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THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson Bishop of Virginia

The Right Reverend Gayle Elizabeth Harris

Assistant Bishop of Virginia

The Right Reverend Mark Bourlakas

Assistant Bishop of Virginia

ST MARY'S VESTRY

Suzanne Stroup (2026) Sr. Warden

Chris Jennings (2026) Jr. Warden

Melissa Wiley (2026) Register

Alec Hicks (2026)

Michael Devine (2027)

Campbell Hutton (2027)

Paul Douthit (2028)

Gordon Mantler (2028)

Jessica Whatley (2028)

OUR SERVICES

SUNDAY

8 am, The Holy Eucharist (Coffee following)

10 am, The Holy Eucharist (music) (Live Stream | Coffee following)

5 pm, The Holy Eucharist

10:15 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays Wilderness Church—Zachary Taylor Park

TUESDAY

Noonday Prayer — Chapel 7:30 pm, Centering Prayer (1st & 3rd — Chapel; 2nd & 4th — Zoom)

WEDNESDAY

7 am, The Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY

11 am, Healing and The Holy Eucharist



As I See It...

by Rev. Jannettarose+

Dear Friends,

Just as Spring signals the end of Winter and our daylight hours increase, our parish seems to be the recipient of a series of blessed events. The most frequently asked question I received lately has been, "are you excited?" Truthfully, I must say that I am, and I could not be happier for our church, its ministries, our community, and our outreach partners. Our blessings continue to flow abundantly as we enter a season of growth and transformation. We have before us the opportunity to dream, explore, and discern what we believe God is calling on us to do during this next leg of our journey together. We need only to remain faithful and true to our parish priorities and core values – worship, outreach, and care.



— Fr. Andrew Merrow

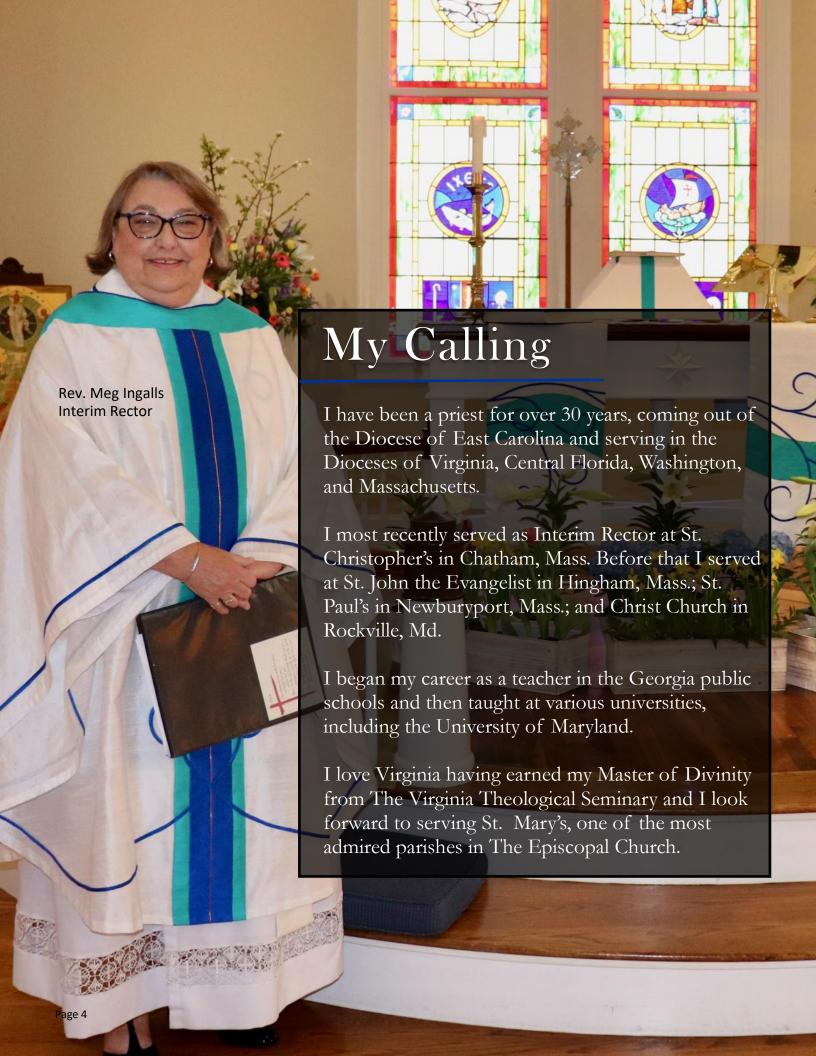
As Fr. Andrew has often said, "we are going from strength to strength." Friends, we have an outstanding Vestry and a solid stewardship team. We have a strong and tight-knit front office staff, including clergy, that supports and inspires each other, going above and beyond with every undertaking. Most importantly, we have you. We, collectively, are what make St. Mary's a special place. A place where everyone lovingly shares their time, talent, and treasure. We the people ordained and lay alike are what make St. Mary's great.

Thank you for affording me this amazing leadership opportunity. It has been both my pleasure and honor of a lifetime to serve as your Priest-in-Charge while we awaited the arrival of Interim Rector, Rev. Meg Ingalls.

Spring is a wonderful time of the year – new life, new beginnings, new arrivals... and new blessings.

Thank you, and God bless.

Rev. Janettarose+





From: Rev. Meg Ingalls



Hello, St. Mary's. I am Rev. Meg Ingalls, and I am deeply honored to be entrusted with the spiritual care of this wonderful congregation as your Interim Rector. I look forward to getting to know each of you and serving alongside you.

During this transition period, I invite you to share your stories, concerns, and hopes for our congregation and community. Together, we can discern God's calling and pursue it with open hearts.

Thank you for the warm welcome you have already shown me. I pray God bless our time together. My husband, Brad, and I look forward to seeing all of you in church, in your home and throughout the community.

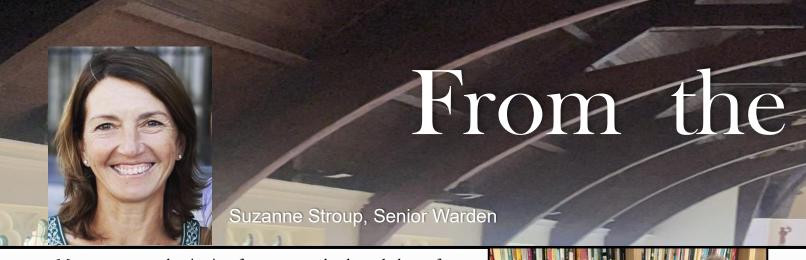
Faithfully,

Mother Meg Interim Rector

<u>Click or scan QR</u> <u>to view video</u>.







May was a great beginning for your newly elected class of Vestry members. We held our first meeting on May 13th and welcomed Paul Douthit, Gordon Mantler and Jessica Whatley, all who will serve for the next three years on the Vestry of St. Mary's. As we had just celebrated our first Sunday after Father Merrow's retirement, the meeting was a good introduction to the unfolding transition in clergy leadership. In addition to "learning the ropes" and reviewing St. Mary's policies and practices, your Vestry worked on the following:

Mother Meg's Arrival:

Mother Meg Ingalls officially began her time with us Monday, June 2nd Much work has been done to prepare. Jane Prosper

June 2nd. Much work has been done to prepare. Jane, Prosper, and Chris Jennings, your Junior Warden, have been hard at work preparing St. Mary's Rectory for Mother Meg and Brad's arrival: facilitating current tenants' departure, refreshing the house with new paint, scheduling systems updates and landscaping. We are so grateful to them for their diligence and hard work to get much done in a short period of time. We are also grateful for St. Mary's clergy and all its staff for preparing the office and pulling together the background information necessary to help ensure a smooth transition for Mother Meg's assumption to the Interim Rector's position for our church.

Next Steps in our Exciting Transition:

As we head into the summer months, Mother Meg will be seeking you out to hear your St. Mary's story and learn all that she can from each of us. Please be ready to welcome her and introduce her to this special place. And, please mark your calendars for several important upcoming dates:

June 6th: Welcome Mother Meg to Shrine Mont

June 15th: Mother Meg's first Sunday at St. Mary's, which will include a Forum with her at 9am. Come hear her hopes for St. Mary's, the Interim Rector process, and the summer months ahead.



MOTHER MEG EVENTS

June (6-8) - Shrine Mont

Meet Mother Meg Sunday June 8th – Pentecost (wear red!)

Sunday, June 15th

Mother Meg's 1st Sunday @ St. Mary's (receptions following each service)

9 am - Mother Meg adult forum

Sunday, June 22nd

11 am – Ministry leader meeting with Mother Meg



Other Vestry News

Establishing and affirming liaisons between Vestry members and St. Mary's Ministries:

Do you know St. Mary's has over 50 ministries to serve our church and the larger community? These ministries (such as the Flower Guild, St. Joseph's, Outreach, Ushers and Hospitality, to name just a few) sustain and grow the community and reach of St. Mary's, and are led by lay leaders with a passion to make a difference. Every September, these leaders host a ministry fair (September 7th this year) to highlight all the many ways their groups make an impact and recruit new members. Prior to this ministry fair and during the summer months ahead, your Vestry will reach out to each ministry leader to get updates, learn what's working well, and where these groups may need assistance. This will also be a great way for Mother Meg to learn more about what makes this parish so vibrant and engaged. If you are currently a ministry leader, please look for a communication from your Vestry liaison in the month ahead.

"I hope it is apparent that St. Mary's is thriving and growing during this transition."

Grant Approval:

One critical responsibility of Vestry is to review the Outreach Committee's selected grant proposals from local, national, and international nonprofits (learn more about the Outreach process in this Messenger Issue). Normally, a Vestry Review happens twice a year, once in June and once in November. On occasion, the Outreach committee presents grant requests outside of this timeframe. In May, your Vestry approved a grant to Santa Maria, our sister parish in Falls Church. This grant will support the shared-ministry program of the critical Food Distribution program and help with their current Parish Hall systems. This grant money will directly support our neighbors in Christ, helping to feed those in need, and helping to grow their overall parish.

With all this good news, I hope it is apparent that St. Mary's is thriving and growing during this transition. Your clergy, Vestry, and staff are working hard to meet the exciting changes that await in the months and year ahead. So, let's look forward together, support one another when questions arise, and take a leap of faith to grow your involvement in this parish. You and St. Mary's will be so much the better for it. This is your parish home and we are lucky to have you here with us!

St. Mary's Stands with Grantees Facing Budget Cuts

By Kate Muth, Outreach Vice Chair



One of the great privileges of being an Outreach Committee member is reviewing grant applications and recommending grant awards to Vestry. For one thing, this part of the committee's mission provides a window into the heroic work our nonprofit partners are doing to provide a safety net and address societal inequities, among other commendable efforts, both locally and globally. Secondly, the Committee serves as a vessel for fulfilling St. Mary's extraordinary commitment to give 25 percent of our pledge income to outreach annually. The grantmaking process is the vehicle by which we manifest this commitment.

We take this responsibility seriously. Discussions of grant applications and how to allocate our generous but limited budget are both thoughtful and lively. Members are passionate, especially about organizations with which they have a relationship, but also open to new ideas and new applicants. (Unfortunately, the need is greater than our budget, which means we often have to make difficult decisions.) At the heart of these discussions, always, is the parish's priorities. Those priorities, as set out by Vestry in 2021, have been caring for one another, care of creation, and racial reconciliation.

Over the past few years, the majority of our Outreach grants have been awarded to organizations that embody the tenet of "caring for one another." This is not particularly surprising given the impact the COVID-19 lockdowns had on the economy and on the health and well-being of many vulnerable communities. Our award trend is not likely to change over the next few years due to the current administration's gutting of the social safety net and demonizing of immigrants, a tax bill that would cut Medicaid and SNAP, and job losses due to a weakening economy.

In fact, many of our long-time nonprofit partners are already struggling with funding losses or increases in constituents' needs due to cuts in federal programs, and/or because the needs of their communities are so great right now. Here is just a small sampling of impacts:

Lay Assistance Ministry

One of St. Mary's most important and impactful ministries, LAM meets twice a month to assist more than 350 people each year by making small direct payments of about \$150 for



essential needs, such as rent, utilities, and medical debt. This assistance often makes a significant difference by keeping someone's utilities turned on or preventing eviction. In just the first three months of 2025, LAM has already spent half of its annual budget of \$50,000 because the need has been so great. LAM has made the difficult decision to suspend its services through the summer to ensure it has enough money to provide assistance for the rest of the year. If you would like to give directly to LAM to help keep the doors open this summer, send a check to the Parish office (or use Tithley online) and indicate 'LAM Donation' on the check/in Tithley.

Aspire

Recent cuts to the AmeriCorps program have a direct and material impact on Aspire and the 150 children and families it serves. On April 28, Aspire was notified that its funding



was cut and it needed to cease its AmeriCorps program effective immediately. This affects the 17 Aspire AmeriCorps members who serve students every day after school and during the summer. Aspire is working to close the \$350,000 funding gap by June 30 to ensure its summer program can operate. Aspire has committed to keeping its afterschool program running as through the end of the school year, which has included hiring back 15 of the 17 former AmeriCorps members on temporary contracts. Click here to donate or learn more.

Arlington Pediatric Center

APC, a long-time St. Mary's grantee and an organization that many parishioners are involved with, lost \$1 million in funding from the federal government, which means the clinic is now \$650,000 short on the new space it must build because its current building is set to be demolished.



The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Local food banks have lost 1.4 million meals to Trump's cuts

Area Food Banks

A recent article in the Washington Post indicates that the region's three main food banks have lost 1.4 million meals due to the administration's budget cuts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, even as demand has increased. The region's biggest food bank, the Capital Area Food Bank, is the primary source of food for Santa Maria's food distribution program.

Federal funding cuts and disruptions are not theoretical possibilities or late-night TV punchlines in this area. Virtually all of us at St. Mary's know someone (or are someone) who has been impacted by the cuts. Our nonprofit partners and the people they serve are among those directly harmed. Please know how grateful we are for this parish's generosity and its unwavering commitment to give 25% off the top to Outreach. Your pledge is helping to build the kingdom of God here on this fragile earth.









MUSIC at ST. MARY's





By Gregory Hooker, Music Minister



Youth Choir Concert at St. Mary's

Charlotte Choir School Saturday, June 21

Dinner at 6:00 pm in Paca Parish Hall Concert at 7:00 pm in the Nave

(60 minutes in length)

Sign up here.

The program will include a wide variety of audience pleasing repertoire performed to a very high level of musicianship by this talented and hard-working group of young singers.

Directed by Elizabeth Lenti and accompanied by Andrew Pester, this 50 plus auditioned group of youth singers from the Charlotte, North Carolina area performs locally and on summer tours in the US and abroad. The Choir School is in residence at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in downtown Charlotte and performs in sacred and secular settings. https://www.charlottechoirschool.org/about-us/our-program



Summer Choir

Come join our Intergenerational Summer Choir! Our happy group of singers welcomes All.

Beginning June 15, 9:15 am

Rehearsal on Sundays only. Drop in when you can. Come sing parts on the hymns with the choir! Sing with our wonderful choir as much or as little as you like. Extra help is available after the 10 am service.





Minister of Music Sabbatical

Dr. Hooker will take the first portion of his sabbatical this summer during June and July. He will be attending the Association of Anglican Musicians Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio and visiting family and friends nearby. He will also be rejuvenating after a very intense spring calendar by some much deserved down time and spending some time exploring the creative disciplines in the book *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron.



Dr. Matthew Gabay Graduation

On May 17, 2025, our volunteer associate organist, Matt Gabay, graduated from The Catholic University of America with a Ph.D. in Musicology. He began his doctoral studies in 2016 and completed the final degree requirements in April with the delivery and defense of his dissertation on music printing in seventeenth-century Nuremberg. Matt wishes to thank the countless staff members and parishioners of St. Mary's who have supported him along his journey.





St. Mary's Choir Banquet — May 24th

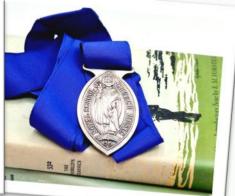
(see following page)



Canon d'Rue Hazel Canon to the Ordinary Diocese of Virginia



Choristers received certificates in thanksgiving for their ministry this year.



Ellie Sacher received her Royal School of Church Music ribbon for her achievements in music skills training this year.

St. Mary's Music Fund

When our hearts are full of Easter blessings, there are many ways in which we can respond. One tangible way is to support St. Mary's Music Fund. If you would like make a gift or to respond in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one, in an upcoming parish mailing, you will have the opportunity to help fund the many ministries with music that St. Mary's offers to the parish and to the community. See the website for online giving or send a check to St. Mary's Episcopal Church with "Music Fund" in the memo.

BOYS & GIRLS CHOIR BANQUET

May 24th



IN HER OWN WORDS

Rev. Cannon d'Rue Hazel Canon to the Ordinary The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia Canon Hazel spoke to our choirs and choir parents with words of encouragement and support for the unique ministry of choirs.

"I was at St. Mary's not long ago with the Bishop and heard the choir. St. Mary's has a phenomenal program, a really top-notch choir."

"I've seen many youth choir members go on to become church leaders. Being in a choir is the best formative experience for kids."

Q: What do you tell parents who are facing so many activity choices for their children?

"A choir director told me as a mom: 'If you think we don't have this instrument (voice) to be in a choir, this instrument can be developed.' It's the type of activity that can give so much to individuals, and they in turn give so much back. Young choir members today become true leaders of the church."





IN HER OWN WORDS

Willa Stroup 12-year-old choir member

"The community is really, really good, and it does help me with my singing. It's a good exercise to have every week...

I've become friends with people who are younger than me and people who are older than me...

I can sing a lot of the high notes. I can't really sing that many low ones."



Prayerful Thoughts

By Rev. Janettarose+

"God guide us away from the edge of our undoing. Show us what it means to be people of deep and abiding reverence for the beauty and connectedness of everything everywhere."



Summer is not even here yet, and we are beset with deep concern about the uncertainty the warmer weather brings. Sections of DC are under curfew, job insecurity and loss are still paramount amongst our concerns, DHS raids have fast become a daily expectation rather than an exception. Yet, we are called to remain faithful ... to be grounded and steadfast in our faith even though we live in a hurting world full of uncertainty and fear. I have always found comfort in knowing and experiencing the peace that Christ brings. Jesus tells us we are not alone; the Holy Spirit is with us as our comforter and advocate. Always remember that God's peace meets us where we are and is a balm for our discomfort and needs. It takes faith to live in a world where your foundational beliefs of love for God, family, and neighbor are under constant assault. It takes faith to live with the knowledge that civil protections and fundamental human rights are not accessible to the most vulnerable in our community, country, or world. It takes faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to know that faith is a verb, a word that propagates action. It is a word that beckons us to get involved and to pray without ceasing for acceptance and love of the differences we see in others.

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

The Meaning of Pentecost

by Rev. Jannettarose+

Pentecost literally means "fiftieth day." In the Old Testament, it refers to a feast of seven weeks known as the Feast of Weeks. It was an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of first fruits. Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus also referred to Pentecost as the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover. In the Old Testament, Pentecost was a Jewish religious celebration that marked the fifty days after Passover with a harvest festival. Pentecost also commemorates the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. This moment is still celebrated in the Jewish tradition as Shavuot.



Episcopal Tradition

In our tradition, Pentecost marks the end of the 50 Days of Easter. Acts 2:1 describes how the apostles and friends were gathered together in Jerusalem. Suddenly, there is a great rushing of wind, and tongues of fire rest on each of the apostles. They begin to speak different languages, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, Jews from across the diaspora, having come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks – understood them. Some believe Pentecost to be the origin of sending clergy out of the church into the world to preach the gospel. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church in the Episcopal Church (BCP, 15).

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) identifies the Day of Pentecost as one of the feasts that is "especially appropriate" for baptism (p. 312). The liturgical color for the feast is red. Pentecost is also known as Whitsun or Whitsunday, a corruption of "White Sunday." Reflecting the custom by which those baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost would wear their white baptismal garments to church on the Day of Pentecost.

An Aside

Shavuot (the Hebrew word for "weeks," and the holiday occurs seven weeks after Passover. Shavuot, like many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival that marked the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. In ancient times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is a celebration of Torah, education, and the choice to participate actively in Jewish life. This year, Shavuot begins on Sunday, June 1st, and continues through June 2nd.

Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) is a major Jewish Spring festival celebrating freedom and family as the Jews remember the Exodus from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. The main observances of this holiday center around a special home service called the seder, which includes a festive meal, the prohibition on eating chametz, and the eating of matzah.

Seder or "order" is a ritual dinner that includes retelling the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

Chametz (typically includes leavened bread or any food that contains wheat, rye, barley, oats, or spelt.

Matzah (is unleavened bread eaten during the seder that symbolizes the hurried departure of the Israelites from Egypt.



The Season of Pentecost

According to the church calendar (BCP, 32), the season after Pentecost begins on the Monday following Pentecost and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. This includes Trinity Sunday, which is the First Sunday after Pentecost. Some also understand this period as "ordinary time," a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or observance, as in the Roman Rite adapted after Vatican II.

Three Things To Know About Pentecost

- **Birthday of the Church:** Without Jesus, the apostles were grief-stricken, afraid, and confused. That all changed on Pentecost. After the Holy Spirit entered the room and Peter preached, the apostles filled with the Holy Spirit formed the Christian community, which would become the Church. In this sense, Pentecost can be called the church's birthday.
- **Pentecost Showcases the Trinity:** Christian theology is grounded in a doctrine of the Trinity the Holy Trinity, often described as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father sends the Spirit to make the Son present. On Pentecost, we celebrate the Trinity.
- **Jesus Kept His Promise:** In John 15:26, Jesus promised, "I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf." (NRSV) When the Holy Spirit moves, Jesus is present. Pentecost marks the fulfillment of Christ's promise never to leave us alone.

Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. Although the term "ordinary time" is not used in the BCP, the season after Pentecost can be considered ordinary time. It may also be referred to as the "green season" because green is the usual liturgical color for this period of the church year.

EVENTS





Contact: victoria@stmarysarlington.org



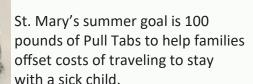
MARCH ON CONGRESS — TUES. JUNE 10th; 11 am—12 n

Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church 900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC

A public procession to the Capitol led by clergy and congregants, religious and lay leaders before a key Senate vote on a budget that threatens to slash vital social programs that support and uplift vulnerable people among us.









"St. Francis Preaching to the Birds" (1297—1299 - Giotto)

THEME:

Viewing our World through Saint Francis's Eyes

FALL 2025 ART SHOW

Calling All St. Mary's Artists Sign up by June 30th if you're interested in submitting an art pieces for the Oct. 5th exhibit in the Merrow Fellowship Hall.

For more details, contact Paul Douthit: psdouthit@yahoo.com 202-841-0884.

We invite our parish artists and writers to honor St. Francis by reflecting on Franciscan themes. Our artists and writers should plan to create a series of works on the theme. An artist's series may range from three to six pieces, depending on the size and be exhibited as the artist's mini show within the larger exhibition. A writer's submission may range from one to six pieces.

STAY CONNECTED

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THREE SERMONS

YOUTH SUNDAY — MAY 18, 2025



THOMAS GABAY (8 AM)

"Four years ago, I was not in tune with my faith. I had not gone to church consistently, and I was very out of sorts. Recently, I've gained an immense amount of clarity as to who I am, and the path I want to take in life... I can't show up for God 50% of the time and expect great things to happen."







CHARLIE HOTRA (10 AM)

"John's Gospel today says a lot about what us seniors are feeling right now... 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' From two thousand years ago, this is the message to today's helicopter parents. Parents, we love you. We will miss you, and we can't wait to see you on parents' weekend."







JAMIE BLACK (5 PM)

"In a world that so often draws the line between us and them, God's spirit is always breaking down barriers. The love of Christ is not limited by our boundaries — cultural, ethnic, social or otherwise. God's grace is for all."





Congratulations Seniors



Christian Binner

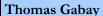
Christian is graduating from Landon School. He will be attending Boston College and majoring in Economics this fall.



Jamie graduates from Yorktown and will be going to George Mason University in the fall.

Anna Eliot

Anna will be attending the University of Virginia School of Nursing. She hopes to go into pediatric nursing, specifically the NICU! She's interested in campus ministry and swimming for the club team.



Thomas graduates from Gonzaga and will be going to Notre Dame in the fall.

Grayson Groeneveld

Grayson will attend the University of Virginia this fall and is majoring in biology. He has enjoyed St. Mary's and is going on the Mission Trip again this June.

Charlie Hotra

Charlie is graduating from Yorktown and will be in the Honors College at the University of Alabama and major in Finance.

Olivia Kockaya

Oliva will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall majoring in Communications.



Liam Ross

Liam is headed to James Madison University and is considering studying international business. Go Dukes!

Duke Shackelford

Duke graduates from Episcopal High School this weekend and will attend Tulane University in the fall.

Jeffrey Snow

Jeffrey will be attending James Madison University in the fall after graduating from Yorktown High School.

Declan Stroup

Declan will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall as a math major.

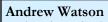


Will Trimmer

Will is attending Southern Methodist University in Dallas in the fall and is majoring in International Studies.

Mark Warren

Mark is headed to West Virginia University in the fall.



Andrew is graduating from Bishop O'Connell HS and attending Indiana University in the fall.

