

# THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**The First Sunday after Christmas**

**December 30, 2018**

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## 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, usher, or a clergy member, and **consider filling out a welcome card**.

We invite you to join us on future **Sundays at 9 a.m.** for Eucharist or 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, or for many of our other fellowship and outreach offerings. **Little St. Mary's** is also **open Monday through Friday** between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and is available to you for prayer and reflection. Flip the page over to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

## Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through 4-year-olds from 9:45 a.m. until 11:15 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.

## 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

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

**11 a.m.** Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New St. Mary's*

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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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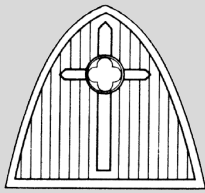
## A WEEKLY REFLECTION

There is a meme that starts circulating around Facebook among friends in my field this time of year that simply reads "Hooray! It's December! Oh, wait – I'm a musician." In some respects, it's a fairly accurate summation of my feelings about this season, as there's a lot to get done and not a whole lot of time in which to do it. This year, in the span of just three weeks, we've had our Advent Lessons and Carols service here, I've conducted two performances of the Bach *Magnificat* and other pieces with one of my community choruses, on top of our regular Sunday services, a wedding, and several funerals – and I'm writing this on December 21, so from my perspective, our three Christmas Eve services haven't even happened yet!

There's definitely a lot to do, and I definitely have to brace myself at the start of the month, but at the same time, I really enjoy the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and have since I started singing in choir in high school and got my first real taste of what being a musician in December meant. There's so much wonderful music written for this time of year – choral pieces, hymns, organ works – and every year is a chance to revisit old favorites and discover new ones. The liturgies at this time of year are also particularly beautiful – our Advent Lessons and Carols service certainly took some work to put together, but being a part of that offering of music and readings was immensely rewarding.

The season also offers reminders of the difference music can make in people's lives. For musicians, all the concerts and services can certainly be sources of stress, but for congregations and audience members, it's often an island of repose in the midst of an otherwise stressful month. I was always touched to read survey responses after a Christmas concert presented each year by a community chorus I worked with in Philadelphia where people would write about the importance of that performance as a holiday tradition. Being a professional musician this time of year can certainly feel like a slog, but knowing that the work can offer "tidings of comfort and joy" to others helps to make it worthwhile. So, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – now if you'll excuse me, it's still December 21 and the organ isn't going to practice itself!

*Ryan Tibbets*



**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)

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

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**Duke Fowler**, *Sexton*

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

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

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**David H. May**, *Rector*

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**Paul Pace**, *Sexton*

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**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**

**FELLOWSHIP**

Save the date for an enjoyable time at the **Seniors Lunch on Tuesday, January 8 at 12 p.m.** Adults of all ages are invited to a **homemade, delicious lunch** and an engaging program! **This month's speaker** is St. Mary's own David May as he speaks about "my life away from the round collar." **Suggested donation is \$5;** please call Elizabeth Baker at (804) 784-5678 to RSVP.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION**

**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, and 20.** We hope you will join us and Ben as he opens our minds to how this collection of scriptures came to be.

**Men's Spiritual Practice resumes in 2019.** Join Bob Hetherington for one hour to deepen your faith in the Parish Office beginning **Tuesday, January 8, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.**

**This Week at St. Mary's**

**Sunday, December 30**

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

Cookies and Coffee, 11 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*

**Monday, December 31**

*Church Office Closed*

**Tuesday, January 1**

*Church Office Closed*

**Wednesday, January 2**

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

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

**Friday, January 4**

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

**Saturday, January 5**

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

**Sunday, January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany**

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

Adult Forum: "Teach me about the Bible" Part 1, 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*

Cake and Coffee, 10 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*

**Coming Up**

**Tuesday, January 8**

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

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

**Wednesday, January 9**

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