

THE ANNUNCIATION

visit www.stmarysgoochland.org



A lovely Jesse Tree Service last Sunday with the children of the parish hanging handmade ornaments depicting Bible stories.



I like Christmas and parts of it I love: the family gatherings, my wild and wonderful children and grandchildren,

sweet memories of Christmases past, my wife's calming, beautiful presence next to my chaotic all-over-the-placeness. But most of all I love the story that God decided to come to this earth and be with us, Emmanuel, actually to become one of us.

When I look out a plane window, I often wonder what it must be like to be God and know every person down there, to see their lives, their thoughts, their hearts; to see their acts of love and cruelty. Would it be more heart warming or heart breaking? I naturally tend to think the latter, but

I don't know. I hope I am wrong on this. What I am sure of is that I would not want to be one of these people; I would love them, try to help and teach them, forgive them when they repented but I would not want to become one of them. That would be asking too much, going too far. "They need to learn. They need to grow up." I would be saying to myself.

But that is not the God we believe in. He did become one of us. I believe when He looks down at us, because of Jesus, He now also sees Himself. This gives me hope and sometimes even strength to not give up and to keep working for a better world. Christmas really is good news of great joy, if we can get past all the shopping.

Welcome!

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

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

12 p.m. Lemonade and Cookies on the Terrace

One final thought – in today’s world, what is the equivalent of being born in a stable? A homeless shelter? A refugee camp? Under a bridge? And if God had chosen to become incarnate in 2021, who would He (or She) be? If God can see Himself in humanity, I think He also wants us to see Him in each other too.

This is something beyond my understanding that happened in that stable 2,000 years ago where a man and a woman, some shepherds and animals, and angels gazed in silent, reverent awe as the heart of God revealed itself and found voice in a cry of an infant son.

Harrison Higgins



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 or call (804) 784-5678.



Outreach Opportunity

Consider joining the Hope on the Ground Short-Term Mission Experience with Education Equals Hope (E=H) to Quito, Ecuador in 2022. A Hope on the Ground experience gives you the opportunity to become the “hands and feet” of Education Equals Hope. As E=H says, “All our Short-Term Missions Experiences give participants a chance to develop a deeper level of compassion and servant hearts.” The dates are February 7-14, 2022. If you would like to say ‘yes!’ to this experience, email Ashley Cameron to learn about next steps and more details.

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*



GREENING OF THE CHURCH THIS TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 21, 9 a.m., New St. Mary's

Altar Guild needs you, your clippers, and greens (magnolia, holly with berries, cedar, and pine cuttings). Please bring greens and/or help decorate for Christmas beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 21 in New St. Mary's. Coffee, juice, and Bill Gooch's famous cinnamon rolls will be served! For further information or any questions, please contact Carol Evans via email at evanscarol75@gmail.com.

UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Friday, December 24 at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

St. Mary's 2021 Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols service is at full capacity. If you would like to be put on the waitlist, please call the Church Office at (804) 784-5678. Please note, the service will be live streamed on Facebook at 4 p.m. And there is still an opportunity to worship at St. Mary's on Christmas Eve at 10 p.m. in New St. Mary's beginning with a Choral Prelude at 9:30 p.m.

If you are attending the 4 p.m. service, please remember that you may begin arriving at 3:15 p.m. Masks are required for all regardless of vaccination status. And children participating in the service need to arrive in costume, will sit with their families during the service, and will be invited to come forward as their parts emerge in the story.

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, includes the four out-going Vestry members: Harry Baldwin, Christy Gurkin, Ann Ramsey, and Danny Williams, and 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

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.

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 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 19, 2021 | Fourth Sunday of Advent





This Week at St. Mary's

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*

Monday, December 20

Pastoral Care Team #4, 9 a.m., *Library*

Tuesday, December 21

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Greening of the Church, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Offices*
Staff Christmas Lunch, 2 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Wednesday, December 22

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, December 23

Women's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, December 24

Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*
Choral Prelude, 9:30 p.m., *New St. Mary's*
Holy Eucharist, 10 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Saturday, December 25

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

Sunday, December 26

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



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...



A fantastic way to end the Fall Youth Group program with 30 youth participating in an epic Christmas Party that involved wrapping "gifts."



facebook.com/St.MarysGoochland



[@StMarysGoochland](https://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