



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

Founded 1795 - Alexandria, Virginia

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Very Rev. Edward C. Hathaway, Rector
Rev. David A. Dufresne, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Joseph B. Townsend, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Noah C. Morey, In Residence

310 South Royal Street + Alexandria, VA 22314 + 703.836.4100 + www.stmaryoldtown.org + admin@stmaryoldtown.org

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

**These Masses are live streamed at www.stmaryoldtown.org*

SUNDAY

7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., *10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

MONDAY through FRIDAY

6:30 a.m., 8 a.m. and *12:10 p.m.

SATURDAY

*8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil for Sunday)

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

7:30 p.m., Third Friday of the month

FEDERAL HOLIDAYS and HOLY DAYS

Check the website and bulletin

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

MONDAY through FRIDAY After 12:10 p.m. Mass

WEDNESDAY 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m.



BASILICA HOURS

MONDAY through FRIDAY 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS (313 Duke Street)

MONDAY through FRIDAY 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rosary Monday through Friday before 8 a.m. Mass
and on Saturday before 8:30 a.m. Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena Monday 12 noon

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 12:45 to 8:30 p.m.

Adoration with Holy Hour & Benediction

Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration

Friday 9 p.m. until Saturday 8:20 a.m.

Communal First Saturday Devotion

First Saturday of the month at 8 a.m.

BAPTISMS

Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Please call the Parish Office to register
in advance and obtain requirements for godparents, etc.

MARRIAGES

Contact Parish Priest a minimum of 6 months before possible
wedding date for marriage preparation. Couples living together
will be asked to live separately during marriage preparation.

THE BASILICA SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY

(Pre-K to 8th grade)

400 Green Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Daniel Cinalli, Principal

703.549.1646

www.smsva.org

stmaryoffice@smsva.org

CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12:30 -7:30 p.m. Wed.	Maureen Breiner	tb5va@aol.com
Altar Servers	Father Joseph	frjoseph@stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100
Lectors	Chris Bahret	bahretcj@hotmail.com
Luminaries of Holy Mary Fatima Prayer Group	Frank Spicer	praydailyrosary@gmail.com
Mary Martha Guild	Christine Kleiber	MMG@stmaryoldtown.org
Nocturnal Adoration Society 9 p.m. 1st Friday to 6 a.m. 1st Saturday	Helen Lynch	helenlynch21@gmail.com
Rosary Prayer Group Rosary before 8 a.m. weekday Mass, 8:30 a.m. Saturday Mass	Call Parish Office	703.836.4100
Rosary Society	William Beach	wbeachkoc459@gmail.com
Sacristans	Steve Young	asyoung001@gmail.com
Saint Katharine Drexel Society	Monica Favela	skdsociety@stmaryoldtown.org
Sanctuary Society	Stephanie Giorlando	ccampbell49@cox.net
Schola Cantorum 10 a.m. Sunday Mass	David Elliott	delliott@stmaryoldtown.org
Seven Sisters Apostolate Holy Hour for Priests	Mary Beth Riordan	MaryBethRiordan@gmail.com
Ushers	Steve Teslik	basilicaofstmary.ushers@gmail.com
SERVICE		
ALIVE! Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically	Tim Burns	alive.saintmarys@gmail.com
Bereavement Committee Receptions after funerals	Kitty Guy	kitguy100@aol.com 703.765.9478
Carpenter's Shelter	Ed Velarde	evelarde@eaglebankcorp.com
Christ House	Julie Howard	juliehowardmom@aol.com
Gabriel Project Pro-life pregnancy help	Becky Lilly and Elizabeth Snodgrass	gabrielprojectstmary@gmail.com
Jail Ministry Alexandria City Jail	Philippe Bruno	pmvjbruno55@gmail.com
Pro-Life Activities	Bob Whearty	prolife@stmaryoldtown.org
Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA)	Annie Hall (Saint Mary Ambassador)	ahall@stmaryoldtown.org
Shut-In Visitation	Call Parish Office	703.836.4100

Saint Vincent de Paul Society	Marietta Bernot	svdp2marietta@gmail.com
Sunrise Retirement Home	Father Joseph	frjoseph@stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100
Woodbine Rehabilitation Center	Judy Klesius	703.836.1777
EDUCATION & EVANGELIZATION		
Adult Faith Formation, CCD, RCIA	Hilary Munger	hmunger@stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100 x 3033
Date Night at the Basilica	Erica Englefield and Ann Somerset	datenightatthebasilica@hotmail.com
Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy	Harry and Lynne Dolton	hldolton@aol.com 703.960.0592
Legion of Mary	Adria Tayrani	avillar@hotmail.com 571.310.4016
Secular Franciscan Order	Sadie Martins	nannyseverina@gmail.com
That Man Is You	Dan Ermer dpermer@me.com 858.603.4603 Wayne Cimos 703.973.5412	tmiystmaryoldtown@gmail.com
Walking with Purpose	Mindee Arritt	wwp@stmaryoldtown.org
FELLOWSHIP		
American Heritage Girls Troop 0325	Teresa McMorris	stmaryahg@gmail.com
Ancient Order of Hibernians	Brendan Cooney	brendan.p.cooney1@gmail.com
Boy Scout Troop 301	Dan Scheeler	dscheeler@gmail.com
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Kavanaugh #54	Marguerite McAuliffe	mmca8474@gmail.com
Catholic Sports www.catholicsports.net	Helena Briggs	catholicsports@stmaryoldtown.org
Cub Scout Pack 301	Patrick Lusch	cc.pack301@gmail.com
CYO Sports	Mary Fran Delaune	mfdelaune@aol.com
Girl Scouts	Alice Goulet	downeytwina@comcast.net
Junior Catholic Daughters Girls grades 6-12	Kathryn Doherty	kathryndoherty@gmail.com 202.270.6008
Knights of Columbus www.kofc459.org	Chuck Zakrzwski	basilicaofstmarysknights@gmail.com
Praying College Moms	Luanne Griffin	pcm@stmaryoldtown.org
Saint Mary's Play Group	Jennelle Hoffman Claire Purple	saintmarystots@gmail.com
Saints Anne & Joachim Society Seniors 55+	Barbara Juszczyk	barbaraj.seniors@aol.com
Youth & Young Adult Apostolates	Mariane Staron	mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100 x 3030



Basilica of Saint Mary STAFF
703.836.4100

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Youth & Young Adult Apostolates**
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Oremus pro invicem “Let us pray for each other”

Father Edward C. Hathaway, Rector

REJOICE, THE LORD IS NEAR!

Today, the **Third Sunday of Advent**, is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “Rejoice!” and comes from the entrance antiphon for Mass today: “Rejoice in the Lord always...rejoice...the Lord is near.” Today, we light the rose candle, the third on our Advent wreath, and the priests wear rose-colored vestments to remind us that Christ’s joyful coming into the world at Christmas is almost here.



The following excerpt from a sermon by Saint Bernard of Clairvau, abbot, (1090-1153) provides rich food for thought on this Third Sunday in Advent:

“We know that there are three comings of the Lord.... In His first coming, our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in [the] middle coming, He comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming, He will be seen in glory and majesty.... In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, He will appear as our life; in the middle coming, He is our rest and consolation.”

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Today, December 12, also is Baminelli Sunday, instituted by Saint John Paul II (and adopted by his successors) when the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus (Baminelli) from their Nativity sets to Saint Peter’s Square. After his Sunday Angelus address, the Pope blesses the figures. Following the Holy Father’s example, we will bless the Baby Jesus figures from your Nativity sets at our Masses this Sunday, including the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 11.

WHAT A BLESSED 40 HOURS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual 40 Hour Devotion **December 6 through 8**. I am confident those hours of quiet time in the presence of our Lord during the night and day brought many blessings and solace to each participant and, through you, to our entire parish.

I hope the experience will encourage you to visit the Basilica for prayer and reflection on a regular basis as our Lord is exposed on the altar for adoration on Wednesdays from 12:45 p.m. (following the 12:10 p.m. Mass) through 8:30 p.m.; and each First Friday of the month from 9 p.m. Friday until 8:20 a.m. on Saturday. Even when the Blessed Sacrament is not exposed on the altar in the monstrance, our Lord is always present in the tabernacle throughout the day and evening, where you can visit Him any time the Basilica is open.

REMINDERS: SPECIAL EVENTS TODAY

Be sure to join us today, **Sunday, December 12**, for our traditional and festive Christmas Tree lighting at 6 p.m. in the Courtyard at 314 Duke Street. Refreshments will be served, including Mexican hot chocolate to commemorate Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast would normally be celebrated on December 12 if it were not a Sunday this year.

Following the tree lighting, we’ll move into the Basilica for our annual Advent Lessons & Carols, presented at 7 p.m. by our Basilica Schola Cantorum – always a highlight of the Advent season!

IN OUR PRAYERS

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 12

- 7 a.m. — Chrystie Damico Goles †
8:30 a.m. — Special Intention: Steve and Kellie Trepkowski
10 a.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
11:30 a.m. — Merle Guidry and Sally Poh †
1 p.m. — Daniel, Maria, Richard and Seraphine †
5 p.m. — Eugenia Woronsow †

Monday, December 13

- 6:30 a.m. — Special Intention: The Bradley-Eclipse Family
8 a.m. — Alejandro Perez †
12:10 p.m. — Special Intention: Fr. Joseph Townsend

Tuesday, December 14

- 6:30 a.m. — Joel Pulliam †
8 a.m. — Special Intention: Emily Liutkus
12:10 p.m. — Dutch Anderson †

Wednesday, December 15

- 6:30 a.m. — Charles Marstall †
8 a.m. — Special Intention: George (Yiorgo) Lynch
12:10 p.m. — Special Intention: Persida

Thursday, December 16

- 6:30 a.m. — Special Intention: Fr. Nicholas Blank
8 a.m. — Frank J. Rushen Jr. †
12:10 p.m. — Maurice Malone †

Friday, December 17

- 6:30 a.m. — Special Intention: Audrey Assad
8 a.m. — Leonard Anderson †
12:10 p.m. — Christopher Mack †

Saturday, December 18

- 8:30 a.m. — Special Intention: Aniyah Nick
5 p.m. — Bill Grantham †

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 12

Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday, December 13

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 14

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 15

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 16

Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

Friday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Saturday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

WE WELCOME THROUGH BAPTISM

Kelton Michael Binder and Mary Ebba Estep

PRAY FOR THE ILL, INCLUDING

Suzanne Aragona, **Theresa Aranda**, Crystal Barr, Dan Bartlett, Maria Campo, Marianne Coates, Quinn Copps, Mary Davis, Judy Decker, Jean Edwards, Michael Hahn, Michael Henderson, Foltzy Huttman, **Ethan Jones**, Mackenzie Lemn, Tom Mack, Bill McCarthy, Geraldine (Gerry) McGowan, Bud Miles, Terry Nunan, Pam Rubin, Baby Shiller, Jared Steen, Noel Tohill and Jerry Wallmeyer

PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED, INCLUDING

Pamela Hayes

PRAY FOR THOSE ACTIVELY SERVING IN HARM'S WAY, INCLUDING

Alex Deerr, Kaylyn E. Krzemien, Sara McAlpin, Mitchell Mehaffey, Vincent P. Pensyl, Ryan Rickley, David Alejandro Sandoval, Patrick Tuccillo, Josh Villeneuve and all those serving in law enforcement, as firefighters and as emergency first responders.

PRAY FOR OUR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

December 12 — Rev. Anthony J. Pinizzotto (Retired)
December 13 — Rev. Donald J. Planty Jr.
December 14 — Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky
December 15 — Rev. Christopher J. Pollard
December 16 — Rev. Marcus A. Pollard
December 17 — Very Rev. Patrick L. Posey, VF
December 18 — Rev. Juan A. Puigbo

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Do you rejoice in the Lord?

Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest or deacon?
Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at
michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org
or 703.841.2514.

Names of the ill are listed for 4 weeks. **Names of those actively serving in harm's way** (generally means deployed overseas) are listed for 4 months. You may reinstate or add a name at bulletin@stmaryoldtown.org or call 703.836.4100.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION

DECEMBER: Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God. May they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



WORSHIP & ONGOING FAITH FORMATION



THE MASS EXPLAINED

This first year of preparation for celebrating the Jubilee Anniversary of our Arlington Diocese in 2024 focuses on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith, and the Meaning of the Mass.

To help us enter more deeply into the mysteries celebrated at Mass, Fr. David Dufresne, parochial vicar at the Basilica of Saint Mary, recently made a presentation, ***The Mass Explained***, for our RCIA class and other parishioners. In this presentation, he walks us through the Mass, explaining the actions, words and items used.

You can view his presentation any time at <https://vimeo.com/647791853>

2Minutes2Virtue

Get closer to Jesus through Sunday reflections by the priests of our Arlington Diocese.

Sign up by texting 2m2v to 84576 or visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/2minutes2virtue.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO POPE FRANCIS!

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, celebrates his 85th birthday on **Friday, December 17**. Please offer a prayer that day for his health, well-being and intentions.

Ad multos annos!

Liturgical Calendar This Week

— **December 12. Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday in Advent.** Although it takes place during the usually penitential Advent season, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return. Also Bambellini Sunday, instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II. On this day, children from Rome bring to Saint Peter's Square the figurine of the Christ Child from their family Nativity sets. Then, after his Sunday Angelus address, the Holy Father blesses the Baby Jesus figures.

— **December 13. Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr.** Born c. 304, died in Sicily under Diocletian. Patroness of those afflicted with eye diseases and associated with festivals of light.

— **December 14. Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church.** Mystic and poet, known as the “Mystical Doctor,” born in Spain c. 1542. With Saint Teresa of Jesus of Avila, founded the reformed (Discalced) Carmelite friars, now more than 4,000 religious.

Q & A *Exploring & Practicing Our Catholic Faith*

Q: What does it mean to “examine your conscience”?

A: The “examination of the conscience,” or the “examen,” is a prayerful assessment of your relationship with God – how you have succeeded and how you may have fallen short. Done on a regular basis, it offers a powerful way to reflect on your life and how you have responded to the graces God wants to give to you.

In his *Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius of Loyola recommends a daily examen to review your relationship with God. This is normally done in the evening, before going to bed, but can be done any time. Saint Ignatius recommends five steps for a good examen:

1. **THANKSGIVING.** Give thanks to God for any benefits you have received.
2. **PETITION.** Ask God for the grace to recognize and root out any sins from your life.
3. **REVIEW.** Recall times you have fallen into a particular sin or defect.
4. **REPENTANCE.** Ask God to pardon your faults.
5. **RESOLUTION.** Firmly resolve, with God's grace, to amend your life and avoid committing those faults again.



FELLOWSHIP & SERVING OTHERS



Your Year-End Gift to the Mary Lead Us Campaign will have great impact on our parish school's historic campus transformation construction project, which includes a new 8,000 sq. ft. Library Media Center!

Ways to Give:

By Mail: make your check payable to the Basilica of Saint Mary and send the the attention of the Mary Lead Us Campaign, Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Online at: membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/VA713

By Stock Gift or IRA Distribution: Contact Anne Mathis, Chief Stewardship Officer, at amathis@stmaryoldtown.org.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS MEETING

Are you Irish or part Irish? Are you a practicing Catholic? The Herbert-Cady Division of the **Ancient Order of Hibernians** is looking for practicing Catholic men of Irish heritage to join their great organization. AOH promotes Irish heritage and culture, and improves the community and Church through charity. Members meet **every third Monday** of the month, upstairs at Murphy's Grand Irish Pub at 713 King Street in Alexandria. The doors open at 6:40 p.m., with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Joe Castillo at aohrecruiter@outlook.com, or call 219.880.6889. The next meeting is **January 17, 2022**. Learn more at www.aohalexandria.org

From Your Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Peter, his wife and two young children, ages 1 and 2, face eviction next month. In 2021, the average number of writs of eviction issued by the Alexandria court has been more than one per day. The writ is sent to the Sheriff's Office, which

dispatches officers to remove the family if they have not vacated their home. All their possessions are removed and thrown outside. We have seen this heartbreaking scene as close as a few blocks away from the Basilica. The eviction caseload is not decreasing and 2022 looks as bad, if not worse, than 2021. Help us as we work with city agencies and other charities to keep families in their homes. We not only help pay bills, we also work to secure jobs and provide necessities to give families – our neighbors – peace of mind. Your support is needed. Please consider writing a check made to SVdP and dropping it in the Poor Box or at the Parish Office at 313 Duke Street.

CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKET PROGRAM

Collection, packaging and distribution for our annual Basilica Christmas Dinner Basket Program will help provide Christmas dinner to less fortunate Alexandria families.

Find the list of items needed at <https://stmaryoldtown.org/help-provide-a-meal-to-someone-in-need-during-the-basilica-christmas-dinner-baskets-program/>.

Drop them off at the Basilica's Lyceum (313 Duke Street) on **Friday, December 17, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Volunteers will arrange and package the baskets in the Lyceum on

Friday, December 17, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Deliveries take place Saturday, December 18.

Cars delivering the baskets will line up at the Lyceum at 8:30 a.m.

To volunteer to pack baskets or deliver items, contact Adelaide Biegun at sbiegun@aol.com.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend, December 11 and 12, is the annual Catholic Charities Christmas Collection. Learn more at www.ccca.net.



CATHOLIC SPORTS UPDATES

For Young Adults 18-39!

Upcoming Leagues

Registration for BASKETBALL League is now OPEN! Early Registration closes December 12 Sundays, January 9 – March 6 at the Basilica School of Saint Mary Register at www.catholicsports.net

Bible Studies

Contact Helena Briggs if you'd like to join a Men's or Women's Bible Study!

Socials

Stay tuned for our first social events coming up! Sign up for our email list at www.catholicsports.net/emailsSignup. If you have questions or would like to connect, email catholicsports@stmaryoldtown.org or text Helena at 540.551.2271.

FAMILY, CHILDREN & YOUTH

ANNUAL GIVING TREE PROJECT

Our Basilica Youth and Young Adult Apostolates – which minister to the parish’s middle school and high school-aged teens, as well as its young adults – is sponsoring their annual Giving Tree project.

If you haven't already done so, please take a tag from the Giving Tree at the back of the Basilica to make a donation to Gabriel Project Pregnancy Assistance, Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Ministries or the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.

Questions? Contact Mariane Staron at mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org.



SAVE THE DATE TO SAVE THE UNBORN!

The annual March for Life will take place in Washington, DC,
Friday, January 21, 2022.

The Basilica of Saint Mary will have a bus for transportation to and from the March.

Families are invited to join us!

Please plan to participate as we stand up for the unborn. Watch for more details in our bulletin and on our parish website at www.stmaryoldtown.org.

<https://stmaryoldtown.org/apostolate/yaya>

 @stmarysyaya



The Basilica of Saint Mary's
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT APOSTOLATES
Encounter Jesus. Become Disciples. Change the Culture.

Serving our parish community's middle schoolers,
high schoolers, college students, young adults, and families!

Young Adults in their 20s & 30s throughout Alexandria are invited to our weekly gatherings and activities.

Theology on Tap

MONDAY DECEMBER 13TH
AT MURPHY'S IRISH PUB

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM



LOSTBOY CIDER™

YOUNG ADULT ADVENT SOCIAL

Comeback Kid DRY CIDER

6.5% Alc. by Vol. • 12 fl oz • 355 mL

DECEMBER 20TH
6:30PM TO 9:30PM
LOST BOY CIDER

Mariane Staron, Director | mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org | 703.836.4100 x 3030
Aaron Zanca, Assistant Director | azanca@stmaryoldtown.org | 703.836.4100 x 3024

AROUND OUR PARISH & BEYOND

TODAY GAUDETE SUNDAY — DECEMBER 12

*Please join us for a wonderful Saint Mary tradition
of fun, fellowship, cheer and beautiful music!*

Lighting of the Basilica of Saint Mary Christmas Tree

6 -7 p.m. in the Courtyard at 314 Duke Street with refreshments

Advent Lessons & Carols

7-8 p.m. in the Basilica, featuring our Schola Cantorum

Bambinelli Sunday

December 12 also is Bambinelli Sunday, a tradition created by Pope Saint John Paul II. Please bring the Infant Jesus from your home Christmas creche for a special blessing at all Sunday Masses, including the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday.

*Joy-filled Giver of Life, let the anticipation of Your birth fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation be a sign to the world that you are always near. Amen.*

WISH OUR SEMINARIANS MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Please remember our Basilica seminarians when you send Christmas cards this year!



Rev. Mr. John O'Farrell
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727



Seminarian Alex Solsma
Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 East Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096



Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling — December 18

In the Christmas story, hope enters the world through the birth of a child, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Basilica of Saint Mary parishioners are invited to participate in singing carols and sharing this Christmas hope where it's needed most: the abortion facility right here in our community.

WHAT: Peace in the Womb
Christmas Caroling

WHEN: Saturday, December 18
from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
(Rosary at 9 a.m.)

WHERE: Alexandria Women's Health
Clinic, 5999 Stevenson Avenue
For more information, contact
Richard Hayden at cell/text
703.967.8147 or
richardhayden91@gmail.com.

AROUND OUR PARISH & BEYOND

FROM THE ARCHIVES

*A periodic look at the history
of our Basilica of Saint Mary parish
since its founding in 1795*



2016 JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



In December 2015, Pope Francis designated the coming year, 2016, as a Jubilee Year of Mercy, to close with the end of the liturgical year on the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. It was a period for Catholics everywhere to focus on God's forgiveness and infinite mercy. According to Church tradition, a Jubilee Year starts by opening the massive Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome. The Holy Door represents Christ, the Door by which we enter heaven (John 10:7-9). For the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis called on each diocese around the world to designate its own "station" or "door" churches. A plenary indulgence could be gained by visiting a station church. Saint Mary, as the oldest parish in the Commonwealth of Virginia, was the first door church on the list for the Arlington Diocese, with Bishop Paul S. Loverde visiting the parish to formally open the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Throughout 2016, one Sunday each month was designated at the Basilica of Saint Mary as "Mercy Sunday." Worshipers wrote prayer requests on cards, which were placed near the altar and prayed for during the month. Our parishioners visited other station churches in the diocese and many Catholics from around the diocese and neighboring dioceses made Year of Mercy visits to Saint Mary.

On December 12, 2015, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at Saint Mary celebrated the opening of the Jubilee with a special Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, complete with a mariachi band to serenade Our Lady and those in attendance. The Basilica's seniors' group, the Saint Anne and Joachim Society, made a Year of Mercy pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD. In September 2016, Father Edward Hathaway, Basilica rector, led a group of parish pilgrims on a Year of Mercy pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. Father Dan Cambra, of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, was here at the Basilica to direct a parish-wide Year of Mercy mission. His order is specially entrusted with spreading the message and devotion of Divine Mercy and the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska.

— Kitty Guy, Parish Historian



**Pray therefore to the
Lord of the harvest to
send out laborers into
His harvest.
— Luke 10:2**

Families and individuals are invited to participate in a Basilica of Saint Mary initiative to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. You will have the opportunity to host a special crucifix for one week at a time, praying each day for vocations around the world, especially in our parish and diocese.

*If you are interested in being a part of our
Vocations Crucifix Program, sign up at
stmaryoldtown.org/vocations-cross.*

F3: FRATERNITY/FITNESS/FAITH

All men of the parish are invited to participate in
F3 — Fraternity, Fitness and Faith,
a group that meets in front of the Basilica
every Saturday at 5 a.m.

The men work out for roughly 45 minutes, led by a
different member of the group each week
and then finish with prayer.

Learn more from Episode #226 of our Basilica podcasts
at <https://stmaryoldtown.libsyn.com/>

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