John, and using some different approaches for our explorations. We will continue to **explore Jesus in the Gospel of John is through armchair conversations** with a St. Mary's parishioner. **This morning at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall**, parishioner **Bill Huffman sits down with Bob Hetherington** to share his own personal story and how that relates to the larger story of St. Mary's community. **Join them** for this engaging "armchair conversation" on this week's theme, "Abide in Me."

The current session of the **men's spiritual practice group continues this Tuesday, March 20 through March 27 at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Parish Hall**. Led by Bob Hetherington, the gathering is an opportunity to deepen faith and **is open to men of all ages**.

Lenten Speaker Series begins at 6:15 p.m. this Wednesday, March 21. In our last installment of the series, **Thom Blair** will explore the parable, "**The one behind the faces,**" **Matthew 25:31-46**.

A new women's book study begins in April! St. Mary's second annual winter women's book study on *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber was a great success! Moving forward, the group is trying a **once-a-month book club**. **All ages of women are invited to join and discuss *Everything Happens for a Reason and other Lies I Have Loved*** by Kate Bowler on **Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.** (location TBA). Pick up a copy in the café for \$20 or order a copy online. For questions or more information, contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

Several years ago, St. Mary's offered a **Centering Prayer ministry, *Be Still***. This year as our season of Lent comes to a close, **Mary Lou Bean and Sydna Street are following up with a return of the *Be Still* ministry**. Join them for six weeks of **practice of stilling our bodies, minds, and spirits**. It will be a time to rejoice, reflect, and act upon the Easter message with all of our hearts! **On Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24, and May 1, 8, and 15, at 10 a.m.** in the Education Building begin with a **1 hour yoga session for all levels and ages** followed by a 20 minute contemplative time of quiet and stillness. For more information, contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

WORSHIP

Join us in Little St. Mary's for a reflective, mid-week Evening Prayer service at 5:30 p.m. this Wednesday, March 25 prior to Lenten Supper.

Our service on **Palm Sunday** celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Join us at **10:50 a.m. on Sunday, March 25** as we all **process around the churchyard, making a joyful noise** as we begin the 11 a.m. service on the steps of New St. Mary's. Bring your tambourines, bells, and other noisemakers and gather on the Terrace for this festive event!

The children and youth of St. Mary's **present a shadow play of the Stations of the Cross** on Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Little St. Mary's. **Come see a beautiful production and moving meditation** on the crucifixion of Christ. Afterward, please join us for a simple Lenten soup supper.

This year St. Mary's will celebrate our first **Easter Vigil** on **Saturday, March 31 at 7 p.m.** in New St. Mary's. It is the climax of the story of Holy Week and **takes us from the death to new life. The story of God's relationship with humanity is told, moving from creation to salvation.** With the conclusion of the history of salvation, bells are rung, the lights come up and the celebration of Easter begins with the Easter greeting, "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" "The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!" **The service then continues with the reading of the resurrection story and Holy Communion.** The service will last approximately an hour and a half and **will be followed by a champagne and cake reception.** Please **consider making this beautiful service part of your Easter celebration.**

ALTAR GUILD

On **Saturday, March 31 at 9 a.m.**, the Altar Guild invites **anyone interested to come help 'flower' New St. Mary's** for Easter services. Please **bring your clippers and every blooming thing** from your garden. Also, please help clean up on Tuesday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. **For any questions**, please call Margaret Lundvall at (804) 358-2048.

FELLOWSHIP

Gather for a simple Lenten Soup Supper this Wednesday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m. Come break bread and take a midweek break with your St. Mary's family every Wednesday throughout Lent. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. with a suggested donation is \$8 per person and \$22 per family.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

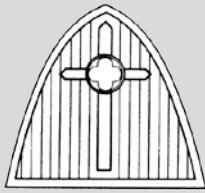
Save the date for St. Mary's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 1 at 12:15 p.m.! All children, toddlers through 5th grade, are invited to participate. **Parents are asked to bring in two dozen filled plastic eggs for each child** who will participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. **Please NO PEANUT or TREE NUT** candy or treats. Drop off the eggs at Amelia McDaniel's office or **in a collection box in the Café by Saturday, March 31.** For more information, please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

DATE WITH THE DAFFODILS

St. Mary's is excited to announce the first annual Gala benefiting St. Mary's mission and outreach programs – **Date with the Daffodils!** The committee has been hard at work planning this event **in honor of Isabel Souder Correll.** They hope you will **join them for a lovely evening on Friday, April 13 at 6 p.m.** sponsored by the family of E. Carlton Wilton in loving memory of the Rev. W. Holt Souder and E. Carlton Wilton, Sr. **Invitations are in your mailboxes!** Please mail in the RSVP card or go online at www.stmarysgoochland.org/gala to purchase tickets. **It's going to be a wonderful evening with a live auction, delicious food, and dancing!**

WE'RE ALL IN!

The support that we receive through the Annual Giving campaign directly supports vital missions of St. Mary's. We are **nearing 70% participation** in the 2018 campaign **on our way to our goal of 80% participation by Easter Sunday.** During this season of Lent, **we are challenging you to lean all the way in.** If you haven't yet made a pledge, **please know how much your commitment today can shape the year ahead for St. Mary's.** Thank you for making St. Mary's a priority in your life. **Your joyful participation** on Sunday, throughout the week, and in our community programs **enriches our legacy to our community.** You can **pledge today on our website** (www.stmarysgoochland.org/pledge) or by **calling the parish office** at (804) 784-5678.



**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*
Elizabeth Baker, *Administrative Assistant*
 ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org
Adam Bailey, *Children's Choir Director*
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*
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Amelia McDaniel, *Director of Children's Ministries*
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Andrew Y. Moore, *Associate Rector*
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Paul Pace, *Sexton*
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Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*
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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:
Tracey Ragsdale, *Senior Warden*
Russell Wyatt, *Junior Warden*
Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*
Patsy Simril, *Register*
Karen Huennekens, Fay Lohr, Anne McCoy,
Kim O'Shea, Doug Pera, Al Rider, Tom Slater,
Seth Schaeffer and Scott Stephens

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, March 18, Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, March 19

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

Tuesday, March 20

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, March 21

St. Peter's Bible Study and Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m., *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*
Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Lenten Supper, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*
Lenten Speaker Series, 6:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Thursday, March 22

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

Saturday, March 24

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

Sunday, March 25, Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Adult Forum: We Declare to You, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*
Procession of the Palms, 10:50 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*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Stations of the Cross, Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Little St. Mary's

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. in Little St. Mary's

Good Friday, Friday, March 30, at 5:30 p.m. in Little St. Mary's

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31, 7 p.m. in New St. Mary's



EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One in New St. Mary's

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two in New St. Mary's

12:15 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers – 5th grade students in the Churchyard