



# THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

**March 25, 2018**

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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, 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](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: We Declare to You, *New Parish Hall*

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

**10:50 a.m.** Palm Sunday Procession, *Churchyard*

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

**12 p.m.** Cookies and Coffee, *Café*

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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

Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph. His new understanding of how God's loving presence works in the world has taken hold. His followers came to Jerusalem to celebrate the victory of their mission and to work for the transformation of the Jewish system of temple worship.

What began with so much hope and promise ended very badly: there was the confrontation with the money changers in the temple; the decision on the part of the Jewish establishment that this rabble rouser from the country had to die; the arrest of Jesus; Jesus being passed back and forth between Pilate and Harod, Harod and Pilate. Finally, Pilate's decision to let Jesus die because the Jewish leaders were so adamant about it.

On that first Good Friday, Jesus hung upon the cross and there he died. The mission was over. What had begun with such hope and promise had come to nothing. Everything the disciples hoped and believed about Jesus died on that cross. The forces of darkness had won the day. The world had descended into meaninglessness and despair. On Good Friday we keep watch at the foot of the cross and watch an innocent man die.

Palm Sunday ushers in Holy Week. Everything slows down as we move toward the cross on Good Friday. We bring all our questions about how a loving God could let such a terrible thing happen. It is time to examine our own doubts and fears about life. Where is God when we need God most? Sometimes it feels like we are surrounded by silence.

The Lenten journey relentlessly brings us to the foot of the cross. It is hard to be there. We would rather be anywhere else. So, we wait. Is this the way life ends?

Of course, as Christian people we know the story does not end here. God's greatest miracle still lies ahead. However, we cannot understand the power of God's transforming presence unless we keep watch at the foot of the cross.

Among the religions of the world, Christianity has the deepest understanding of suffering. God gave his son to die on the cross so the whole world would know about the depth and power of God's transforming love. Every depth of human suffering can be reached by our God.

We live in hope.

*Bob Hetherington*

See more at [stmarysgoochland.org](http://stmarysgoochland.org)

**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.

## 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Churchyard

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

**Throughout Lent, we have focused on our relationship with Jesus** and how that relates to our own personal stories and the larger St. Mary's community. **Join Matt Rawls and High School youth this morning at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall** as they have an "armchair conversation" on this week's theme, "We Declare to You."

The current session of the **men's spiritual practice group** continues **this Tuesday, 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**.

**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**. **Women of all ages 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](mailto: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](mailto:acameron@stmarysgoochland.org).

## WORSHIP

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

**A delicious breakfast for all ages is served Sunday, April 8 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** Service is rolling, so come anytime between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. **Suggested donation is \$4/person and maximum of \$15/family.**

**St. Mary's adults of all ages are invited to the Seniors Lunch.** For April's program, **we welcome back the Rev. Dr. John Miller** and his wife Deborah. John will share "Reflections on my 38 years of employment at St. Mary's Episcopal Church." Join parishioners of all ages for a **delicious lunch and engaging program on Tuesday, April 10 at 12 p.m. in the New Parish Hall.** Suggested donation is \$5/person. **Please RSVP to Elizabeth Baker** at (804) 784-5678 to ensure there's plenty of food!

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

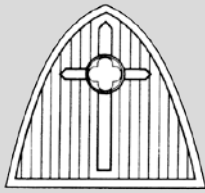
A wonderful St. Mary's Easter tradition is the "flowering" of the cross. Before the 11 a.m. service, the children are invited to join in a **beautiful procession into the church** with flowers to decorate the cross. **Please gather in the New Parish Hall at 10:50 a.m. with flowers from your yard.** There will be extra flowers available if needed.

### 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 in honor of Isabel Souder Correll.** St. Mary's hopes you will **come 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. **Please mail in the RSVP card or go online at [www.stmarysgoochland.org/gala](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org/gala) to purchase tickets.** This event is not exclusively for St. Mary's parishioners, so please invite your friends, family, and neighbors! **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. You can **pledge today on our website** ([www.stmarysgoochland.org/pledge](http://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](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](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org)

**Adam Bailey**, *Children's Choir Director*

**Ashley Cameron**, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*

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**Clarence Dixon**, *Assistant Sexton*

**Robert G. Hetherington**, *Priest Associate*

**Mike Koschak**, *Executive Director, Church Operations*

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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**, *Registrar*

**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 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*

**Monday, March 26**

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Rector's Study*

**Tuesday, March 27**

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

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

**Wednesday, March 28**

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

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

Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Simple Soup Supper, 6 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

**Thursday, March 29**

Maundy Thursday Service, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

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

**Friday, March 30**

Good Friday Liturgy, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

**Saturday, March 31**

"Flowering" of New St. Mary's, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

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

Easter Vigil, 7 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

**Sunday, April 1, Easter Sunday**

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

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

Easter Egg Hunt, 12:15 p.m., *Terrace and Churchyard*

**Coming Up**

**Monday, April 2**

*Church Office Closed*

**Tuesday, April 3**

Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

**Wednesday, April 4**

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*

**Sunday, April 8**

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

Parish Breakfast, 9:30 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*

**Tuesday, April 10**

*Be Still* Ministry, 10 a.m., *Education Building*

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