

# THE ANNUNCIATION

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**Welcome!**

A glorious Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols last Sunday presented by Ryan Tibbetts and St. Mary's Choir!



Knowing your family tree is a great gift. I love hearing stories about the people who have

gone before me, like my great-grandmother who moved west in a covered wagon or my first-generation Lebanese grandfather who made his way in a new country. These are the kind of stories that feed my imagination and my understanding of who I am in this life.

Today, we learn about the genealogy of the people of God, the stories of Jesus's family tree. We call this the 'Jesse Tree' which comes from the scripture that says "out of the stump of Jesse will spring a Savior." The practice of the Jesse Tree

traces the story of God's people from the beginnings of creation through the birth of Jesus. There are some real characters in there. Some of the stories in this family tree are a little dicey and a little racy, but nevertheless show both the goodness and tom foolery of being a human in this world. All the stories reveal that we are made by a loving God who simply refuses to give up on us no matter how ridiculous we can be.

For the past few weeks, the children and youth have been making Jesse Tree ornaments. We began with the story of Creation and the Fall. Let me tell you: there were some questions. Hard ones. Like "why do people have to die?" and "just where is that serpent now?" When we told

Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church - we are so glad that you are here! Since the 1870s, 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!

*Weekly reflection continues...*

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

10 a.m. Youth Gathering outside the Education Building

9:30 a.m. Parish Breakfast in the Parish Hall

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's

12 p.m. Lemonade and Cookies on the Terrace

5 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

the story of Abraham and Sarah being the father and mother of a nation more numerous than the stars, their eyes widened in wonder. Telling the stories of the people we belong to is a way of inviting them into this great, big, grand family tree that we are a part of. And the same invitation is offered to you today.

Hope when you hear the stories from the Jesse Tree you will smile and let your imagination go. What if Noah was your great-great-uncle who came through on a visit every summer and told you crazy tales about the ark? What if sitting around in a family gathering someone told you that you laughed just like your great-great-grandmother Sarah? Or imagine that as a kid struggling to master a skill that required you growing bigger, someone reminded you that your third cousin ten times removed, was David and that small people, with God's help, can do big things.

It may sound a little wacky to stretch our imaginations that far. But these stories really are the stories of our shared family tree. They remind us how far we have come – by the faith of our mothers and fathers who have gone before us who trusted in God's promise of love. And they remind us to how we are to carry on – with great hope, love, and trust in God's never-failing love.

Amelia McDaniel



## Ministry Highlight

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 Episcopal Church" with "Altar Guild" written in the memo line. 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 Lauren Clay via email at [lclay@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:lclay@stmarysgoochland.org) or call (804) 784-5678.



## Outreach Opportunity

Thank you to everyone who supported the Giving Tree this Christmas season! We were able to spread Christmas cheer to families through Goochland Christmas Mother, CrossOver Healthcare Ministries, and Peter Paul Development Center. These gift cards provide flexibility for families to use in the best way, including gifts and groceries. Thank you, St. Mary's Parish, for supporting this important ministry!

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S

## CHRISTMAS EVE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Children's Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*  
*Registration Required*

Holy Eucharist with Choral Prelude, 10 p.m., *New St. Mary's*  
*Choral Prelude begins at 9:30 p.m.*

## CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

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



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## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT

### Today from 5-7 p.m. Outside the Education Building

All Youth (6th-12th Grade) and friends are invited to the Youth Christmas Party today from 5 to 7 p.m.! Dinner is provided and fun Christmas attire is encouraged! We'll be out under the twinkly lights in front of the Education Building. Despite the colder weather and meeting outside, youth group has been meaningful and fun this fall!

## CARITAS BRIDGE & SHELTER WEEK

### This week through Thursday, December 16

CARITAS Bridge and Shelter week is currently underway! Thank you to everyone who signed up to support our CARITAS friends. St. Mary's delivered dinner on Friday night and is delivering another dinner on Monday. There are still opportunities for fellowship at the new CARITAS Center, 2220 Stockton Street, 23224 with our CARITAS friends this week. The first is Fellowship Fun Night on Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. Then the Jingle Bell Drive-Thru on Wednesday from 2:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help take in holiday gifts and sort them at the warehouse for distribution. Finally, be a daytime companion on Thursday, December 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for Female volunteers to spend time with our friends coloring, making Christmas cards or ornaments, bring and arrange greens for Christmas decorations, knitting, chatting, or another engaging activity together. For any questions or to learn more, please email Charmaine Trice at [nesting7800@yahoo.com](mailto:nesting7800@yahoo.com) or Jeff Allende at [jeffallende@gmail.com](mailto:jeffallende@gmail.com).

## ACCEPTING VESTRY NOMINATIONS

It is the practice of St. Mary's Church to nominate four persons for election to the Vestry each year at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Nominating Committee is charged with prayerfully discerning who may be called to serve on the Vestry. Typically, this includes a member of the Nominating Committee contacting parishioners and asking them to take time to think and especially pray about whether they may be called to this ministry. Election of new Vestry members is a process anchored in prayer. This year, the Nominating Committee which is appointed by the Vestry and includes the four out-going Vestry members: Harry Baldwin, Christy Gurkin, Ann Ramsey, and Danny Williams, and this year, two at-large members: Barbara Tavenner and Charmaine Trice. If you have a name to suggest for consideration, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee or David May.

## YEAR-END GIVING NOTICE AND THANKS

### A note from St. Mary's Treasurer

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with that comes an annual list of reminders. First, thanks to all of you who have paid or continue to faithfully pay your pledges. Please help us stay on budget by fulfilling your 2021 pledge before the year ends. Second, all stock transfers must be made no later than Friday, December 31 and all mailed donations must be postmarked by Friday, December 31. Third, be sure to indicate your gift designation on the memo line of your check, i.e., 2021 pledge, 2022 pledge, etc. As always, your graciousness and generosity in giving is very appreciated. Thank you, Joe Cheely, Treasurer

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## 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 - 4 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.

### OUTDOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered for children 4 years old - 5th grade at 10 a.m. Each week the children will learn the stories of Jesus' life and the stories He told through singing and storytelling. Sunday School for 6th-12th graders meets out back on the nature trail at 10 a.m.

### 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.

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## OCCURRING WEEKLY

### MEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via ZOOM

### LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via ZOOM

### HOLY EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

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

### WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Thursdays at 8 a.m. via ZOOM

### 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](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org) for updates.

Do you receive email from us?

Visit [stmarysgoochland.org/communications](http://stmarysgoochland.org/communications) to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

The Annunciation | December 12, 2021 | Third Sunday of Advent





## This Week at St. Mary's

### Sunday, December 12

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
 Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *Parish Hall*  
 Youth Gathering, 10 a.m., *Outside Education Building*  
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
 Lemonade and Cookies, 12 p.m., *Terrace*  
 Youth Christmas Party, 5 p.m., *Education Building*

### Tuesday, December 14

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*  
 Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Offices*

### Wednesday, December 15

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *via ZOOM*  
 Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
 Pastoral Care Team #2, 5 p.m., *Library*

### Thursday, December 16

Women's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*  
 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

### Sunday, December 19

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
 Lemonade and Cookies, 12 p.m., *Terrace*



## 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](http://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](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org)

## A PART OF OUR STORY...



On Saturday, December 4, a group of over 18 parishioners gathered on the Terrace to create beautiful wreaths for residents at Gateway Homes, an Outreach Partner.



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

### CLERGY AND STAFF

Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*  
 Lauren Clay, *Office Administrator*  
 Harrison Higgins, *Deacon Associate*  
 David H. May, *Rector*  
 Amelia McDaniel, *Lay Associate for Christian Formation*  
 The Rev. John E. Miller, Ph.D., *Rector Emeritus*

Paul Pace, *Sexton*  
 Kilpy Singer, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
 Elizabeth Starling, *Executive Director, Church Operations*  
 Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*  
 Eleanor Wellford, *Priest Associate*  
 Tyrell Wilkins, *Assistant Sexton*

### VESTRY

Harry Baldwin, *Senior Warden*; Missy Roberts, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Fran Jones, *Register*; Jill Aveson, Ashley Barlow, Sam Bruce, Owen Conway, Wayne Dementi, Christy Gurkin, Robin Lind, Jesse McCoy, Ann Ramsey, and Danny Williams.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road | Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 784-5678 | [www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org)