

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 1, 2018

AN EASTER MESSAGE

FROM THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY,
PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 on our website at 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*

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

Mary's

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

Do you receive email from us?

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

There is a passage in the 27th Chapter of Matthew's gospel where religious leaders, political leaders come together once again after Jesus has been crucified and executed, after he had been buried in the tomb. Once again they come together to seal the tomb, to make sure not even a rumor of his resurrection will happen. And this is what some of them say:

Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people he has been raised from the dead. And the last deception will be the worse than the first.

It is easy to overlook, and sometimes convenient to forget, that Jesus was executed, Jesus was crucified by an unholy alliance of religion, politics, and economic self-interest.

Politics represented in Pontius Pilate, governor of the Roman Empire, representative of that very empire and all of its power. King Herod, who heard Jesus at one of the trials, representative of the Herodian and economic self-interest at the time. The Chief Priest, representative of religious aristocracies who had a vested interest in the status quo.

These three powers came together - economic, religious and political - to crucify the one who taught love the lord your God, love your neighbor, and actually live that way.

The truth is the message of Jesus was unsettling to the world then as it is unsettling to the world now. And yet that very message is the only source of hope in life for the way of the cross, the way of unselfish living, the way of sacrificial living, seeking the good, the welfare of the other before one's own unenlightened self-interest. That way of the cross is the way of love. That is the nature of love. And that way is the only hope for the entire human family.

The reality is the way of Jesus was a threat to the way that the world is, and hope for the way the world can and will be. But on that third day after the crucifixion, when by the titanic power of God, by the power of the love of God, Jesus was raised from the dead. God sent a message and declared that death does not have the last word. Hatred does not have the last word. Violence does not have the last word. Bigotry does not have the last word. Sin, evil do not have the last word. The last word is God, and God is love.

On our pilgrimage here, we stopped and spent two days in Jordan. In Amman, Jordan, we were able to spend some sacred and blessed and painful time with Iraqi Christians. These are Christians, many of whom are Anglican, who have fled their country in Iraq because of war and violence and hatred and desecration. They have given up everything, refusing to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. And there in Jordan, with the help of the Anglican Church there and many other relief agencies, they are at least safe, hoping to find safe and permanent homes in other countries.

In the course of our conversations, and listening to them, at one point I found myself quoting a hymn, a song that many folk have heard around Easter, certainly in our country. And I didn't expect a response. You probably know how it goes - it says, "because he lives," referring to Jesus and his resurrection, "because he lives, I can face tomorrow." When I quoted that song, those who have lost their homes, people who have lost everything except life itself, those who have lost loved ones, actually responded to the words of that song. When I said, "Because He lives I can face tomorrow." When I said Jesus is alive, He's been raised from the dead, I saw them lift up their heads and respond with the words amen, hallelujah.

My brothers and sisters, evil could not stop him. Death could not stop him. Violence could not stop him. For the love of God, the heart of God, the reality of God is stronger than anything else. And Jesus really rose from the dead on that first resurrection morning.

God love you. God bless you. And, may this Easter season be the first day of the rest of our lives.

Amen.

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 an information form. 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



PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE:

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Choirs
- Intercessors
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lay Eucharistic
- Visitors
- Oblation
- Bearers
- Readers
- Ushers & Greeters

open Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and available to you for prayer and reflection.

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.



FELLOWSHIP

St. Mary's has grown into 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 nursery for infants – 4 year olds during our 9 and 11 a.m. worship and the 10 a.m. education hour. There are engaging formation classes for children and youth 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.

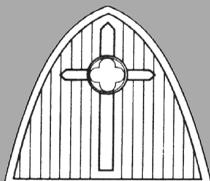
OUTREACH

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. St. Mary's is continually exploring ways to do God's work in the world through outreach.

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.





ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

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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**.

COMING UP AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, April 2

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 4

St. Peter's Bible Study and Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m., *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

Join St. Mary's parishioners and community members at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in the East End on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to read that week's Gospel, reflect with community members, unload the truck from the food bank, and prepare grocery bags.

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.

Sunday, April 8, 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.

Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

On the second Sunday of every month from October through May, the St. Mary's Fellowship Committee prepares a hearty breakfast to be enjoyed by all.

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

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Come enjoy a hot cup of coffee, cookies, and fellowship on Sunday morning.

Tuesday, April 10

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

Join the Rev. Bob Hetherington in the Old Parish Hall for a weekly opportunity to deepen faith. Open to all men.

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

Mary Lou Bean and Sydna Street are reinvigorating the Be Still ministry. For six weeks, you are invited to practice stilling your body, mind, and spirit with one hour of yoga for all levels followed by a contemplative time of quiet and prayer.

Seniors Lunch, 12 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!

Wednesday, April 18

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

On the third Wednesday of every month from October through May, everyone is 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, April 22, 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: The Path, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

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?

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.

Saturday, April 28

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, May 6, Sixth 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: The Path, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

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.