

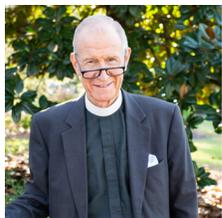
THE ANNUNCIATION

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Welcome!

A beautiful Advent Lessons & Carols led by Choirmaster and Organist Ryan Tibbetts, last Sunday!



We have arrived at the Third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a separate season,

not just the build up for Christmas. Keeping Advent is what makes the Church's approach to Christmas very different from how the larger culture approaches Christmas. In the shopping malls, the Christmas music began long before Thanksgiving.

Advent is a challenge for each of us because we live in multiple worlds. There is so much to do this time of year – shopping, partying, organizing, and traveling. It is so easy to be distracted and lose sight of things that matter. We try so hard to get Christmas right. It is also true that

the more the season is hyped, the more many people feel out of sync with the Christmas build up.

One of the sharpest contrasts between “Church Christmas” and “World Christmas” is John the Baptist. (You will never find a mall display highlighting John the Baptist this time of year.)

What can we say about John the Baptist?

- He was connected to Jesus. He was a cousin. He baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.
- He was from the wilderness – an outsider.
- He had a stern message: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

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!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Little St. Mary's

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

- He pointed beyond himself in a spirit of deep humility: "There is one coming after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

The challenge this season is to prepare a place in our hearts for John the Baptist. It begins by creating quiet space in the hustle and bustle of the season.

- Who are God's messengers who come to us from the margins of life?
- In repenting our sins, what do we turn away from? What do we turn toward?
- How can we be instruments of God's love and blessing?

John the Baptist was an instrument for God. He looked beyond himself to the One who was to come. In this holy season, how can we be instruments to bring peace and blessing to others?

Bob Hetherington



Ministry Highlight

A huge THANK YOU to the ministry of the Fellowship Committee last Sunday! St. Mary's is grateful for each volunteer and their work to put together an amazing Parish Breakfast and a spectacular reception after Advent Lessons & Carols! As David said, "It really was just the most remarkable day for our parish in so many ways, and you keeping us all fed in such a festive and delicious way was a huge part of it." There are too many names to list here but if you know a Fellowship Committee volunteer, please thank them!



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 SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S

CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Children's Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*
(Childcare provided)

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

Holy Eucharist, 11 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

CHRISTMAS DAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*



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“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,” opened last Sunday 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 this morning at 10 a.m. as she shares about the process and some behind-the-scenes stories.

ALL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS AFTERNOON

This Afternoon, 4:30 p.m., Education Building

All youth Christmas Party is this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Education Building. There will be a white elephant gift exchange for those who want to participate. All gifts should cost \$15 or less and come wrapped. Don’t forget to bring a friend! Games, snacks, and fellowship will be provided!

PARISH SUPPER WITH JOYOUS CAROLS

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

Join us for a festive Parish Supper this 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. The menu includes: roasted chicken with an orange sauce, green beans, wild rice, and a tossed salad. After supper, Ryan Tibbetts will play piano and lead the group in singing carols! All ages are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Saturday, December 21, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., New St. Mary’s

This morning during Sunday School at 10 a.m., the kids continue to practice the pageant music in the Block Room. If you have not signed up to participate, please email Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org. Full Rehearsal is this Saturday, December 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This is the one time we put it all together before Christmas Eve. Please remember to arrive by 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24 to get your child in costume. The service promptly begins at 4 p.m. We are excited for your participate in this lovely, annual tradition!

ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOP WITH MIMI WEAVER

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall

As part of our overarching theme of Connectedness, we are excited to offer a workshop exploring an awareness of self which will help us understand our connections to others and to God. The Enneagram is a model of the human psyche principally understood and taught as nine interconnected personality types. Identifying which personality type you are and what that means for the relationships in your life is a fascinating process of self-discovery that will lead to spiritual growth. Mimi Weaver is a seasoned retreat facilitator and spiritual director, and owns a life coaching practice. Join her at St. Mary’s on Saturday, January 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as she guides you through understanding who you really are, the gifts you have, and how to use those gifts in a life-giving manner. The cost is \$10 and please call the church office at (804) 784-5678 to reserve a space.

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;
Special Guest this Wednesday: Rabbi Gary Creditor

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 15, 2019 | Third Sunday of Advent





This Week at St. Mary's

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*

Tuesday, December 17

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Parish Office*
 Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Rector's Office*
 Vestry, 5 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Wednesday, December 18

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
 Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Pastoral Care Team 3, 4 p.m., *Parish Office*
 Parish Supper, 5:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Thursday, December 19

Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex of New St. Mary's*

Saturday, December 21

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

Sunday, December 22

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



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...



Last Sunday at the 11 a.m. service, David led the congregation in blessing the new, beautiful, needlepointed Nativity Scene. Thank you to all who stitched: Ashley Barlow, Sally Graham, Mary-Taliaferro Keeney, Connie Martenstein, Anne McCoy, Amelia McDaniel, Liz Rider, Nancy Ritter, Susie Salsitz, and Sheri Word. And thanks to Ennion Williams for building the stable.

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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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*
 The Rev. John E. Miller, Ph.D., *Rector Emeritus*

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