

Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 5:00 PM
SUNDAY 8:30 AM
SUNDAY 11:00 AM
(+Ron Wisniewski)

BIENVENIDOS

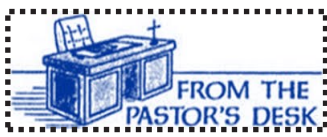
ALL ARE WELCOME
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS
VŠETCI SÚ VÍTANÍ

VITANI

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(Office Hours 9 AM - 1 PM Tuesday - Thursday)

Monday, Dec. 18	OFFICE CLOSED; 7:00 PM Religious Education for 10th Grade
Tuesday, Dec. 19	9:00 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM MASS; 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Wednesday, Dec. 20	9:00 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM MASS
Thursday, Dec. 21	9:00 AM Adoration; 10:00 AM MASS; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, Dec. 22	Church closed for cleaning in AM
Saturday, Dec. 23	4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM MASS (+EMT Justin Lee Howard requested by his Grandparents, Michael & Loretta Brindock)
Sunday, Dec. 24	8:30 AM Mass; 9:45 AM Spanish Rosary; CHRISTMAS EVE Children's Pageant at 3:45 PM; CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 4:00 PM (Children's Mass) & 6:00 PM (+Harvey C. Eckert requested by the Nowark Family)



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY ("REJOICE")

- a) The first reason and most fundamental cause of Christian joy is the conviction that God loves us. Ultimately God the Father loves us so much that when it came down a decision between letting his dearly beloved Son be tortured, crucified and killed or letting us die, God chose to allow his Son to die so that we might live. In some respects, one could say that "we" were even dearer to God the Father than His own Son. As if that were not enough, God the Son loved us so much that he freely consented to this plan. No matter what happens to us in this life, that love of God for us remains and is the foundational truth about our existence. God created us out of nothing but his love, directly infusing a soul into the love of our parents. He redeemed us out of a greater love. And awaits us in heaven with loving, open arms, if only we accept that love and live according to it. We, on our part, must believe in God's deep love for us, accept it, thank him for it and live according to it.
- b) The second source of our joy is the fact that God dwells within us through grace. When God sent the Archangel Gabriel to Mary in Nazareth, he gave him a specific message. God didn't say, "Make it up as you go along," or, "I don't care what you say as long as she says 'yes.'" The message all of heaven was waiting to be enunciated was, "Rejoice, you who have been filled with grace; the Lord is with you." It was "rejoice!" not "hail" or a hearty "hello." Then Gabriel tells her why she should rejoice: "you... have been filled with grace" and "the Lord is with you." Mary should rejoice because she was full of God, which is what "full of grace" means, and because the Lord was with her.
- c) The third source of joy is a deep trust and hope in Divine Providence, no matter what. We see this trust and hope very clearly in the life of the Blessed Mother, who "trusted that what the Lord had spoken to her would be fulfilled," despite the fact that she might have been stoned under suspicion of adultery when she became pregnant with the Lord, despite the poverty of his birth, despite Simeon's prophecy that her own heart would be pierced, despite his being killed before her very eyes. She continued to trust in God.
- d) The fourth and last source of joy we'll mention is prayer. Prayer is how we put our trust in God's providence into action. Jesus said to us in the Sermon on the Mount, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened to you." As St. Paul wrote to the Philippians in today's reading, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the PEACE of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Our joy will flow from that prayerful peace. Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount that if human fathers won't give their children snakes instead of fish and stones instead of bread, so much more will our Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. And that same Holy Spirit, within us through the divine indwelling, will help us to bear with him the fruit of joy. The ability even to approach God the Father in prayer is a source of joy. The more we pray, and the better we pray, the more joyful we will be.



CALLING ALL CHILDREN VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

All children are welcome to participate in the Christmas Pageant taking place just before the 4:00 PM Children's Christmas Eve Mass on December 24th. Sign ups are

in the Narthex.

Rehearsal and costume fittings will take place on December 17th after the 11:00 AM Mass. Please meet in the parish hall.

Participants in the pageant are asked to arrive no later than 3:00 PM on December 24th to ensure all children are in place and ready to go for the performance prior to Mass.

There will be a Jesus Birthday Party after the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass. All are welcome to attend.

For additional information, please contact Maria Corson at [804-847-6721](tel:804-847-6721).

This Saturday, December 16th, begins the "Simbang Gabi" which is a long treasured Philippine tradition marking the nine days before Christmas. Traditionally, the 9 days are dedicated to the Blessed Mother and intended to spiritually prepare and purify us to make us worthy to receive the Child Jesus. Members of our Philippine community will mark the start of this wonderful Novena.



****Second Collection: December 24-25, 2023****

A special time to give - You can support Commonwealth Catholic Charities' programs through the Second Collection Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Your gift will help feed, house and provide hope to our neighbors in need. We greatly appreciate the ways you support us in changing peoples' lives across the Commonwealth. Simply make your check out to St. Mary's with "CCC" in the memo section.





**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE
ADVENT (12/3/2023) TO NEW YEARS DAY (1/1/2024)**



Dec. 16-17	Third Sunday of Advent (Regular Mass Schedule)
Dec. 23-24	Fourth Sunday of Advent : MASS—Saturday, 12/23, 5:00 PM MASS—Sunday, 12/24, 8:30 AM ONLY NO 11:00 AM MASS
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	3:45 PM—4:00 PM Children’s Pageant 4:00 PM Vigil Mass of the Nativity (Children’s Mass) 6:00 PM Vigil Mass of the Nativity
Dec. 25 Christmas Day	10:00 AM The Nativity of the Lord
OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 26th THROUGH JANUARY 2	
Dec. 30-31	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (Regular Mass Schedule)
Jan. 1 New Year's Day	10:00 AM - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY 9:00 AM—Mass at Saint Ann’s in Ashland



It’s time for one of biggest annual fundraisers: The Polar Bear Plunge



We have 6 brave parishioners that will be freezing for a reason. We would love to have more! The participants will be plunging into Lake Land’Or on February 3rd along with many other partakers from the community. 100% of our proceeds will go directly to our food pantry and to provide meals for The Thurman Brisben Homeless Center and Micah. The Ruritan Club will contribute \$500 to the organizations that raise the most amount of money. There is also a monetary award for the best costume at the event. Feel free to dress up to support our plungers. This year’s theme is ‘Nice for the Ice’. Wear your best duds.

We have set a goal to raise \$8000. Please consider making a donation to one of the plungers directly or online. Please contact Kelly Kirtley at kellykirtley@gmail.com or 804-761-7533 to take the plunge!

Please use the QR Code below to donate and thanks to all who have already contributed!



WEEKLY MASS READINGS

- 18 DECEMBER 2023 - MONDAY : **Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Psalms 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1: 18-25**
- 19 DECEMBER 2023 - TUESDAY : **Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Psalms 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1: 5-25**
- 20 DECEMBER 2023 - WEDNESDAY : **Isaiah 7: 10-14; Psalms 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1: 26-38**
- 21 DECEMBER 2023 - THURSDAY : **Songs 2: 8-14 or Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Psalms 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1: 39-45**
- 22 DECEMBER 2023 - FRIDAY : **First Samuel 1: 24-28; First Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1: 46-56**
- 23 DECEMBER 2023 - SATURDAY : **Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Psalms 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1: 57-66**
- 24 DECEMBER 2023 - SUNDAY : **Fourth Sunday of Advent Second Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalms 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38**

Community/Diocesan Events

FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:



PANCAKE SYRUP AND SOUP



QR CODES

Capital Campaign



Online Giving



Parish Registration



FORMED



Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064, and reach out to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jennifer Sloan at 1-877-887-9603.



Pray for the Sick of our Parish



Amber Wilber Anderson, David Arnold, Rosemary Baez, Thad (Pete) Beach, Monica Bell, Susan Bennett, The Biddulph Family, Robert Bingaman, Joe Blackburn, Jr., John Bolecek, Maria Bridge, Theresa Buchanan, Emilynn Butler, Barry Carrington, Aiden Christensen, Daniel Clarke, Nancy Coffield, Doreen Distensa, Brian Eckert, Levie Edmond, Eleanor Elletson, Michael Fisher, Jessica French, Andrew Fresler, Deacon Dave Geary, The Hannick Family, Laura Harris, Paula Hass, The Jayger Family, Alice Karkutt, Tony Ketrick, J. & Sketter Lambert, Deacon Frank Leaming, Nina Leaming, Barbara Litten, Dawn Long, Carly Max, Andrew Newchok, Peggy Opel, Eva Ortiz, Edgar & Rhonda Parks, Robert Pecht, Bill Pickett, Marge Polivka, Shirley Riden, Chole Rochester, Ritchie Rodebaugh, Beverly Schnarrs, Cindy Schwind, Marjie Schwind, Helen Simulcik, William Simulcik, Isabel Sipe, Rodney Smith, Laurie Snowman, Linda Stanton, Barbara Storen, Ron Summers, The Taylor Family, Julian Thomas, The Townsend Family, Janie Wagner, Pedro Welsh, Bethany Wheaton, The Wheeler Family, Joan Williams, Judy Yanes

As always, prayer is an important way Catholics can respond to any crisis as we express our dependence on God. We continue to stand in solidarity with all those affected by the COVID disease as well as those health care professionals who care for them. We ask parishioners to keep these people in mind in your daily prayers.

*Names will be removed after 6 months. 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. Thank you. **GOD BLESS***

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00PM
Phone: 804-448-9064***Fax:** 804-448-5464***Email:** office@saintmarycc.org
 Rev. Alexander Muddu, Pastor.....804-448-9064
amuddu@richmonddiocese.org
 Deacon Dave Geary.....540-710-3364
djgeary4531@comcast.net
 Deacon Frank Leaming.....804-761-5714
fnleaming@aol.com
 Karen Weil, Office Bookkeeper.....804-448-9064
bookkeeper@saintmarycc.org
 Chris Nowark, Office Manager.....804-448-9064
office@saintmarycc.org
 Pastoral Council Chairperson, *Jim Lepp*.....540-841-2346
 Finance Council Chairperson, *Tina Sebak*.....540-842-4608

Food Pantry, *Barbara & Don Logan*.....804-449-1811
 Knights of Columbus, *David Frank*.....540-295-7588
 Children's Liturgy of the Word, *Deacon Dave*.....804-448-9064
 Religious Education Coordinator, *Deacon Dave*.....804-448-9064
djgeary4531@comcast.net
 Music Ministry, *Valerie Sparks*.....804-572-1768
 RCIA, *Deacon Frank Leaming*.....804-761-5714
 Prayer Shawl Ministry, *Penny Geary*.....honeybepenny@comcast.net
 Liturgical Ministries, *Deacon Frank Leaming*.....804-761-5714
 Social Activities Committee Chairperson, *Bette Moore*..703-371-9400
 St. Mary and Sts. Cyril and Methodious Cemetery Inquiries,
Gloria Bolecek.....804-633-4320
 Oliver Cemetery Inquiries, *Joan Cormier*.....804-466-0458

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. Call the office at 804-448-9064.

10306 Ladysmith Road P.O. Box 396 Ladysmith, VA 22501

www.saintmarycc.org