

SEPTEMBER 2025

# MESSENGER



ST. MARY'S  
ARLINGTON

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PAM FRICK



**ST. MARY'S  
ARLINGTON**

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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 (2027) *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)

## STAY CONNECTED



Cover: St. Mary's Day at Antoni Gaudí's  
Basílica de la Sagrada Família in Barcelona, Spain.  
(Photo by Derek Greten-Harrison)

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## A Message from Mother Meg

Sweet Friends in Christ,

Sometimes things take us by storm. Unexpected. Dramatic. Think of the dust storm which enveloped Arizona this past week. Seemingly out of nowhere the dust began to accumulate, engulfing a wide area of the state, causing cars to have to pull over because they could not see in front of them, causing planes to stay way above in the air because landing would be unsafe. People in the middle of it could see it, but they could do nothing about it—just live through it, survive it. And most did.

Sometimes change comes upon us like a dust storm, blinding us to things right in front of us, frightening us into stillness, into submission to its overarching power, filling us with the need to ride it out, to survive it, to let it pass over so that we will be able to shake off the sand, clean out the dust, seek out the sun when it is all over. We often feel small and insignificant and powerless. We may even wonder where God is in the momentary savagery of the situation.

Lately, I have had my own dose of hunkering down as the storm of a retina detachment forced me to submit to a course of allowing the storm to blow through or allow blindness to take over my life. What I have come to understand in this overpowering demand to lie still is that no matter the problem, no matter the outcome, God is with me. I have a family built of marriage and blood which has cared for me, and I have had a family of the heart, including our St. Mary's family, who have reached out and prayed for me and fed me with food and love. Each of you has given me hope in the midst of my personal dust storm. But isn't that what community is all about?

I know that we are living through a time of transition—not just at St. Mary's, but in our nation and throughout our world. But we need to remember that no matter how great the storm, we at St. Mary's have one another. As we get the new program year underway, as we gather for worship and fellowship and formation and outreach, as we celebrate and educate and pray for one another, we find ourselves to be a vibrant community who somehow sees through any storm, any transition, any change because we have love for one another and for our world—and praise for our God who sees us through.

I give thanks for all of you. Watch for the good things coming your way this fall. Sign up to be a part of God's ministry on Ministry Sunday. Look forward to the Hootenanny and the Homecoming. Continue the good work of 100 Years of Love in Action.

Blessings,

Mother Meg

# A LITANY FOR PEACE

Contributed by Peggy Parker and Pattie Kindsvater

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**A**lmighty God, your will for all people is peace and reconciliation, look with mercy upon your sorrowful and suffering creatures throughout the world: shelter them beneath the mantle of your love; imbue them with courage and hope; and give them the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Inspire us all to beat our swords into plowshares, and shower down upon this world the blessings of your peace.

We offer our prayers most especially for those in areas of conflict: in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel; in Ukraine; in Sudan; in our own country; and in the places we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...

Praying together...

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

We entreat you to receive the souls of those who have been killed...

to comfort the wounded and dying,  
prisoners and captives, the sick and the hungry,  
those who have lost homes, and fields, and livelihoods...

to console and all who mourn the deaths of loved ones - from war, famine, disease, or senseless violence...

and to support those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...

Praying together...

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

Bestow upon each of us the courage to love, and make us, in our thoughts and our actions, practitioners of your peace.

Give us the wisdom to regard people of all faiths as fellow travelers who are likewise yearning to fulfill their part in your plan for your creation.

Help us to respond to hatred and violence with love and compassion, holding always before us the example of our Lord's passion and death.

Show us how to love those with whom we disagree, and teach us to offer kindness, respect and succor to all.

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

We pray you to soften and heal hearts  
and minds filled with anger and hatred.  
Arouse the will of the indifferent.  
Instill mercy in the hearts of  
combatants.

Inspire those in authority with zeal for  
reconciliation.

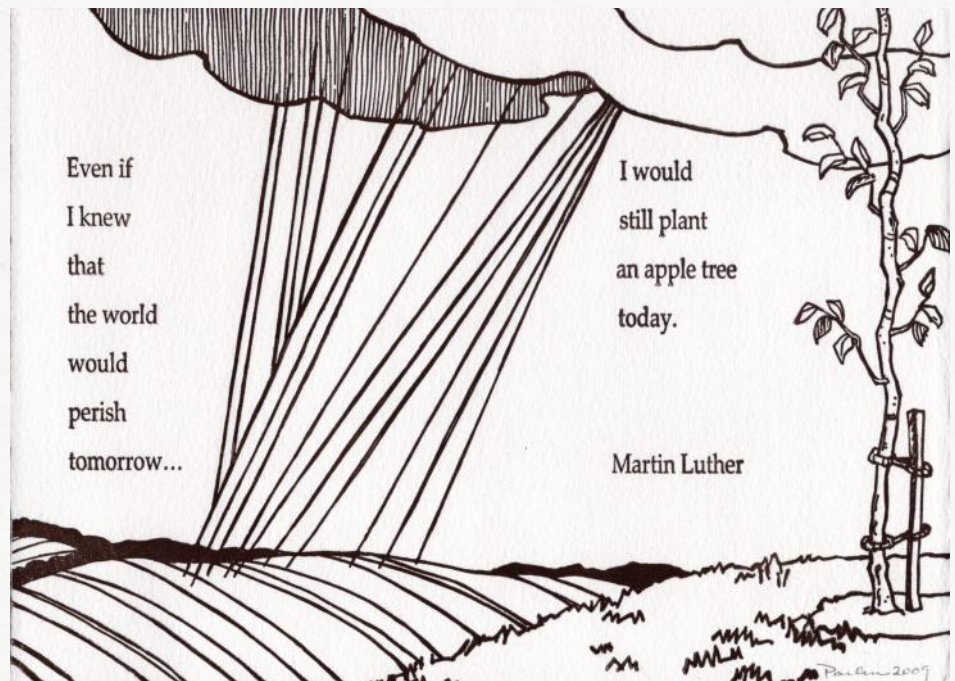
And grant to each of us empathy and  
understanding for the stranger, the  
unloved, the unlovely, and the enemy.

Praying together...

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

All this we ask in the name of the one  
who was born, suffered, and died as  
one of us,  
the Prince of Peace, your son Jesus  
Christ.

*Amen.*



# TRUE GROUND BACKPACK DRIVE

by Amy Graham



Last month, St. Mary's once again participated in the backpack drive sponsored by True Ground Housing Partnership (formerly APAH). True Ground is a DC-area nonprofit real estate developer with deep roots in Arlington. It operates dozens of affordable housing properties which are home to more than 800 school-age children. The purpose of the drive is to provide a backpack and school supplies to those children, helping them to get off to a good start in the new academic year. Our goal this year was 75 backpacks and the response was excellent! Some parishioners used the new Amazon wish list and others bought supplies and dropped them off at St. Mary's. We plan to continue to use both methods in the future. Thank you to all of you who participated. Your support is very much appreciated by the True Ground staff and children.



# CONGRATULATIONS, REV. JANETTAROSE!

by The Rev. Meg Ingalls



Bishop Stevenson has appointed our very own the Rev. Janettarose L. Greene Dean of the Arlington Region in the Diocese of Virginia. Effective immediately, she will serve out the remaining term of the Rev. Beth Franklin, who has accepted a call to serve as the rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Richmond.

From a governance perspective, the Diocese is divided into 16 regions, determined by geography. Each region has a Regional Council. The council comprises an elected President, who is a layperson, and a Dean, appointed by the Bishop.

“Thank you for bringing your abundant insights, skills, and energy to this ministry. You will be a blessing to the people of your region.”

- The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia

## Regional Deans

The Deans of the 16 regions in the Diocese of Virginia are the representatives of the Bishop in each region. Together with the Presidents, they lead their Regional Council to ensure the ministrations of the church are available to all persons in each region. The Arlington Region comprises nine churches.



The Rev. Janettarose was also unanimously elected to the Board of Trustees of Virginia Theological Seminary and The General Theological Seminary. The combined Board of Trustees is responsible for the institution's planning, evaluation, and financial oversight, with a focus on its mission to educate and form church leaders for a changing world. Key duties include setting rules, establishing professorships, and

electing the Dean and faculty. In terms of governance, all Trustees are Trustees of both institutions. In accepting this collateral assignment, the Rev. Janettarose will work across both Boards and do her part to ensure the best possible decisions are made for each institution in the years to come.

The Rev. Janettarose said, “This is a tremendous honor and will not take away from my duties and responsibilities at St. Mary’s. I feel as though this is the first time in my adult life that God is utilizing the entirety of my education and experience to ensure the seminaries will faithfully serve this generation and those to come. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute and serve collaboratively with others in support of the institution’s strategic goals, representing its interests with professionalism and respect.”

[The General Theological Seminary](#) (GTS) and [Virginia Theological Seminary](#) (VTS), The Episcopal Church’s longest operating seminary and its largest seminary respectively, [formally entered into an affiliation agreement](#) in 2022. As the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, the immediate past Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal church, affirmed, “This new relationship between these two great seminaries of the Church represents a truly creative possibility for faithfully, effectively, and strategically forming leaders for the movement of Jesus Christ through the Church, and for the sake of our 21st century world.”

God’s blessings abound for us all. Let us congratulate and celebrate the Very Reverend Janettarose L. Greene on her collateral roles at the Seminary and within the Diocese of Virginia. Thanks be to God!



## THE STORY

GETTING TO THE HEART OF GOD’S STORY

**BEGINNING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, AT 7 PM!**

Mother Meg will offer a 31-week bible study based on Max Lucado’s *The Story*.





# FROM THE VESTRY

Suzanne Stroup, Senior Warden

As the weather has shown us this last week, change is in the air! Clear, blue skies, crisp, cool evenings, and even a few falling leaves have coincided perfectly with the first days of school. These late weeks in August are filled with anticipation and almost feel like the start of a New Year: new classes, new routines, and so many new opportunities to meet one another where we are. This season represents a chance for us to reach out and connect with one another, and we are hopeful you will find many such opportunities with our upcoming offerings for worship, stewardship, volunteering, and fellowship. Your clergy, staff, and Vestry have been hard at work all summer planning and are eagerly awaiting your participation! Please consider saying “yes” to some of these many options. Below are three I would like to highlight:

## **St. Mary’s Ministry Fair, September 7<sup>th</sup>:**

Come learn about the over 50 ministries St. Mary’s has and find a way to plug in to this Parish. Are you interested in art, flowers, bible study, pastoral care, outreach, music, or serving others in the community? St. Mary’s most certainly has a group for you! At the ministry fair, you can meet the leaders of these groups, learn how to get involved, and hopefully meet other parishioners with similar interests — a terrific way to get connected. *(Fairs are held after the 8 am and 10 am services in Paca Hall)*

## **St. Mary’s Homecoming, September 26<sup>th</sup>:**

Please join parishioners at this annual event of fellowship and stewardship in Paca Hall. The St.

Mary’s Homecoming is an excellent way for us all to reconnect and meet new friends after the summer holidays, and celebrate the many gifts God has shared with us. Enjoy delicious food, a silent auction\* of items donated by talented St. Mary’s parishioners, a wine pull, a 50/50 auction, and the chance to be with one another in this wonderful place we call our church home. **Please invite your friends and RSVP on the parish website by September 20<sup>th</sup>.** This is an adults-only event, but childcare is available!

*\*Do you have a unique talent or hobby (woodwork, photography, painting, cooking, gardening, for example)? Might you be able to donate an item that showcases your talents to the silent auction? Please email [suzanne@thestrups.com](mailto:suzanne@thestrups.com) with any auction donation suggestions!*

## **Newcomers:**

Each week, St. Mary’s sees a few new faces joining us for worship on Sunday mornings. No matter what exactly draws a person to choose our parish, it’s the community inside that hopefully makes people feel welcomed as they enter through our red doors. Let’s extend this welcome by inviting these new parishioners to engage more deeply in the life of St. Mary’s. Rosanna Esposito leads a robust Newcomers program here, so if welcoming and connecting new people into the life of this parish is an enticing prospect to you, please reach out to her directly at [rosanna@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:rosanna@stmarysarlington.org). We’ll be glad to have you in this most important role.

Your Vestry is excited to enter into this new season of change, fellowship, and relationship with one another. Please join us as we welcome one another back into the life of our wonderful church community!

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

## OUR SERVICES

### SUNDAY

8 am, The Holy Eucharist  
(Fellowship following)

10 am, The Holy Eucharist, with music  
Children's Chapel  
(Fellowship following | [Livestream](#))

5 pm, The Holy Eucharist

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

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

7 am, The Holy Eucharist

### THURSDAY

11 am, Healing & The Holy Eucharist

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, Sept. 1

**Labor Day** - office closed

Sunday, Sept. 7

**Ministry Fair** (after 8 & 10 am services)  
**Formation Kick-off at 9 am**

Friday, Sept. 12;  
7 pm

**Hootenanny**  
(Lyon Village Community House)

Sundays,  
Sept. 14, 21 & 28;  
9 am

**Transition Ministry Forums**  
Led by Mother Meg

Friday, Sept. 26

**Homecoming/Stewardship Kick off**

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### MONDAY

7 pm *The Story* with Mother Meg  
Begins 9/8

### TUESDAY

7:30 pm Youth Confirmation  
2nd & 4th weeks; 9/9 - 12/9

### THURSDAY

6:30 pm Youth Choir (Choir Room)  
Begins 9/11

7:30 pm Adult Choir (Choir Room)  
Begins 9/4

### SUNDAY

6 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group  
1st & 3rd Sundays

## Cookies with Clergy FOR NEWCOMERS



**SECOND SUNDAYS AT 11:15 AM**  
**DOWNSTAIRS IN**  
**MERROW FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

We want to get to know you!  
Please come and introduce yourself and ask  
clergy any questions you have about St. Mary's.




PROPHETIC WISDOM FOR  
AN AGE OF OUTRAGE

THE  
TEARS  
OF  
THINGS  
RICHARD  
ROHR

Author of *The Universal Christ*

### Friday Noon Book Club

Beginning September 5th, the Friday Book Club will read and discuss *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr. The book offers a wholehearted and hope-filled model for the world today, grounded in the timeless wisdom of the Hebrew prophets. To join, contact Joan Turkus at [joan.turkus@verizon.net](mailto:joan.turkus@verizon.net).



ST. MARY'S ARLINGTON

# MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, September 7, after 8 am and 10 am services  
Paca Hall

Come meet St. Mary's lay ministry leaders,  
learn how to get involved, and get connected!

## A WILD HOOTENANNY



You are invited to join St. Mary's Wilderness  
Church band, The Wild, at the Lyon Village  
Community House for songs, food, and fun!

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025**  
**7-8:30PM**

1920 N HIGHLAND ST, ARLINGTON, VA 22201

St. Mary's

## 2025 ADULT RETREAT

Develop and advance your spiritual practices

- Workshops
- Yoga
- Self-directional practices
- Sabbath time
- Compline
- Spiritual renewal



**October 24 - 26, 2025**

Shrine Mont  
217 Shrine Mont Cir,  
Orkney Springs, VA 22845

For More Information  
Contact Rev. Janettarose at  
[janettarose@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:janettarose@stmarysarlington.org)



# VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY & ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's relationship with VTS is one celebrating education, art, worship, and formation. We have the statue of Mary created by Peggy Parker and lovingly being cleaned by her and Paul Douthit. We hear great sermons by professors like Dr. Stephen Cook. We receive invitations to do things like bless the dorm rooms. And we are hopeful that we will have a new seminarian to lovingly help shape into a wonderful priest.



# Adult Inquirers' Class



**9/23: INTRO TO THE BIBLE**  
**10/28: PRAYER BOOK**  
**11/25: HISTORY AND POLITY**  
**12/9: MUSIC IN THE**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



**TUESDAYS**  
7:30 - 8:30 pm



Meetings will be led by St. Mary's staff and will take place downstairs in the Sr. High Room

To register for classes email Rev. Nicole: [nicole@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:nicole@stmarysarlington.org)

# CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Diocese of Virginia requires that all clergy, lay leaders, staff, and volunteers be trained in the awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct against children, youth, and adults. We also require that those who have already been trained renew and refresh their training at least every three years. There are two separate training programs, one focusing on children and youth, and one on adults, including elders. If you are serving regularly in a leadership or volunteer capacity at St. Mary's with children, youth, or adults and have not yet completed Safe Church training or have not renewed your training in the last three years, please contact your ministry area leader for additional information.



Want to learn more about membership in the Episcopal Church? Inquirers' Classes are especially designed for those who are new to the Episcopal Church, but they can be an enriching experience for anyone who wants to deepen their knowledge about the history and theologies of the Global Anglican Communion. Each of these staff-led classes serve as preparation for adults in our parish who are wanting to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church during our annual Bishop's visit. Fall Inquirers' Classes begin on Tuesday Sept. 23rd from 7:30-8:30 pm and continue monthly on Tuesday evenings through December. The 2025 schedule is below:

Tuesday, September 23rd: Meet your Bible with Rev. Nicole Lambelet

Tuesday, October 28th: Meet your Prayer Book with Rev. Meg Ingalls

Tuesday, November 25th: History and Polity with Rev. Janettarose Greene

Tuesday, December 9th: Music of the Episcopal Church with Dr. Gregory Hooker

If you are interested in Adult Confirmation or Inquirers' Classes at St. Mary's, please email Rev. Nicole Lambelet at [nicole@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:nicole@stmarysarlington.org).



Have you ever thought, "I would like to improve my listening skills," or "I would like to improve being an effective caring person to others?" or wondered how to walk with someone when they are going through difficult times? You may be feeling a call to be a Stephen Minister.

This fall, Canon Victoria Heard will be restarting the Stephen Ministry program at St. Mary's. Stephen Ministry is an ecumenical program, pastorally sensitive, psychologically informed program that prepares you to be an effective lay pastor. You can expect it to deepen your relationship with Christ and give you new skills. Canon Victoria said, "Years ago, I was required by a rector to go to the training conference to be a Stephen Leader. I am afraid I went with an attitude. By the second day, I was saying, 'I wish I had learned all this in seminary!'"

If you are interested, please contact Canon Victoria at [victoria@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:victoria@stmarysarlington.org) for more information. There will be an orientation presentation on a Sunday in September and classes will start this fall.

# GOING DEEPER IN WORSHIP

by Dr. Gregory Hooker, Music Minister

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**T**he Episcopal liturgy has several portions which are typically sung at the main services on Sundays: the psalm, the “ordinary” or repeated portions of the Mass (*Kyrie*; Glory to God; Holy, holy, holy; and Lamb of God or other Fraction Anthem), and hymns. Hymns enrich our liturgy by providing a vehicle for our praise to God, by encouraging our reflection upon his word, and facilitating our prayers.

Hymns are one of the richest treasures of faith and devotion in Christianity. Throughout biblical times and the history of the church, faithful men and women have testified to their faith in Christ and to their knowledge of scripture in poetic form. If you look at the information about the author and composer at the bottom of each hymn in our hymnal and in *Wonder, Love and Praise*, you soon realize that at St. Mary’s we sing a wide diversity of hymns from many traditions, places, and times. This body of song is continually expanding in number and in our understanding of who God is and what our response to his message ought to be in this time and place.

Many hymn texts were written as devotional literature or for theological purposes apart from being sung. The editors of our hymnals have, in general, taken care to include hymn texts that reflect the theology, mission, and purpose of the Episcopal Church. Liturgical leaders are duty-bound to select hymns that not only fill an emotional need or an expression, but also communicate the ideas that are consistent with our faith.

The hymns in procession at the beginning and end of the service primarily serve as opportunities for praise and thanksgiving, but may also introduce or reflect upon themes present in the readings for the day. The sequence hymn sung before the gospel is a commentary or “sermon in song” on one of the readings. The hymns at communion are sung primarily as aids to prayer and reflections on the mysteries of Christ coming to us as bread and wine.

Hymns are chosen at St. Mary’s with several parameters in mind. Materials published by the Episcopal Church offer suggested hymns for each Sunday, but this is just a beginning point; also taken into consideration are the hymns that are familiar to the St. Mary’s community. Hymns are typically chosen for an entire season so that several factors can be observed: the hymns chosen are the best matches for the readings of the day; known hymns are repeated so that they remain known but not worn; and the introduction of lesser-known hymns along with known hymns so that each liturgy contains familiar and less-familiar elements. Records are kept by the Minister of Music to maintain this careful balance. In the Episcopal Church the canons state that all elements of the liturgy, including hymns, are approved by the Rector with consultation from persons skilled in music.

Here are a few suggestions to increase the possibility of God speaking to us through this sacred and living heritage:

- *Sing with understanding* (I Corinthians 14:15): Allow your feelings to flow in response to your understanding of the words the hymn writer has penned. The most immediate response is often to respond emotionally to the music, sometimes missing the message God may be speaking through the words.
- *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs* (Colossians 3:16): Make hymns part of the other six days of the week. Purchase a hymnal for devotional use. Hymn texts from the *Hymnal 1982* are available online. Sing hymns on family occasions. Listen to recordings of hymns in your home and while traveling. Use hymns for table grace.

- *Sing a new song to the Lord* (Psalm 149): Singing new songs can be the result of a growing and inquiring relationship with God. Consider what God can say to you through an unfamiliar hymn.
- *Sing unto the Lord* (Psalm 95): Think of your singing in corporate worship as something you do first for God, secondly for the encouragement of the assembly, and lastly for yourself.

In the new realities of our world, where our eyes and hearts are being opened to injustices around us, let us bring the songs of our loving Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer to the world. In the new lives through baptism and the resurrection, let us live in thanksgiving to God, being mindful that we the Church are never more alive than when we sing with one voice, a community of saints indivisible by time and space. Alleluia!

## UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERINGS

*Choral Evensong for St. Francis*

Sunday, October 5, 5:00 p.m.

This brief service of readings, prayers and musical offerings by the choir is the perfect way to end the day in the grace and knowledge of God. Music of living composers from the United States and from England will be offered by St. Mary's Choir in thanksgiving for the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi. The Opening of the St. Francis Art Exhibit and Reception in Merrow Fellowship Center follows.

*All Saints' Choral Requiem Eucharist*

Sunday, November 2, 5:00 p.m.

Gabriel Fauré, Requiem with Choir, soloists and orchestra

*Reception following*

*Advent Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Choirs herald the season of our Lord's Coming

*Reception following*

## PHOTOS FROM OUR AUGUST MUSIC & ARTS CAMP





ST MARY'S ARLINGTON

# TRANSITION MINISTRY FORUMS



Join Mother Meg on Sundays this fall to discuss the “big questions” facing St. Mary’s during this time of transition:

**WHO ARE WE?**

**WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?**

**WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO?**



## More info:

📍 Sundays @ 9:00 AM  
in Paca Hall

📅 9/14, 9/21, 9/28,  
10/5, 10/12

**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US! MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENS IN THESE FORUMS WILL BEGIN TO INFORM THE SEARCH PROCESS.**



# AROUND ST. MARY'S

FACILITIES MANAGERS PROSPER AND JANE  
SHOW MEG AND NICOLE THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS



# A NOTE TO PARENTS: YOU ARE NOT ALONE

by Jackie Vigil, Youth and Family Formation Minister

September is the month we find ourselves abruptly thrust into new routines, filled with both familiar and new activities that seem to consume nearly all of our time. We can't believe how fast the summer *flew* by, and whether we took that amazing vacation or not, it feels like there just wasn't enough time to relax before having to ramp up for everything that this month entails. The seasonal excitement can lead some to make new friends or renew connections with others. Maybe you'll be cheering from the sidelines alongside parents you've known for years, or maybe you'll have to navigate new relationships, new teams, new carpools, and all that comes with juggling a complex and varied schedule for your family. Maybe you're adjusting to a new school community, or facing difficult decisions when it comes to your career, health, or priorities. It can sometimes get overwhelming, thinking about all of the to-do lists, appointments, and events for your students on top of your own busy work or personal lives. That feeling might cause you to believe that you're alone on this busy ride with no exit and definitely no way of slowing down safely.

If I can offer one piece of advice, it is that you are never alone...not only do you have a community of parents and students at St. Mary's navigating many of the same joys and challenges that a new school year brings, but you have God, our higher power who can carry our burdens, no matter what. Prayer is a powerful remedy for any spiral, I've found, and so is being vulnerable and honestly sharing highs and lows with church friends. My husband and I can thankfully rely on the parenting advice and support from our village of St. Mary's members who have already shown us such kindness and excitement as we prepare to welcome a baby boy in January, 2026!

This St. Mary's family is a place for companionship, discipleship and belonging, and I hope that you'll find ways to plug into the community this year, whether as a ministry volunteer, as an enthusiastic supporter of our children's and youth programs, or as a member who regularly prays for our students and all that they are carrying. Join us on September 7<sup>th</sup> for the first day of Sunday School and Youth Forums (pick up a parent welcome gift downstairs!), as well as our annual ministry fair. Youth and parents are invited back for our first Sunday Youth Group and Parent Potluck of the year at 6pm. Stay tuned for more family social events off-campus this fall, RSVP for our Homecoming at the end of the month, and take note of the many ways you can worship with us throughout the week to refill your own spiritual cup. You are not alone, and we are here to walk beside you, pray with you and love you and your kids!



Worship · Outreach · Family · Care

2025-2026 Program Year

Children's Ministry  
Registration  
Nursery- 5th Grade



Youth Ministry  
Registration  
6th-12th Grade



Acolyte Guild  
Registration  
6th-12<sup>th</sup> Grade



Treble Choir and  
Boys and Girls Choir  
K-12th Grade



ST. MARY'S ARLINGTON

Jr. High and  
Sr. High Youth Group

1ST AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS, 6-7:30PM

BEGINNING SEPT. 7

DINNER, GAMES AND FUN!



RSVP BY SUNDAY AFTERNOON SO  
THAT WE CAN GUARANTEE  
ENOUGH FOOD AND SUPPLIES!  
QUESTIONS?  
JACKIE@STMARYSARLINGTON.ORG





# Youth and Children's Ministry Save the Dates

2025-2026 School Year

AUG <b>24</b>	<b>Blessing of the Backpacks; Ministry Open House</b> Children and Youth Choir, Acolyte, Sunday School and Youth Group Info with Refreshments and fellowship
SEP <b>7</b>	<b>Sunday School &amp; Youth Forum Kickoff, 9am</b> Formation classes resume for PreK-9 <sup>th</sup> grade and our parishwide Ministry Fair takes place during the 9am and 11am coffee hours.
SEP <b>7</b>	<b>Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group Kickoff, 6-7:30pm</b> Youth Group moves to 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings this fall. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend our first potluck dinner and have their own gathering while youth in grades 6-12 get to know each other!
NOV <b>23</b>	<b>Christmas Pageant Deadline</b> PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> graders must sign up for one or both pageants: Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup> at 5pm or Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Details forthcoming.
<b>Lent</b>	<b>Communion Preparation for Children</b> We will offer optional classes for families with elementary aged children interested in taking holy communion this spring.
MAR <b>1</b>	<b>Confirmation Process Deadline</b> Confirmation for 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> grade begins with a mandatory retreat at Shrine Mont, March 13-15, 2026. Classes are on Tuesday evenings.
JUN <b>21-27</b>	<b>Mission Trip to New Bern, NC for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade</b> Register by Jan. 15, 2026- \$450/student. Fundraisers and trainings are held throughout the spring semester. Chaperones welcome!

**CONTACT JACKIE VIGIL, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTER WITH QUESTIONS AND LOOK FOR SEPARATE SIGN UPS!**

→ [JACKIE@STMARYSARLINGTON.ORG](mailto:JACKIE@STMARYSARLINGTON.ORG) 703-527-6800 X 319

St. John's Invites You To

## YOUTH GROUP LASER TAG

Join us as we kick off the year with a fun event on the church grounds. Youth grades 5-12 are invited.

September 14 | 1:30-4pm



Sign up to carpool from St. Mary's at 1pm OR Meet us at St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean at 1:30pm.

**STUDENTS MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS EVENT and complete a required waiver!**

WE NEED YOU...

# *Recipes that celebrate*

100 YEARS OF LOVE IN ACTION

WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER A ST. MARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK. HELP IS NEEDED WITH TYPING RECIPES FOR INCLUSION IN THE COOKBOOK. WE WILL MEET ON THURSDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 11TH FROM 1- 4PM IN THE SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM.

PLEASE SIGN UP—AND BRING YOUR LAPTOP!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SUE LAGON:  
LAGONS@GEORGETOWN.EDU.

SIGN-UP GENIUS [HERE!](#)



# A LITTLE HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Pam Frick

St. Mary's Mission Statement begins: "At St. Mary's, worship forms the heart of our identity as a Christian community." While we notice obvious changes in our liturgical worship space, we don't always focus on specifics that are familiar.

When the building's *first* renovation was being planned in the early 1950's, Canon Edward N. West of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City was consulted. A man with many gifts—a well-known theologian, author, and iconographer—he was also an expert in the design of church furnishings. (*Fun fact: He was a great friend of the author Madeleine L'Engle and the inspiration for the character of Canon Tallis in her young adult novels.*) Canon West set the focus on the altar and the baptismal font as the two dominant parts of the physical church, conforming to the two greatest spiritual sacraments of our Anglican tradition, Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

So I thought it would be interesting to look back at three elements in the worship space that resonate that focus—the altar, the cross, and the baptismal font—and how they have changed over the years.

The original altar of St. Mary's was against the back wall of the chancel (where our organ now stands). Its approach was surrounded by choir stalls and the organ with a wall hanging behind. The Rixey Memorial window was inserted above it in the wall in 1940. In short, the altar competed for visual attention (*right*).



Thus, in the 1950's renovation, the altar became free-standing in the center of the sanctuary surrounded by railings on three sides. Four pavement candles marked the platform's four corners; and, with the moving of the Rixey Memorial window to its current position, a new cross hung on the back wall. The only adornment on the altar was two brass candlesticks. The choir and organ were moved to a newly created loft at the back of the Nave. Two wrought-iron lecterns framed the front ends of the platform (*left*).

During the 1997 renovation, it was determined that the sanctuary needed to be flipped to the opposite end of the church. This accommodated a new organ (no organ builder would put one in the loft), a new chapel, and created common egress from both Glebe and Old Dominion sides of the church as well as access to the new parish hall. The altar design, however, remained the same

with a more open platform to the railings and view of the two side chapels—the votive lights and the ambry. One dramatic change to the sanctuary was made: the baptismal font was moved forward to replace the gospel side lectern. The immediate focus is the altar and cross and the font is now front and always visible.



The Baptismal Font has had changes as well. The original marble font of the 1920s was donated to St. Dunstan's when it was a mission church. It now resides in their chapel. With the 1950s renovation, a new font was commissioned to be installed in the center of the narthex on top of two hexagonal platforms at the rear of the Nave.

A wooden figure of Jesus was carved atop a column, centered in a wood and copper font. "Canon West explained that the figure of Jesus over the font corresponded to the cross over the altar" (*Wallace Andrews' history notes*). Visually you could stand in the aisle and there was a direct line of sight from the cross to the font (*left*). When the font was dedicated in March 1957, Canon West attended.

On the Sundays when baptisms were held, the whole congregation was invited to process to the narthex and surround the font to view the proceedings (*right*).

With the 1997 renovation, there was not enough room to place the font at the back without removing pews, so the font moved up to the front where it now resides. It was necessary to shorten the column to fit and look visually balanced in the sanctuary space.

The Sanctuary's cross has had the greatest number of changes over the years. In the 1920s, a small brass cross adorned the altar (*see first photo*). With the 1950s renovations and Canon West's influence, the cross became far more prominent and was hung over the altar.

It was a unique cross with a gilded frame that had a fleur-de-lis carved at each of its points and the points of the intersection of its arms. Hence it is known as a fleury cross. The fleur-de-lis is a symbol associated with both Mary and the Trinity. The unusual feature of the cross was that it held a fabric inset that could be changed to reflect the color of the liturgical season (*right*). (The cross, altar candlesticks, and pavement candles, all gilded, were designed and made as a group by Louis F. Glasier of New York City.)





In 1967, a polychrome figure of the Christus Rex (Christ the King), was commissioned in Germany, and superimposed on the cross (*left*). Then, at some later date, the figure was removed and the cross was suspended on the wall behind the altar. The Christus Rex was then hung on the rood beam at the front of the sanctuary. (No photo is known to exist of this arrangement.) It was removed from the beam when Fr. Merrow came because most people could only see Jesus' feet. It was then hung in the elevator vestibule (constructed 1990). (*Left*)

Still later, when Easter congregations got so large there needed to be a worship space set up in Paca Hall for overflow, the Christus Rex was hung on the back wall of the stage. It now resides there (*right*).



While the seasonal change of the cross color was interesting, the removal, switching inset, and re-hanging of the cross took its toll (*left*). In 1989, it was in terrible disrepair, and while a Cross Restoration Project was initiated, the futility of such an endeavor soon became clear.

In 1992, the Vestry chose David Cardena to carve a larger cross from red oak with the fleur-de-lis at each of its four ends. It was completed in less than three months and hung directly over the altar (*below left*). The 1997-98 renovation, once completed, re-hung the cross with the same positioning over the altar in the new sanctuary space (*below right*). Altar, font, and cross are now in relationship, outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace.





CONGRATULATIONS TO PROSPER, OUR NEW FACILITIES MANAGER!  
&  
A ST. MARY'S DAY CELEBRATION WITH IGLESIA SANTA MARIA



YOU ARE INVITED TO

# *St. Mary's Homecoming*

Friday, September 26  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Paca Hall

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, reconnecting with clergy, staff, and friends, a silent auction celebrating the many talents of our parishioners, a 50/50 raffle, and a great evening of fellowship as we kick off our "Love in Action" Stewardship Campaign!

RSVP via this QR code or by calling the office (703.527.6800), by September 20<sup>th</sup>.

We hope to see everyone\* there!

\*Adults only — Childcare provided upon request.

