



December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

COVER IMAGE: *The Nativity* by Philippe de Champaigne (1602-1674)

CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH

PRA	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 Cimons 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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& Young Adult Apostolates
x 3030 / mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org

Trish Weiler, Director of Finance x 3011 / tweiler@stmaryoldtown.org

Aaron Zanca, Assistant Director, Youth & Young Adult Apostolates x 3024 / azanca@stmaryoldtown.org

Oremus pro invicem "Let us pray for each other"

Father Edward C. Hathaway, Rector

THE HOLY FAMILY & OUR FAMILY



Today, Sunday, December 26, is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This feast reminds us that family life is rooted in the unconditional love within the Trinity and made visible by the Holy Family. Indeed, God created the human person, male and female, equal in dignity but complimentary in their reflection of Him. Let us pray for strong marriages – the backbone of the family – and pray that our families are a sign of hope for a culture of love in the coming New Year.

A Blessing for the Family

We ask You, Lord, to protect and watch over our family, so that in the strength of Your grace we may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of Your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to Your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

HAPPY NEW YEAR & A BIG THANK YOU!

As we soon welcome a New Year, I want to pause to thank my brother priests – Father David, Father Joseph and Father Noah – for all they do for the parish, not just during the busy Advent and Christmas season but throughout the year. I am blessed to have them serving here with me.

I am grateful to the many individuals, staff and parish groups who made our Advent events and Christmas Masses so beautiful this year, from the lighting of the Christmas tree in our courtyard to our extraordinary Lessons and Carols. Thank you to our ministers in the sanctuary and church, including our altar servers, sacristans, lectors and ushers. Thank you, now and throughout the year, to the people who keep our beautiful Basilica clean and welcoming.

My thanks to our talented singers and musicians under the guidance of Director of Music David Elliott. Many thanks to Christine Kleiber and our dedicated Mary Martha Guild for transforming the Basilica to reflect the true spirit and reverence of the season. And, of course, I thank all of you for coming together to prayerfully prepare for and rejoice in the glorious birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happily, the Christmas Season lasts through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on **January 9**. So be sure to keep your decorations in place and continue celebrating the Birth of Christ in your homes and in your hearts!

A NEW YEAR OF LIFE BEGINS WITH A MOTHER

On **Saturday, January 1**, we celebrate the beautiful Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This day reminds us of the remarkable role Our Lady played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by her fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." May we, too, always seek to conform our lives to His word. Mass times for the solemnity are on page 5. Although normally a Holy Day of Obligation, it is not obligatory for 2022 because it falls on a Saturday.

MARIAN HOLINESS: A Retreat for Women

Women of the parish are invited to participate in a retreat entitled "Marian Holiness" on **Sunday, January 9**, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., in our Lyceum Auditorium. Hosted by the Basilica of Saint Mary, the retreat will be led by Sister Joseph Andrew, O.P., accompanied by Sister Mary Lawrence, O.P. Both are Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, based in Ann Arbor, MI. The retreat is free and there is no need to register. It should be an extraordinary afternoon!

IN OUR PRAYERS

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 26

7 a.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary 8:30 a.m. — Special Intention: The Fracasso Family 10 a.m. — Austin A. Herr III 中 11:30 a.m. — Special Intention: In Thanksgiving from the Milette Family 1 p.m. — A Special Intention 5 p.m. — Jean Clement 中

Monday, December 27

8 a.m. — Special Intention: The Bahret Family 12:10 p.m. — Robert Cane ♥

Tuesday, December 28

8 a.m. — Special Intention: The Deerr Family 12:10 p.m. — Special Intention: William Naegele

Wednesday, December 29

8 a.m. — Special Intention: The Ruhlen Family 12:10 p.m. — Richard Hawley and Family †

Thursday, December 30

8 a.m. — Shari Fronzaglia ♥ 12:10 p.m. — Richard Hawley and Family ♥

Friday, December 31

8 a.m. — Shari Fronzaglia † 12:10 p.m. — Richard Hawley and Family † 5 p.m. Vigil — Special Intention: Tom and Kerry Carter

Saturday, January 1 The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

8:30 a.m. — Special Intention: Steve and Kellie Trepkowski 10 a.m. — Souls in Purgatory

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 26

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

Monday, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8; Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday, December 29

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Thursday, December 30

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Friday, December 31

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Saturday, January 1

Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

PRAY FOR THE ILL, INCLUDING

D. Anderson, Suzanne Aragona, Theresa Aranda,
Dan Bartlett, Marie Boanga, Amado Callao, Maria Campo,
Marianne Coates, John Collins, Quinn Copps, Mary Davis,
Jean Edwards, Gina Gonzalez, Michael Hahn, Michael
Henderson, Foltzy Huttman, Keara Jenkins, Ethan Jones,
Bob Juszczyk, Mackenzie Lemn, Bill McCarthy, Geraldine
(Gerry) McGowan, A. Michel, Bud Miles, Terry Nunan,
Pam Rubin, Mimi Shea, Baby Shiller, Noel Tohill,
Troella Tyznik, James Joseph Vincent, Jerry Wallmeyer,
Allen White and Tara White

PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED, INCLUDING

Margaret Anderson

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 26 — Very Rev. Lee R. Roos, VF
December 27 — Rev. Robert L. Ruskamp
December 28 — Very Rev. William P. Saunders
December 29 — Very Rev. Paul D. Scalia
December 30 — Rev. William B. Schardt
December 31 — Rev. Nicholas J. Schierer
January 1 — Rev. William B. Schierer

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

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 INTENTIONS

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.

JANUARY: For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

WORSHIP & ONGOING FAITH FORMATION

Marian Holiness

A Women's Retreat

Sunday, January 9, 2022 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parish Lyceum, 313 Duke Street



Hosted by Basilica Rector Father Edward Hathaway and led by Sister Joseph Andrew, O.P., of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

The retreat is FREE. No need to register.

January 1 The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 31 5 p.m. Vigil Mass Saturday, January 1 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. (no 5 p.m. Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Saturday, January 1 No confessions

Parish Office Hours
Thursday, December 30 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Friday, December 31 CLOSED

Liturgical Calendar This Week

- **December 26. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.** This feast reminds us that family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family.
- **December 27. Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist.** The "disciple whom Jesus loved"; author of the Gospel of Saint John and the Book of Revelation. Symbolized by an eagle. Died c. 100 at Ephesus, the only Apostle who did not die as a martyr.
- **December 28. The Holy Innocents.** Recalls the massacre of the Innocents, bearing witness to the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin and frees us from death. A day to pray for all the innocents who have perished through abortion, starvation and war.
- **December 29. Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr.** Chancellor of England; killed December 29, 1170, by order of Henry II. As archbishop of Canterbury, he defended the freedoms of the Church. Canonized just three years after his death.
- **December 31. Saint Sylvester I, Pope.** As bishop of Rome (314-335), organized public worship and dedicated the Lateran Basilica. Represented at the Council of Nicea, which condemned Arianism. One of the earliest non-martyrs venerated as a saint.
- January 1. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. A celebration of Mary being the mother of Jesus. The English title "Mother of God" is a literal translation of the Latin title *Mater Dei*, which in turn is a rendering of the Greek title Θεοτόκος (Theotokos), meaning "Bearer of God" and dogmatically adopted by the First Council of Ephesus (431) as an assertion of the divinity of Christ.

Q & A Exploring & Practicing Our Catholic Faith

Q: Does the rosary need to be said according to a certain formula? I sometimes meditate on different parts of Christ's life, not necessarily those prescribed for the day, and sometimes add my own prayer requests. Someone told me this is disrespectful.

A: When you pray the rosary privately, you can mix and match. The purpose is talk to God and to meditate upon divine mysteries. If you want to pray for five decades, meditating on just one mystery, it's fine. If you want to mention your own prayer requests, that's fine. There is absolutely nothing disrespectful in this. In fact, it is good to pray a rosary for a specific intention, especially when praying for someone else.



FAMILY, CHILDREN & YOUTH

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WORK CAMP 2022



The Diocese of Arlington WorkCamp provides a life-changing opportunity for high school-aged Catholic youth to grow in their faith by serving in the community. Adult volunteers are needed to make **WorkCamp 2022** happen!

Needed are **ADULT CREW LEADERS** to supervise the young people; **CONTRACTORS** with home-repair skills; **HOMEBASE TEAM MEMBERS** to support all aspects of the camp experience; and **SECURITY PERSONEL**.

<u>All adult volunteers must be OPCYP compliant</u>.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Mariane Staron, Director of Youth & Young Adult Apostolates, at mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org or 703.836.4100, extension 3030.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARIANE!

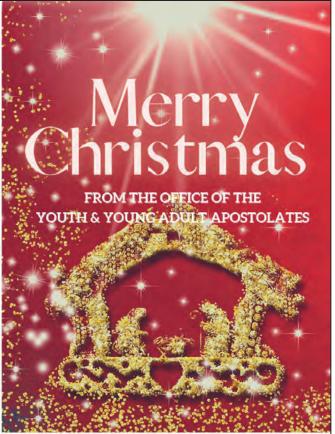


Mariane Staron, the Basilica's Director of Youth & Young Adult Apostolates, recently received a Certificate in Youth Ministry from the Diocese of Arlington and Franciscan University of Steubenville. The program provides formation for youth ministry directors through presentations that are practical, academic, theological and spiritual.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORKCAMP 2022 APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 31

For more information and to register, go to www.stmaryoldtown.org/join-us -for-workcamp-2022.





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

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 to 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.

MONTHLY NOCTURNAL ADORATION

Additional people are needed to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar during the Basilica of Saint Mary's monthly Nocturnal Adoration on the first Friday of each month, beginning at 9 p.m. Friday and ending at 8:20 a.m. on Saturday. Additional adorers are especially needed from midnight to



5 a.m. Our next First Friday Nocturnal Adoration will be <u>January 7, 2022</u>. Vocal prayers during Adoration follow the recitation of the *Little Office of the Blessed Sacrament*, consisting of Psalms and beautiful Eucharistic meditations. To sign up or for more information about Nocturnal Adoration, please contact Helen Lynch at helenlynch21@gmail.com.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS JANUARY MEETING



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. For membership info, please contact Joe Castillo at aohrecruiter@outlook.com or 219.880.6889. The next AOH meeting is **January 17**, **2022**. Also learn more at www.aohalexandria.org.

From Your Saint Vincent de Paul Society

As we joyously celebrate Christmas, we thank all who have supported us in our unprecedented work since the beginning of the pandemic crisis here in Alexandria in mid-March 2020. We have more challenges to face, but to all



our benefactors, please know that your donations have brought comfort, peace of mind and hope to hundreds of our neighbors. Our prayers go to all of you. Please pray for us as we carry out the mission Christ called all of us to do, a mission Saint Vincent de Paul guided us in doing, along with so many others throughout the world.

POOR BOX

Please remember our neighbors in need by making a contribution to the Poor Box.

Proceeds support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and other charitable work of our parish.

F3: FRATERNITY/FITNESS/FAITH

Start the New Year right!

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/



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.

AROUND OUR PARISH & BEYOND



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.
Please share this link with others!

DIOCESAN JUBILEE VIDEO FROM BISHOP BURBIDGE

The Arlington Diocese is in the midst of a three-year preparation period to celebrate its Jubilee Anniversary in 2024. Please check out a wonderful Jubilee overview from Bishop Michael Burbidge at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwOOiY8pugk.

JOIN FATHER HATHAWAY & FATHER NOAH ON A PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL & THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Father Edward Hathaway, Rector of the Basilica, and Father Noah Morey, a priest-in-residence at the Basilica and the chaplain at Bishop Ireton High School, on the pilgrimage of a lifetime to Portugal and the Camino de Santiago, **June 6–17, 2022**.



The pilgrimage begins with a three-day visit to the greatest shrines of Portugal, including Fátima, the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarém and the Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga. It wraps up with eight days in Spain, six spent walking the Camino, and the last two days of the trip in Santiago

de Compostela. You can learn more and register at https://prorometours.com/santiago.

SEEKING REPARATION FOR RACISM

The Saint Katharine Drexel Society at the Basilica of Saint Mary prays for the healing of our nation, especially for the historical and continuing wounds inflicted by slavery, and in reparation for the sins of racism, past and pre-

sent. The group prays the rosary during the Basilica Holy Hour on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., leads a rosary following the 8:30 a.m. Mass every second Saturday of the month, and meets at other times for prayer and fellowship. Father David serves as chaplain. The patroness of the society, Saint Katharine Drexel (1858-1955),



was the second American-born saint canonized by the Catholic Church. Born in Philadelphia to a wealthy family, she entered religious life and used her inheritance to minister to the poor and oppressed, particularly serving Native American reservations and Southern African American inner-city and rural communities. To learn more, contact Monica Favela at skdsociety@stmaryoldtown.org.



The annual March for Life will take place in Washington, DC, Friday, January 21. The Basilica of Saint Mary will have a bus for transportation to and from the March. 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.



CATHOLIC SPORTS UPDATES

For Young Adults 18-39!

Upcoming Leagues

Registration for BASKETBALL League is now OPEN!
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/emailsignup. If you have questions or would like to connect, email catholicsports@stmaryoldtown.org or text Helena at 540.551.2271.

AROUND OUR PARISH & BEYOND

FROM THE ARCHIVES of our Basilica of Saint Mary parish since its founding in 1795

A periodic look at the history



HOLY FAMILY SYMBOLISM

In addition to their beauty, the magnificent stained glass windows found in medieval churches had another purpose: Teaching the faith. Most people were illiterate; moveable type had not yet been invented and Bibles were rare. The windows were a visual catechism, revealing salvation history for all worshipers to observe. People at that time also saw everything in nature as a religious symbol. These symbols were depicted in the church windows, sacred reminders for those who meditated on the scenes. Long after literacy and the availability of books became widespread, medieval traditions and symbols have persisted.

The historic, colorful stained-glass windows here at the Basilica of Saint Mary include many of those symbols. The Holy Family window on your right as you enter the Basilica is an excellent example, incorporating many symbols of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in this lovely family scene. Some are obvious, others are more subtle.

The haloes over each figure show subtle differences. The halo on Jesus' head has a red Greek Cross. Red, also on His sash, symbolizes martyrdom; the cross on His halo is a sign of His Crucifixion. By the Renaissance, this type of halo also had become a symbol of the Resurrection. The yellow flowers, daffodils, at Jesus' feet were a sign of King David. Joseph and Jesus were descended from the house of David.

Mary wears blue, the color of heaven, spiritual love and fidelity. Her red halo symbolizes holiness and her true, perfect love for her Son. She is spinning; her spindle and distaff were a sign of new life — Mary carried Christ, the new life for humanity, in her womb. The cloth she is



making represents Mary weaving the seamless garment Jesus wore before His Crucifixion, for which the Roman soldiers cast lots after His death (John 19:23-24). The white lilies at Mary's side were a popular symbol of purity, humility and virginity. Lilies also came to signify the Immaculate Conception. The red flowers in the window are thornless, symbols of true love, purity and Mary as the Second Eve.

Joseph's halo is gold, symbolizing his love for Jesus. He is depicted, as usual, as a carpenter. His eyes and hand point to the cross seen in the carpenter's rule Jesus carries on His shoulder. Joseph's closed eyes would have been seen as a sign of his modesty and humility, to have been chosen as the foster father of the Messiah.

Other symbols from nature include the grape leaves behind Joseph and elsewhere in the window, a sign of the Eucharist, the Blood of Christ. The apples in the tree behind Joseph had various meanings: Sin (from Adam and Eve) and salvation, since Jesus "...bore the burden of our sin and restored humanity to God" (Song of Songs).

When you are in church, take time to meditate on the sacred meanings the Holy Family window and all of our magnificent stained-glass windows. — Kitty Guy, Parish Historian



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