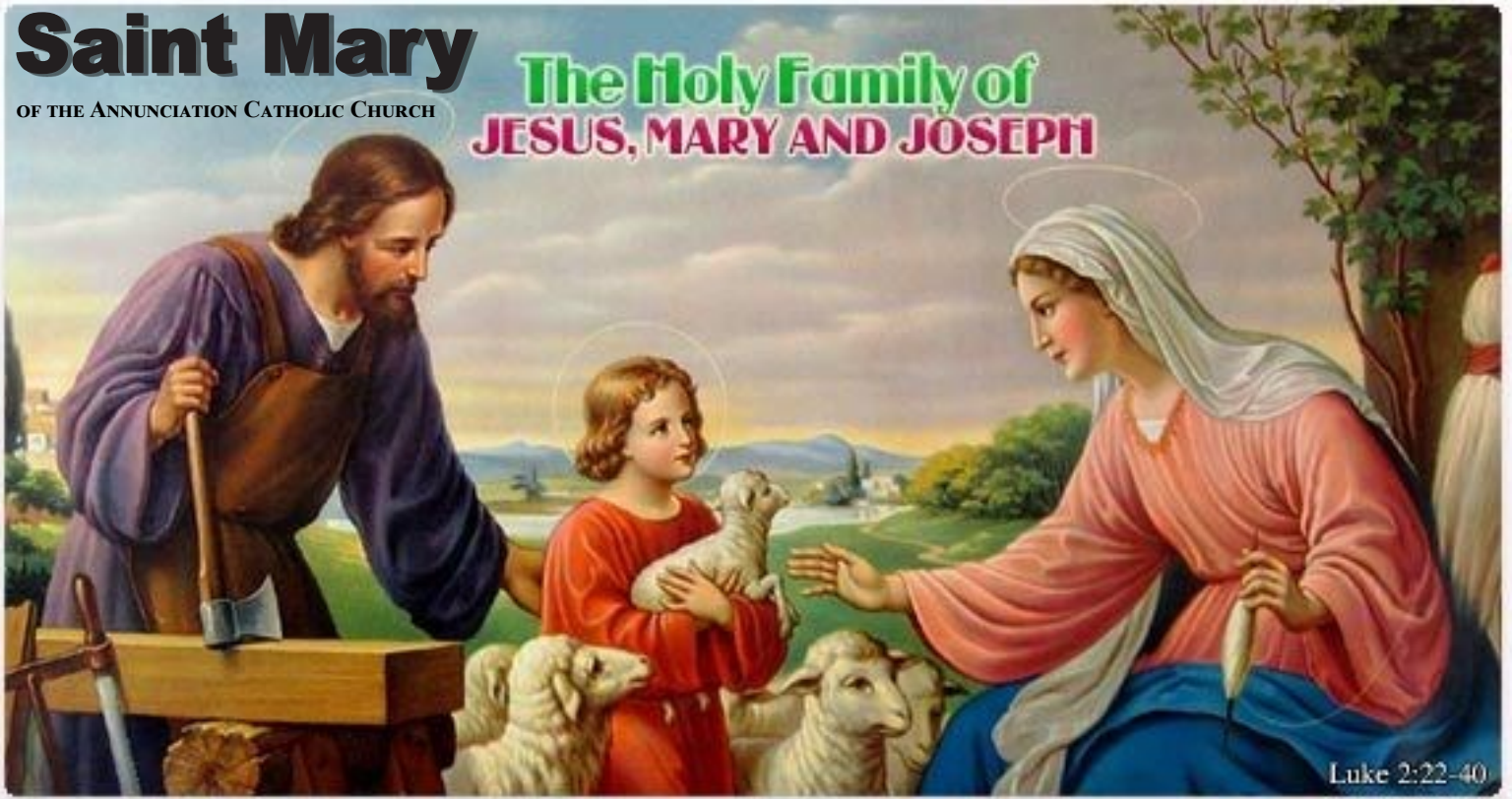


Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Holy Family of JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



BIENVENIDOS

ALL ARE WELCOME
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS
VŠETCI SÚ VÍTANÍ

VITANI

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH**

DECEMBER 31, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 8:30 AM

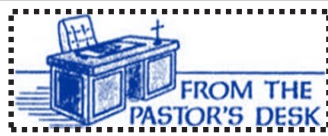
SUNDAY 11:00 AM

(People of the Parish)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024	OFFICE CLOSED; 10:00 AM Communion Service ONLY
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024	OFFICE CLOSED; NO MASS OR ADORATION; 10:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE; 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024	NO MASS OR ADORATION
Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024	NO MASS OR ADORATION; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, Jan. 5, 2024	Church closed for cleaning in AM
Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024	4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM MASS
Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024	8:30 AM MASS; 9:45 AM Spanish Rosary; 11:00 AM MASS (+Dorothy Mimnaugh requested by Diane Dye)



When we look at the Holy Family, we easily see several crucial elements about what made it holy:

- a) First and foremost, they were around Jesus, the living Son of God. Every family is called to center its life around Jesus the Lord. The family that does this grows in holiness.
- b) Secondly, all the members of the family strived to do God's will. Mary said, in becoming God's mother, "Let it be done to me according to your word." Joseph was constantly obeying God through the Angel, to take Mary as his wife, to flee with Mary and Jesus into Egypt, to return from Egypt after Herod's death. Jesus' whole life is a lesson in obedience. St. Luke tells us he was obedient to Mary and Joseph, growing in wisdom and understanding. He was obedient to His Heavenly Father even unto death on the Cross, saying amidst beads of bloody perspiration in the Garden, "Not my will, but thine be done." The Holy Family was holy because it always sought to do God's will. Every family is called to do the same.
- c) Thirdly, and related to both of these, the Holy Family was holy because it prayed. We read in the Gospels that the three of them would go regularly up to the Temple on the major feasts to pray. It was obvious that they also prayed a great deal at home, because when Jesus was caught among the teachers in the Temple at 12, he was already capable of amazing them with his questions. Jesus became familiar with the Sacred Scriptures according to his humanity, because both Mary and Joseph taught him Hebrew, like all Jews, by reading Sacred Scripture and meditating upon it with him. Similarly, any family that wants to be holy, that wants to be what God calls it to be, has to pray, both going up to the temple as a family and then at home, from the earliest days.

**January 1-The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



**SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR THE
MONTH OF DECEMBER**

DECEMBER 30—CNEWA SPECIAL
DIOCESE COLLECTION

MONTH OF JANUARY

JANUARY 1—SOLEMNITY OF MARY
JANUARY 7—REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
JANUARY 14—HAITI EDUCATION SUPPORT
JANUARY 28—RESPECT HUMAN LIFE

**Thank you for your support
throughout the year!**

Commonwealth Catholic Charities is humbled and grateful for your outpouring of generosity in response to our requests for assistance. You have responded with donations of baby items, food, household items and volunteer support. You have given your prayers and words of encouragement. Thank you for all you have done and for all you continue to do to help CCC serve the needs of our community. We wish you many blessings in the New Year!

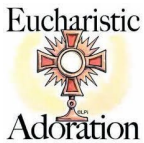




The Diocese of Richmond is having a **special collection this weekend of December 30th—31st** for the benefit of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Pontifical Mission (CNEWA). CNEWA is on the ground in the key regions of Jerusalem, Gaza, Beirut and Amman. Their goal is to support high-priority, immediate emergency needs as well as long-term emergency needs. They have launched a Holy Land Emergency Appeal aimed at helping those most in need.

CNEWA will be able to report back on the use of all funds received and donors will know where their generosity is going. In addition, it is important to note that the Holy Land Emergency Appeal will receive 100% of the funds collected.

Please write your check out to St. Mary's and put CNEWA in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.



**NO FIRST FRIDAY
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
UNTL MARCH 1st**

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!



While Father Muddu is away, please welcome

Father Christian Haydinger on December 30th & 31st and January 6th & 7th
Father Lugemwa on January 13th & 14th
Father Jim Arsenault on January 20th
Father Timothy Kuhneman on January 21st
Father Christian Haydinger on January 27th & 28th and February 3rd & 4th

THERE WILL ONLY BE COMMUNION SERVICE ON TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM FROM JANUARY 2ND THROUGH FEBRUARY 6TH

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1st, 10:00 AM

COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY

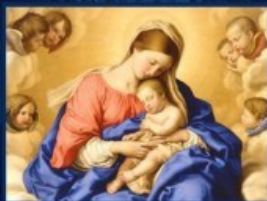


WEEKLY MASS READINGS

- 1 JANUARY 2024 : Mary, Mother of God Solemnity (Octave Of Christmas)
Numbers 6: 22-27; Psalms 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21
- 2 JANUARY 2024 : First John 2: 22-28; Psalms 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1: 19-28
- 3 JANUARY 2024 : Holy Name of Jesus
First John 2: 29 - 3:6; Psalms 98: 1, 3cd-4, 5-6; John 1: 29-34
- 4 JANUARY 2024 : First John 3: 7-10; Psalms 98: 1, 7-8, 9; John 1: 35-42
- 5 JANUARY 2024 : First John 3: 11-21; Psalms 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; John 1: 43-51
- 6 JANUARY 2024 : First John 5: 5-13; Psalms 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mark 1: 7-11 or Luke 3: 23-38
- 7 JANUARY 2024 : Epiphany of the Lord Solemnity
Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Community/Diocesan Events

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



A Prayer for the New Year

"Another fresh new year is here ...
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest ...
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
Once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
And sing more joyful songs!"

- William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)

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, Luke McFadden, Andrew Newchok, Peggy Opel, Eva Ortiz, Edgar & Rhonda Parks, Robert Pecht, Bill Pickett, Marge Polivka, Shirley Riden, Chole Rochester, Ritchie Rodebaugh, Christina Russell, Victoria Russell, 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