



# THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 16, 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.

## Sermons available

Find past sermons available on St. Mary's website at [stmarysgoochland.org/sermons](http://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.

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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: What Makes Good Liturgy?, *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, *Parish Hall*

**4:30 p.m.** Youth 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

One of the earliest holiday traditions with my family growing up was going out and looking at the Christmas lights. We would all pile into our station wagon and ride through our small town. Street after street we looked at the homes all decorated for Christmas. Back then, candles in windows and some strategically placed twinkle lights were the things of "oohs and ahhs".

This is a tradition that I have tried to keep alive today with my two boys. However, I have found this to be quite an evening. Traffic jams and buses trying to maneuver small cul-du-sacs are commonplace. Mere candles and twinkle lights don't even warrant a mention today. Dozens of lighted displays and inflatable creatures, along with personalized radio stations that synchronize music along with the lights are needed to even slow the car down.

The other evening, I got my boys into the car. After driving through our usual neighborhoods, we headed for home. As we went through a less decorated neighborhood, my oldest son finally noticed the candles in the windows and how pretty they were. I saw a window of opportunity and asked him why he thought houses had candles in their windows. He wasn't sure, so I took this chance to bring Sunday school into our evening drive.

I said that throughout history, families lit candles and put them in their windows while they were waiting for someone to come home. "Waiting for Santa?" was the immediate response. I then asked who else we were waiting for in Advent. Quickly he said, "Jesus." Again, not one to let this breakthrough go, I further prompted a discussion of the Advent wreath he and his brother made two weeks ago and the "waiting" that occurs during this season. That was about as far as this conversation went, as we pulled into our driveway.

As I have gotten older, Advent has gained more meaning to me. In my youth, Advent just meant more candles to light as an Acolyte and going to church at 11 p.m. Advent was full of stories that I understood and told of the birth of Jesus. Now, it has turned into a true season of reflection. I have embraced the "waiting" and the time the season has given to me to think about what is to come and what the past year has brought. With a new church year, comes new thoughts, commitments, and hope.

*Sean O'Hara*

**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.

### CHILDREN'S LESSONS AND CAROLS – SIGN UP!

**The Christmas Eve service is one of our most beloved traditions at St. Mary's.** The Children's Lessons and Carols is held on **Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 at 4 p.m.** Please come at 3:30 p.m. for costuming. This year we will follow the retelling of the story of Christmas with a Holy Eucharist. There will be several stations for communion as we do for Easter. Again this year, a **Birthday Party for Jesus will follow the service** in the Parish Hall. There will be mini cupcakes for all!

**Please sign up your child to participate to ensure that we have enough costumes.** Contact Amelia McDaniel at [amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org). And mark your calendars for the **rehearsal on Saturday, December 22 at 9:30 a.m.** for ALL participants!

**Our service will look a little different this year.** Instead of the children waiting in the wings to come in during the pageant, they will be seated with their families. **After costuming**, you all will head into New St. Mary's to get a seat. As the service moves along, there will be points when each group of characters will be asked to come forward to join in the scene taking shape. The bulletins will clearly mark when they are to join in the action. **This way all the kids really get to SEE the whole pageant and participate in the WHOLE story.**

### SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

The **men's spiritual practice group** meets for the final time until the new year this **Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Parish Office. Led by Bob Hetherington, it is an opportunity to deepen faith and is open to men of all ages. **There will be no practice on Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1;** it will resume on Tuesday, January 8.

**Conversations about the liturgy often get derailed** by reducing it to a question of 'high church' and 'low church'. **What makes for good liturgy is a more basic question** about the worshipping life of people and is a good one to ask. **Please come join David May this morning at 10 a.m.** in the Parish Hall for a lively conversation about what makes for good liturgy, whether 'high' or 'low'!

**Advent is a time to be quiet and still** while we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. During this season, **Mary Lou Bean and Sydna Street are bringing back the Be Still ministry.** Join them for the final practice of stilling our bodies, minds, and spirits during this typically busy time in our lives. **Concluding this Tuesday, December 18 at 10 a.m.** in the Education Building, **join them for a 1 hour yoga session** for all levels and ages, followed by contemplative prayer. All you need to bring is a yoga mat or bath towel and an open heart and mind.

**A special guest speaker will lead us into Epiphany during the Adult Forums** for three weeks! St. Mary's is excited to welcome **Ben Sparks, a retired Presbyterian pastor** who has served in Scotland, Jacksonville, Nashville and Richmond. He will lead us in a **three-part series called, "Teach me about the Bible"** on Sundays, January 6, 13, & 20. We hope you will join us and Ben as he opens our minds to how this collection of scriptures came to be.

## FELLOWSHIP

**December's Parish Supper is this Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m.!** Join us for a scrumptious meal in the Parish Hall. Service is rolling so come anytime between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.! Suggested donation is \$8 per person or \$25 per family. **All ages are welcome! The menu includes:** roasted pork loin with an apple onion chutney, wild rice, salad, green beans, and an assortment of pies for dessert.

## ALTAR GUILD

**Order Poinsettias to remember your loved ones** this Christmas. Please send your **donation of \$30** 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." Please **include with your check a note indicating whom your donation** is made in memory or honor of. **For further information** or any questions, please contact Elizabeth Baker via **email at [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org)** or call (804) 784-5678.

**Altar Guild needs you, your clippers, and greens.** Please bring greens and/or help decorate for Christmas beginning at **9 a.m. this Friday, December 21** in New St. Mary's. For further information or any questions, please contact Elizabeth Baker via email at [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org) or call (804) 784-5678.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**The ALL Youth Christmas Party** is tonight, **December 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Education Building.** Middle and High School students will gather for a pizza party and white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a \$15 gift and \$5 for pizza.

Mark your calendars for the Children's Lessons and Carols **rehearsal this Saturday, December 22 at 9:30 a.m.** for ALL participants!

## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

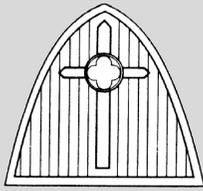
Each year at our Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in January, **four members of the Vestry complete their three-year terms of ministry on the 12-member Vestry, and four new Vestry members are elected.** At St. Mary's, the Vestry Nominating Committee, includes the four outgoing Vestry members (Fay Lohr, Tracey Ragsdale, Al Rider and Tom Slater) and, this year, two at-large members (Michelle Lewis and Carrie Schaeffer), meets to prayerfully consider and propose qualified nominees. **Parishioners who are 'qualified' and eligible to stand for election are "adult (16 years of age or older) confirmed communicants in good standing".** This year's annual meeting will take place on January 27, 2019. **If you would like to nominate someone,** please pray about it first and then contact Michelle Lewis at [michelledlewis315@gmail.com](mailto:michelledlewis315@gmail.com).

## YEAR-END GIVING

**What an amazing year at St. Mary's!** We are so grateful that each and every one of you is part of this community, and we celebrate all that took place during this exciting year in the life of St. Mary's. **But St. Mary's cannot continue the ministries that sustain this faithful place without the financial support of its members.** Please consider making a year-end gift to the Operating Fund of St. Mary's. **There are many ways to give! Cash or check gifts** can simply be dropped in the offering plate during one of our services or mail it to the Parish Office. Please be sure it is postmarked by Monday, December 31. **To make a gift of stock,** please contact Mike Koschak at [mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org). For parishioners 70 ½ or older, **the charitable IRA rollover** is another way to give. **And thank you to everyone for your generosity throughout the year!**

## THANK YOU!

I am so grateful to God for all of your prayers and cards and dinners and kind words and especially for your warm, good hearts during the time leading up to my mother's recent death and after. I am especially grateful for all the 'St. Mary's folks' who came for the beautiful service at Holy Comforter for her. Thank you! One of the beautiful and healing ways that God bestows care and grace is through each other – I am sure of that. So for all of the ways that God has drawn near over these past weeks through you, please accept my sincere and grateful thanks. DHM+



**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*  
**Ashley Cameron**, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*  
acameron@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Duke Fowler**, *Sexton*  
**Robert G. Hetherington**, *Priest Associate*  
**Mike Koschak**, *Executive Director, Church Operations*  
mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org  
**David H. May**, *Rector*  
dmay@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Amelia McDaniel**, *Director of Children's Ministries*  
amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Paul Pace**, *Sexton*  
**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:**

**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, December 16, The Third Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
Adult Forum: What Makes Good Liturgy?, 10 a.m., *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, 10 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*  
Youth Group Christmas Party, 4:30 p.m., *Education Building*

**Tuesday, December 18**

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Parish Office*  
Be Still Ministry, 10 a.m., *Education Building*  
Staff Meeting, 11 a.m., *Rector's Study*  
Vestry, 5 p.m., *Parish Hall*

**Wednesday, December 19**

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*  
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
Pastoral Care Team 3, 4 p.m., *Rector's Study*  
Parish Supper, 5:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*

**Thursday, December 20**

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

**Friday, December 21**

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

**Saturday, December 22**

Pageant Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

**Sunday, December 22, The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*  
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Cookies and Coffee, 10 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*

**Coming Up**

**Monday, December 24 – Wednesday, December 26**

*Church Office Closed*

**Sunday, December 30**

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

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



**CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**4:00 p.m.** Children's Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's

**7:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite Two in New St. Mary's,  
*Choral Prelude begins at 6:30 p.m.*

**11:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite One in Little St. Mary's



**CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist Rite Two in Little St. Mary's