The Basilica of Saint Mary

Founded 1795 - Alexandria, Virginia

February 2, 2020
The Presentation of the Lord

Very Rev. Edward C. Hathaway, Rector
Rev. David A. Dufresne, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Nicholas F. Blank, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Noah C. Morey, In Residence
Rev. Kevin Barnekow, In Residence
Rev. Mr. Brian Wirth, Deacon

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

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

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

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

SATURDAY
8:30 a.m., 5 p.m. (Vigil for Sunday)

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

FEDERAL HOLIDAYS & HOLY DAYS
Check the bulletin and parish website

Sacrament of Penance

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

Basilica Hours

MONDAY-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-FRIDAY 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena
Monday, 12 noon
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday through Friday, 6:30 to 8 a.m.
Wednesday, 12:40 to 7:30 p.m.
Holy Hour with Compline
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nocturnal Adoration
First Friday, 9 p.m., until Saturday, 7:30 a.m.
First Saturday Devotion (1st Saturday of the month)
8 a.m. Adoration and Meditation on a Mystery of the Rosary
8:30 a.m. Mass 9 a.m. Confessions and Rosary

Baptisms

Sunday, 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 Presentation in the Temple*
by Philippe de Champaigne, 1648

Consider Getting Involved in Our Parish

Worship

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12:30 -7:30 p.m. Wed.	**Maureen Breiner**	tb5va@aol.com
Altar Servers	**Fr. 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 9p.m.1st Friday to 6 a.m. 1st Saturday	**Helen Lynch**	helenlynch21 @gmail.com
Rosary Prayer Group Rosary before 8 a.m. Mass on weekdays	**Call Parish Office**	703.836.4100
Rosary Society	**William Beach**	wbeachkoc459 @gmail.com
Sacristans	**Steve Young**	asyoung001 @gmail.com
Sanctuary Society	**Stephanie Giorlando**	ccampbell49@cox.net
Schola Cantorum 10 a.m. Sunday Mass	**David Elliott**	delliott @stmaryoldtown.org
Ushers	**Randolph MacPherson**	macpherson @halloransage.com

Service

ALIVE! Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically	**Tim Burns**	alive.saintmarys @gmail.com
Bereavement Committee Receptions after funerals	**Kitty Guy** **Margaret Susank**	kitguy100@aol.com 703.765.9478 susank02@comcast.net 703.706.8095
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	**Chris Lewis**	jclewis00@gmail.com
Pro-Life Activities	**Melinda and Chuck Zakrzwski**	stmotprolife @gmail.com
Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA)	**Annie Hall** (St. Mary Ambassador)	ahall @stmaryoldtown.org
Shut-In Visitation	**Call Parish Office**	703.836.4100
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul	**Jim Larocco**	rocca-rocco@usa.net
Sunrise Retirement Home	**Fr. Nicholas**	frnicholas @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**	nannysadie@aol.com
That Man Is You	**Wayne Cimons**	tmiystmaryoldtown @gmail.com
Walking with Purpose	**Barbara Dwyer and Julie Guiffre**	stmaryswwp @gmail.com

Fellowship

American Heritage Girls Troop 0325	**Beth Ann Garcia**	bamgarcia3@gmail.com 202.468.8147
Ancient Order of Hibernians	**Tim Donnelly**	tim.donnelly1 @gmail.com
Boy Scout Troop 301	**Dan Scheeler**	dscheeler@gmail.com
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Kavanaugh #54	**Marguerite McAuliffe**	mcauliffe916 @yahoo.com
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 2-8	**Kathryn Doherty**	kathryndoherty @gmail.com 202.270.6008
Knights of Columbus www.kofc459.org	**Steve Teslik**	basilicaofstmarysknights @gmail.com
Praying College Moms	**Luanne Griffin**	pcm@stmaryoldtown.org
Saint Mary's Play Group	**Jennelle Hoffman**	saintmarystots @gmail.com
Saints Anne & Joachim Society Seniors 55+	**Barbara Juszczyk**	barbaraj.seniors @aol.com
Youth & Young Adult Apostolates	**Arragon Perrone**	aperrone @stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100 x 3024

To learn more about our parish Apostolates, please visit www.stmaryoldtown.org.

Basilica of Saint Mary STAFF
703.836.4100

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x 3015 / sbyrne@stmaryoldtown.org

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

Oremus pro invicem "Let us pray for each other"

Father Edward C. Hathaway, Rector

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On this **Sunday, February 2**, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** in the temple in Jerusalem on the 40th day after His birth. When Mary and Joseph arrived in the temple, they met Simeon, a "just and devout man, waiting for the consolation of Israel" and Anna, a widow of "advanced years" who spent all her time praying and fasting in the temple. Simeon eagerly embraced the Christ Child, calling Him "a light for the revelation of the Gentiles." (See Luke 2:22-38 for the full story of the Presentation.)

Simeon's words inspired the custom of blessing candles – representing the Light of Christ – on this day, also known as **Candlemas**. Blessed candles for personal use in the home will be available for a small donation after our Masses this weekend.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 2 we also celebrate World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, recognizing the witness of religious women and men who choose to follow Christ by living according to the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

We are very blessed to have two groups of consecrated religious women here in Alexandria:

The Poor Clares of the Monastery of Mary, Mother of the Church, are contemplative, cloistered nuns residing not far from here, near Saint Louis Church. A spiritual "powerhouse" for our diocese, they are dedicated to Saint Francis' ideal of absolute poverty and rely on donations for support. See their website at https://poorclaresofalexandria.org for more information about their way of life and mission.

The Daughters of Saint Paul live, pray and carry out an active apostolate of evangelization using various forms of social communication. You can find the Pauline Sisters in their Pauline Books and Media Center at 1025 King Street, Old Town Alexandria, and through their website at www.pauline.org.

The Basilica also is currently blessed to have four **Dominican friars** helping with our parish religious education programs and visiting the homebound. In formation at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC, they are preparing to become preachers and teachers in the tradition of Saint Dominic. You can learn more at https://dhs.edu.

Please thank and pray for those who have made such profound commitments in the consecrated life. They, too, help provide "light" in our world.

SAINT BLAISE & BLESSING OF THE THROATS

Tomorrow, **Monday, February 3**, is the memorial of Saint Blaise, a 4th century bishop, martyr and healer. His aid is often invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat. In anticipation of the Feast of Saint Blaise, a blessing of the throats will take place at our Sunday Masses **this weekend**, including the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Daily Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 2
The Presentation of the Lord
Communion Antiphon: My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples. Lk 2:30-31
7 a.m. — Kristine Raffetto
8:30 a.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
10 a.m. — Catherine Green Worthington
11:30 a.m. — James Lynn
1 p.m. — Joe Marx
5 p.m. — Robert Kane

Monday, February 3
6:30 a.m. — Yardley Schuyler
8 a.m. — Albert Levis
12:10 p.m. — Magdalen M. Benish

Tuesday, February 4
6:30 a.m. — Frances Beck
8 a.m. — Roger Riddell
12:10 p.m. — Louis Rios

Wednesday, February 5
6:30 a.m. — Al Woodson Sr.
8 a.m. — Christian Guerreiro
12:10 p.m. — Antonio Guerreiro

Thursday, February 6
6:30 a.m. — Special Intention: President Trump and All Elected and Appointed Representatives
8 a.m. — Renee Signorelli
12:10 p.m. — Catherine Guidoni

Friday, February 7
6:30 a.m. — Souls in Purgatory
8 a.m. — Jim Fambrough
12:10 p.m. — Doris Reeves Carson

Saturday, February 8
8:30 a.m. — Special Intention: Rev. Leopoldo Vives
5 p.m. Vigil — Geraldine Mitchell

Sunday, February 9
7 a.m. — Ron Nelson
8:30 a.m. — Michael Walsh
10 a.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
11:30 a.m. — Carl Fronckewicz
1 p.m. — Special Intention: Family of Ashley Koslicki
5 p.m. — Gerry Boehling Jr.

WE WELCOME THROUGH BAPTISM:
Josephine Camille Bombard

PRAY FOR THE ILL, INCLUDING:
Anne Adams, Dutch Anderson, Suzanne Aragona, Marilyn Bahret, Robert Barnhart, **Maria Campo,** Kara Cusano, James Breedlove, Mary Davis, Betty Jean Deshler, John Dina, Sara Dina, Jean Edwards, Hart Franko, Michael Friedson, Doris Gillis, Gage Sheridan Gribbon, Michael Hahn, Michael Henderson, Mary Ann Hohman, Jackson Foltz Huttman, Michele Jones, Frederick Kroesen, Chiara Le, Alex Macgillivray, Carol Mahoney, Wesley Michael, **Nicolas Neam**, Terry Nunan, Doris Parker, Thomas Parker, Jeffrey Petrino, Robert Reilly, Bernadette Riffenberg, Marge Rusnak, Bradley Saull, **James Shiller**, **Baby Hale Robert Smith, Sarah Smith,** Kelli Solsma, Kimberly Taylor, Olga Teer, Rita Underwood, John Van Slyke, John Warrener and Randy Weber

Please call 703.836.4100 to add or remove names. Names of the ill are listed for four weeks unless otherwise requested.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, INCLUDING:
Ginger Wagstaff

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY, INCLUDING:
Michael Andriani, Bryan Bergman, Timothy P. Blaine, Fr. CH (LTJG) Jason C. Burchell, Casey Chandler, Peter Culbert, Alex Deerr, Nicholas David Fletcher, Kevin Gallagher, Mary Elizabeth Hawkes, Brayden Hill, Jeremy Hill, Faith Emilee Holman, Jenna Kling, Joseph A. Krzemien, Kaylyn E. Krzemien, Ryan Maple, Caitlin Callaghan Martins, Mark Martins, Nathan Martins, Sara McAlpin, Mitchell Mehaffey, Hannah Martins Miller, Joshua Parker, Edward Joseph Parry III, Vincent P. Pensyl, Chris Quayle, David Alejandro Sandoval, Michael Stabile Jr., Patricia Stabile, Patrick Tuccillo, Josh Villeneuve, Jim Wiltsie and Brian Wong

If an individual listed here is no longer in the service (military or civilian — law enforcement, firefighter, etc.) let us know at 703.836.4100 or bulletin@stmaryoldtown.org.

PRAY FOR OUR DIOCESAN PRIESTS
February 2 — Rev. Geronimo A. (Jerome) Magat
February 3 — Rev. Philip S. Majka (Retired)
February 4 — Rev. David L. Martin
February 5 — Rev. Franklyn M. McAfee (Retired)
February 6 — Rev. Brian B. McAllister
February 7 — Rev. Stephen F. McGraw
February 8 — Rev. Martin McGuill (Retired)

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS
Are you ready for "a living encounter with the Lord in His people"?
Are you being called by the Lord to serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life?
Call Fr. Michael Isenberg at 703.841.2514
or write michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

WORSHIP & ONGOING FAITH FORMATION

Parish Mission in Lent

Father Emmerich Vogt, O.P., will lead a parish mission at the Basilica of Saint Mary during Lent. His mission theme will be *Principles of the Spiritual Life: Spiritual Healing.* Father Vogt will be here to preach at the Vigil Mass on **Saturday, March 14**, and at all Masses on **Sunday, March 15**. He will then present a series of talks on **Monday, March 16, through Thursday, March 19**. Watch the bulletin and our website for additional details.

A Dominican priest, Father Vogt has been featured on EWTN and is the author of *The Freedom to Love: Recovery and the Seven Deadly Sins* and *Eucharistic Principles of the Spiritual Life*.

FORMED

A FREE, comprehensive, online library of Catholic resources is available to Saint Mary parishioners at https://stmaryoldtown.formed.org.

Liturgical Calendar This Week

February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord. Also known as Candlemas. Commemorates the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem, officially inducting Him into Judaism. Also World Day for Consecrated Life for all religious who are consecrated to God by vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

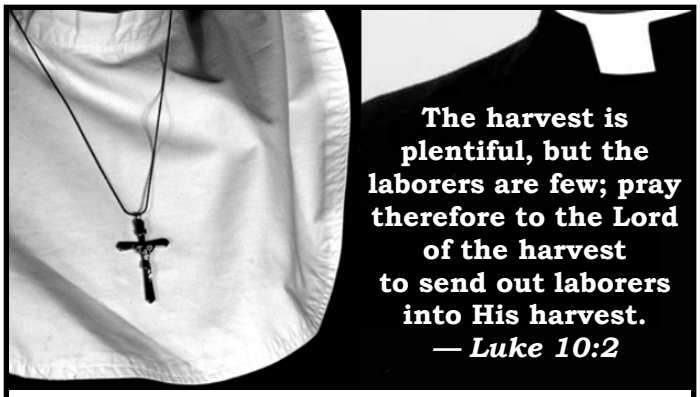
February 3 – Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr. Early 4th century bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. Associated with the healing of throats. **Saint Ansgar, Bishop.** Benedictine missionary to Denmark and Sweden; bishop of Hamburg; known as the "Apostle of the North." Died in 865.

February 5 – Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr. Martyred in Sicily, c. 251. Invoked for protection against volcanic eruptions and fires.

February 6 – Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs. Jesuit scholastic and 25 companions who were crucified in 1597 by order of the ruler Hideyoshi at Nagasaki. First martyrs of the Far East; canonized in 1862 by Pope Pius IX.

February 8 – Saint Jerome Emiliani. Venetian soldier whose conversion led to the founding (1534) of the Clerks Regular of Somascha, dedicated to the poor and the education of youth. Patron of orphans and abandoned children.

Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin. Sudanese, born c. 1869. Raised in the Islamic faith. Kidnapped as a child by slave traders; purchased by the Italian Consul and sent to live with the Canossian Sisters in Venice. Eventually granted her freedom and joined that order, serving 50 years as cook, seamstress and portress. Died in 1947. Canonized the first Sudanese saint by Pope John Paul II in 2000 as a witness to evangelical reconciliation and model of freedom.



Families and individuals are invited to participate in a new 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 **Vocation Crucifix Program**, please contact Elena Otero-Bigg at ebigg@stmaryoldtown.org.

DAILY MASS READINGS

Sign up to receive daily Mass readings, plus audio and prayerful reflections, via email from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

The flowers this weekend were donated in memory of Libby Daniel and Lori Hahn.

NEW PARISH PODCAST

THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH IN 1795

with Robert Royal

Robert Royal, President of the Faith & Reason Institute and Editor-in-Chief of *The Catholic Thing*, presented the first lecture of our 1795 Lecture Series on January 21. He spoke about *The World and the Church in 1795.* Listen to a podcast of the lecture at https://stmaryoldtown.org/robert-royal-lecture-2020. Or download via Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Find our complete podcast archive, featuring more talks and interviews, at http://stmaryoldtown.libsyn.com/.

FAMILY, CHILDREN & YOUTH

BOOK FAIR!!!

The Basilica School of Saint Mary Book Fair is open for business **through Monday, February 3**, during normal school hours (8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.). LOCATION: Christ Child Hall, lower level of the Middle School. We carry a wonderful selection of books for all ages plus educational games and gifts. All proceeds will benefit the Basilica School library! NOTE: *On school days, please enter through the main building to obtain a visitor's pass.*

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

The Basilica of Saint Mary has an American Heritage Girls Troop, "VA 0325," for girls ages 5-18. We meet twice a month to combine the AHG program of "Raising Women of Integrity" with our Catholic foundation of following Our Lady's "Yes" in all God asks of us as we learn to walk with Christ. We earn badges, have parties, enjoy serving our neighbor, take field trips and have fun along the way. For more information, visit: stmaryoldtown.org/Apostolate/AHG or please contact Bethann García at bamgarcia3@gmail.com.

Join our prayer ministry to serve the youth at our parish!

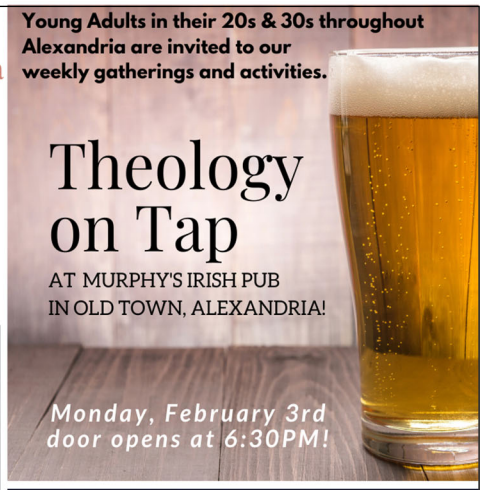
Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you." (John 16:23)

You are invited to join a **prayer ministry** to pray for the youth and future of our Church! Let's follow in the footsteps of Saint Monica and join our prayers to those of the Blessed Mother for the healing and growth of our youth in the Faith.

To get involved, contact Mariane Staron, Assistant Director, Youth & Young Adult Apostolates at mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org or 703.836.4100, extension 3030.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' TEACHER JOB FAIR

The Arlington Diocese Office of Catholic Schools is sponsoring a Job Fair for prospective teachers from 9 to 11 a.m., **Saturday, March 7** at Saint Paul VI High School in Fairfax. More information is available at https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Catholic-Schools/Careers/ or call 703.841.2519.



FELLOWSHIP & SERVING OTHERS

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS FEBRUARY MEETING

Ladies of the Parish, please join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Kavanaugh #54, at our next regular meeting at 7 p.m. on **Monday, February 10**, in the Saint Joseph's Room of the Lyceum. The meeting will be preceded by a Meet and Greet at 6:30 p.m. CDA is a national Catholic organization for women dedicated to prayer and charitable works. It provides a perfect opportunity to make new friends and enjoy the fulfillment that service to others brings. For more information, please contact Regent Marguerite McAuliffe at mcauliffe916@yahoo.com.

2020 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL IS UNDERWAY!

A mailing for the 2020 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) was sent to all registered households in the Diocese of Arlington in January. The theme for the 2020 BLA is "Steadfast in Faith and Joyful in Hope."

After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to support this important annual appeal that funds many programs and ministries serving thousands of people in our Diocese. Together, through the BLA, let us renew our personal commitment to furthering the Lord's work in our community.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

The Catholic Herald: **February 2**
Aid to the Church in Central & Eastern Europe: **February 26**
Black & Indian Missions: **March 1**

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

Serves single Catholics 40 and over. Meet us for: lunch (**every Thursday**); Mass, concert and lunch in DC (**February 5**); Flamenco dance program (**February 8**); bowling (**February 15**); piano concert at Saint Luke Church (**February 16**); dinner at Guapo's in Shirlington (**February 23**); Institute of Catholic Culture dinner and talk (**March 1**). For details, see the PTSC website at bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Many thanks to Ten Thousand Villages for advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize our sponsors!

Mark you calendar for our FABULOUS annual

Saint Patrick's Irish Hooley

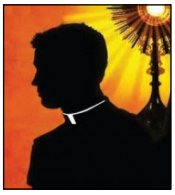
SATURDAY, March 14

Saint Mary School Gym

Last year's Hooley was a sell-out, so get your tickets NOW at www.stmaryoldtown.org/hooley2020

Watch for more info in the bulletin and on our website

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN



Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood? Take a step to find out. Attend the weekend discernment retreat for men (ages 18-55) **February 29-March 1**. This is a great opportunity for prayer and discernment, confession, and talking with priests and seminarians. Cost is $60 and includes overnights and all meals (financial assistance is available if needed). Retreat starts Friday at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at 703.841.2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Deadline to register is **Friday, February 14**. There will be a similar retreat for women **June 26-28**.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK

Please join the Alexandria-Springfield Chapter of the Catholic Business Network (www.CBNNoVa.org) on **Tuesday, February 11** at 5:30 p.m. at Michael's Little Italy (formerly La Trattoria), 2nd Floor, 305 South Washington Street in Alexandria for networking, food, friendship and our guest speaker, Karen Beck. An executive and leadership coach, she will provide tips on how to "Reach Your 2020 Goals." RSVP at www.CBNNoVa.org in the "Upcoming Events" column. Contact Paula Potoczak at PMPLaw@Earthlink.net or Madeline Caporiccio at MCaporiccio@McEnearney.com with any questions. Pre-registration is preferred.

AROUND OUR PARISH & BEYOND

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A periodic look at the history of our parish as we celebrate our 225th anniversary this year.

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY
Founded 1795 - Alexandria, Virginia

1878 REQUIEM MASS FOR POPE PIUS IX

On February 7, 1878 – 142 years ago this week – Pope Pius IX died in Rome. He was the longest serving elected pope in Church history, serving for more than 31 years.

A Requiem Mass was held in his honor here at Saint Mary. For three days, the parish prepared drapery for the solemn occasion. The exterior of the church was draped with festoons of black over the main entrance. Papal and American flags were placed over the doorway, also draped in black. Elaborate hangings covered the inside of the church. The galleries were draped with black, heavy folds, secured with white bands and purple rosettes. The columns supporting the galleries were shrouded in similar material. The windows were covered with black. The entire church was enveloped in an air of gloom.

The sanctuary was adorned with black hangings in heavy folds, with long pendants, all radiating from the keystone of the arch, on which was placed a large silver cross. The drapery here was relieved by white bands and purple rosettes. The marble altar and its large candlesticks, and the side altars, were draped in purple and white (the papal colors). The pulpit was heavily draped in black cloth trimmed with silver fringe.

A catafalque was placed in front of the altar rail, with two cloth covers, one red and the other purple. Atop this was a casket covered with white cloth trimmed in gold fringe. At the head of the casket was a cross covered with flowers on a crimson ground, representing the Papal Court. The whole thing was surrounded by lighted candles, as was the darkened church. [AUTHOR'S NOTE: With all those candles and draperies, it's a miracle they didn't burn the church down!]

The congregation for the Mass was standing room only, one of the largest ever seen in Alexandria. No sermon was preached. Members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society ushered and kept order. Saint Mary's bells tolled from 12 to 3 p.m. and the draperies were ordered to remain 30 days, or until a new pope was elected. *– Kitty Guy, Parish Historian*

1795 LECTURE SERIES
THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

Our 1795 Lecture Series will occur throughout 2020 to commemorate the Basilica of Saint Mary's 225th anniversary.
Please join us!

Jesuit Martyrs in Virginia
with Fr. Andrew Fisher
Saturday, February 8
9 a.m. (after 8:30 a.m. Mass)
Lyceum Auditorium (313 Duke Street)
Father Fisher was ordained to the priesthood in 1998 and is Pastor of Saint Ambrose Parish in Annandale. Many of the priests serving our parish in its early years were Jesuits. The stained glass windows in our choir loft depict the North American Jesuit martyrs. This event is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas – Court Kavanaugh #54. Coffee and doughnuts will be served with a freewill donation.

The Catholic Church in Colonial America
with Fr. Charles Connor
Tuesday, February 18
7:30 p.m.
Lyceum Auditorium (313 Duke Street)
Father Connor teaches at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. He is an expert in Church history and the author of *Pioneer Priests and Makeshift Altars: A History of Catholicism in the Thirteen Colonies*. He has hosted several series on EWTN, including *Catholic Beginnings*, which explores the rich Catholic heritage in America and its influence on the development of this nation.

AROUND OUR PARISH & BEYOND

NEARLY $7,500 RAISED TO HELP SAVE BABIES

The Basilica of Saint Mary raised nearly $7,500 in January to help A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center provide mothers with free images of their unborn child. The Basilica's Knights of Columbus organized the drive and collected donations after the Masses on the weekend of January 19.

"The donations have exceeded our expectations," said Steve Teslik, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus – Fitzgerald Council 459. "This exemplifies how caring and compassionate this parish is."

A Best Choice uses a mobile medical center to serve women in Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC. Being in a vehicle helps them be a presence at area abortion facilities, pregnancy centers without ultrasound and universities. The group, based in Woodbridge, brought their RV to the Basilica so parishioners could see the mobile medical center.

"It was wonderful to be able to share our mission with the parishioners who came onboard the RV to know more about what we do," said Angela Clark, Executive Director of A Best Choice. "We are also blessed by the outpouring of prayers and support for this endeavor."

In 2019, A Best Choice counseled 175 women and provided 131 free ultrasounds. There were 29 women who reported back to the group that they decided not to terminate their pregnancy. Since two of those mothers had twins, 31 babies were saved.

Visit A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center's website at https://abestchoice.us/ to learn more about the organization.

WE ARE PRO-LIFE!

The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion because it is a war against the child. — *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

Second Annual Virginia March for Life
Thursday, February 13

Raise your voices in prayer and advocacy during the second annual **Virginia March for Life** in Richmond on **Thursday, February 13**. Opening Mass in the Greater Richmond Convention Center at 9:15 a.m. with Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge and Richmond Bishop Barry Knestout.
Rally at the State Capitol at 11:45 a.m.; March begins at 12:45 p.m.
For more information, visit https://vacatholic.org/news-events/virginia-march-for-life.

From Bishop Burbidge: *"This is a critical year in Virginia. Exercising our duty of faithful citizenship is more urgent now than ever as state legislators are moving rapidly to enact bills to remove necessary parental and ultrasound informed-consent requirements before an abortion is performed. Thus to eliminate health and safety standards for abortion facilities, and even to establish the "fundamental right to personal reproductive autonomy" in the Virginia Constitution. The activities planned for the Virginia March for Life will offer a powerful day of prayer and advocacy on behalf of the most innocent and vulnerable Virginians."*

Spiritual Adoption Program – Month 1

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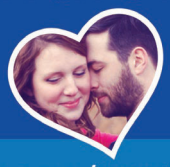

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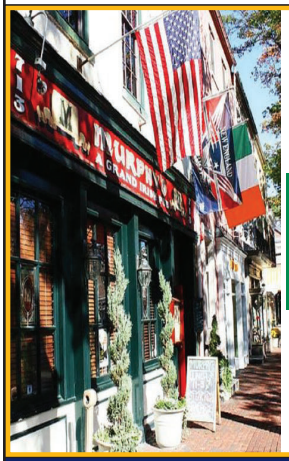

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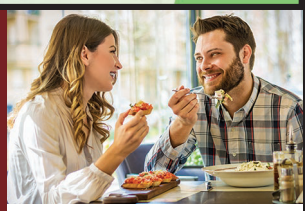

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