



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

Founded 1795 - Alexandria, Virginia

November 28, 2021
First 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 Cimonis 703.973.5412	tmiystmaryoldtown@gmail.com
Walking with Purpose	Mindee Arritt	wwp@stmaryoldtown.org
FELLOWSHIP		
American Heritage Girls Troop 0325	Teresa McMorris	stmaryahg@gmail.com
Ancient Order of Hibernians	Brendan Cooney	brendan.p.cooney1@gmail.com
Boy Scout Troop 301	Dan Scheeler	dscheeler@gmail.com
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Kavanaugh #54	Marguerite McAuliffe	mmca8474@gmail.com
Catholic Sports www.catholicsports.net	Helena Briggs	catholicsports@stmaryoldtown.org
Cub Scout Pack 301	Patrick Lusch	cc.pack301@gmail.com
CYO Sports	Mary Fran Delaune	mfdelaune@aol.com
Girl Scouts	Alice Goulet	downeytwina@comcast.net
Junior Catholic Daughters Girls grades 6-12	Kathryn Doherty	kathryndoherty@gmail.com 202.270.6008
Knights of Columbus www.kofc459.org	Chuck Zakrzwski	basilicaofstmarysknights@gmail.com
Praying College Moms	Luanne Griffin	pcm@stmaryoldtown.org
Saint Mary's Play Group	Jennelle Hoffman Claire Purple	saintmarystots@gmail.com
Saints Anne & Joachim Society Seniors 55+	Barbara Juszczyk	barbaraj.seniors@aol.com
Youth & Young Adult Apostolates	Mariane Staron	mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org 703.836.4100 x 3030



Basilica of Saint Mary STAFF
703.836.4100

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

Father Edward C. Hathaway, Rector

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, November 28, is the First Sunday of Advent, a four-week season of hopeful longing, joyful expectation and prayerful penance. Advent connects us spiritually with God’s plan of redemption through Jesus Christ as we prepare for His coming as an infant at Christmas and His Coming as our Redeemer at the end of time.

A popular Advent tradition for the entire family is the Advent wreath, typically a circle of evergreen with four candles. The first candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent as we pray or reflect on Sacred Scripture. The second, third and fourth candles are lit on the following Sundays. Three candles are usually violet, symbolizing the prayer, penance, preparatory sacrifices and good works we should undertake during Advent. One candle is rose-colored and is lit on the Third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing as the birth of Christ draws near.



We will bless and light our Basilica Advent wreath at Mass this weekend. In your home, an Advent wreath can be blessed by a parent or other family member. You can find prayers for blessings your wreath at <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-advent-wreath>.

ADORATION TO END ABORTION

Catholics across the country will participate in Eucharistic Adoration to End Abortion on **Wednesday, December 1**, as the U.S. Supreme Court hears *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health*, a case that could affect efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the federal law that legalized abortion in this country.

Here at the Basilica, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar for Eucharistic Adoration **each Wednesday** following the 12:10 p.m. Mass until conclusion of a Holy Hour at 8:30 p.m. This week, on December 1, I encourage you to pray, at home or in the Basilica during Adoration, that the sacredness of every human life be protected and upheld, both in law and in culture.

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR #1

REMEMBER: “Do this in remembrance of me”

This first year of our Arlington Diocese preparation for celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2024 focuses on the *Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the Meaning of the Mass*. Two events here at the Basilica this week will reflect that theme:

- This evening, **Sunday, November 28**, at 7 p.m., please join us for Golden Jubilee Vespers, or Evening Prayer of the Catholic Church, in the Basilica. The celebrant will be Father Andrew Fisher, pastor of Saint Ambrose Church in Annandale.
- Join our RCIA class for a special presentation, *The Mass Explained*, by Father David Dufresne, on **Monday, November 29**, in the Basilica, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Father David will take us through the Mass, step and step. What a great way for everyone – from cradle Catholic to newcomer – to learn more about the Mass and the Eucharist, the very source and summit of our Catholic faith. It also will be live streamed at <https://vimeo.com/647791853> and available on our parish website for future viewing.

IN OUR PRAYERS

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 28

- 7 a.m. — Jean Marie Lail †
8:30 a.m. — George Moorachian †
10 a.m. — Parishioners of Saint Mary
11:30 a.m. — Clara Andrade †
1 p.m. — Special Intention: Chuck Cernansky
5 p.m. — Rosario Cubas †

Monday, November 29

- 6:30 a.m. — Marianne Trana †
8 a.m. — Jean Marie Lail †
12:10 p.m. — Eugene McElwain †

Tuesday, November 30

- 6:30 a.m. — Robert G. Fracasso Sr. †
8 a.m. — Andrew Benson †
12:10 p.m. — Rebecca Lynn Martin †

Wednesday, December 1

- 6:30 a.m. — Souls in Purgatory
8 a.m. — William Mulcahy †
12:10 p.m. — Bart and Jane Sullivan †

Thursday, December 2

- 6:30 a.m. — Tom Nunan †
8 a.m. — Special Intention: Monsignor Michael Morgan
12:10 p.m. — In Thanksgiving from the Sullivan Family

Friday, December 3

- 6:30 a.m. — Mary Chow Woon Leung †
8 a.m. — Special Intention: Augustin F. Otero
12:10 p.m. — Special Intention: Maureen Scalia

Saturday, December 4

- 8:30 a.m. — Robert McJury †
5 p.m. — Nancy Blackburn †

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 28

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2;
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday, November 29

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, November 30

Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday, December 1

Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 2

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 3

Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 4

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

WE WELCOME THROUGH BAPTISM

Claire Ann Cook and Charles Callum Meara

PRAY FOR THE ILL, INCLUDING

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

PRAY FOR ALL THE RECENTLY DECEASED

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

Alex Deerr, Tim Galginaitis, 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

November 28 — Rev. Peter W. Nassetta
November 29 — Rev. William Nyce
November 30 — Rev. John M. O'Donohue
December 1 — Rev. John T. O'Hara (Retired)
December 2 — Rev. Keith M. O'Hare
December 3 — Rev. J. Kevin O'Keefe
December 4 — Rev. Steven G. Oetjen

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

The LORD is our righteousness.

Are you being called to bring the word of God as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister?

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

NOVEMBER: People Who Suffer from Depression.

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

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. This is not a Mass; attending will not fulfill your Holy Day Obligation.

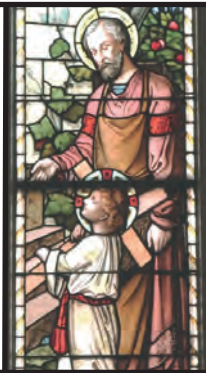
❖ **December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)** The 40 Hours Devotion closes with Benediction at 11:45 a.m. and Reposition before the 12:10 p.m. Holy Day Mass. In addition to our regular weekday Masses (6:30 a.m., 8 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.), there will be two additional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



Sign up to participate in the 40 Hours at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4da4a929a7f94-40hours1> or use the sign-up book at the back of Basilica. If you are unable to commit or a specific time slot, feel free to stop by any time during the 40 Hours.

Year of Saint Joseph

Though thou hast recourse to many saints as thine intercessors, go specially to Saint Joseph, for he has great power with God.
— *Saint Teresa of Avila*



HOMILIES BY BISHOP BURBIDGE

Available at youtube.com/arlintondiocese



GOLDEN JUBILEE VESPERS! TODAY!!!! Sunday, November 28 — 7 p.m.

On this First Sunday in Advent we will mark the beginning of the Arlington Diocese Golden Jubilee preparation period with Vespers here at the Basilica of Saint Mary.

Celebrant will be Father Andrew Fisher, pastor of Saint Ambrose Church in Annandale.

All are welcome!

Q & A Exploring & Practicing Our Catholic Faith

Q: Why is the Holy Spirit represented by a dove?

A: We can thank our Jewish roots for the dove symbol. The Babylonian *Talmud* compares the Spirit of God that hovers over the waters at creation to a dove: “And the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters— like a dove which hovers over her young without touching [them].” In another, Old Testament example, a dove was sent out by Noah in search of land after the waters of the flood stopped. “The dove came back to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf” (Genesis 8:11). This episode is directly connected to the baptism of Jesus as the flood is seen in Christianity as a type or prefigurement of baptism.

So, by the time of the New Testament, doves were already very much associated with God and His Spirit. Early Christians adopted this imagery and began depicting the Holy Spirit almost exclusively as a dove. In Christian art, the dove is shown at the baptism of Jesus and other pivotal events, such as the Annunciation when Mary was informed she would bear the Son of God. In fact, some of the first tabernacles containing the Eucharist were made in the form of a dove suspended over the altar.



FELLOWSHIP & SERVING OTHERS

From Your Saint Vincent de Paul Society

We volunteers at your SVdP hope you all had a joyous Thanksgiving. As we start Advent, a time of preparation and penance, let us reflect on our neighbors who are facing a tough winter as the cost of utilities rises higher and higher. Laura, an elderly lady who lives on a shoe-string budget, counting her pennies carefully, has found it difficult to keep up with these rising costs. She and many others in our community, including families with small children, are struggling to meet bills and avoid cutoffs. Help us help them keep the water flowing, the heat on and the stove flames burning for hot meals. Giving Tuesday is only a few days away. Please think of Laura and many others on this special day.



2021 CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The second collection next weekend, **December 11 and 12**, is the annual Catholic Charities Christmas Collection. It provides 10 percent of Catholic Charities' annual funding. The need is especially critical now as the economic impact of COVID-19 continues. April 2020 through March 2021, Catholic Charities provided \$4.8 million in food, rent and utility assistance. They also offer mental health counseling, pregnancy and adoption support, immigration and refugee assistance, job training, free medical care and other essential services. For more information, see www.ccca.net.
Thanks for your generosity!



MOTHER OF LIGHT CENTER CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

MOLC will distribute gifts to more than 500 children in Northern Virginia this Christmas. Approximately 300 families will receive Christmas packages with gifts for each child and a gift card (or two!). Please consider helping MOLC reach their goal by donating a new gift (worth \$15-30) or gift cards to Walmart or Target by December 10. Drop off at MOLC at 421 Clifford Avenue, Alexandria, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Or visit their Amazon Wish List at <https://bit.ly/MOLCChristmas>. For additional information, email motheroflightcenter@gmail.com or call 703.850.6701.

Support the BI Crew Team! Shop local and let the Bishop Ireton Crew Team help with your holiday shopping!

The BI Crew Team is selling Christmas Fruit Baskets. Order now and all items will be delivered to your home on **December 17**. Each basket contains an assortment of fresh fruit supplied by Keany produce in Alexandria. The crew team assembles the baskets and delivers them to your doorstep. Please email BICAFruitOrders@gmail.com to place an order.



CATHOLIC SPORTS UPDATES For Young Adults 18-39!

Upcoming Leagues

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

Bible Studies

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

Socials

Stay tuned for our first social events coming up! Sign up for our email list at www.catholicsports.net/emailsSignup.

If you have questions or would like to connect, email catholicsports@stmaryoldtown.org or text Helena at 540.551.2271.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOOD BASKETS!!

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

Check www.stmaryoldtown.org for items needed and drop-off details. For more information, contact Adelaide Biegun at sbiegun@aol.com.

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.

You can find the Giving Tree set up in the back of the Basilica.

Please take a tree tag to make a donation to the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel or the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.

Questions? Please contact Mariane Staron at mstaron@stmaryoldtown.org.

CYO BASKETBALL BAKE SALE

A CYO Basketball-sponsored bake sale will be held after all Masses at the Basilica of Saint Mary on **Saturday and Sunday, December 4/5**. Proceeds will help pay for basketball uniforms.

Please support our parish youth programs with your donations. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Our Basilica School of Saint Mary Home School Association will be selling Christmas trees on the school blacktop (400 Green Street), beginning **Saturday, December 3** — or earlier, depending on when the trees are delivered.

Please be sure to check our parish website at www.stmaryoldtown.org for updated information!

<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!

"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks."

St. Teresa of Avila

All High Schoolers are invited to join us at

Friday Night Hangout

with a service opportunity
and discussion



December 3rd | 7:30PM
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



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, Old Town Alexandria.

Kids of all ages and families are invited for picture-taking with Baby Jesus.

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

Story-telling and Christmas carols 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@paulinemediamedia.com.

UPCOMING PRO-LIFE RALLY!

The Office of Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, who is defending his state's pro-life law, together with many other national groups, is organizing a pro-life rally outside the Supreme Court the day of oral arguments, **Wednesday, December 1**, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please join us in defending life.

MONTHLY NOCTURNAL ADORATION



Additional people are needed to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament during the Basilica of Saint Mary's monthly Nocturnal Adoration on the **first Friday of each month**, beginning at 9 p.m. 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 **December 3**. Vocal prayers during Adoration follow 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.

Liturgical Calendar This Week

— **November 30. Saint Andrew, Apostle.** 1st century. Brother of Simon Peter, disciple of John the Baptist. Tradition holds that he preached north of the Black Sea and in Greece. Died bound to an X-shaped cross at Patras, Greece.
— **December 3. Saint Francis Xavier, Priest.** Died in 1552 at age 46 on the island of Sancion off the China coast. From Navarre; one of the founding Jesuits; preached in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Japan.
— **December 4. Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church.** Born in Damascus, a Muslim city; died in 749. First of the East to formulate a comprehensive synthesis of Christian dogma. Defended the veneration of images. Composed hymns, preached many homilies in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially her Assumption. Last of the Greek Fathers.



B E N - D A V I D W A R N E R
& F R I E N D S

Celtic Christmas Tour

Friday, December 10

Happy Hour, 7 pm - Concert, 7:30pm

*The Basilica of Saint Mary's Lyceum
313 Duke St. Alexandria, VA*

FREE SHOW!

www.bendavidwarner.com

A **FREE**, comprehensive, online library of Catholic formation resources for the entire family is available to Basilica of Saint Mary parishioners at <https://stmaryoldtown.formed.org>.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!
Many thanks to **DEMAINE FUNERAL HOME**
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*



CATHOLICISM IN THE COLONIES

More than two-and-a-half centuries before our Saint Mary parish was founded in 1795, Roman Catholics in England suffered periodic persecution after King Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church of England in 1534. English Catholics were treated like second-class citizens at best. One penal law required every adult male to attend at least one Anglican service each month or pay a one-shilling fine, equivalent to more than \$100 today...a substantial amount for most people.

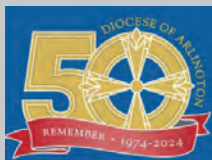


Sir George Calvert

This anti-Catholic attitude was transferred to the American colonies, including Maryland and Virginia. In 1629, Sir George Calvert (c. 1580-1632), a convert to Catholicism and a government official under King James I, sought a land grant to establish a settlement for Catholics in Virginia. But he was informed that Catholics were not welcome in Virginia!

Most Englishmen simply accepted the Anglican Church. Yet, some Catholics – representing all levels of society – remained true to their faith. They were called “recusants” because they were forced to withdraw or recuse themselves from public life and many professions. For example, they could not practice law, were required to pay taxes to support the Church of England and were effectively deprived the right to vote. Later, under the Stuart Kings James I and Charles, in the 1610s to the early 1640s, Catholics were better tolerated and enforcement of the tyrannical penal laws was suspended.

During these turbulent times, a small, tightly knit and devout Catholic community in Maryland persevered. Mass was celebrated and the sacraments were administered in private homes. Their priests, mostly Jesuits, were able to also serve Catholics across the Potomac River in Alexandria. But it wasn't easy. Young men desiring to become priests had to travel to Europe to study. At one point, Maryland enacted a law limiting the right to leave the colony and study abroad. There are accounts of prospective seminarians sneaking out of Maryland to cross the Potomac to Alexandria, under the cover of darkness, to gain passage on ships to pursue studies in Europe. This made it very difficult for newly ordained priests to enter Maryland and thus minister to Catholics in the Virginia colony. Despite the barriers, priests from Maryland came to Alexandria to celebrate Mass, mostly in secret. When freedom of religion finally was proclaimed in Virginia in 1786, Catholics in Alexandria could finally practice their faith openly. – *Kitty Guy, Parish Historian*



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