

THE ANNUNCIATION

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Even on a cold, rainy morning, there was a wonderful turn out of all ages to make Advent Wreaths last week!



Recently, I attended a retreat at Shrine Mont with the Commission on Ministry. I won't bore you with the breakdown of the commission and committee structure of the Diocese of Virginia. All you need to know is that the retreat consisted of priests, deacons, and lay people who in some way have an impact on the discernment and formation of new clergy in the Episcopal Church. The theme of the 24 hours was "the Good News of God in Christ." We as the leaders and people of the Church have good news to share. But how are we doing that?

At one point, we were asked to imagine an unchurched neighbor approaches you and asks you, "Who is Jesus? And what does he have to do with me?" Then we were asked to share with someone in the room, "What words would you use in response to that person?" Now, stop for a moment. How would you answer that question?

In all honesty, I was super uncomfortable with the question at first. And I truly didn't know how to answer. Most of my millennial friends are "unchurched" and trust me, I never bring up this guy, Jesus, with them. But they also never ask.

But in today's Gospel, we have John the Baptist, the guy who eats locusts and honey, and definitely

Weekly reflection continues...

Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church - we are so glad that you are here! Since the 1870's, God has gathered a beloved community of Jesus to worship and serve here, where all are welcomed. We are committed to provide a holy place for worship, Christian Formation for all ages that is compelling and life-giving, opportunities to reach out in love for those in need, and an enthusiastic hope that all who call St. Mary's their spiritual home can participate in every area of our common life in Christ. The spirit of St. Mary's is grounded in a deep sense of gratitude for God's goodness and love. We give thanks for you and for your life, and we are grateful to God for the opportunity to welcome you!

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| TODAY'S SCHEDULE | 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Little St. Mary's | 9:30 a.m. Parish Breakfast in Parish Hall | 10 a.m. Sunday School for 4 yrs. to 5th Grade in the Block Room | 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's | 12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee in the Cafe |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|

Weekly reflection continued...

doesn't brush his hair or wear shoes, shouting to anyone who would listen about preparing the way of the Lord. And people flock to him to hear this good news. "One who is more powerful than I is coming after me."

Being a Christian is believing that the word became flesh and dwells among us. Isn't part of our role as Episcopalians to "reclaim" Jesus? I recently heard the Presiding Bishop say, "I have had the experience of reading the Gospels and then listening to the characterizations of Christianity in the public sphere. And just feeling and knowing that there's a disconnect between what I'm reading about Jesus and what I'm hearing about the Christian faith... where I've said, 'Wait a minute. That's not the Jesus that I'm hearing in these Gospels.'"

Coming back to the retreat exercise, people's answers sounded like – the Embodiment of Christ; a life-giving, loving, liberating Jesus; the living God who came and walked among us; the one who came and listened to our stories and then shared the story of God's love.

So in this time of preparation for this baby Jesus to be born, ask yourself how you would answer that question. Who is Jesus to you? How do you share the good news of Christ?

Ashley Cameron



Ministry Highlight

Each poinsettia that adorns the two altars during Christmas is in memory or honor of a loved one. To order a poinsettia 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 in memory or honor of whom your donation is made. For further information or any questions, please contact Elizabeth Starling via email at estarling@stmarysgoochland.org or call (804) 784-5678.



Outreach Opportunity

The Annual GoochlandCares Clothes Closet drive is underway! Throughout Advent, St. Mary's is collecting clean, gently used or new winter items. Specifically, GoochlandCARES is asking for women's socks, women's long underwear, baby clothes for newborn through 2T, men's jeans, blankets, and socks, winter boots, hats, gloves, and underwear for all ages. Collection boxes are located in the Dover Lounge. Thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 4 P.M.

Sign up your child and volunteer today!

Email Amelia at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS THIS EVENING

Sunday, December 8, 4 p.m., New St. Mary's

Those of all ages are welcome to join us for an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols this evening beginning with a prelude at 4 p.m. and then the service at 4:30 p.m. in New St. Mary's. Listen to readings and choral music telling of God's promise of salvation and raise your voices in song with the St. Mary's Choir in hymns this season of Advent. Please join us for a reception afterwards in the Parish Hall. The Vestry will present the Rev. John E. Miller, Ph.D., with a resolution naming him as Rector Emeritus for the extraordinarily fruitful ministry he shared with the people of St. Mary's as Rector from 1983 to 2015. We hope you will join us in offering thanksgiving to God for John.

"BECOMING ST. MARY'S" EXHIBIT

Sunday, December 15, 10 a.m., Parish Hall

Have you ever wondered about those numbered graves in the churchyard? Or how St. Mary's came to be? Our new exhibit, "Becoming St. Mary's," opens on this evening after Advent Lessons and Carols. Elizabeth Starling curated fun facts, historical information, and heartfelt remembrances that bring the story of St. Mary's alive. We hope you'll take time to browse the exhibition, which will be on display in the Dover Lounge for the next few months. Also, join Elizabeth next Sunday, December 15 at 10 a.m. as she shares about the process and some behind-the-scenes stories.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH BOB HETHERINGTON

Tuesday, December 10, 12 p.m., Parish Hall

St. Mary's seniors (well, adults of all ages) are invited to a delicious lunch and engaging program at 12 p.m. in the Parish Hall this Tuesday, December 10. We will welcome St. Mary's The Rev. Canon Bob Hetherington. He'll discuss, "What are the necessary requirements of adequately fulfilling the role of 'caregiver' of a family member or a dear friend who is in dire need of support?" Please RSVP to the church office, (804) 784-5678.

FAITH & FILM IS BACK THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 11, 5 p.m., Dover Lounge

The next installment of our Faith and Film series is this Wednesday, December 11 from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Dover Lounge. We will show "Joyeux Noël," a foreign film (subtitles), of a powerful true-life story of the spontaneous Christmas Eve truce declared by Scottish, French and German troops in the trenches of World War I. Enemies leave their weapons behind for one night as they band together and forget about the cruelties of war as the goodness of humanity shines through. Please call the church office to RSVP to ensure enough food for all attending!

PARISH SUPPER WITH JOYOUS CAROLS

Wednesday, December 18, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Join us for a festive Parish Supper on Wednesday, December 18! Take a break for the busyness of this season to break bread with fellow St. Mary's parishioners. Service is rolling so come anytime between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. After supper, Ryan Tibbetts will play piano and lead the group in singing carols! All ages are welcome!

SUNDAYS AT ST. MARY'S

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Little St. Mary's
10 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer in New St. Mary's*

*We have first, third, and fifth Sunday Holy Eucharist at both services. Second and fourth Sundays will have Morning Prayer, except during Advent, Lent and Easter.

NURSERY

Nursery is offered for infants - 3 year olds every Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. As a part of nursery time, the toddlers will hear a Bible story, sing, and play games.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered for children 4 years old - 12th grade at 10 a.m. Each week the children and youth deepen their understanding and connection to our shared story of faith.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum gathers every Sunday in the Parish Hall during the 10 o'clock hour. All adults are welcome! Forums range from guest speakers to panel discussions to hearing from St. Mary's clergy.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the 11 a.m. service, children (ages 4 years old - 5th grade) are invited to come forward during the Gospel hymn and go to the Block Room together. There, they hear the Gospel story, talk about it, and sing together. They return to the service during the Peace.

OCCURRING WEEKLY

MEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in the Parish Office

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library

HOLY EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Little St. Mary's

NEW BEGINNINGS

Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Education Building (open A.A. meeting)

*Events are subject to change. Please visit www.stmarysgoochland.org for updates.

Do you receive email from us?

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

The Annunciation | December 8, 2019 | Second Sunday of Advent





This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, December 8

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *Parish Hall*
 Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Classrooms and Education Building*
 Youth Service, 11 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
 Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café*
 Advent Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*
 Reception, 5:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Tuesday, December 10

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Parish Office*
 Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Rector's Office*
 Lunch & Learn, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Wednesday, December 11

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
 Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Faith & Film, 5 p.m., *Dover Lounge*

Thursday, December 12

Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex of New St. Mary's*
 Pastoral Care Team 2, 5 p.m., *Parish Office*

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Forum: Intro to "Becoming St. Mary's"
 Exhibit, 10 a.m., *Parish Hall*
 Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Classrooms and Education Building*
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
 Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café*
 Youth Christmas Party, 4:30 p.m., *Education Building*



Contact Us

New Here? Be sure to fill out a welcome card located in the pews and in the narthex. Place it in the offering plate or bring it to an usher or clergy to learn more about the life and ministry of St. Mary's.

Need to Reach Someone? Please call the Church Office at (804) 784-5678. Or visit www.stmarysgoochland.org/staff to find contact information.

Want to Learn More? Please visit St. Mary's website for the most up to date information: www.stmarysgoochland.org

A PART OF OUR STORY...



Each 11 a.m. Sunday service in Advent begins with the lighting of the Advent Wreath by a family. And we pray, "for the light of Jesus to shine in the darkness and show us the way to love. O come, O come Emmanuel! Amen."

YEAR-END GIVING NOTICE

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with that comes an annual list of reminders. First, thanks to all you who have paid or continue to faithfully pay your pledges. Please help us stay on budget by fulfilling your 2019 pledge before the year ends. Second, all stock transfers must be made no later than Tuesday, December 31 and all mailed donations must be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. Third, be sure to indicate your gift designation on the memo line of your check, i.e., 2019 pledge, 2020 pledge, etc. As always, your graciousness and generosity in giving is very appreciated.

Thank you,
 Joe Cheely, Treasurer

St. Mary's Stewardship Campaign 2020



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[@StMarysGoochland](https://www.instagram.com/StMarysGoochland)

CLERGY AND STAFF

Gersain Agudelo, *Assistant Sexton*
 Emily Bruch, *Director of Youth Ministries*
 Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
 Carl Hayslett, *Executive Director, Church Operations*
 Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*
 David H. May, *Rector*
 Amelia McDaniel, *Lay Associate for Christian Formation*
 Paul Pace, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Starling, *Administrator*
 Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*
 Deedi Trabosh, *Accountant*
 Cassie Vestal, *Nursery Assistant*
 Eleanor Wellford, *Priest Associate*
 Tyrell Wilkins, *Assistant Sexton*
 Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*
 Susan Rawls, *Director of St. Mary's Episcopal School*

VESTRY

Karen Huenekens, *Senior Warden*; Scott Stephens, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Fran Jones, *Register*; Harry Baldwin, Christy Gurkin, Anne McCoy, Kim O'Shea, Doug Pera, Ann Ramsey, Seth Schaeffer, Patsy Simril, Danny Williams, and Russell Wyatt.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road | Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 784-5678 | www.stmarysgoochland.org