

W E L C O M E T O S T . M A R Y ' S





Our Invitation

For 100 years, [St. Mary's Episcopal Church](#) in Arlington, Virginia has opened its inviting red doors and welcomed newcomers and family generations alike to walk together in God's love. From its prominent location in the community, St. Mary's has held a distinctive and influential place in the ecclesial and civic landscape of Northern Virginia. A parish of significance in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, it has long been a grounding and spiritual home for area residents in the shadow of the nation's capital.

This vibrant parish is home to a congregation that regards generosity and community engagement as integral to its Christian vocation. St. Mary's has more than 1000 intergenerational members and close to 40 ministries, which are focused on the care and nurturing of our own church body, the diverse community surrounding us, and the global community of God's children.

Whether through regular Sunday services, thought-provoking classes, a thriving music program for all ages and skills, extensive outreach ministries, or sharing our beautiful campus with the broader community, the people of St. Mary's seek and serve Christ in all that we do.

As we discern a new Rector, we invite you to learn more about what makes this esteemed church so special and to bear witness to God's rich presence in our lives. We seek a Rector who can continue the history and mission nurtured by those who came before us and can set a new vision to inspire and lead us into our next century.

We invite you to engage with our profile in the hopes that, with God's help, it will begin to reveal a new call. We wish you many blessings on your faith journey, and please know that you are in our prayers.



Who We Are

Proudly celebrating 100 years in 2026, St. Mary's has been a place where worship, fellowship, Christian formation, prayer, and service come together to shape a vibrant parish community. We are a caring and hopeful congregation, deeply rooted in the Episcopal tradition and committed to living out Christ's call to serve one another and the world around us. Through meaningful worship, inspiring music, opportunities for spiritual formation, extensive outreach, thoughtful prayer, pastoral care, and joyful fellowship, we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community where people of every age can deepen their faith, discover their gifts, and share fully in the life of the parish.

St. Mary's is a large, robust church which is navigating a significant moment of institutional transition. The previous Rector, who led the congregation for 40 years, retired in 2025, marking the end of an era of long and stable pastoral leadership. In many ways, we are who we are today — a thriving and deeply caring parish — because of the nurturing and intentional direction from our last Rector. After nearly two years of intentional interim leadership and ministry, we have remained fundamentally anchored in our devotional practices, and we are ready for a new season of ministry. Today, we seek a Rector who will continue in that same spirit and will find new and innovative ways to nurture, challenge and grow each of us — and our parish — in the years to come. With nearly 40 ministries offering something for everyone as well as a deep sense of belonging, we hope that the following will give you a feel for the wonder that is St. Mary's Episcopal Church.



► We Are Glad You're Here

One of the great hallmarks of St. Mary's is this: no matter where you are in your relationship with God, how frequently you attend services or engage in parish life, you are always invited and warmly welcomed through our red doors. Hospitality is at our core; there are countless stories of parishioners who call St. Mary's their home because of the genuine welcome and follow-up shown to them upon entering our church. We are a mosaic in many ways: a big church comprised

*'Therefore, receive
one another,
just as Christ also
received us, to the
glory of God.'*

~ROMANS 15:7

of "cradle Episcopalians" as well as many former Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists, and other denominations. What binds us together is our shared desire to have a stronger connection to God and to be spiritually fed and grounded in a busy and sometimes fraught world. The peace

is shared every Sunday with tremendous enthusiasm and gusto, as parishioners walk up and down the aisles to give and receive God's peace with one another, regardless of who you are or how you got here.

We are also a "purple" church, with highly educated parishioners who represent a wide range of political perspectives. Yet, we seek to celebrate our connectedness as children of God with open hearts and curious minds, engaging with each other in courageous conversation, and ultimately welcoming and respecting the personal views of our neighbors on either side of us in the pews.



► We Are Believers

Our unwavering faith in the Doctrine of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - permeates our worship, music, formation and all Church activities. We are guided by the Book of Common Prayer and enjoy liturgically rich services which follow the Episcopal calendar. We observe the season of Lent with deep reverence and intentionality and participate fully in the sacred liturgies of Holy Week. These meaningful traditions invite us into a deeper understanding of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Put succinctly, we are Easter and Good Friday people. Our parish shares a strong sense of "spiritual seriousness" — a deep appreciation for prayer, communion, and scripture, and we listen eagerly for God's Word and presence in our worship, ministries and fellowship.

*'Trust in the Lord
with all your heart, and
lean not on your own
understanding;
In all your ways
acknowledge Him,
and He shall make
straight your paths.'*

~PROVERBS 3:5-16

While our parish — young and old — are deeply sacramental in our worship, we are not "high church." Instead, we see ourselves as "broad church," a church that treasures tradition but also meets people where they are. We are not afraid to look for new and innovative ways to connect with God, with each other, with our community, and with Creation. St. Mary's offers three Sunday services, as well as twice-monthly "Praise in the Park," a chance



to worship outdoors and celebrate God's Creation, with music led by our lay Rippling Waters Band. St. Mary's holds two weekday Eucharist services in our Chapel, as well as the Sacrament of Healing and Centering Prayer. We also worship through music-centered services such as Evensong, All Saints Requiems, Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols, and Holy Week. Beyond worship, our parish hall and classrooms come alive as our members gather to learn, question, and grow through opportunities for thoughtful and rigorous study. We look for and receive God's presence from many angles.

Our spiritual grounding is also evident in our long and meaningful relationship with nearby Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). For more than forty years, our parish has played an active role in forming seminarians preparing for ordained ministry, and offering opportunities to learn, serve, preach, teach, and grow within a vibrant parish community. Clergy formation is integral to St. Mary's identity and sense of purpose. We understand the parish not only as a place where ministry happens but also as a place where future leaders of the Church are formed, mentored, challenged, and encouraged. This commitment reflects our desire to invest in the wider Church and to prepare faithful, thoughtful, and spiritually grounded leaders for ministry in a changing world. The majority of the associate clergy who have served at St. Mary's are VTS graduates, further strengthening this long-standing relationship. Members of our clergy team have also contributed to theological education beyond the parish, serving as faculty as well as adjunct faculty, and as members of the Boards of Trustees of both Virginia Theological Seminary and General Theological Seminary.



We Walk Together

Pastoral Care is a core tenet of our church. Members of our parish genuinely feel supported throughout the arc of their lives — from the cradle to the heavens. We have a thriving children and youth program supported by many gifted lay leaders, including a staffed nursery, formation and confirmation classes, children's choir, acolytes, mission trips, service offerings, street festivals, and field trips. To walk into a church and see and hear children in abundance is one of our many blessings. And in a day and age where many say that young adults are turning away from religion, we have dozens of active and engaged members in their 20s and 30s. Our youth and younger adults look to St. Mary's to be a "third place" in their busy lives, a locus away from home and work where they are always welcome and can find community, friendship and a connection to the church influences they grew up with. Our clergy and staff work tirelessly to ensure that all of our young people are convened regularly and feel known, heard, and cared for by their church leaders.

'I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep.'

~JOHN 10:14-15

For many of our members, pastoral care is about being present with them through all of life's seasons—the joys, the challenges, the uncertainties, and the times of grief or transition. At its heart, it is about listening with compassion, offering comfort and encouragement, and helping people feel supported in their faith journey. Whether through a hospital visit, a difficult conversation, a celebration, or simply sitting quietly with someone who is struggling, pastoral care at St. Mary's reflects God's love through presence, prayer, and genuine human connection. It is an essential part of creating a caring and connected church community where no one feels that they have to walk through this life alone. And it is not just the clergy providing the support and care to the congregation; life-changing programs led by laity and staff include our Stephen Ministry, Walking the Mourner's Path, Healing Prayer, and New Gateways Ministry.



■ We Praise With Song

Music is at the heart of our life as a vibrant Episcopal parish, enriching our worship and drawing us more deeply into the presence of God. We see music not as an accompaniment to worship, but as important as the sermon — an essential expression of our spiritual life and a ministry in its own right. Through hymns, choral music, instrumental offerings, and congregational singing, our music programs and Choirs give voice to the full range of our faith. Music unites us across generations and backgrounds, creating a shared language through which we worship and experience the beauty and mystery of God. We seek to nurture a vibrant and welcoming musical tradition that honors the richness of our Episcopalian heritage while embracing new voices, talents, and forms of expression. Learn more about our [Music offerings](#).

'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.'

~COLOSSIANS 3:16

■ We Give Back

It is impossible to talk about St. Mary's without mentioning our commitment to outreach. We continually highlight our history and DNA of supporting and giving back to our neighbors, the Diocese, the broader community, and parishes around the world. We take seriously our responsibility to be a generous parish, given our location in the affluent suburb of North Arlington. We are aware of our privilege and we are also a group who values diversity and cares deeply for our neighbors near and far. We derive immense joy from sharing our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We see this as a living expression of the Church's vocation in the world.

This commitment is expressed not only through substantial volunteerism and partnerships with like-minded organizations (see [Outreach](#) for more details), but also through substantial financial support. Since the late 1980s, St. Mary's has made it an act of faith to give away 25% of our annual income (pledges and plate offerings) to the Diocese and other worthy causes that address the needs of our neighbors both locally and globally. St. Mary's embodies a model of institutional generosity that both reflects and reinforces its self-understanding as a significant agent of ecclesial and social engagement. Our commitment also punctuates our push annually for strong stewardship and contributions from the congregation, so that both our operational and outreach needs can be adequately met.

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

~MATTHEW 25:34-37





Our Next Rector

St. Mary's is a healthy and vibrant parish. Our recent congregational survey, along with multiple listening sessions with hundreds of members of all ages, affirmed a deep sense of congregational accord, wholeness, fulfillment, and peace within our community. We are a congregation guided by purpose, passion, and intention, and we believe this is a time to discern prayerfully how God is calling us to share our gifts and abundance with each other and with the world.

As we look to the future, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek a Rector who will build upon our strong foundation with innovation, compassion, wisdom, and a spirit of collaboration. Our next Rector will be **a visionary and strategic leader** who will partner with us to shape and articulate **a shared sense of purpose** for our broad-ranging community and develop a thoughtful, actionable plan to guide us into our next chapter of ministry and growth.



We are grateful for the recent care of our Interim Rector, and for the continuing support of our assisting clergy and staff who are helping us through our transition — and we are excited about the opportunities which God has in store for us.

Priorities guiding our discernment:

- ♦ We seek a strategic and dynamic leader who is **energized by the opportunity and challenge of leading a parish of St. Mary's size and complexity** and can bring to life a shared vision for who we will be in the coming years. We offer many opportunities for members to engage in ministry, build relationships, and deepen their faith. While our breadth of programs and ministries is a great strength, it can also make it challenging to foster a strong sense of connection and mission across the parish. We seek a visionary and collaborative leader who will help us articulate our shared purpose, strengthen the bonds that unite us, and bring the many facets of our parish life together in pursuit of a common mission.
- ♦ Our next Rector should possess the ability to build and sustain trust through **exceptional relationship-building skills**, transparency, thoughtful communication, and collaborative decision-making. We value a Rector who will partner closely with other clergy, Vestry, staff, and the congregation, fostering **a culture of openness**, shared responsibility, and mutual respect.

- ◆ We seek someone who brings the experience and **strong leadership skills needed to manage, lead, and develop our staff, engage knowledgeably with parish finances, and steward the responsibilities** that come with significant physical and fiscal assets. Someone with previous exposure to strong communications (including social media) and information technology practices would be ideal. We also seek a Rector with a healthy dose of self-awareness and humility — a recognition of one's own strengths and weaknesses, which can be balanced with those of other clergy, staff, and laity.
- ◆ On Sunday mornings for many years, parishioners have been drawn into St. Mary's by worship that is reverent, joyful, and alive. Our next senior leader should be **a thoughtful, gifted, and inspiring preacher**, whose ministry embraces the liturgies, creeds, and traditions of the Episcopal church and is **grounded in a life of prayer**. The Rector should be accustomed to delivering thought-provoking sermons which are theologically-based, insightful, and relevant, and leave the congregation feeling renewed and blessed by the presence of God.
- ◆ Our next Rector should be **innovative and passionate about growth**. While our congregation is thriving, like many churches, we have seen some decrease in attendance and pledges since the pandemic. We see an opportunity to intentionally re-engage with former parishioners who may have drifted away and to proactively attract new members of all ages by developing **exceptional programming and better communicating** our many strengths. Also, as a highly visible church in North Arlington, we hope for a Rector who can help us **connect more with our immediate community** and leverage our position to draw in newcomers.
- ◆ We pray for a Rector who is approachable, warm, welcoming, and genuine — with a strong interest in getting to know each of us personally and **a clear talent for pastoral care**. We await a priest who will be with us in times of need and celebration. In a larger church context, this could mean organizing and deploying other clergy for different moments. This individual should be sure to leverage technology systems and catalog pastoral interactions with parishioners for appropriate follow-up and personal attention.
- ◆ We seek a Rector who will help us **grow closer to God and to each other**. From our listening sessions and survey, parishioners see additional room to strengthen their faith through various types of spiritual formation, programming and fellowship activities. Our congregants seek fewer silos and more intermingling — either by age group, service time, or along other lines. We seek someone who is **gifted at creating impactful communities** within the church, especially for families, young adults, children, and youth. Christian formation at all levels should be a priority as an effective way to help grow the church.
- ◆ Our next Rector should also share in our **strong devotion and enthusiasm for Outreach** as an expression of our faith, in terms of budgeting and programming. And we look for a leader who will celebrate and continue our **relationship with Virginia Theological Seminary** to grow and mentor the priests of the future.
- ◆ Above all, we seek a leader who recognizes what makes St. Mary's such a remarkable and special place and wishes to make St. Mary's their long-term home. We hope to call a Rector who will appreciate and build upon our distinctive strengths, helping us **to imagine, plan for, and engender our future** while continuing our role as a vibrant church community and an important part of the civic fabric of our region.



St. Mary's History

St. Mary's Episcopal Church has a long and compelling history. The church was established in 1926, on approximately one acre of land donated by Adm. Presley M. Rixey. Adm. Rixey was a prominent Arlington County resident and President Theodore Roosevelt's personal physician. The then-rural location of the property on Glebe Road was close to Adm. and Mrs. Rixey's home, now occupied by Marymount University.

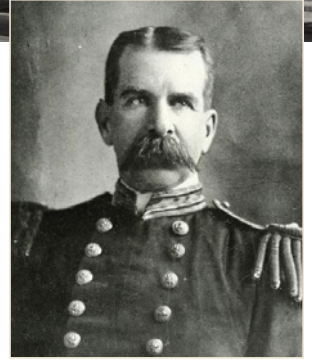
In June of 1926, ground was broken for the building and in August the cornerstone was laid using the shovel and trowel that George Washington employed to place the U.S. Capitol's cornerstone. Construction proceeded rapidly and the first service was held in St. Mary's nave on April 3, 1927. Initially a mission of St. John's in McLean, the Rev. John Sadtler, as our first Rector, served both congregations. St. Mary's became a self-supporting church of the Diocese of Virginia during the tenure of the Rev. Peyton Williams who served as our second Rector from 1936 until 1941.

In 1942, the Rev. George Tittmann was called to St. Mary's. When Fr. Tittmann felt called to wartime service as a Navy chaplain, Dr. Robert Kevin from Virginia Theological Seminary served as priest-in-charge from June, 1943 to December, 1945. Upon Fr. Tittmann's return, St. Mary's embarked upon a period of substantial growth. The church welcomed a large number of new congregants, especially young families, and the building size was nearly doubled in 1953 to accommodate the increase. Members were engaged in social action throughout the region and active in the community life of Arlington. Upon his departure in 1956, Fr. Tittmann's legacy was a vibrant, warm, and engaged church community that was recognized as a flagship in the Diocese of Virginia.

The Rev. John Reinheimer was called as St. Mary's fourth Rector in 1957. Fr. Reinheimer had a deep interest in education and social justice, which seemed a good fit for St. Mary's. Unfortunately, his tenure was marked by clashes with the Vestry and a core group of congregants over his personal behavior, lack of pastoral attention, and vision for the church. This turmoil eventually came to a head in 1961 when a group of over 100 congregants left St. Mary's to form St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The congregation continued to dwindle during the next seven years until Fr. Reinheimer resigned in 1968, leaving St. Mary's with 229 members, approximately 10% of the number from its height in the 1950s.



St. Mary's fifth Rector, the Rev. Paul Bankston, served briefly from 1969 until 1971, when he died of cancer. The Rev. Kenneth Eade followed as Rector until his retirement in 1983. A conservative Anglican, he stabilized the parish, but did not attract a younger generation of people. The Rev. Porter Brooks served as interim Rector.



ADMIRAL PRESLEY M. RIXEY

In 1985, the Rev. Andrew T.P. Merrow was called as St. Mary's seventh Rector and served the parish faithfully for 40 years until his retirement in 2025. During those years, the parish grew significantly in both the size of the congregation and the budget. St. Mary's once again became a hub of activity for the community until the church building was bursting at the seams. In the late 1990's, a capital campaign raised the funds for a major renovation project that greatly increased the footprint of the church to accommodate its growth in size. Other investments in the parish followed including the purchase of four rental properties used for affordable housing, and a Rectory. From the beginning of his tenure, Fr. Merrow emphasized the importance of outreach at the local, national, and international levels. This became part of St. Mary's identity, and since the early 1990's the parish has reserved 25% off the top of its annual pledge and plate income for its outreach budget and Diocesan pledge.

Despite challenges over the years, St. Mary's parishioners have continued to strive to be faithful witnesses for the Gospel in the world. As we currently celebrate our 100th anniversary, we eagerly await a new Rector who will guide the parish into our next century.

Music at St. Mary's

The Music Ministry at St. Mary's encompasses both traditional and contemporary Anglican hymnody as well as congregational music from other traditions. We consistently and methodically add to our repertoire by learning new congregational music. Liturgies include music from the early Church through contemporary hymns as well as modern compositions commissioned specially for our parish. Choral works are occasionally sung in foreign languages with translations provided. St. Mary's Choir includes approximately twenty-five adult members (mainly volunteer but anchored by paid section leaders) and youth choristers.

Our chorister program highlights the importance St. Mary's has placed on music education for over 40 years. Under the guidance of longtime music director Dr. Gregory Hooker, choristers learn music skills, vocal technique, liturgy, and theology. Additionally, church school children are given the opportunity for ongoing music and liturgy training. Parishioner Dr. Matthew Gabay volunteers as an associate organist.

The choir has participated in two pilgrimages to England, singing daily Evensong and Sunday worship as the choir-in-residence at cathedrals. It has sung also at Washington National Cathedral; St. Paul's, K Street; Trinity, Copley Square, and St. Thomas, Fifth Avenue. Annually it offers a Choral Requiem Eucharist with orchestra and Advent Lessons and Carols.

Other special services at St. Mary's include Easter Day services with choir and brass quintet, regular Choral Evensong, and periodic Sung Compline, a bilingual St. Mary's Day Eucharistic service with musicians and choirs from both St. Mary's and La Iglesia Episcopal de Santa Maria, organ recitals, hymn festivals, and guest concerts. These musical offerings reach beyond the parish and draw our neighbors into our sacred space. The recently completed Lively-Fulcher organ is acclaimed throughout the region as a beautiful and versatile instrument for worship and concert use.



Formation

► Children, Youth, and Family Formation

St. Mary's is the parish home for many active children, youth, and their families. It is our program's mission to build community, form disciples, and serve the world. We do this through a variety of formation activities and events, and through a focus on relationships. Our nursery for infants and toddlers, staffed by professional Nursery Aides, provides a safe and nurturing environment on Sunday mornings for our youngest members and guests. Children in PreK-5th grade participate in weekly Sunday School formation and fellowship led by seasoned volunteer teachers and parents. Children's Chapel worship is held during the 10:15am Liturgy of the Word. Family formation opportunities include Eucharist education, timely topics with guest speakers, and community outreach projects. Young families gather for fellowship and play time quarterly and are strongly encouraged to attend our Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont every June. Over 50 children are proud to sing and act out the story of Jesus' birth in our two Christmas pageants, reminding us how enriched our worship is when children lead. We love walking with families in their decision to have their children baptized, offering preparation and support through the process.



Junior and Senior High youth engage in Youth Forum discussions and activities during weekly formation hour, diving into the Bible and searching for connections and guidance to navigate their daily lives. Youth serve as acolytes, readers, choristers, ushers, and committee leaders in our parish, demonstrating the power of intergenerational learning and community. Students find common ground and lasting friendships during monthly Youth Group dinners and activities, connecting across grades and schools over a shared Episcopal tradition and pure fun! Youth may seek confirmation as early as 9th grade; a process taught by the youth minister, clergy, adult mentors, and guests from the community to prepare youth to realize their vocational gifts and become adults in the life of the parish. These adults make every effort to meet students where they are, attending sporting events, concerts, plays, and other milestones to emphasize that God's love through relationships reaches across the St. Mary's threshold into the world.



Youth in Grades 8-12 who have attended a Mission Trip with St. Mary's over the years have been significantly influenced by the experience, helping them become servant leaders. Spending time in a different community helps the youth be even more aware of their privilege and spurs them to share what they have with those less fortunate. For the last five years the church has sent students and chaperones to New Bern, NC to respond to destruction left by Hurricane Florence in 2018. Youth routinely serve locally through safety net organizations and are integral to parish outreach efforts such as Rebuilding Together, the Thanksgiving food drive, coats and mittens drive, vegetable gleaning, and La Iglesia Episcopal de Santa Maria's food distribution. We continue to support families with young people in college by curating care packages and offering seasonal meet ups.



▶ **Adult Formation**

An important aspect of parish life at St. Mary's is ongoing Christian formation for adults. There are various options for parishioners to enrich themselves as Christians, grow in their faith, and find comfort and solace amidst the vagaries of everyday life. The selection of offerings is led by clergy as well as laity, with a strong anchor in scripture, the Episcopal liturgy, and Christ as our Redeemer. All are welcome to any of the options for Adult Formation — be they longtime Episcopalians or those brand new to the church. Regular Adult Formation offerings include:

- ◆ Healing Prayer
- ◆ Men's Bible Study
- ◆ Centering Prayer
- ◆ Women's Prayer Toolkit
- ◆ Tuesday Morning Bible Study
- ◆ Friday Morning Book Club
- ◆ Walking the Mourner's Path
- ◆ Annual Adult Retreat

In addition to regular offerings, St. Mary's also offers seasonal or occasional options for Adult Formation, including Advent and Lenten Quiet Mornings, Lenten study/prayer groups, the Sacred Ground series, and outings to various local sites (such as the National Cathedral or Museum of the Bible). In addition to bringing parishioners closer to God, these offerings also provide an opportunity to engage in fellowship and build community.



Station II -
 woodcut
 print by
 parishioner
 Margaret
 Adams Parker

Our Ministries

St. Mary's has [close to 40 ministries](#) which span the gamut of worship, formation, community life, and Outreach. Strengths of these ministries include high engagement and participation, indicating strong lay leadership and empowerment. The impact of having so many ministries is that people with different gifts can find meaningful roles, increasing ownership and deepening one's commitment.

St. Mary's parishioners highly value the liturgy in our services, including Rite I and Rite II, finding great beauty and comfort in the way these are celebrated throughout the year. The foundation of what we cherish is the liturgy itself, but we also love the role of our lay volunteers in our many worship ministries. This includes the youth making up our **Acolytes Guild**, singing in our **Youth Choir**, and serving as **Lay Readers**. Adult volunteers participate in the services as **Chalice Bearers**, **Lay Readers**, **Adult Choir members**, and **Ushers**.



Behind the scenes are the **Altar and Flower Guilds** which beautifully prepare the sanctuary and altar before each service and clean up afterwards; and our **Live Streaming Ministry**. As the Eucharistic service draws to a close, our **Lay Eucharistic Ministers** come forward to receive the commission to go out and share the gifts of communion with our members who were unable to be present with us. And, on the first and third Sundays of each month, one of St. Mary's priests celebrates an outdoor **Praise in the Park** service in nearby Zachary Taylor Park, with acoustic music led by our volunteer **Rippling Waters Band**.

Another hallmark of our Sunday experience is the robust welcome and hospitality we extend to those who walk through our red doors. Our **Welcome/Hospitality Committee** members work tirelessly to make sure people feel greeted and comfortable, and they ensure that Coffee Hours between services run smoothly and allow for joyful fellowship.

Outside of services, St. Mary's has many other ministries, including: **Vestry**, **Finance Committee**, **Stewardship Committee**, **Stephen Ministry**, **Funeral Ministry**, **Gardening Ministry** and **Buildings and Grounds Ministry**, **Arts Committee** (supports and cultivates liturgical art throughout the Church), and **St. Joseph's Ministry** (provides home repair and building skills to parish life and community outreach). Standing at the crossroads of parish care and outreach is our **Creation Care Ministry**, which works to create a culture where everyone in the parish sees a role for themselves in caring for God's creation.



Outreach

St. Mary's has always prioritized community engagement and service, both with our financial support (25% tithe of our annual pledge and plate income) and with the time and talents of our clergy, staff, and parishioners. Our parishioners joyfully embrace the many opportunities presented to them for service through St. Mary's outreach ministries and partnerships. You will find our volunteers helping on the front lines of many area safety net organizations as well as serving on their boards.

Outreach organizations include:

- ♦ Arlington Free Clinic and Culmore Clinic (healthcare for the uninsured);
- ♦ Arlington Food Assistance Center (food insecurity);
- ♦ Arlington Thrive (emergency funds);
- ♦ PathForward, Doorways, and New Hope Fellowship Church (shelter, housing crisis);
- ♦ True Ground Housing Partners (affordable housing);
- ♦ Arlington Bridge Builders and Aspire (community support and after-school learning);
- ♦ L'Arche (inclusive homes and programs);
- ♦ Arlington Neighborhood Village (aging in place); and
- ♦ Restoration Legal Aid (immigrant support).

*'The Church exists by mission
as fire exists by burning.'*

-EMIL BRUNNER



Our **Lay Assistance Ministry** meets twice monthly with our neighbors in need of emergency financial assistance at the mission center of Samaritan Ministry in South Arlington. Our team of lay volunteers hear their personal stories, help to pay a bill in arrears, pray with them, and often connect them to Arlington County or other sources of assistance. The greatest blessing of the ministry is in the relationship, sitting and being with our neighbors who often feel they are struggling alone.

Many St. Mary's volunteers work in a twice-monthly food distribution ministry that takes place, rain or shine, in the parking lot of **La Iglesia Episcopal de Santa Maria** in neighboring Falls Church. With both donated and purchased food from the Capital Area Food Bank, our volunteers prepare and distribute boxes of food to 400 families who are experiencing food insecurity.



This ministry was created by the parishioners of “Santa Maria” during the pandemic and was soon joined by our parish. Today, six years later, dozens of parishioners from our two parishes continue to work in wonderful fellowship to co-manage the program. The beauty of this ministry is the yoking together of two culturally and linguistically diverse Episcopal churches to reach out in service to their neighbors. Our two parishes also share joint worship and fellowship activities throughout the year.



Every summer, a team of St. Mary's youth, together with adult chaperones, embarks on a week-long, out-of-state **Mission Trip** to areas suffering from poverty and the effects of natural disasters. In recent years, they have been rebuilding homes in New Bern, NC, which was hard hit by Hurricane Florence. This is often our youth's first exposure to such dire need. Not surprisingly, our volunteers often say that they gain far more out of this experience than they give through their hard labor and friendship. Our youth also volunteer for other activities throughout the year such as **Rebuilding Together** and preparing meals for the largely homeless congregants of **New Hope Fellowship Church** in nearby Fairfax.

Our ministries focused more on social justice include the **Ministry on Race, Reconciliation and Equity - MORE** (which aims to create opportunities for parishioners to listen, share, and better understand racism and inequity); the **Sacred Ground Study**; and our participation, including leadership roles, in **Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement — VOICE**. VOICE is a non-partisan organization — of which St. Mary's is a founding member — of over 40 faith communities that organize together to build power to improve the lives of our families, communities, region, and nation.



Internationally, St. Mary's has a **long-standing relationship with the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika in Tanzania**, including St. Andrew's Church in Ndebwe, and the Msalato Theological College; **the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem** and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center; **the Episcopal Church of Honduras**; and **the Episcopal Church of South Sudan**, including St. Matthew's Cathedral in the Diocese of Renk. These relationships involve deep personal friendships that have developed over the years through many pilgrimages and visits to these destinations by our clergy and many of our parishioners, return visits from representatives of these communities to St. Mary's, ongoing prayer support at each of our Sunday services and, at times, after careful discernment, financial assistance.



Our Church Building

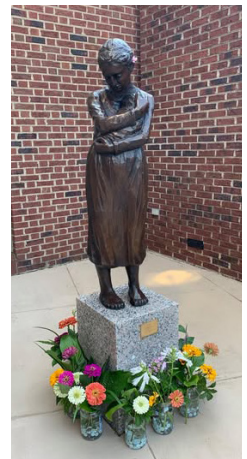
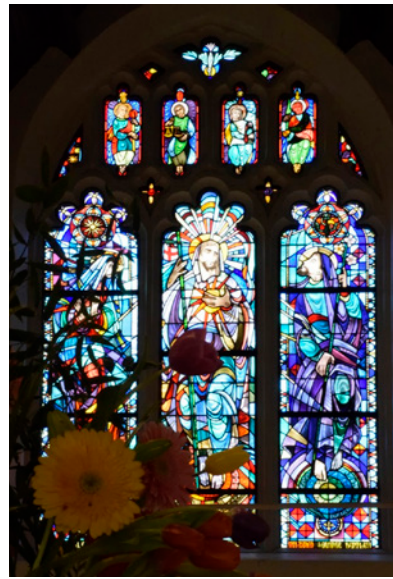
Historic and beautiful, St. Mary's Episcopal Church is prominently situated on approximately one acre of land between North Glebe Road, 26th Street North, and Old Dominion Drive. The original 1926 building was designed by the architect W. H. Irwin Fleming. Since then, the facility has been redesigned and expanded several times. Today, the nave seats approximately 300 people, and more seating can be provided in the Parish Hall (Paca Hall) for heavily attended services such as Easter and Christmas Eve.

There are two stained glass windows in the sanctuary on either side of the altar. The first window was installed in 1940 on the Old Dominion Drive side of the altar and was given in memory of Adm. Rixey. The second window on the Glebe Road side was installed in 2008 and was given by a parishioner in memory of her parents.

The current building reflects a major renovation which was completed in 1998. This project included reorienting the altar from one end of the sanctuary to the other, creating a common egress at the rear of the church and substantially increasing the footprint with an addition at the 26th Street end of the building. This renovation added a parish hall (Paca Hall), large kitchen, a beautiful separate Chapel with a columbarium, and substantially expanded office space. All of the classrooms were renovated, as were the spaces for the choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and the clergy vesting room. As part of this renovation, the grounds were completely relandscaped and a Memorial Garden was added to the Glebe Road side of the building. The Memorial Garden was landscaped in a manner that allows people to sit and reflect in private. Handicap access was addressed in 1990 with the installation of a commercial-grade elevator.

Additional capital improvements have been made to the Church and grounds in the past few years, including a renovation of the Parish Office, lobby, meeting spaces, and kitchen; updating restrooms and the choir room; upgrades and replacements of HVAC and electrical systems; upgrades to and completion of the organ; and new exterior signage.

Standard church parking is available for 38 vehicles across Glebe Road on land that was once owned by St. Mary's. Handicap parking is available on the 26th Street side of the church.



St. Mary's Rectory & Arlington County

St. Mary's maintains a Rectory at 2791 North Quebec Street in the Dover Crystal neighborhood of Arlington. The Rectory was purchased in 2018 with the specific intent of providing a housing option for our next Rector, as our recently retired Rector and his wife owned their Arlington home. The Rectory property is mortgage-free, and its current Arlington County assessed value is almost \$1.8 million.

The Rectory is a nearly 3,000-square-foot, single-family, two-story home, with five bedrooms, a basement, two fireplaces, a renovated kitchen with granite, a backyard slate patio, and a garage. It is located just two miles (a seven-minute drive), from St. Mary's and close to many parks, stores, and restaurants. Its location and setting offer the Rector a desirable respite from day-to-day church responsibilities. St. Mary's clergy have resided at times in the Rectory, and the property has been leased to tenants when clergy have not lived there.

The three neighborhood public schools (within three miles of the Rectory) are Taylor Elementary School, Dorothy Hamm Middle School, and Yorktown High School. These schools are top-ranked in Virginia, and noted for high levels of academic performance, parent engagement, enrichment programs, athletics, and extracurricular activities. St. Mary's has many families whose children currently attend or have attended one or more of these neighborhood schools.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Rectory are located in the northern section of [Arlington County](#), a short distance from the Potomac River and the nation's capital, Washington, DC. With more than 230,000 residents, Arlington County has much to offer its residents and their families.

North Arlington neighborhoods are established, attractive, and private, despite their very close proximity to downtown DC. Arlington is known for its exceptional public schools, its award-winning county and regional

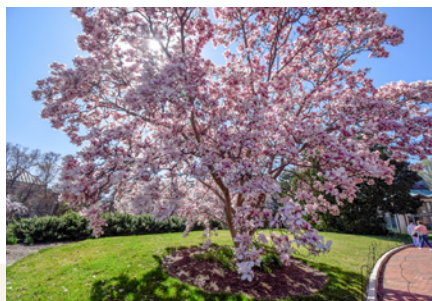


parks, many historical landmarks such as Arlington National Cemetery and the Iwo Jima Memorial, and access to libraries, health care, and retail.

Arlington has received numerous [accolades](#), and boasts one of the best parks systems in the nation, winning the 2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management. Almost all Arlington residents live within a short distance of a park. It is also frequently designated one of the most educated counties in the nation, and its schools are some of the best in the country.

Arlington residents have access to some of the best medical facilities in the nation, including Virginia Hospital Center, Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Children's National Medical Center, and Inova Fairfax Hospital. Arlington County, nearby Washington, DC, and other close-in suburbs offer tourist attractions, art galleries, national monuments and memorials, professional sports and music venues, libraries, and restaurants, plus nightlife and many other social outlets.

Arlington is served by 2 airports, Reagan National Airport (DCA) and Washington Dulles International (IAD). Union Station (Amtrak) in DC is also readily accessible. The Metro subway system has several stops in Arlington County. While there is no Metro stop by St. Mary's, we are served by an Arlington bus system that connects us to the subway. Bike lanes are numerous.



Financial Overview

For many years, St. Mary's has been blessed with a strong financial position. The Church has the valuable resource of a Finance Committee, which is composed of eight members appointed by the Rector who have significant experience and expertise in financial matters. The Finance Committee works closely with the Vestry, our Finance Manager, our Volunteer Treasurer, and an independent Accounting and Audit firm on all financial matters. Due to staff and software changes in the recent past, audits of outstanding financial years 2024 and 2025 are expected to be completed by the end of 2026 or early 2027.

2026 Estimate

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	320,000
Investments	6,640,000
St. Mary's Foundation	4,730,000
Property & Equipment	5,550,000
	17,240,000

Annual Income

Pledges & Plate, plus Other	1,905,000
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Annual Expenses

Church Operating Expenses	1,478,000
25% Tithe, Pledges & Plate, for Diocese & Outreach	445,000

Cash and Investments

St. Mary's continues to be in a strong cash position. Currently, the Church has just **over \$1.5 million in Operating Reserves for Short-Term Needs**. Funds available in Strategic Reserve for **Long-Term Capital Needs are just over \$5 million**. This fund is designed to support deliberate, mission driven projects as well as new initiatives which may require significant development or startup costs that are generally not included in our operations budget. A portion of this fund was originally part of a capital campaign designated as Funding The Future, with approximately \$4.2 million raised beginning in 2018. Approximately \$3.2 million was spent from this campaign on capital improvements, as well as tithes of 10% to outside organizations focused on systemic change. Funds remaining from Funding The Future were transferred into the Strategic Reserve Fund.

St. Mary's Foundation

St. Mary's Foundation was organized in 1982 with funds from the sale of real estate across North Glebe Road, which had been the site of a parish school. Over the years, there have been additional contributions to the Foundation, including from members of a Legacy Circle who have provided either direct contributions or have included the Foundation in their estate planning, as well as bequests from other parishioners. **The Foundation's current assets are \$4.7 million**. The Foundation's investment return goals are 4% to 6% annually, with an asset allocation of 60% fixed income and 40% equities. Funds from the Foundation may be made available to the Vestry for specific parish needs, if certain investment growth targets are reached annually.

Real Estate Holdings

St. Mary's Episcopal Church currently owns six mortgage-free real estate properties in Arlington: our church building at 2609 North Glebe Road, a Rectory at 2791 North Quebec Street, and four rental properties (which qualify as affordable housing) to the immediate south of the church building. The current Arlington County assessed value of the four rental properties combined is just over \$3.2 million, with about 94% of the assessed value attributable to the land itself. All four properties are currently leased. Total rental income in 2025 for our four rental properties, and the Rectory when rented, was \$91,500.

Glebe Road Parking Lot: When the Church sold the parcel of land across the street in 1982 to the developer of the Rixey View townhomes, the area which is now our parking lot was part of the transaction. While St. Mary's does not own the parking lot of 38 spaces, the Church retained an easement for the parking lot which permits its use by the Church. The Church and the townhomes owners' association work collaboratively on any issues that arise, and maintenance and upkeep costs are shared.

Our Parish & Community

St. Mary's Episcopal Church enjoys a robust, vibrant, and active membership and congregation. Our average Sunday attendance, in person and online, is 286, with 95% in person. Our average weekly attendance is 354 across all services.

For 2026, we received 250 pledges. Our pledges for the previous five years ranged from 279 to 325. The average pledge for 2026 is \$6,920, and the average pledge amount for the past five years ranged between \$5,400 and \$6,500. While there has been a slight decline in the number of pledges, we believe this is a temporary situation related to the retirement of our previous, long-tenured Rector. We believe that increases in both pledges and pledged amounts will resume once our new Rector is introduced.



A recent FaithX survey of neighborhood insights showed both challenges and opportunities for St. Mary's.

We are predominantly an upper-income, highly-educated, and non-diverse community. The survey shows that within a five-minute drive of St. Mary's, the current population is 28,500 across 9,800 households, and the average household size is 2.8 people. The median household income is \$200,000, as compared to the national average of \$72,000. The median net worth per household is \$1.25 million, with a national average of \$156,000. The unemployment rate is 1.4%, compared with a national rate of 4.1%. Half of adult residents hold a graduate or professional degree, while

another 30% hold a bachelor's degree. The crime index is 52, compared with a national average of 100. The median home value is almost \$1.25 million, compared with a national average of \$283,000.

We also have higher rates of volunteering for charities, donating to charities, visiting doctors, and having medical insurance than the national averages in those categories. Religiously unaffiliated residents are 70% of the population, compared with 60% nationally, which could be a growth opportunity for us.

Not surprisingly, the farther out one goes geographically from St. Mary's, the more the data resembles national averages. The parish has active, ongoing discussions of ways to attract new members from other neighborhoods, and we have made conscious efforts in recent years to meet our outreach partners and beneficiaries "where they are." We realize that we as a parish are blessed in many ways, and we make it a continuing priority to expand our reach in new and innovative ways.



St. Mary's Clergy and Staff

Clergy

The Rev. Meg Ingalls *Interim Rector*

The Rev. Meg Ingalls has served 35 years as a priest, retiring in 2018 after being Rector of Holy Trinity, Fruitland Park, FL for 15 years and Transfiguration, Silver Spring for 10 years. She was called out of retirement to be an interim Rector, helping parishes in transition, serving St. Paul's, Newburyport, MA; Christ Church, Rockville, MD; St. John the Evangelist, Hingham, MA; St. Christopher's, Chatham, MA; and now St. Mary's, Arlington. She has a BA from Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches, TX, an MA from Auburn University, and an M. Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary where she also completed all her coursework towards a D. Min.



The Very Rev. Janettarose Greene *Senior Associate Rector*

The Very Reverend Janettarose L. Greene joined St. Mary's as Associate to the Rector in August 2023. A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, she now serves on the Boards of Trustees of both Virginia Theological Seminary and General Theological Seminary and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Christian Spirituality at VTS. In the Diocese of Virginia, Rev. Janettarose serves as Dean of the Arlington Region, a member of the Triangle of Hope Leadership Team, and a member of the diocesan Bylaws Committee. At St. Mary's, her ministry includes pastoral care, preaching, worship, sacramental ministry, outreach, and lay leadership development, providing pastoral counseling, officiating at weddings, baptisms, and funerals, and caring for those who are sick, homebound, grieving, or bereaved. She also provides oversight for several worship, pastoral care, outreach, and formation ministries, including the Altar Guild, Eucharistic Visitors, lay readers, Praise in the Park, Safe Church training, the Outreach Committee, Stephen Ministry, and Walking the Mourner's Path. At the heart of her ministry is a commitment to helping people recognize God's presence, grow in faith, and carry the love of Christ into the wider community.



The Rev. Nicole Lambelet *Senior Associate Rector*

The Rev. Nicole Lambelet joined St. Mary's in July 2025. Nicole previously served the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta and is a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Before discerning a call to ministry, Nicole worked for many years at the intersections of food production, justice organizing, and violence prevention. She has also enjoyed working as a teaching assistant for preaching classes at Candler, a volunteer instructor and chaplain at Lee Arrendale State Prison in Alto, Georgia, and as a Chaplain and Religion Teacher at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School. Nicole's vocation centers on community engagement and faith formation. In addition to her ministry at St. Mary's, Nicole currently volunteers at the Arlington County Jail and serves on the Diocesan Committee for Hispanic and Latino Ministries.



The Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger *Priest Associate, Part-time*

The Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger's priestly vocation began at Yale Divinity School, where she completed her M.Div. and STM degrees, writing a thesis on feminist theology. The first years after graduation brought her to congregational ministry and chaplaincy training at Yale New Haven Hospital. Raised a Presbyterian, the Reformed roots run deep in her vocation. She brought these into the Episcopal Church when she was ordained deacon and priest in 2000. She has been a professor on staff at Virginia Theological Seminary since 2002 and is published in the areas of systematic theology and the work of Karl Barth.



Staff



Gregory Hooker, DM
Minister of Music



Derek Greten-Harrison
Parish Administrator &
Communications Director



Prosper Daziorlor
Facilities Manager



Jackie Vigil
Youth & Family Formation
Minister



Kelly Marcellus
Finance Manager



John Bednar
IT and Livestream





St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a parish deeply rooted in tradition, enriched by a vibrant community, and filled with hope for the future. We are grateful for the faithful leadership and ministry that have shaped our parish and look forward with anticipation to the next chapter in our life together.

With open hearts and a spirit of prayerful discernment, we invite you to consider whether God may be calling you to join us in ministry at St. Mary's in Arlington, Virginia. We are excited about where God is leading us and look forward to the journey ahead.

Applicants are invited to send a cover letter, resume, and Vocation Hub ministry portfolio to stmdiscernment@gmail.com.

We look forward to beginning interviews with selected candidates in January 2027.

