



ST. MARY'S
ARLINGTON

OCTOBER 2025

MESSENGER

**TRANSITION MINISTRY SLIDES ON
NEIGHBORHOOD PERSPECTIVE**

POEM: HEARTBEAT
JOAN TURKUS

**VOICE WORKS TO INCREASE HOUSING SUPPLY,
SUPPORT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**
MARJORIE GREEN

FROM THE VESTRY
SUZANNE STROUP

FACES OF LOVE IN ACTION

DO BUILDINGS SPEAK?
DR. GREGORY HOOKER

A LITTLE HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES
PAM FRICK



ST. MARY'S
ARLINGTON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Phone # 703.527.6800
office@stmarysarlington.org
www.stmarysarlington.org

The Rev. Meg Ingalls
Interim Rector

meg@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 306

The Very Rev. Janettarose L. Greene
Senior Associate to the Rector

janettarose@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 316

The Rev. Nicole Lambelet
Associate to the Rector

nicole@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 308

The Rev. Canon Victoria Heard
Part-time Associate to the Rector

victoria@stmarysarlington.org
214.957.3832

The Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger, Priest Associate
ksonderegger@vts.edu

Zach Ferguson, VTS Seminarian
zach@stmarysarlington.org

Dr. Gregory Hooker, Music Minister
gregory@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 314

Gariné Adams, Wilderness Worship Leader
garineadams@gmail.com

Dr. Matt Gabay, Volunteer Associate Organist
mgabay75@gmail.com

Rosanna Esposito, Minister of Community Life
rosanna@stmarysarlington.org

Jackie Vigil, Youth and Family Formation Minister
jackie@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 319

Derek Greten-Harrison
Parish Administrator & Communications Director
derek@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 315

Prosper Daziorlor, Facilities Manager
prosper@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 322

Jane Shafran, Facilities Senior Advisor (on sabbatical)
jane@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 310

Kelly Marcellus, Finance Manager
kelly@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 307

John Bednar, IT Support and Live Stream
john@stmarysarlington.org

Deborah Gandy, Volunteer Treasurer

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: *Noah's Ark* (detail), by Marc Chagall, 1966.
(Photo by Derek Greten-Harrison)

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A Message from Mother Meg

Good Friends in Christ,

Our Forum Hours are currently looking at the beginning stages of Transition Ministry. We have had the opportunity so far to tell a little bit about ourselves and our experience of St. Mary's, and we have looked at some insights about our neighborhood from the perspective of a 5-, 15-, and 20-minute drive from the church and who lives there. On September 28 we will look at conflict and how we tend to handle it. Two more topics are on their way in October. Those who were at the session on neighborhood perspective asked that we share the slides so that they could have an opportunity to look at them more closely. You will find those beginning on the next page.

As we begin our program year I want to say how grateful I am for your loving presence in this church. There is so much going on, giving each of you the opportunity to find your place to serve alongside others. St. Mary's is a place where friendships are made, service to others is rendered, and love of God is found in every corner.

You are a blessing,

Mother Meg



St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington

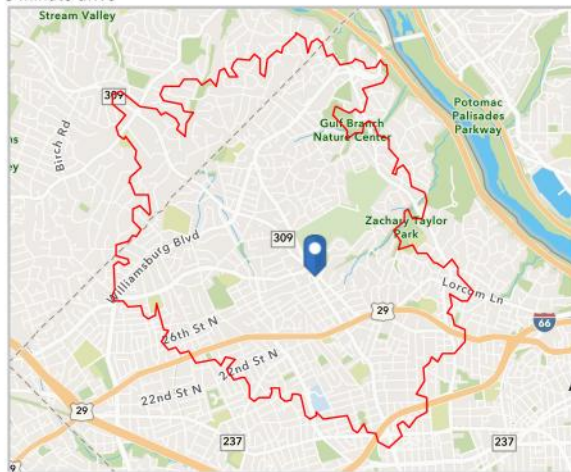
Blessing of the Animals

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 5:00 PM ON THE POINT!



TRANSITION MINISTRY SLIDES ON NEIGHBORHOOD PERSPECTIVE

5 minute drive



28,511
Total Population
(Current year)

-0.02%
Population Growth
(Projected 5-yr)
National: 0.23%

9,814
Households
(Total)

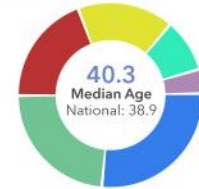
2.8
Household Size
(Average)
National: 2.5

\$200,001
Household Income
(Median)
National: \$72,414

\$1,249,111
Net Worth
(Median)
National: \$155,942

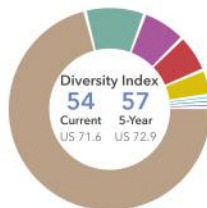
Generational Predominance

- Gen Z (Ages 6 - 23)
- Gen X (Ages 42 - 57)
- Millennial (Ages 24 - 41)
- Baby Boomer (Ages 58 - 76)
- Gen Alpha (Ages <6)
- Silent / Greatest Gen (77+)

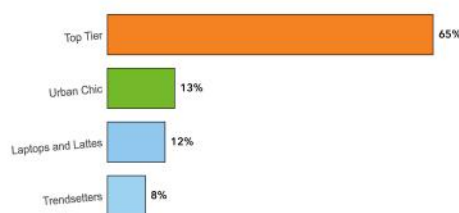


Race and Ethnicity

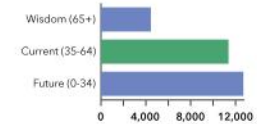
- White Pop
- Hispanic
- Asian Pop
- Multiple Races
- Black/ African American
- Other Race
- American Indian
- Pacific Islander



Top Lifestyle Segments



Generational Balance



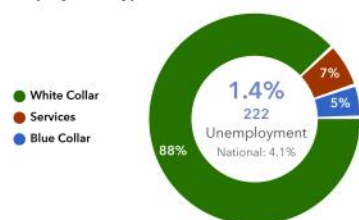
0.1%
Pop. That Doesn't
Speak Any English
National: 1.3%

Neighborhood Insights for Faith Communities

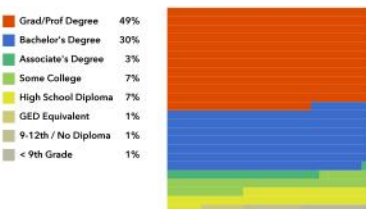
5 minute drive

September 10, 2025

Employment Type (Residents) 15,759 People



Educational Attainment



School Enrollment



3
Schools

40%
Workers Age 16+
Who Commute
Over 30 Minutes
National: 38%

Daytime Population 28,629 People



18%
HHs with Disability
(1+ Persons)
National: 26%

52
Crime Index
National: 100

70%
Religiously
Unaffiliated
National: 60%

\$216,510
Cash Gifts to Charities
Per 100 People
National: \$60,100

21%
Volunteered
for Charity
Last 12 Months
National: 17%

3%
Households Below
Poverty Level
National: 13%

5%
Households Without
Internet Access
National: 12%

\$1,246,487
Home Value
(Median)
National: \$283,272

50%
Rent Burden
HHs w/ Gross Rent
30%+ of Income
National: 46%

13.6%
Mortgage Burden
HHs w/ Mortgage
30%+ of HH Income
National: 16.9%

92%
Medical
Coverage
National: 81%

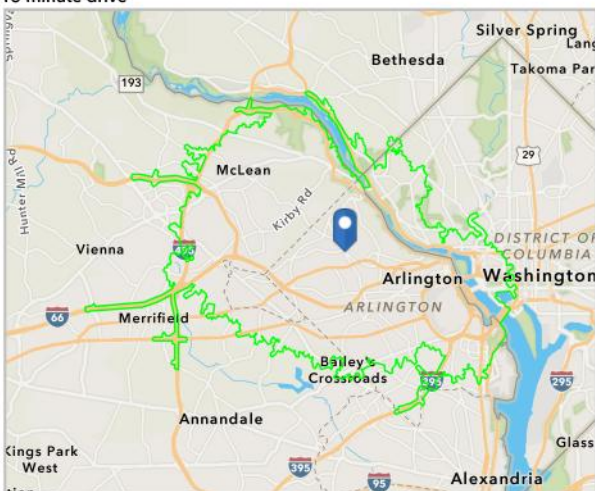
85%
Visited Doctor
Last 12 Months
National: 79%

5.0
Score for
Homelessness
Vulnerability

Tenancy of 10,304 Housing Units



15 minute drive



368,979
Total Population
(Current year)



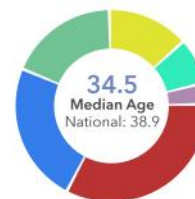
0.82%
Population Growth
(Projected 5-yr)
National: 0.25%



155,786
Households
(Total)

Generational Predominance

- Millennial (Ages 24 - 41)
- GenZ (Ages 6 - 23)
- Gen X (Ages 42 - 57)
- Baby Boomer (Ages 58 - 76)
- Gen Alpha (Ages <6)
- Silent / Greatest Gen (77+)



2.3
Household Size
(Average)
National: 2.5



\$147,294
Household Income
(Median)
National: \$72,414



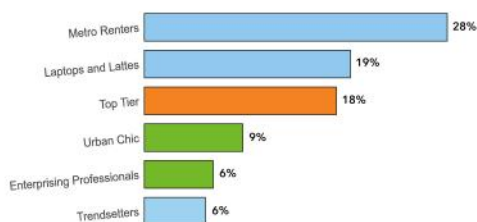
\$279,620
Net Worth
(Median)
National: \$155,942

Race and Ethnicity

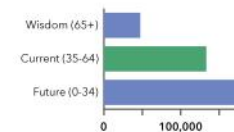
- White Pop
- Hispanic
- Asian Pop
- Black/ African American
- Multiple Races
- Other Race
- American Indian
- Pacific Islander



Top Lifestyle Segments



Generational Balance



0.9%
Pop. That Doesn't
Speak Any English
National: 1.3%

Datastory

Generated by MapDash™. Learn more at getmapdash.com.

Contact FaithX for help interpreting these statistics.

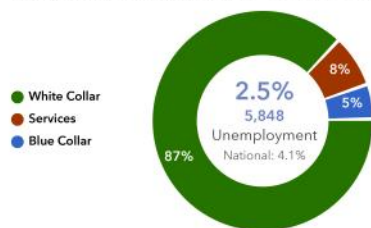
v2.1

Neighborhood Insights for Faith Communities

15 minute drive

September 10, 2025

Employment Type (Residents) 228,148 People



38
Schools

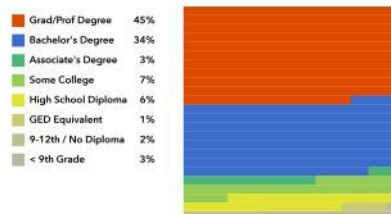


44%
Workers Age 16+
Who Commute
Over 30 Minutes
National: 38%

Daytime Population 530,824 People



Educational Attainment



14%
HHs with Disability
(1+ Persons)
National: 26%



96
Crime
Index
National: 100



69%
Religiously
Unaffiliated
National: 60%



\$126,317
Cash Gifts to Charities
Per 100 People
National: \$60,100



18%
Volunteered
for Charity
Last 12 Months
National: 17%



8%
Households Below
Poverty Level
National: 13%



4%
Households Without
Internet Access
National: 12%



\$1,030,362
Home Value
(Median)
National: \$283,272

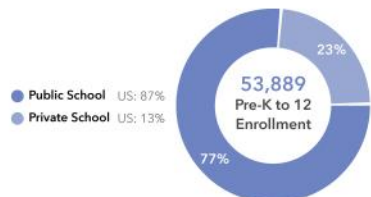


38%
Rent Burden
HHs w/ Gross Rent
30%+ of Income
National: 46%



15.3%
Mortgage Burden
HHs w/ Mortgage
30%+ of HH Income
National: 16.9%

School Enrollment



89%
Medical
Coverage
National: 81%



81%
Visited Doctor
Last 12 Months
National: 79%



5.5
Score for
Homelessness
Vulnerability

Tenancy of 170,134 Housing Units



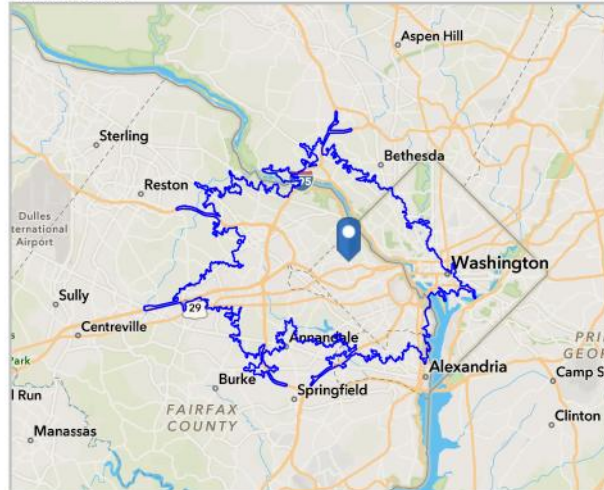
Datastory

Generated by MapDash™. Learn more at getmapdash.com.

* Source: The FaithX Project

v2.1

20 minute drive



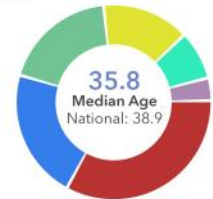
795,508
Total Population
(Current year)

0.61%
Population Growth
(Projected 5-yr)
National: 0.25%

346,093
Households
(Total)

Generational Predominance

- Millennial (Ages 24 - 41)
- GenZ (Ages 6 - 23)
- Gen X (Ages 42 - 57)
- Baby Boomer (Ages 58 - 76)
- Gen Alpha (Ages <6)
- Silent / Greatest Gen (77+)



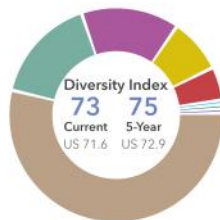
2.2
Household Size
(Average)
National: 2.5

\$139,557
Household Income
(Median)
National: \$72,414

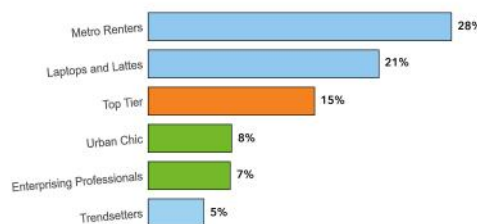
\$287,160
Net Worth
(Median)
National: \$155,942

Race and Ethnicity

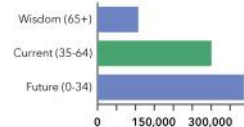
- White Pop
- Hispanic
- Asian Pop
- Black/ African American
- Multiple Races
- Other Race
- American Indian
- Pacific Islander



Top Lifestyle Segments



Generational Balance



0.9%
Pop. That Doesn't
Speak Any English
National: 1.3%

Datastory

Generated by MapDash™. Learn more at getmapdash.com.

Contact FaithX for help interpreting these statistics.

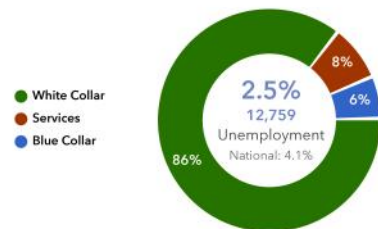
v2.1

Neighborhood Insights for Faith Communities

20 minute drive

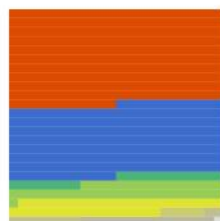
September 10, 2025

Employment Type (Residents) 498,610 People

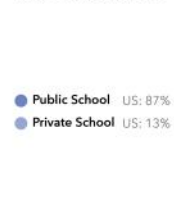


Educational Attainment

- Grad/Prof Degree 44%
- Bachelor's Degree 33%
- Associate's Degree 3%
- Some College 7%
- High School Diploma 7%
- GED Equivalent 1%
- 9-12th / No Diploma 2%
- < 9th Grade 3%



School Enrollment



79
Schools

46%
Workers Age 16+
Who Commute
Over 30 Minutes
National: 38%

Daytime Population

1,269,948 People



13%
HHs with Disability
(1+ Persons)
National: 26%

101
Crime
Index
National: 100

69%
Religiously
Unaffiliated
National: 60%

\$120,771
Cash Gifts to Charities
Per 100 People
National: \$60,100

17%
Volunteered
for Charity
Last 12 Months
National: 17%

7%
Households Below
Poverty Level
National: 13%

4%
Households Without
Internet Access
National: 12%

\$926,662
Home Value
(Median)
National: \$283,272

40%
Rent Burden
HHs w/ Gross Rent
30%+ of Income
National: 46%

16.6%
Mortgage Burden
HHs w/ Mortgage
30%+ of HH Income
National: 16.9%

88%
Medical
Coverage
National: 81%

81%
Visited Doctor
Last 12 Months
National: 79%

5.6
Score for
Homelessness
Vulnerability

Tenancy of 378,554 Housing Units



St. Francis Choral Evensong

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 5 PM

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ARLINGTON

St. Mary's Choir, Dr. Gregory Hooker *conductor*

Dr. Matt Gabay *organist*

The Very Rev. Janettarose L. Greene *officiant*

Music by Harold Friedell, Robert Lehman, Jessica French & Libby Larsen

Art Reception to follow

2026-2027 CONFIRMATION INTEREST MEETING



PARENTS OF YOUTH, CURRENTLY IN 8-11TH GRADE, JOIN REV. NICOLE FOR A
CONVERSATION ABOUT THE STRUCTURE & SCOPE OF YOUTH CONFIRMATION NEXT YEAR

OCTOBER 5TH

SR. HIGH ROOM
6:30 - 7:30 PM

CREATIVE CORNER

HEARTBEAT by Joan Turkus

God's heartbeat
Entraining
Wild energy

Pulsing, surging
Drumming, echoing
World's tempo

Continuously creating
Flowing, forming
Making, molding

Enthralling, evolving
Teaching, enfolding
Us

Unifying Co-Creation
His/our design
Exquisite work

VOICE WORKS TO INCREASE HOUSING SUPPLY, SUPPORT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

by Marjorie Green

VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith and Community Engagement), a longtime St. Mary's Outreach partner, is moving decisively this fall to take advantage of exciting new opportunities to advance its goals of making a difference in the everyday lives of Virginia residents in need of housing and mental health support. St. Mary's was a founding member of VOICE, a non-partisan network of faith and community organizations that spans traditional divides of faith, income, ethnicity, race, and political party, and works to bring together people with common interests to influence decisions on key challenges affecting communities.

HOUSING

With Virginia short hundreds of thousands of units to meet its residents' needs, VOICE is partnering with more than 40 other organizations, from the Virginia Poverty Law Center to the Virginia Homebuilders Association and Americans for Prosperity, to urge the 2026 Virginia General Assembly to approve reforms designed to increase housing supply and help keep a lid on cost increases. We'll kick off this statewide campaign at a mass public assembly of 500+ people on Sunday, Oct. 19th, from 3:30-5 pm at Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon. The candidates for Governor and House seats have been invited. Please join us to show state leaders that they need to act on housing! Contact Marjorie Green at vagreenfam@verizon.net to sign up.

MENTAL HEALTH

Prince William County just opened the first of a series of planned crisis receiving centers across the state after VOICE led an effort to get state and local funding for these places where people in a mental health crisis can stabilize without having to go to the ER or jail. Work is proceeding on other CRC's in NoVa. In Arlington, the County and Arlington Public Schools will soon launch a program sought by VOICE to provide free, school-based after-school programs for students who face barriers to accessing traditional programs and can wind up on the streets. Now, VOICE is working with after-school providers across the county to make sure out-of-school care is widely available. These programs allow kids to make connections with peers and trusted adults and develop skills and self-esteem, all factors that help them cope with mental health challenges.

PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

VOICE is joining with its ally, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, to encourage voting in this year's elections. St. Mary's will be part of this non-partisan campaign, as it was last year. Look for a banner and written and digital information encouraging all to vote and providing info on when to vote, how to change your address, find out your precinct polling place, and more. In the face of increasing polarization in our country, VOICE continues to pursue its long-term objective of building relationships in communities to create people-powered campaigns on key issues like housing and healthcare and win concrete changes for the better. The VOICE Core Team at St. Mary's invites you to be part of this work! Please contact Marjorie to learn more.



Half of Virginians can't afford where they live. Our ever-growing housing shortage is driving more and more families out of the state, into hours-long commutes, and unsafe housing conditions. **This statewide problem needs a statewide response, and state leadership.**

This assembly will include Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Sikh faith leaders, nonprofit and business partners, and elected officials from across the region. **Together, we will call for bold, bipartisan action to address Virginia's growing housing shortage and rising costs—starting at the state level.**



Sunday October 19

3:30 - 5:00 PM



Floris United Methodist Church

13600 Frying Pan Rd, Herndon, VA



VOICE



FROM THE VESTRY

Suzanne Stroup, Senior Warden

With October's arrival, I can't help but look back, reflect, and wonder what you have already experienced at St. Mary's this fall. I am curious, as you have come through our red doors, if you have felt the same energy I've sensed pulsing through our parish. In these four weeks alone, so much has happened. Whether it's the kickoff of Sunday School, Choir, Youth Groups, a year-long bible study led by Mother Meg, and new acolyte training, or the restart and continuation of our Lay Assistance Ministry program on Columbia Pike, and our food distribution partnership with Santa Maria, our church community is buzzing with participation and purpose. It's an exciting and fulfilling time to be a parishioner here!

Looking forward to the months ahead, your Vestry invites you all to continue and deepen your involvement in the life of St. Mary's. There are several great ways to do just that:

Stewardship: In this first week of October, please look for your stewardship letter and pledge card for 2026 to arrive. In this letter, we ask every St. Mary's parishioner to prayerfully discern the incredible and unique gifts of time, talent, and treasure bestowed upon us from God, and in turn, determine what gifts (specifically financially) you can give back to God and St. Mary's in gratitude. The pledge, the promise you make, is a financial amount you determine to give to St. Mary's during 2026: no gift is too big or too small! And, remember two important things: 1) of every dollar we receive,

25% immediately goes to support our outreach efforts; and 2) the pledges we receive this fall determine what we can budget for 2026. They pay for our staff and clergy salaries and benefits, and keep our church building running. Our goal for 2026 is to increase pledge participation amongst all parishioners. Please show your commitment to this parish by making a pledge. Ingathering Sunday is October 19th, when you can offer up your pledge in gratitude. Alternatively, you can send in your pledge card electronically or via mail. If you do not receive your pledge card in the mail by October 6, please reach out to Kelly Marcellus at 703-527-6800.

Newcomers: St. Mary's continues to see new faces at church week after week. Once inside our sanctuary, these individuals should be lovingly welcomed into our parish. Thanks to the dedication of Rosanna Esposito, St. Mary's is lucky to have a vibrant, newly revitalized Newcomer Committee to help integrate new members into fellowship and ministries right away. Are you outgoing, engaged, or looking for a way to get involved at St. Mary's? Might you be interested in being a part of our Newcomer Group? Rosanna is looking for individuals to help with this streamlined welcoming process and would love to hear from you! Reach out to her at: rosanna@stmarysarlington.org.

St. Mary's Transition Forums: Led by Mother Meg, we continue to invite St. Mary's parishioners to take part in important discussions on who we are as a parish, and where we God is leading us in the years ahead as we contemplate just who will be called to help lead us. Please join us at 9 am on October 5 and 12 for our

Adult Forum hour to be a part of these important conversations. Your knowledge and voice are vital to the discussion, whether you have been at St. Mary's for twenty years or two months.

More than anything, your Vestry wants each member of the community to feel a sense of participation and purpose, to feel welcomed, and to be fed by our worship services and ministries week after week. If you are new to St. Mary's, we look forward to introducing you into our parish family.

Just yesterday afternoon, I walked through our sanctuary and felt the warmth of the setting sun streaming through the windows. Seeing our pews and the vaulted wood ceiling above, I was struck

by one powerful thought: St. Mary's is all of us. For whatever reason, each of us decided to walk through those red doors at some point and something—some interaction, or some word—called us to make this our church home. In this time of transition, I am both comforted and driven by the idea that, while we begin to think about the importance of our upcoming leadership search, we will not be led by just one or even a small number of people. Instead, it will be the love of God in each of us that will lead us, continue to grow our faith, deepen our connections, help us in times of need, and spread the Word of God out into this community and world. As a parish, we are blessed indeed. I'm so very grateful to call you my church family, and to be on this journey with each of you.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

OUR SERVICES

SUNDAY

8 am, The Holy Eucharist
(Fellowship following)

8:30-11:30 am, Nursery (3 months-3 years old)

9 am, Sunday School & Youth Forum (PreK-12)

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY

7 pm *The Story* with Mother Meg

TUESDAY

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

THURSDAY

6:30 pm Youth Choir (Choir Room)
7:30 pm Adult Choir (Choir Room)

SUNDAY

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sat., Oct. 4; 5 pm | Blessing of the Animals |
| Sun., Oct. 5; 5 pm | Choral Evensong & Art Reception
(Art inspired by St. Francis) |
| Sun., Oct. 19 | Ingathering Sunday & College Parent Fellowship |
| Fri.-Sun.; Oct. 24-26 | Shrine Mont Adult Retreat |

FACES OF LOVE IN ACTION:



CYNDA TIPPLE

St. Mary's has been a community of deep and life-changing blessing for me. I was led to St. Mary's by the Holy Spirit in 2007, a lifelong Roman Catholic in need of a new faith community. I was welcomed and encouraged to attend coffee hour on my very first Sunday by our dear friend, Betty Ochenrider.

My husband, Steve, and I were married at St. Mary's in 2011. The parish has blessed me with many opportunities to grow in faith and service. With encouragement from the clergy and fellow parishioners, I began serving as a chalice bearer at the early Sunday service. This ministry expanded my love of the liturgy, especially the Holy Eucharist. Later I joined the Lay Eucharist Visitors ministry team and currently serve as the team leader.

The opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with St. Mary's clergy and parishioners in 2017 led to a long-term volunteer relationship with the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre that has enriched my life with friendship and a deep gratitude for the work of Christians in the Land of the Holy One. In 2022, our parish engagement with the Culmore Clinic led to the opportunity to use my healthcare experience in service by joining the Clinic's board of directors. St. Mary's continues to fill our lives with abundance, and our hearts are filled with gratitude.



SASHA & LEE GROENEVELD

Our journey to St. Mary's was not a straight line. We met while both attending the University of Texas at Austin. (Go Horns!) After marrying, we moved to Oklahoma City and started our family. Our son, Grayson, was born in Oklahoma City, and our daughter, Greer, joined our family four years later. After living in Oklahoma for twenty years, our life took an unexpected turn when Lee joined the Foreign Service. After training in Arlington, we moved to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and then to Tokyo, Japan. We moved to Arlington in 2023.

When returning to the U.S., one of our top priorities was finding a church with a robust children's program. We visited St. Mary's and were immediately impressed with the friendliness of the members. Even though it was summer, there were many volunteer opportunities for the kids, so they were instantly plugged into the community. When school began, Grayson and Greer attended youth group during the week. Both of them enjoyed assisting Jackie during Sunday School and Children's Church. The highlight for both kids has been attending the Mission Trip in New Bern, North Carolina for the last two summers, helping rebuild homes damaged by hurricanes. We are grateful to St. Mary's for strengthening our children's relationship with God.

COLLABORATIVE SUNDAY SERMONS IN OCTOBER



KAREN SCHAEFER & JOHN BURNHAM

My husband, John Burnham, and I decided to leave the Catholic Church during COVID. We no longer felt it represented our values and were seeking a church that was more inclusive and focused on social justice and outreach, reflecting Jesus' teachings. We found a home in St. Mary's and were formally received into the Episcopal Church at St. Mary's on January 29, 2023.

We have a 11-year-old son, Matthew, who received his First Communion at St. Mary's. He attends Sunday school, is in the choir, and the youth group.

Since joining, John and I have attended the Foundations class, multiple bible studies, as well as the Sacred Ground course to grow in our understanding of the Episcopal faith.

I have been a member of the Stewardship Committee since August 2023, have helped out with the food distribution, schedule permitting, and last year joined the Hospitality Committee. Most recently, I served on my first Discernment committee. With each engagement, my attachment to St. Mary's grows.

We feel blessed to have found St. Mary's. We have deepened our faith as a family and have built a community of friends which will last a lifetime.



RIDGELY BENJAMIN

My husband Tom and I joined St. Mary's twenty-one years ago, shortly after we moved to Arlington. It took hearing only one of Father Merrow's sermons and we were hooked. As parents to our three-year-old daughter Emily and newborn son Charlie, we appreciated the quiet time during the services and the fellowship during coffee hour while our children were well-cared-for in the nursery. After the birth of our daughter Abby, we realized St. Mary's offers more than just inspiring sermons and a place to catch our breath after a busy work week. Our children joined the choir and participated in Sunday school and youth group; we attended Shrine Mont family weekends and fell in love with the peacefulness of the Shenandoah Mountains (and consequently our children attended years of St. George's camp); I've used my power tools during Rebuilding Together service days and on a mission trip to Kentucky; I enjoy being a part of the merry band of cooks and hosts in the Hospitality Committee; and most recently, I participated in the transformative Sacred Ground series and powerfully healing Walking the Morner's Path workshops. During the pandemic however, I found my true calling at St. Mary's: the Santa Maria food distribution. The mission of feeding our neighbors in need is powerful enough but it is the connections I have made with volunteers of all ages from St. Mary's and La Iglesia Episcopal de Santa María that makes me look forward to the bi-monthly distributions. I am forever grateful that St. Mary's offers so many ways for us to enrich ourselves and others.



Youth and Family Ministry is in full swing at St. Mary's this fall! Join us for Youth Group, Sunday School and Youth Forums, Youth Confirmation, Acolyte Training, Family Fellowship and more! Contact Jackie Vigil to volunteer or to register for events.



CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 began on Tuesday Sept. 23rd from 7:30-8:30 pm and continue monthly on Tuesday evenings through December. The 2025 schedule is below:

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

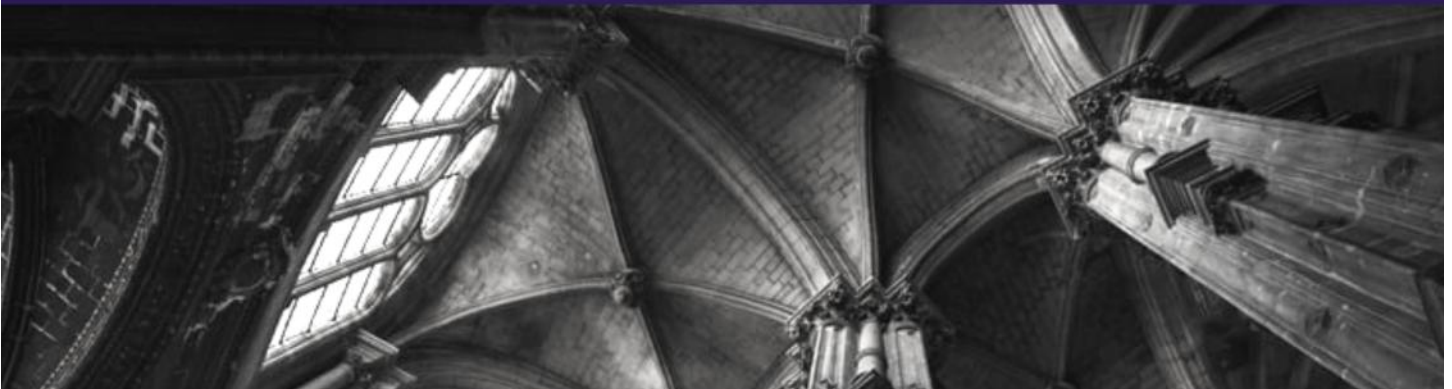
If you are interested in Adult Confirmation or Inquirers' Classes at St. Mary's, please email Rev. Nicole Lambelet at nicole@stmarysarlington.org.

CHORAL REQUIEM EUCHARIST

with Gabriel Fauré's Requiem sung by St. Mary's Choir with soloists and orchestra

5:00 PM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2609 N. GLEBE ROAD, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



DO BUILDINGS SPEAK?

by Dr. Gregory Hooker, Music Minister

Physical space has the capacity to open our spirits and minds to God through the artistry and craftsmanship of builders, architects and artists. Church architecture intentionally focuses us toward not the human but to the divine.

The weekly Sunday worship is referred to as a service (service to God), Eucharist (thanksgiving to God), or Mass (derived from the words of dismissal in Latin). More correctly it is two services: the service of the word (readings and sermon) and the service of the table (communion).

The central aisle leads the eye and our physical bodies to the altar because the central idea of Christianity is Easter. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection informs everything about our lives as Christians, the community of the church and its liturgy. The candles are lit on the altar to signify Christ's light in the world, in the church and in our hearts.

The opening procession from the nave to the altar by the ministers of the liturgy signifies our coming together in recognition of God being with and among us. The procession at the gospel can signify Jesus' coming to be among his people by bringing the Bible to the nave for the gospel reading. The procession to the altar by the faithful for the Eucharist is in response to Jesus' invitation to partake of him in his body and life-giving blood. The procession at the end of the service from the altar to the nave is a representation of our going out into the world renewed by word and sacrament to be Christ's people. Music often accompanies these processions to enhance our awareness of God's presence among us and to remind us of the themes of that day's lessons or the themes of that season of the Christian year.

Because of our focus on Jesus' passion and resurrection and therefore the altar, the pulpit is usually not central in the Episcopal Church. Often scripture readings are on one side and sermons are on another side which delineates God's word from its interpretation. At St. Mary's we follow an early church practice of using the same location (the ambo) for both the reading of the lessons of the day and for the sermon based on them. *The Book of Common Prayer* describes the readings alternating with the singing of the psalm and the singing of the sequence hymn. The sequence hymn text is selected to enhance our understanding of the readings: a sermon in song.

The central focus on the Eucharist and the altar is a defining characteristic of liturgical churches. The liturgy that flows from this central theme is God focused rather than individual or people centered. Worship leaders are robed or vested not to draw attention to themselves but to define their role and to assume an identity outside of their individuality. Liturgical ministers' role-whether clerical or lay, musical or spoken, is always to point to God and not themselves. Musical leaders are very frequently at least partially hidden from the view of the congregation to emphasize their role as leading us Godward on the behalf of others.

UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Choral Evensong for St. Francis

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

Sung by St. Mary's Choir

This brief service of readings and prayers (no sermon or Eucharist), with the psalm, canticles and anthem sung by the choir, is the perfect way to end the day in the grace and knowledge of God. The English reformers combined two monastic evening prayer services (vespers and compline) to create one of the most beloved services of the English speaking world. First timers are always welcome! At this particular service, music by composers Harold Friedell, Robert Lehman, Jessica French, and Libby Larsen 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

November 2, 5:00 pm

Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* with St. Mary's Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra
A Reception follows in Paca Parish Hall.

Organ Concert

November 3, 2025, 7:30 pm

Local organists and composers John Dixon, Jay Parrotta, and David Boulware-Kelley will each present a selection of their compositions. This event is sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.

2025-2026 MUSIC EVENTS ONLINE

St. Mary's Music Offerings are now listed on the music page of our website. We are thrilled and grateful to offer a wide array of wonderful liturgical and musical offerings to our parish and community, especially as our 100th Anniversary in 2026 takes place. Take a look and put the dates on your calendar:
<https://www.stmarysarlington.org/music>.

TEEN SINGERS

Teenaged singers will have the opportunity to sing at Advent Lessons & Carols on December 7 at 5:00 pm. There will be rehearsals in November after the 10 am service to prepare the music. Those interested in singing for this festive service should speak to Dr. H or send an email to gregory@stmarysarlington.org.

ST. MARY'S FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

**Children, Youth, and Parents
are welcome to gather for an
informal backyard play date.
Dinner and beverages provided!**



Friday, Oct. 17



6:00-8:00pm



The home of
Campbell and
Church Hutton



**RSVP HERE OR CONTACT
JACKIE VIGIL WITH QUESTIONS**



Do you have a student at boarding school or college who would love to receive some love from St. Mary's this fall?

1. Send us your student's address by Oct. 13
2. Join parents of college students for refreshments, fellowship, and care package assembly on Sun. Oct. 19 at 11:30am in the Vestry Room (optional; we will still send your student a package if you are unavailable on this date!)



jackie@stmarysarlington.org

Office: 703-527-6800



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 HERE!



A LITTLE HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Pam Frick

One of the many gifts that St. Mary's has received throughout its history is the vision of men and women seeing beyond the present moment. This month I would like to focus on the origin story of our parish and a few of the critical folks whose foresight/forethought led to the establishment of our parish.

The first of our founders was **the Rev. John G. Sadtler (1867-1948)** (*right*). A native of Baltimore County, MD, he was ordained in 1894 and spent twenty years as rector of various parishes in Maryland. He then served for nine years as rector of Christ Church in Bridgewater, Connecticut before coming to Virginia. In 1924, he was called as the Rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church of Langley Parish (now of McLean).

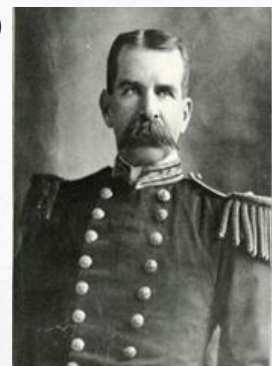


He also became active in the Epiphany Mission Church in Cherrydale that sparked a growing interest in establishing a mission church near Rixey Station (*left – spoiler alert: you can just see the top of the church & bell tower above the station, already built. The vehicle is on Glebe Road.*)

In the summer of 1925, Sadtler explored the area, spoke with nearby known Episcopalians and his Vestry. The latter formed a five-man committee—of which the Rev. Sadtler was a member—to consider the logistics of building a church at Rixey Station in Arlington. The committee hit the ground running and, outlining their impressive progress in a July 25th letter to the Vestry, informed them that Adm. & Mrs. Presley Rixey had made a gift of land on which the church could be erected; they had requested that the Rixey's select the church's name; and, that the committee had adopted a sketch and ground plan drafted by architect W. H. Irwin Fleming; they decided the church should be built of stone; and, discussed fundraising options.

Bishop Wm. Cabell Brown wrote to Rev. Sadtler on October 25th stating that “the rapid growth in population around the Country Club makes it necessary for us to establish services there” (*quoted in Wallace Andrews' History of St. Mary's*). He also thought that Rev. Sadtler should turn his work with the mission church in Cherrydale over to the Rev. Mr. Sparks, allowing Sadtler the additional time to concentrate on the new mission church's development.

Our next founders were **Rear Adm. Presley Marion Rixey (1852-1928)** (*right*) **and his wife, Earlena (1855-1935)**. The Rear Admiral had retired in 1910 from a remarkable career, including serving as a Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy and personal physician to Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. With his aid, the Navy Nurse Corps was established in 1908, believing women nurses would greatly increase efficiency in hospitals.



His wife, Earlena English Rixey (*no picture accessible*), the daughter of a Rear Admiral, had married Rixey in 1877, and served as a Navy wife for 33 years. They lived in the Rixey Mansion, now the central building of Marymount University, within easy walking distance of the Rixey Station.

The land they gifted was a triangular plot between “the Glebe Road, the right of way of the Washington & Old Dominion Railway (*tracks in the photo above*) and the Summit Road (26th Street?)¹. They had held onto the property for years, hoping to offer it as a site for a church. Therefore, Rev. Sadtler’s vision was one that they welcomed and shared. The Admiral was elected an honorary member of the Building Committee and its ranks were expanded to include Mrs. Rixey, Mrs. Walter Campbell, Mrs. Weaver, T. Turner Smith, and Mrs. Edward Kerschner, who was elected Treasurer. Mr. B.G. Foster was elected Register.

The first committee meeting was held in the Rixey’s home and it was announced that the Rixeys would duplicate any amounts raised within the parish for the building fund to the extent of \$12,500. The naming of the church was discussed and the preferred choice was “The Church of Our Mothers.” It was agreed, however, that Mr. Foster would research if there were rules and restrictions to names for church buildings. When consulted, Rev. Sadtler informed them it was not appropriate and that churches were normally named for saints or biblical characters. It was decided to name the church for St. Mary, the mother of Jesus and the compromise was “St. Mary’s - The Church of Our Mothers.”

In November of 1925, it was reported that Bishop Brown had accepted the land deed. Rev. Sadtler got permission for the church to hold services in the Carne School Building, on the present site of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, and the first service was held on February 14, 1926. Shortly after, a Sunday School was created with Dr. Blackwell as Superintendent.



This leads us to our final founder in this article, Dr. (and Cdr. Retired) Edward Maurice Blackwell (1865-1952) (*left*) and Mary Bowen Blackwell (1872- 1942) (*right*). (*Photographs taken in 1917*) Dr. Blackwell was a surgeon in the US Navy and served in the Spanish American War and WWI. The couple returned to the area in March 1924, and moved into a house they built across the street from the land donated for the church in May 1925. We are indebted to Blackwell for his part in preserving St. Mary’s early history. Chapter 26 in his family memoir was titled “We Return, Build a Home and Help Build a Church.” Blackwell joined the Washington Golf and Country Club, where he got to know his neighbors and played



golf regularly with Rixey until the Admiral died. It is implied that these relationships are how the Blackwells came to become members of St. Mary’s.

In a meeting on March 2, 1926, the Building Committee again expanded its ranks, electing five new members including Dr. Blackwell. A Finance Committee was formed with Walter Weaver as chair and Adm. Rixey as one of its six members. Plans proceeded with architectural plans, and the groundbreaking was held on June 5, 1926. A *Washington Post* article reported that the Rt. Rev. Henry St. George Tucker, Bishop Coadjutor of Virginia presided (*left, with shovel*), assisted by Rev. Sadtler (*left of Bishop*) at the ground-breaking for “the new \$50,000 St. Mary’s Protestant Church.” Despite poor weather, over 100 people attended. After the Bishop broke ground, each parish member (more than 50) removed a spade-full of dirt. At a congregational meeting the next day, the parish members elected trustees to “hold the church property.” (*Wallace Andrews’ History of St. Mary’s*)



Bishop Brown, with Rev. Sadtler assisting, laid the cornerstone on August 25, 1926. The Masons participated in the ceremony using the trowel and gavel employed by George Washington in laying the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol Building in 1793. The trowel belonged to the Masonic Lodge of Alexandria. And the Potomac Lodge in Georgetown owned the gavel. Samuel Miller Quarry Company of Washington donated the cornerstone.

Dr. Blackwell outlines the challenges that faced the congregation financially. Original costs for construction were estimated at \$30,000, but ended up totaling \$45,000. Adm. Rixey guaranteed a loan and gave additional support, but then died suddenly in 1928. In today's market, \$45,000 would be the equivalent of \$821,308 – hence, a sizable debt for a steady congregation of fewer than fifty people in an economy with an average annual salary range of \$2,000-\$3,500. Still, the members were determined and St. Mary's parish grew and flourished.

And what of our founders? The Rev. John Sadtler continued as Rector until September of 1935. He died in January 1948. Bishop Goodwin wrote of his ministry, "...he found the great constructive opportunity of his ministry in the organization and development of a mission within his parish, which, as Saint Mary's Church in Arlington County, has now become one of the strong congregations of that rapidly growing section of our diocese. As the founder and rector for eight years of that church, he has made an abiding contribution to the life of the Diocese of Virginia." (*The Virginia Churchman*, July, 1948)

As stated, Adm. Rixey died suddenly of heart failure at the age of 75 in 1928. His wife, Earlena lived another 7 years.

Dr. Blackwell was a devoted member of the parish. He continued as Superintendent of the Sunday School, which numbered 200 students when he retired. He was elected as the first Senior Warden on Easter Monday, April 9, 1927, and he remained both Sunday School Superintendent and Senior Warden until 1947. Among his many donations was the cross on top of the church, now in the Memorial Garden. A talented wood worker, "he constructed, assembled and installed all the church furniture except the pulpit, lectern and bishop's and rector's chairs." (*From the appendix of Blackwell's memoir – this, of course, refers to the 1926 church interior.*) The Rixey's purchased the latter items with gold coins they received at their 50th wedding anniversary in 1927.

Blackwell also carved small offering plates for the children's service; and, in our hallway outside the chapel, you can see a plaque he carved listing the names of all of St. Mary's founders (*both below*). He served under four Rectors, including George Tittmann. On December 7, 1947—when Bishop Goodwin came to celebrate the Consecration of the Church, the Burning of the Mortgage, and Confirmation—Dr. Blackwell was honored with a reception to recognize his role as benefactor, teacher, and leader. Mary had died in 1942, a true blow to Edward. He joined her in 1952.



¹ Unfortunately, as was the case elsewhere, railroads began losing riders when paved roads replaced dirt. The public used the automobile in ever-increasing numbers, and revenue fell as a result. By the time of the Great Depression, the W&OD was worn out and broke. It entered bankruptcy in 1932, and eased all passenger traffic on the Great Falls Division in 1934. The tracks were removed and the right of way was sold to the Commonwealth of Virginia, which used it to construct Old Dominion Drive. Riders had the choice of using a bus or driving themselves to Washington." Sourced from Greater Washington website (GGWash.org)

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

As the days are getting shorter and cooler, we are starting to plan for the upcoming November Thanksgiving Food Drive. We are excited to have a new St. Mary's 100th Anniversary Bag this year to distribute to you for returning your food donations. Thanks to the Very Rev. JR for making this happen! We are excited to have the recipients of the donations see the St. Mary's logo on the new blue bags so they know we are providing for our neighbors.

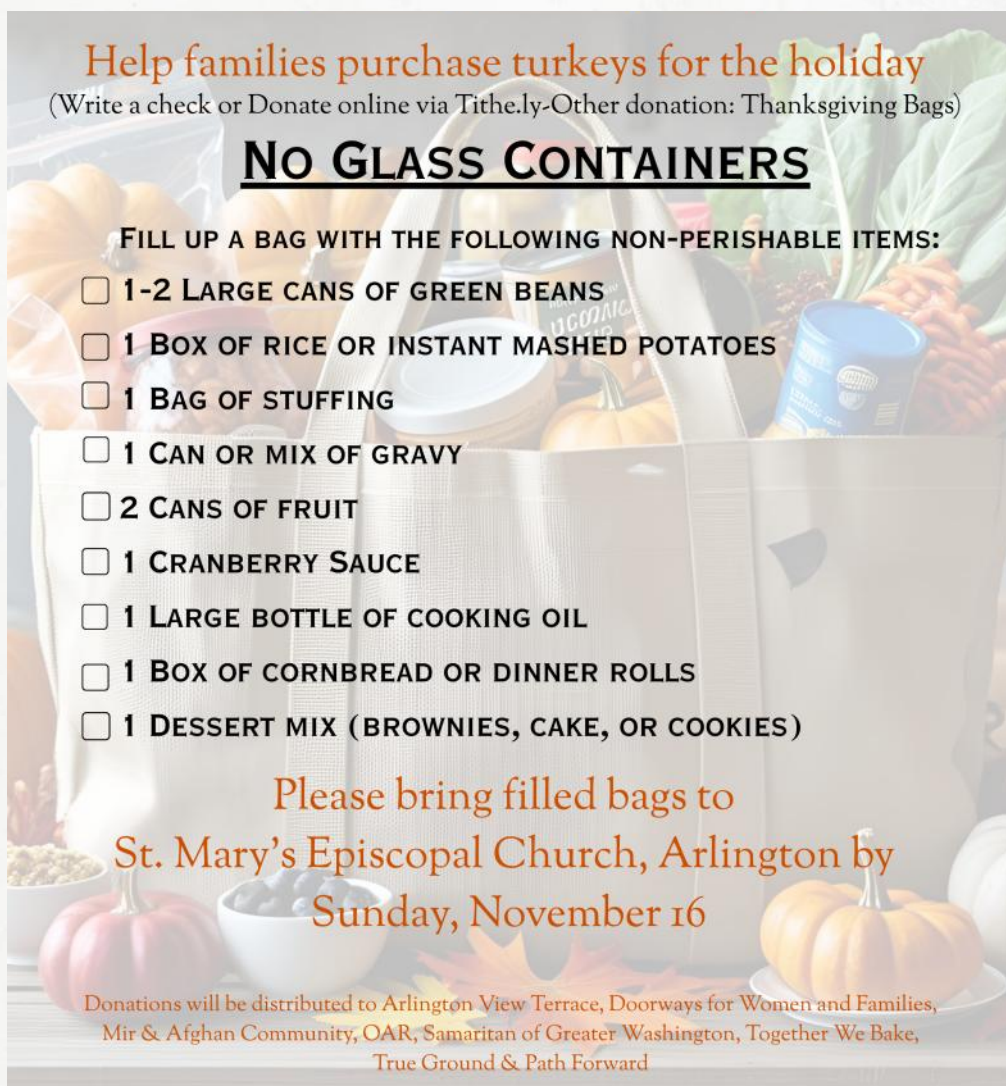
The ushers will be distributing bags after all services on Sunday, October 26th, and Sunday, November 2nd. You may bring your filled bags to St. Mary's starting on Sunday, November 2nd, through Sunday, November 16th. (No Saturday/Monday drop-offs, and last drop-off at 1:00 pm on November 16th).

In lieu of—or in addition to—filling bags, you may donate for Thanksgiving Turkeys. You may write a check to St. Mary's with "Thanksgiving Bags" in the memo line, or donate online via Tithe.ly: Other donation: Thanksgiving Bags

As always, thank you St. Mary's for your generosity and giving spirit!

Peace and Blessings,

Maria DiPasquantonio & 2025 Thanksgiving Food Drive Team



Help families purchase turkeys for the holiday
(Write a check or Donate online via Tithe.ly-Other donation: Thanksgiving Bags)

NO GLASS CONTAINERS

FILL UP A BAG WITH THE FOLLOWING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS:

- ☐ 1-2 LARGE CANS OF GREEN BEANS
- ☐ 1 BOX OF RICE OR INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
- ☐ 1 BAG OF STUFFING
- ☐ 1 CAN OR MIX OF GRAVY
- ☐ 2 CANS OF FRUIT
- ☐ 1 CRANBERRY SAUCE
- ☐ 1 LARGE BOTTLE OF COOKING OIL
- ☐ 1 BOX OF CORNBREAD OR DINNER ROLLS
- ☐ 1 DESSERT MIX (BROWNIES, CAKE, OR COOKIES)

**Please bring filled bags to
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington by
Sunday, November 16**

Donations will be distributed to Arlington View Terrace, Doorways for Women and Families,
Mir & Afghan Community, OAR, Samaritan of Greater Washington, Together We Bake,
True Ground & Path Forward