



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

Founded 1795 - Alexandria, Virginia

December 5, 2021
Second 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

All 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 David	frdavid@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 Juszczuk	barbaraj.seniors@aol.com
Youth & Young Adult Apostolates	Mariane Staron	mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100 x 3030



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***Oremus pro invicem* “Let us pray for each other”**

Father Edward C. Hathaway, Rector

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT — DECEMBER 5

On this **Second Sunday in Advent**, we continue preparing for the Birth of Christ. Since this holy Advent season is meant to be penitential in nature, we are encouraged to especially take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance, truly encountering the mystery of Christ’s mercy, love and healing, between now and Christmas. See the cover of this bulletin and our parish website (www.stmaryoldtown.org) for our confession times.



A FEAST AND TWO ANNIVERSARIES — DECEMBER 6

Monday, December 6, is the Feast of Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. Known for his charity and spirit of giving, he became popularly known as Santa Claus, from the Dutch “Sinter Claus.” Saint Nicholas is the patron of children, bankers, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumers, brides, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, poets and prisoners – a busy agenda for any saint!

December 6 also marks the fourth anniversary of the date in 2017 when we received official word from Pope Francis granting Saint Mary the title of Basilica. A wonderful “plus” for a Basilica is the gift of a plenary indulgence to those who devoutly visit and participate in any sacred rite (such as Mass) or at least recite the Lord’s Prayer and the Creed in the Basilica on certain days, including our December 6 anniversary. A plenary indulgence removes all temporal punishment – time spent in purgatory – for sins committed to that point. To gain an indulgence, we must be in a state of grace, that is, completely detached from all sin, mortal or venial. Preferably the same day as the visit or within several days (about 20), we also must go to confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Last but not least, December 6 also is the 5th anniversary of the installation of Bishop Michael F. Burbidge as Bishop of the Diocese of Arlington. *Ad multos annos!*

On December 6, in addition to our usual daily Masses at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m. and 12:10 p.m., we will have a Mass at 7 p.m. as part of our 40 Hours Devotion. So please join us for Mass that day, celebrate Saint Nicholas, our Basilica anniversary and the anniversary of the shepherd of our Diocese!

EVENING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH — DECEMBER 7

Reminder: As part of our 40 Hours Devotion, please join us for Solemn Sung Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Catholic Church, on **Tuesday, December 7**, at 7 p.m. in the Basilica. Read more about Vespers on page 5.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY — DECEMBER 8

Wednesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the Virgin Mary is patron of the United States and patron of our Basilica. We will celebrate Mass here that day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This solemnity recalls Mary’s conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. Because she was destined to be the Mother of God, Mary was sinless, or “immaculate,” from the very moment of her conception. As we celebrate Mary’s conception, we are reminded that all life begins at conception and are called to revere and protect the life of every unborn child. *Immaculate Mary, pray for us!*

IN OUR PRAYERS

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 5

- 7 a.m. — Anne Coates †
8:30 a.m. — Therese M. Haagensen †
10 a.m. — Special Intention: Marcella Hadeed
11:30 a.m. — Michael Cassell †
1 p.m. — Special Intention: Adolf and Betsy Miranda
5 p.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary

Monday, December 6

- 6:30 a.m. — James Manos †
8 a.m. — Borders-McAndrews Family
12:10 p.m. — Irene Long †

Tuesday, December 7

- 6:30 a.m. — Michael Kennedy †
8 a.m. — Clara Migdalski †
12:10 p.m. — Michael P. Finnegan †

Wednesday, December 8

- 6:30 a.m. — Jennie Mae Basila †
8 a.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
12:10 p.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
5 p.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
7:30 pm. — Parishioners of Saint Mary

Thursday, December 9

- 6:30 a.m. — Grace O’Lone †
8 a.m. — Lewis Charles Diminuco †
12:10 p.m. — Special Intention: Patrick Bridges

Friday, December 10

- 6:30 a.m. — Edward Walter Sudder Sr. †
8 a.m. — Joseph Braddock †
12:10 p.m. — Hildegard Marie Hall †

Saturday, December 11

- 8:30 a.m. — Geneviane Wagner †
5 p.m. — Curtis Winsor Jr. †

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 5

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Monday, December 6

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 7

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, December 9

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 10

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 11

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

WE WELCOME THROUGH BAPTISM

Finn Alexander Cook, Poppy Kathryn Kilroy,
Krystian Ambrose Materna and Carys Rae Philbin

PRAY FOR THE ILL, INCLUDING

Suzanne Aragona, Crystal Barr, Dan Bartlett, Maria Campo, Marianne Coates, Quinn Copps, Mary Davis, Judy Decker, Jean Edwards, Michael Hahn, Michael Henderson, Foltzy Huttman, 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 ALL THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Jeff Reilly and Patrick Dougherty

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 5 — Rev. Michael T. Orłowski

December 6 — Rev. Carroll L. Oubre

December 7 — Rev. Charles C. Pavlick

December 8 — Rev. Francis J. Peffley

December 9 — Rev. Edwin E. Perez

December 10 — Rev. John P. Peterson, YA

December 11 — Rev. Mauricio R. Pineda

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Is the Holy Spirit asking you to be a “shepherd who feeds his flock” in the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life?

Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at
michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org

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

40 HOURS DEVOTION: DECEMBER 6 — 8

Come spend prayerful time in the presence of Our Lord during this grace-filled devotion.



❖ **Monday, December 6: Feast of Saint Nicholas and our Basilica naming anniversary** The 40 Hours Devotion opens with Mass at 7 p.m. Adoration continues all night and during the next day, interrupted only by regular weekday Mass schedule.

❖ **Tuesday, December 7: Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Holy Hour with Sung Vespers at 7 p.m. All-night and morning adoration will proceed as the day before.

❖ **December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)** The 40 Hours Devotion closes with Benediction at 11:45 a.m. and Reposition before the 12:10 p.m. Holy Day Mass. In addition to our regular weekday Masses (6:30 a.m., 8 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.), there will be two additional Holy Day Masses at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

To participate in the 40 Hours, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4da4a929a7f94-40hours1>.

Or use the sign-up book located at the back of Basilica. If you are unable to commit to adoration for a specific time slot, please feel free to stop by any time during the 40 Hours.

The Basilica of Saint Mary will host Solemn Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Tuesday, December 7, at 7 p.m.

as part of our annual 40 Hours Devotion and to mark the beginning of the three-year preparation for celebration of the Golden Jubilee of our Arlington Diocese in 2024

Vespers (also called Evening Prayer) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always." Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world.

The Liturgy of the Hours includes several specified times of prayer. The most important times, called the "hinge hours," are Morning Prayer (prayed upon rising) and Evening Prayer (prayed as dusk begins to fall). The other hours are the Office of Readings (may be prayed any time during the day and includes a biblical reading and a reading from the Fathers, Church writers or a reading related to a saint), a Day-time Prayer (prayed at midmorning, midday or midafternoon) and Night Prayer (prayed before going to sleep).

Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organized around this prayer, keeping God always at the center of their life. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer (Vespers).

Evening Prayer offers thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Solemn Vespers indicates Evening Prayer that is chanted or sung. When prayed with others, or "in choir," one side sings or chants while the other listens in an alternating fashion. With this pattern, we proclaim God's word and then receive God's word as it is sung back to us.

As we enter into this solemn time of prayer, let us pray with gratitude for the many blessings we have received through our Diocesan Church. – Father Hathaway



FELLOWSHIP & SERVING OTHERS

From Your Saint Vincent de Paul Society

As we enter the holiday season, let us remember that while Christmas is a time for family, friendship and fun, it is also a time for sharing our blessings with those less fortunate than we are. Among the programs your SVdP is supporting is a partnership with The Basilica School of Saint Mary Student Council leaders to accept donations of presents and gift cards from the students and parents at our school to give to less fortunate families in our community that we know will find this Christmas a truly memorable one. Think of these families and others we support throughout the year, sharing your blessings with them. Let us sing together those wonderful words that end a favorite Christmas carol, *Good King Wenceslas*: "Therefore Christian men be sure, wealth or rank possessing, ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing."



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 (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 219.880.6889, if you are interested. The next meeting is **January 17, 2022**. Learn more at www.aohalexandria.org



MARCH for LIFE

SAVE THE DATE TO SAVE THE UNBORN!

The annual March for Life will take place in Washington, DC, on Friday, January 21, 2022. The Basilica of Saint Mary will have a bus for transportation to and from the March. Please plan to join us as we stand up for the unborn. Additional details to follow.

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, please contact Adelaide Biegun at sbiegun@aol.com.

2021 CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The second collection next weekend, **December 11 and 12**, is the annual Catholic Charities Christmas Collection, which provides 10 percent of Catholic Charities' annual funding. For more information, visit 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/emailsingup.

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 again sponsoring their annual Giving Tree project. 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.



You are invited to a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus!

On **Saturday, December 11**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Daughters of Saint Paul will host their annual Baby Jesus Birthday Party at Pauline Books & Media, 1025 King Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Children of all ages and families are invited for picture-taking with Baby Jesus!

Bring your own camera. Costumes are not provided this year but you can bring your own.

Story-telling and Christmas carols take place at 11:15 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., plus gift/craft bags to take home.

For more information, call 703.549.3806 or email alexandria@paulinemediacom.

<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



DECEMBER 6TH
FOLLOWING THE 7PM MASS
AT 307 S ROYAL ST

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

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.*

Liturgical Calendar This Week

— **December 6. Saint Nicholas, Bishop.** 4th century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. Model pastor noted for charity; popularized as Santa Claus (from Dutch “Sinter Claus”); patron of children, among others.

— **December 7. Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.** While still a catechumen, chosen by popular acclaim as bishop of Milan; consecrated December 7, 374. Defended orthodoxy against Arianism. Baptized Saints Augustine, Jerome and Gregory I. Declared one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church. Died in 397.

— **December 8. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Established for the entire Church in 1708. Under this title, Mary is patroness of the United States and of our Basilica of Saint Mary.

— **December 9. Saint Juan Diego.** A native of Mexico and first Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. The Virgin Mary appeared to him on four occasions in December 1531 at the hill of Tepeyac near Mexico City.

— **December 10. Our Lady of Loreto.** Honors the Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto in Italy, venerated by generations and honored as the house where Mary lived.

— **December 11. Saint Damasus I, Pope.** First pope to refer to Rome as the “Apostolic See.” Encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a new translation of the Latin Bible, the *Vulgate*.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

As this special Year of Saint Joseph comes to an end on December 8, we can reflect on what we have discovered about the foster-father of Jesus this past year – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence; an intercessor; a support and guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows often play an incomparable role in the history of salvation and in our own lives. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them every day of every year.



ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!
Many thanks to **FAIRFAX ELECTRIC**
for advertising in our parish bulletin.
Please support and patronize
our wonderful advertisers!

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



THE PANIC OF 1873



Wall Street as depicted during the Panic of 1873

The post-Civil War Panic of 1873 was a financial crisis that triggered an economic depression in Europe and North America that lasted from 1873 to 1877, or 1879 in France and in Britain. In the United States, the Panic was known as the "Great Depression" until the events of 1929 and the early 1930s created a new yardstick for measuring widespread economic decline.

Locally, the Panic of 1873 brought high unemployment to the City of Alexandria. As a result, the city's charity soup kitchen drew unprecedented numbers of requests for food and fuel in the winter of 1874-75.

Saint Mary parish, with its long tradition of charity and service to the community, vigorously responded to help. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society, chartered in 1871 to raise money to assist the city's poor, was organized by a small group of Saint Mary parish businessmen, mostly Irish or of Irish descent. The Society was there to aid Alexandrians

affected by the Panic of 1873 and is still actively serving those in need today. Also stepping up to help was the Young Catholic Friends Society of Alexandria, established in 1853 to help poor children. Other Saint Mary groups involved in the effort included the Knights of Saint Patrick and the Alexandria Catholic Beneficial Society.

Another charitable group active at that time was the Saint Mary Sewing Circle. A local newspaper reported in 1873 that "the ladies of Saint Mary's Church have formed a sewing society. Mrs. King [no first name given] is president, and members are already engaged in making clothes for free distribution among the children of the poor of the parish." They also sewed baby clothing and school clothes for needy families. – *Kitty Guy, Parish Historian*

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