

Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan, you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of your son. Help me to hear his words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECEMBER 1, 2019

MASS

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 8:30 AM

(+Vincent Nguyen req. by Holly Nguyen)

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

(+Joseph Trieu Le req. by Holly Nguyen)

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday, December 2, 2019: ISAIAH 4: 2-6; PSALM 122: 1-9; MATTHEW 8: 5-11

Tuesday, December 3, 2019: ISAIAH 11: 1-10/ PSALM 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ LUKE 10: 21-24

Wednesday, December 4, 2019: ISAIAH 25: 6-10a/ PSALM 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ MATTHEW 15: 29-37

Thursday, December 5, 2019: ISAIAH 26: 1-6/ PSALM 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/ MATTHEW 7: 21, 24-27

Friday, December 6, 2019: ISAIAH 29: 17-24/ PSALM 27: 1, 4, 13-14/ MATTHEW 9: 27-31

Saturday, December 7, 2019: ISAIAH 30: 19-21, 23-26/ PSALM 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ MATTHEW 9: 35 – 10: 1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 8, 2019: ISAIAH 11: 1-10/ PSALM 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ ROMANS 15: 4-9/ MATTHEW 3: 1-12

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(office hours 9 AM—1 PM Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Monday, December 2, 2019	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM CCM Home Schoolers
Tuesday, December 3, 2019	9:00 AM - 10 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM Mass ; 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6:00-7:30 PM Food Pantry
Wednesday, December 4, 2019	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Adoration; 9:30 AM Mass
Thursday, December 5, 2019	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Adoration; 9:30 AM Mass ; 6:00 PM –7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, December 6, 2019	Church closed for cleaning in AM
Saturday, December 7, 2019	4:10 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM Mass (+Daniel Maida req. Fredericksburg Chapter of the American Red Cross)
Sunday, December 8, 2019	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 8:30 AM Mass ; 9:45 AM Religious Ed; 11:00 AM Mass

Upcoming Parish News/Events

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Isaiah 2:1-5 / Romans 13:11-14 / Matthew 24:37-44

Today, we begin a new liturgical year with this celebration of the first Sunday of Advent. It is a special time of opportunity, a chance to once again pause long enough to listen to God saying to us, "Come to me, listen to me, learn from me, let me show you the way, let me help you to be the person I created you to be, let me give you life". Throughout this time of Advent we will hear St John the Baptist cry out, "prepare a way for the Lord".

We will hear the angel Gabriel say "nothing is impossible for God". Over and over again we will hear the words addressed to many people, "Do not be afraid". We will hear the angel assure Mary, as the Lord assures us, that "the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High God will cover you with its shadow". And all of this will point to the most important thing of all: a child will be born for us, a Son given to us. He will be Emmanuel, God with us, and in him and through him we will finally begin to know God as he really is – if we make the most of the opportunity to grow in faith which Advent offers us.

Advent is a time of hope, a time of promise, a time of opportunity and a time of preparation. But perhaps most of all it is a time of invitation. God wants to come to us, stay with us, help us to grow and lead us to the fullness of life. But God does not force himself upon us: he quite simply offers to come - and we are the ones who must choose to own the doors of our lives, of our hearts, to him - or not to do so.

One of the psalms captures the spirit of Advent beautifully. Let me conclude with the invitation it offer us: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts".



Second Collection THIS week is for our Building Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

Santa Breakfast and Photo Opportunity

Santa will be at St. Mary's Church Hall on Sunday, December 1st. Requested donations are \$10/adult, \$5/kids and \$30/family. Breakfast menu includes pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausage and will begin at 8:30 AM—11:00 AM. Pictures with Santa will start at 10:00 AM. This is a fundraiser for the Teen Catholic Youth Conference.



2019 Angel Tree is UP!

Our Angel Tree is up and tags are available to sign out. Please make sure you sign out for the tag(s) in the Narthex and **return your wrapped gift by Noon, Sunday, December 15th.** Thank you for your generosity.



Annual Christian Christmas Card Sale

The Knights of Columbus reminds us to "Keep Christ in Christmas" and at the center of your family's life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Christmas cards can be a way to share your faith with family and friends. Christian Christmas Cards may be purchased after each weekend Mass.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR

ADVENT (11/30/2019) TO NEW YEARS DAY (1/1/2020)

Nov 30—Dec 1	First Sunday of Advent (Regular Mass Schedule)
Dec 7-8	Second Sunday of Advent (Regular Mass Schedule)
Dec 14-15	Third Sunday of Advent (Regular Mass Schedule)
Dec 19	7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Service
Dec 21-22	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Regular Mass Schedule)
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (Children's Mass) 8:00 pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity
Dec 25 Christmas Day	10:00 am The Nativity of the Lord
Dec 28-29	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (Regular Mass Schedule)
Dec 31 New Year's Eve	5:00 pm Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Jan 1 New Year's Day	10:00 am Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas Books are available in the Narthex

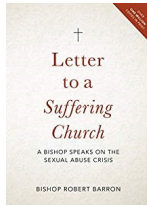


T-SMOTA will be Christmas Caroling at the Bowling Green Health

and Rehab Center starting at 6:30 PM on Monday, December 9th. Pick up will be at 8:00 PM at the Frank's home. Come and join in our fun!

**LETTER TO A SUFFERING CHURCH BOOKS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis is Bishop Robert Barron's appeal to Catholics questioning their faith and searching for hope and encouragement amid the most recent scandal. Bishop Barron, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, offers a clear path forward by looking at the current crisis through the lens of Scripture and Church history. Copies of the book, which is targeted to adults and is being widely circulated among many Catholic parishes, are now available in the Narthex for interested parishioners to take. After the holidays, Fr. Alex will conduct a study group for anyone interested in discussing it further; date TBD.



Christmas Pageant Director

We are looking for someone to direct our Children's Christmas Pageant this year. If you are interested or have any questions, please see Bevin Arnold or Gina Stargel or email Gina at gcip81@yahoo.com

Raffle Tickets

The St. Mary's Lottery Raffle ticket sales began last weekend. We are asking each family to sell at least three tickets. Your efforts are appreciated! Pick up tickets in the Narthex after Mass. Please be sure to sign out which tickets you're taking by jotting your name, contact #, and ticket #s on the tracking sheet in the Narthex.

What is the Raffle

The raffle drawing is based on the numbers pulled each night in the Virginia Lottery's Night Time Pick 3. The Lotto picks daily numbers more than once per day, but the tickets are based ONLY on the 11:00 p.m. drawing.

Every time the number on your ticket is an exact match to the Night Time Pick 3 between January 1 and June 30, 2020, you win \$20.

Each ticket is good for 6 months, so buying one ticket is like buying one lottery ticket every day for 6 months (a \$182 value for only \$20!)

Tickets will be available until the end of December. All stubs and money must be returned by 12/31/19. Only paid stubs returned by the deadline can be acknowledged as winners and paid out.



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Pray for the Sick of our Parish

Bob Arnold, Fran Arnold, Mike Arnold, Estelle Bareford, Donald Barker, Kevin Bera, The Biddulph Family, Maria Bridge, Shonnie Carroll, Daniel Clarke, Cindy Cook, Charlie Crum, Levie Edmond, David Geary Jr., Verde Halley, Antionette Hilyard, Diane Hollis, Jean Johnson, Michael Johnson, Jennifer Leaming-Lyons, Cindy Lent, Dawn Long, Esther Luiggi, Matekenya Family, Patrick Moore, Mary Lou O'Leary, Donald Paradis, Marianna Porter, Barbara Purks, Duane Riden, Wayne Scott, William Simulcik, Hadley Spacht, Scott Trice, Richard Wassels, Jonathan Webb, Joan Williams

If you would like to add/remove someone to the Sick of our Parish list, please call Chris Nowark at 804-448-9064 or email her at office@saintmarycc.org. All prayer requests will remain in place for 6 months and then be removed. Thank you.

Announcing FORMED!

FORMED is a digital platform that gives our parish unprecedented access to video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church's foremost presenters. FORMED provides:

STUDY PROGRAMS - Hundreds of episodes of transformational video-based study programs including accompanying study guides for small groups or personal study

AUDIO PROGRAMS - Hundreds of audio talks to inspire your faith and to share with others

MOVIES - Hundreds of movies/documentaries for both children and adults

EBOOKS - Over a hundred inspiring eBooks to download to your device

FORMED is being provided by the Parish so there is no charge to our Parishioners. Registering is easy! Go to FORMED.org to sign up. Search for St. Mary's by entering our zip code – 22546. No passwords are needed. You can also visit our website for instructions.

There will be more information provided but you don't have to wait to start exploring today!



We have 375 members and 20+ groups in our Parish Flocknote community. If you haven't subscribed it is easy to join and get the latest information on the Parish including updates on the new FORMED library. To

join visit SMOTAVA.flocknote.com or Text SMOTAVA to 84576 and follow the instructions.

Breaking Bread Gathering

Information packets are in the Narthex. Keep the information and return the sign – up sheet to basket that is provided.

We call this a Gathering so you can use your imagination on what type of meal you want it to be. Brunch, Lunch, Picnic, BBQ or Dinner. We even experimented with Family Gatherings last year and it was very successful. For more information text Penny Geary 540-710-3368 or Shonnie Carroll 804- 592-8145 or email Mary Gajdos steve_g_15668@yahoo.com



Polar Bear Plunge is February 1, 2020

The Polar Bear Plunge is our biggest fundraiser of the year for the Food Pantry/Homeless Ministry. We will have applications in the Narthex for anyone who might like to "take the plunge". We won the trophy for raising the most money for the last two years. Let's keep it going for another year!



Community/Diocesan Events

Support My Church and Save on Taxes! What's Better than That?

Want a way to boost your tax savings beyond the newly increased standard deduction? If you are 70 ½ or older, you can use your **IRA** to make a gift to Saint Mary of the Annunciation and save taxes!

Normally, a distribution from your IRA is taxed as ordinary income. However, federal tax law **now** allows you to make a distribution of up to \$100,000 each year from your IRA to a qualifying charity and it is not subject to federal income tax.

By making a 'qualified charitable distribution' from your IRA, you can give to Saint Mary of the Annunciation and it counts toward your IRA's annual required minimum distribution. Transfers must be made directly from your IRA administrator to your parish. For more information, contact Sue Brim at sbrim@saintmarycc.org.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we don't take each day for granted and see the little miracles that occur in our lives every day.

VOCATIONS

"...you must be prepared..."

Are you prepared for God's calling in your life? Might He be calling you as a priest? Call Father Brian Capuano 804-359-5661 or e-mail: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." MATTHEW 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.



The Diocese of Richmond has created a beautiful commemorative book, to be released in the winter of 2019, which highlights our two-hundred-year history with text, pictures, and profiles of our nearly 150 parishes. A book will be available soon.

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Enrich and renew your marriage on the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Weekend on Mar 20-22, 2020 in FAIRFAX, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/> or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org or 757-690-1369.



PARISH OFFICE

Hours: Tuesday- Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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Sue Brim, Office Bookkeeper.....804-448-9064
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Chris Nowark, Office Manager.....804-448-9064
.....office@saintmarycc.org
Pastoral Council Chairperson, Anne Bradshaw.....540-273-9201
.....ambonner@hotmail.com

Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony (a minimum of 6 months preparation is typical), and **Anointing of the Sick**, or to receive a home visit or home blessing, Fr Muddu.....804.448.9064.

Finance Council Chairperson, Ron Wisniewski.....804-448-4348
Food Pantry, Joanne Casper.....804-867-5822
Knights of Columbus, Ron Wisniewski.....804-448-4348
Weekly Bulletin.....804-448-9064
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Children's Liturgy of the Word, Annette Jewell.....804-305-7566
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