

Saint Mary

OF THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH



BIENVENIDOS

ALL ARE WELCOME
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS
VŠETCI SÚ VÍTANÍ

VITANI

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 8:30 AM

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

(+Dorothy Mimnaugh requested by Diane Dye)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

Monday, Jan. 8	OFFICE CLOSED; 7:00 PM Religious Education for 10th Grade
Tuesday, Jan. 9	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. 10	NO MASS OR ADORATION
Thursday, Jan. 11	NO MASS OR ADORATION; 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Food Pantry
Friday, Jan. 12	Church closed for cleaning in AM
Saturday, Jan. 13	4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM MASS
Sunday, Jan. 14	8:30 AM MASS; 9:45 AM Spanish Rosary; 11:00 AM MASS



Solemnity of the Epiphany January 7, 2024 Becoming the Wise Men Today

As we celebrate today the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we bring the Lord the best we have and fall down in humble adoration as he falls down before us and gives us the greatest gift in the universe, himself, with the full blessing of his presence, his salvation, his mercy. With gladness, men of old followed the star and were led to this great encounter. With even greater gladness, men and women, boys and girls, still follow God's lead and come to a life-changing embrace. The Mass is Christ's continuous epiphany, the manifestation of his abiding presence among us, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Our contemporaries, however, need "wise men" to show them where the star of the tabernacle lamp and altar candles, where the light of the confessional, still burn to help and encourage them to join us on the journey to find Christ and come through his mercy into a life-changing communion with him. God is calling us, you and me, to be those modern Melchior, Balthasar, and Caspar. And he wants to give us here all the help he knows we need to fulfill this mission of mercy!

Welcome to Bethlehem!

Come, let us adore him! And let us ask for the grace necessary to be his instruments to bring the whole world to make the exodus to adore him with us!

Who were the Magi?

As Pope Benedict explained:

In the relevant sources, the concept of Magi (*mágoi*) encompasses a wide range of meanings, from the wholly positive to the wholly negative.

To the first of the four principal meanings, Magi are understood to be members of the Persian priestly caste.

In Hellenistic culture they were regarded as "rulers of a distinctive religion," but at the same time their religious ideas were thought to be "strongly influenced by philosophy," so that the Greek philosophers have often been portrayed as their pupils (cf. Delling, "mágos," p. 356).

No doubt this view contains some not easily definable element of truth: after all, Aristotle himself spoke of the philosophical work of the Magi (cf. *ibid.*, p. 357).

The other meanings listed by Gerhard Delling are as follows: possessors and users of supernatural knowledge and ability, magicians, and finally deceivers and seducers. . . .

For the Magi in Mt 2, it is the first of the four meanings that applies, at least in a broad sense. Even if they were not exactly members of the Persian priesthood, they were nevertheless custodians of religious and philosophical knowledge that had developed in that area and continued to be cultivated there [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives].

Saint Mary's Weekly Giving Report

Thank you for your continued support of our community. To give on line go to the St Mary Online Giving website. God Bless You All

Saint Mary of the Annunciation Weekly Offertory Summary		
Dec 3 to Dec 9		YTD
Sat/Sun/Holy Days	\$ 2,356	
On Line Giving	\$ 2,715	
Total Actual Receipts	\$ 5,071	\$ 88,551
Budgeted Receipts	\$ 4,450	\$ 102,350
Over/Under	\$ 621	\$ (13,799)



SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

JANUARY 7—REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
JANUARY 14— HAITI EDUCATION SUPPORT
JANUARY 28— RESPECT HUMAN LIFE

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need.



The Diocese of Richmond thanks you for your generosity for last week's collection for the benefit of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Pontifical Mission (CNEWA)

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

All bulletin announcements need to be submitted to the office by **Tuesdays**.

All bulletin announcements will then be reviewed before approval.

All announcements will appear as they are submitted to the office so **PLEASE** proofread what you send.

Any activities that will take place in the Parish Hall or Narthex needs Father Muddu's approval as well.

Please go to our website and fill out a Parish Facilities Request form before making plans for any activity.

Any questions, please contact the office at office@saintmarycc.org or 804-448-9064



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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

VOCATIONS

"For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people."
Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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

8 JANUARY 2024 : **Baptism of the Lord Feast**
Isaiah 55: 1-11; Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; First John 5: 1-9; Mark 1: 7-11

9 JANUARY 2024 : **First Samuel 1: 9-20; First Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mark 1: 21-28**

10 JANUARY 2024 : **First Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20; Psalms 40: 2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mark 1: 29-39**

11 JANUARY 2024 : **First Samuel 4: 1-11; Psalms 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mark 1: 40-45**

12 JANUARY 2024 : **First Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Psalms 89: 16-17, 18-19; Mark 2: 1-12**

13 JANUARY 2024 : **First Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1; Psalms 21: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mark 2: 13-17**

14 JANUARY 2024 : **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
First Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19; Psalms 40: 2, 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; First Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20; John 1: 35-42

Community/Diocesan Events

MARCH
for **LIFE**
YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

JAN 18-19, 2024

LIFE IS **VERY** GOOD RALLY & MARCH FOR LIFE

TALK TO YOUR YOUTH MINISTER TO LEARN MORE! EVANGELIZERICHMOND.ORG @EVANGELIZERVA

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.