**Holy Mass**

**Sunday**
- 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., *9 a.m.,
- 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m.

*Children’s Mass during the school year at St. Mary School gym, 400 Green Street*

**Monday Through Friday**
- 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., and 12:10 p.m.

**Saturday**
- 8:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Vigil for Sunday

**Federal Holidays & Holy Days**
- Check bulletin and website

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**Confessions**

**Monday to Friday**
- Following 12:10 p.m. Mass

**Saturday**
- 9 to 10 a.m., 4 to 5 p.m.

**Wednesday**
- 7:30 p.m. during the Holy Hour

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**Church Hours**

Monday to Friday
- 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday
- 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
- 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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**Office Hours**

313 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Monday to Friday,
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Evenings & Weekends**

at 310 Duke Street
Monday to Friday,
- 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**Novenas & Adoration**

**Miraculous Medal Novena**
- Monday, 12 p.m.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
- Wednesday, 12:40 to 7:30 p.m.

**Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Holy Hour with Compline**
- Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

**Nocturnal Adoration**
- First Friday, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Saturday

**Holy Hour for Life**
- First Saturday, 7:30 a.m. with Benediction at 8:15 a.m.

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**St. Mary School**

(Pre-K through 8th grade)
- 400 Green Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

(703) 549-1646

www.smsva.org

Mrs. Janet Cantwell, Principal

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**Baptisms**

Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Call Parish Office to register in advance and obtain regulations concerning godparents, etc.

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**Marriages**

Contact Parish Priest a minimum of six months before possible wedding date. Couples living together will be asked to live separately during marriage preparation time.
## Consider Getting Involved in One of Our Parish Apostolates

### Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apostolate</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Email/Contact Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Maureen Breiner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tb5va@aol.com">tb5va@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Servers</td>
<td>Elena Otero-Bigg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebigg@stmaryoldtown.org">ebigg@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Mass</td>
<td>Claire Schwab</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cschwab@claireschwab.com">cschwab@claireschwab.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marian Singers</td>
<td>Jo-Ann Hovey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:canadiansongbird@verizon.net">canadiansongbird@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Laurie Schultz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lector_st_Marys@comcast.net">lector_st_Marys@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Martha Guild</td>
<td>Christine Kleiber</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MMG@stmaryoldtown.org">MMG@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nocturnal Adoration Society</td>
<td>Helen Lynch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helenlynch21@gmail.com">helenlynch21@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosary Prayer Group</td>
<td>Call Parish Office</td>
<td>703.836.4100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacristans</td>
<td>Steve Young</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ayoung901@gmail.com">Ayoung901@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Society</td>
<td>Jill Stanton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jillrstanton@gmail.com">jillrstanton@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schola Cantorum</td>
<td>David Elliott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:delliott@stmaryoldtown.org">delliott@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Randolph MacPherson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:macpherson@halloransage.com">macpherson@halloransage.com</a></td>
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### Education & Evangelization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apostolate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Faith Formation, CCD, RCIA</td>
<td>Hilary Munger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hmunger@stmaryoldtown.org">hmunger@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy</td>
<td>Harry and Lynne Dolton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hldolton@aol.com">hldolton@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice Wine Marriage Enrichment Program</td>
<td>Erica Englefield and Ann Somerset</td>
<td><a href="mailto:StmarysChoiceWine@hotmail.com">StmarysChoiceWine@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>Fr. Andrew</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Frandrew@stmaryoldtown.org">Frandrew@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secular Franciscan Order</td>
<td>Sadie Martins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nannysadie@aol.com">nannysadie@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special RELigious Development (SPRED)</td>
<td>Mary Froehlich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.m.froehlich@gmail.com">mary.m.froehlich@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That Man Is You</td>
<td>Wayne Cimons</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tmiystmaryoldtown@gmail.com">tmiystmaryoldtown@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking with Purpose</td>
<td>Barbara Dwyer and Julie Guiffre</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stmaryswwp@gmail.com">stmaryswwp@gmail.com</a></td>
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### Fellowship

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Heritage Girls Troop 0325</td>
<td>Beth Ann Garcia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bamgarcia3@gmail.com">bamgarcia3@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Order of Hibernians</td>
<td>Terry Riley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tjcr1@live.com">tjcr1@live.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 301</td>
<td>Dan Scheeler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dscheeler@gmail.com">dscheeler@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Daughters of the Americas</td>
<td>Debbie Weatherly</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daw1715250@gmail.com">daw1715250@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Kavanaugh #54</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Mom’s Book Club</td>
<td>Beth Ann Garcia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bamgarcia3@gmail.com">bamgarcia3@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cub Scout Pack 301</td>
<td>Mark Kramer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cc.pack301@gmail.com">cc.pack301@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYO Sports</td>
<td>Eric Rizzo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:egrizzo5@hotmail.com">egrizzo5@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>Alice Goulet</td>
<td><a href="mailto:downeytwina@comcast.net">downeytwina@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Kelly</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkelly@ida.org">jkelly@ida.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jr. Catholic Daughters</td>
<td>Kathryn Doherty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kathryndoherty@gmail.com">kathryndoherty@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls grades 2-8</td>
<td>202.270.6008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knights of Columbus</td>
<td>Bill Beach</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wbeachkoc459@gmail.com">wbeachkoc459@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Praying College Moms</td>
<td>Luanne Griffin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pcm@stmaryoldtown.org">pcm@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s Play Group</td>
<td>Jen Retz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:saintmaryrsts@gmail.com">saintmaryrsts@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sts. Ann and Joachim Society</td>
<td>Barbara Juszczyk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbaraj.seniors@aol.com">barbaraj.seniors@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seniors 55+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Young Adults</td>
<td>Arragon Perrone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aperrone@stmaryoldtown.org">aperrone@stmaryoldtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn more about our parish Apostolates at www.stmaryoldtown.org.
Christmas, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, we are profoundly aware of the need to pray that His peace will reign in our world, in our nation, in our homes and in our lives. We are witnessing much turbulence, unrest and division in our midst. Yet, we do not despair. Our newborn King has shown us the way to peace and unity.

We pray that the leaders of our nation and those throughout the world will allow the Lord to guide their decisions, being ever mindful of the sacredness of all human life and the dignity of each and every human person. We pray that all people will recognize that they are united as God’s holy family and respond by treating one another with charity and respect. In our own lives, we pray for the grace to love, honor and forgive each other. In a special way, may our prayer always lead us to seek peace not in the empty promises of the world but in the One who alone can sustain and protect us.

It is my hope and prayer that what we do at Christmas will continue throughout the New Year: to keep our relationship with the Lord our highest priority; to share our gifts and resources with all those in need; and to be instruments of His peace in our communities, workplaces and homes.

Please be assured of a special remembrance at the Masses I will celebrate on Christmas. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Joseph, may Our Lord Jesus fill you with His choicest blessings at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

To allow our staff to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with family and friends, our parish offices at 313 Duke Street will be closed Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, through New Year’s Day, Monday, January 1.

Rectory phone will be answered from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., December 27 through 29. Answering service other hours.

ST. MARY PARISH STAFF

Sheena Byrne, Receptionist
703.836.4100 x 3015 / sbyrne@stmaryoldtown.org

David Elliott, Music Director
703.836.4100 x 3019 / delliott@stmaryoldtown.org

Ryan Farrell, Assistant Director of Religious Education
703.836.4100 x 3023 / rfarrell@stmaryoldtown.org

Carmen Federle, Parish Liaison to Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People
cfederle@stmaryoldtown.org

John Harchick, Director of Facilities
703.836.4100 x 3021 / facilities@stmaryoldtown.org

Mariane Leite, Assistant Director of Youth & Young Adults
703.836.4100 x 3030 / mleite@stmaryoldtown.org

John Lilly, Director of Communications and Evangelization
703.836.4100 x 3009 / jlilly@stmaryoldtown.org

Emily Liutkus, Bookkeeper
703.836.4100 x 3010 / eliutkus@stmaryoldtown.org

Diane Maple, Bulletin Editor
703.836.4100 x 3032 / bulletin@stmaryoldtown.org

Hilary Munger, Director of Religious Education
703.836.4100 x 3033 / hmunger@stmaryoldtown.org

Elena Otero-Bigg, Office Manager/Assistant to the Pastor
703.836.4100 x 3018 / ebigg@stmaryoldtown.org

Arragon Perrone, Director of Youth and Young Adults
703.836.4100 x 3024 / aperrone@stmaryoldtown.org

Naomi Roberts, Part-Time Administrative Assistant
703.836.4100

Kristin Smith, Office Administrator
703.836.4100 x 3029 / ksmith@stmaryoldtown.org

Trish Weiler, Business Manager
703.836.4100 x 3011 / tweiler@stmaryoldtown.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of Fathers Barnes, Andrew, Kevin, Bresnahan and myself, I wish you and your family a very “Mary Christ-Mass” Season! The Christmas Season begins with the vigil Masses for Christmas on Christmas Eve and continues through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, this year on January 8th. So please keep your Christmas decorations up and keep celebrating the Birth of Our Savior in your homes.

I am grateful to Almighty God for the opportunity to serve you and your family as your spiritual shepherd in this vibrant and historic parish, the eldest daughter of the Diocese of Arlington. Very little could have been achieved here without the dedication of our excellent parish staff and all of our many parish volunteers who give of themselves so generously.

Thank you for your prayers and support that have enabled Saint Mary’s to accomplish so much for the glory of God and for the good of our Church in the past year.

May the peace and joy Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew on that first Christmas morning be yours this Christmas, and throughout the New Year. I will remember you and your family in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Christmas Day.

IN THE HOLY LAND

I have been invited to give the canonical retreat for the deacon class at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary – those men who are preparing to be ordained priests for various dioceses this spring. I will be traveling with the 26 deacons, the seminary rector Msgr. Andrew Baker and a scripture scholar from the faculty to Galilee and Jerusalem from December 28th through January 13th.

Please pray for me and for these men making their retreat. Be assured of my prayers for you as well!

Follow me on Twitter @fathercathaway to receive daily quotes on Scripture and the Saints!
**MASS INTENTIONS**

(* No 6:30 a.m. Masses December 26-29)

**Sunday, December 24**
- 7 a.m.: Dr. C. Klase and all cancer patients
- 8:30 a.m.: Roy W. Kescaden
- 10 a.m.: Parishioners of St. Mary
- 11:30 a.m.: Jack Hoeven
- 1 p.m.: Special Intention: David Shaw

**Sunday, December 24 — Christmas Eve**
- 5 p.m. (Church): Special Intention: Lt. Col. Colleen Prasil
- 5 p.m. (School): Parishioners of St. Mary
- 8 p.m.: Parishioners of St. Mary
- 11 p.m.: Helen P. and Edward W. Sudder Sr.

**Monday, December 25 — Christmas Day**
- 8:30 a.m.: Debbie Ikinis
- 10 a.m.: Special Intention: Sgt. Major Jeff Duty
- 11:30 a.m.: Daniel Birello
- 1 p.m.: Arnold W. Kunkler

**Tuesday, December 26**
- 8 a.m.: Special Intention: Fracasso Family
- 12:10 p.m.: Gregory Underwood

**Wednesday, December 27**
- 8 a.m.: Special Intention: Bahret Family
- 12:10 p.m.: Pauline Catalano McNamara

**Thursday, December 28**
- 8 a.m.: Geraldine C. Petrino
- 12:10 p.m.: Special Intention: Deerr Family

**Friday, December 29**
- 8 a.m.: Special Intention: Ruhlen Family
- 12:10 p.m.: Special Intention: Bernadette Chapman

**Saturday, December 30**
- 8:30 a.m.: Special Intention: Pamela Caro
- 5 p.m.: Vigil William Brooks-Kenney

**Sunday, December 31**
- 7 a.m.: Special Intention: Jessey Family
- 8:30 a.m.: Benjamin Wenger
- 9 a.m. (School): Jeffrey Comerer
- 10 a.m.: Juan P. Osuna
- 11:30 a.m.: William H. Phillips
- 1 p.m.: Parishioners of St. Mary
- 5 p.m.: Joanne J. Heichowski

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**PRAY FOR THE ILL, INCLUDING:**

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED, INCLUDING:**
- Elaine Arberg, David Flowers, Margaret Scanlon and Drew Von Bergen

To add a name, call the Parish Office at 703.836.4100. Names of the ill are listed for approximately four weeks.

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY & CIVILIAN MEMBERS SERVING IN HARM’S WAY, INCLUDING:**
- Fr. Jason C. Burchell, Casey Chandler, Matthew Constantino, Peter Culbert, Jeremy Hill, Caitlin Callaghan Martins, Mark Martins, Nathan Martins, Hannah Martins Miller, Michael Monte-Negro, Joshua Parker, Edward Joseph Parry III, Chris Quayle, Eric Satterthwaite, Michael Stabile Jr., Patricia Stabile and Brian Wong

This list includes active military and civilians in service. Call the Parish Office, 703.836.4100, to add or remove names.

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**HOLY FATHER’S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER**

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming new generations.

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**VOCATIONS**

*Be it done unto me according to your word.*

Obedience to the Lord’s will is the fruit of humble prayer. If you think God is inviting you to a deeper consecration as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, call Father J.D. Jaffe at 703.841.2514, or write j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

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**PRAY FOR A PRIEST**

*Please pray for the following priests of our Arlington Diocese during the coming week:*
- December 25 — Rev. James C. Hinkle
- December 26 — Rev. Stephen Holmes
- December 27 — Rev. Patrick Holroyd
- December 28 — Rev. Edward R. Horkan
- December 29 — Rev. Jose Eugenio
- December 30 — Rev. James C. Hudgins
- December 31 — Rev. Michael C. Isenberg
WORSHIP, PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24
5 p.m. (in the church) Cantor and organ
5 p.m. (in the school, 400 Green Street) with piano accompaniment
8 p.m. Marian Singers with instrumental soloists
11 p.m. String orchestra and Schola Cantorum, singing in Latin & English
(Music begins at 10:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25
8:30 a.m. Cantor and organ
10 a.m. Cantor and organ
11:30 a.m. Cantor and organ
1 p.m. Cantor and organ

SEEKING TEAMS OF OUR LADY MEMBERS
The Alexandria Sector of Teams of Our Lady plans to bring Teams to St. Mary parish in 2018. If you are or have been a member of Teams of Our Lady, we invite your participation on our steering committee. Our first meeting is in February. If you are able to join us, or have questions, please contact Jeremy and Sarah Greiner, 58donahue@cua.edu, 703.931.0149 (home) or 703.304.6040 (cell).

PRAYING COLLEGE MOMS
Are you a mom of a college-aged young adult? You are invited to join a new ministry at St. Mary, Praying College Moms, which is dedicated to fostering fellowship through prayer and shared experiences, focusing on the joys and challenges of being the mother of a college-aged student. All moms are welcome! The group will meet monthly, beginning on Thursday, January 25, at 9 a.m., in the Fr. Rankin House located at 314 Duke Street. Questions? Please contact pcm@stmaryoldtown.org.

THAT MAN IS YOU
Wherever you are in your spiritual life, Jesus Christ wants to encounter you right there and take you further. That Man Is You, a men’s group that meets every Saturday morning, has helped dozens of St. Mary’s men become better sons, fathers, husbands and friends. Take the next step and join us! Call Wayne Cimons at 703.963.5412 for more details.

CHOICE WINE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
The Choice Wine, our parish marriage enrichment program, meets each third Friday of the month. The nine-session program teaches couples 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage. Over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, it offers an opportunity to build fellowship with other St. Mary couples. Register at https://stmaryoldtown.org/choice-wine-registration/.

NOCTURNAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
With silent and vocal prayer, Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration will be held here at St. Mary on First Friday, January 5. We will begin with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 9 p.m. Holy Hours then continue throughout the night, ending at 6 a.m. on Saturday, January 6. We especially need participation from 12 midnight through 6 a.m. Security is provided throughout the night by Alexandria Police. For additional information, please contact Helen Lynch at helenlynch21@gmail.com.

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The Choice Wine, our parish marriage enrichment program, meets each third Friday of the month. The nine-session program teaches couples 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage. Over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, it offers an opportunity to build fellowship with other St. Mary couples. Register at https://stmaryoldtown.org/choice-wine-registration/.

NOCTURNAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
With silent and vocal prayer, Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration will be held here at St. Mary on First Friday, January 5. We will begin with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 9 p.m. Holy Hours then continue throughout the night, ending at 6 a.m. on Saturday, January 6. We especially need participation from 12 midnight through 6 a.m. Security is provided throughout the night by Alexandria Police. For additional information, please contact Helen Lynch at helenlynch21@gmail.com.

BISHOP BURBIDGE HOMILIES ONLINE
Selected homilies of Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge can be found at youtube.com/arlingtondiocese.
THE LEGION OF MARY

**What is it?** It’s Our Lady’s Army, composed of more than two million active members worldwide.

**What does it do?** It makes its members better Catholics through prayer and service.

**How does it work?** Members meet once a week for prayer, planning and discussion. In pairs they do a couple hours of work each week under the guidance of their spiritual director, Fr. Andrew.

**Who can belong to Mary’s Army?** Nobody – for the first three months. That gives you a chance to see how it works with your work and family life.

**How do I start?** Meets on Mondays at 6:45 p.m. in the Fr. Rankin House at 314 Duke Street. If you are interested in joining the Legion or need more information, please contact Fr. Andrew at 703.836.4100 or frandrew@stmaryoldtown.org.

SANCTUARY SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS

St. Mary’s Sanctuary Society is looking for new members. This vital lay ministry is responsible for the care of the small linens used during Mass. Training is provided. For more information, contact Jill Stanton at 703.768.0202.

SAVE THE DATE:

**FAMILY BINGO NIGHT 2018**

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas and St. Mary Catholic Church will sponsor our Annual Family Bingo Night in the school gym on **Saturday, February 3**. St. Mary’s middle schoolers will be providing fantastic prizes and conducting raffles. A cash prize will be awarded to the winner of the final Bingo round. Pizza, snacks and beverages will be sold at affordable prices. All proceeds will benefit the Julia Petrino Memorial Scholarship Fund, which awards a $1,500 tuition scholarship to a selected boy and girl (each) graduating from St. Mary’s to a Catholic high school. This is a fun event for families and benefits a worthy cause. Watch the bulletin and parish website for further details.

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COME PRAY THE ROSARY
Every third Saturday following the 8:30 a.m. Mass (around 9:15 a.m.). On Saturday, January 20, we will pray outside the Annandale Women & Family Center located at 2839 Duke Street in Alexandria. Park on Longview Drive. We pray for pregnant mothers and their unborn babies on the sidewalk next to the large grassy area on the right of the entrance to the parking lot (far away from the front door of the center, which is two parking lots away). Any questions? Call Melinda Zakrzewski at 703.624.1684.

A REQUEST FROM OUR MONEY COUNTERS
Please mark the amount of your contribution on the envelopes placed in the Sunday collection basket. It will save our hard-working crew of volunteer Money Counters a lot of time. Thanks for your help!

YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
St. Mary’s Dedicated Tuition Endowment Fund. Contributions enable parents to choose a Catholic education for their children, allowing students to continue their education at our parish school. To make a financial contribution, contact the school office at www.smva.org.

Faith Direct — Easy, Automated Giving. Join St. Mary parishioners who use Faith Direct to give to our parish with one-time gifts or recurring payments. You can sign up at www.faithdirect.net. Our parish code is VA713.

Tax Savings through a Gift of Stock. You may make a gift of stock as a donation to our parish or diocese. In exchange for a gift of long-term, appreciated securities (stocks), you can receive an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes on stock appreciation. More information is available at 703.841.3896 or visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/giving/gifts_stock.aspx.

Tax-Free IRA Gift. Give through a tax-free IRA gift. Individuals age 70-1/2 or older may make tax-free gifts from an IRA directly to our parish, school or diocese. To complete an IRA Charitable Rollover for 2017, contact your IRA provider for exact instructions. The gift needs to be made by December 31, 2017, to qualify for this year.

ST. MARY’S PLAY GROUP
Calling all moms of babies and toddlers! Join St. Mary’s Play Group on January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Joseph Room of the parish Lyceum (313 Duke Street) for crafts, snacks and fun! The group meets every Monday school when is in session at local venues and parks. Contact Jen Retz at saintmarystots@gmail.com for more information.

SEMINARIANS BASKETBALL CHALLENGE
Come watch as the high school men from the Quo Vadis discernment group take on the Arlington seminarians, with guest referees Bishop Burbidge and Fr. Christopher Vaccaro. There will be vocational testimonies at halftime, a spirit squad competition and a pizza party at the end. The event is Sunday, January 7, 2018, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the St. John Paul the Great High School gym, 17700 Dominican Drive, Dumfries, VA (www.jpthegreat.org). Families are welcome. High school boys interested in playing on the Quo Vadis team should contact the Office of Vocations, 703.841.2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. There is no need to RSVP to attend the event itself.

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UPCOMING FRANCISCAN MONASTERY EVENTS
The National Symphony Orchestra will perform a free chamber music concert at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America on Wednesday, January 3, 7 p.m., as part of the NSO in Your Neighborhood concert series. A light reception follows.

Nativities of the World, a collection of more than 150 mostly-handcrafted crèches from around the globe, is on exhibit at the Franciscan Monastery through January 7, daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many are created from local materials such as nuts, wood, straw and felt. See the universality of the Catholic faith through the eyes of different cultures.

The Monastery is located at 1400 Quincy Street NE, Washington, DC. Free parking; near Brookland-CUA Metro/H6 bus toward Ft. Lincoln. Additional information is available at myfranciscan.org and 202.526.6800.

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