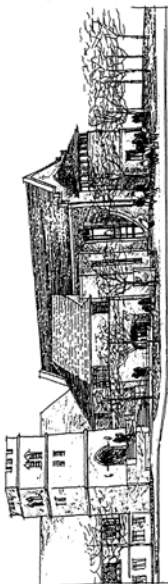


January
2012

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

The Year of our Lord 2012 begins with three milestones in our parish life that need to be noted. The first is the least important of the three but does impact those who receive the **Messenger** through the mail. This is the last edition that will be mailed unless you “opt in” by contacting the office requesting that a printed version be sent to you. We are taking this action for many good reasons not least of which is that many persons are not receiving their copy on time, it saves money and trees, the email version has better graphics, and for better or worse technology is synonymous with the 21st century, even for those that fight it like yours truly.

Second is the fact that Gordon Ochenrider as he turns ninety (90) is stepping down from mixing the pancake batter at SOME (So Others Might Eat) on the first Monday of the month. What you may not know is that for the last 25 years Gordon has been the go-to guy around here ministering in whatever capacity is needed. We have an elevator because Gordon researched it and convinced the Vestry that a commercial grade elevator was the only viable long term solution that we would be happy with. Countless brides and grooms have been married and countless persons buried with Gordon’s serving at the altar and the list goes on. As the Scripture says, “Well done good and faithful servant.”

Third, on Wednesday evening, January 25th, God willing and the people consenting, the Rev. Grant Ambrose will be ordained to the priesthood here at Saint Mary’s. Though the focus is on the ordinand, in fact the emphasis is on the priesthood of all believers. Through Grant’s being ordained all the orders of ministry - laity, deacon, priest, and bishop - are reminded of the essential role that all of us together play in carrying out the work of the Church. This is an appropriate service for everyone including older children to take their rightful place in the life of the Church. A nursery will be provided for our younger members. Former parishioner and friend, the Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, will be the ordaining Bishop; and, long-time friend of the parish, the Rev. Kathy Grieb, will be the preacher.

There are three other January items that I would like to bring to your attention. The first is the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Epiphany is important because it reminds us that Christ came for the salvation of the world, that the chosen people have been expanded to include the entire human family, and that we, the Church, are to spread that good news around the world. Holy Eucharist is at 12 noon and Festival of Lights at 7:30 p.m.

Also please, please take a few minutes and fill out the survey about ministry with and for youth. It can be accessed through the St. Mary’s website and is an important tool as we discern next steps. Our mission statement includes three areas of concentration – worship, outreach, and children.

Finally the forum on January 8th will be led by me as I share my experiences in South Sudan and the developments there – theological, political, and humanitarian. I hope you will join me.

May the Peace of the Lord always be with you.

Faithfully,

Andrew+



PARISH LIFE

Ordination: A Celebration For Us All

Shortly after one comes from the waters of baptism, the congregation joyfully says: “We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood” (BCP 308). Thus, the baptized Christian takes her or his place in the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ – promoting in thought, word, and deed the Good News of the Gospel. At baptism, we all become ministers of the Gospel.

On January 25, 2012, at 7:00 in the evening, God willing, the Right Reverend Mark Dyer, VII Bishop of Bethlehem (Retired), acting on behalf of the Right Reverend Clifton Daniel, 3rd, VII Bishop of East Carolina, will ordain Grant Ambrose to the sacred order of priests. As mentioned earlier, all baptized Christians are ministers of the gospel. Within this ministry, there are two groups: 1. the laity (the largest and most important) and 2. the ordained clergy. Whereas the ministry of the laity is grounded in the service of Holy Baptism, the ministry of the ordained is grounded in the laying on of hands by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession -- acting in accordance with the canons of the Church and the consent of the people and the will of God.

There are three orders of ordained ministry (bishops, priests, and deacons) which compliment the order of the laity. These three ordained orders are historic, dating to the early years of the Church’s life. In our tradition, all ordained ministers begin as deacons. After serving as a deacon for no less than six months, one may be considered for ordination to the priesthood. This is not a “re-ordaining;” it is an ordination in its own right. Each order of ordained ministry requires the laying on of hands by a bishop.

On January 25, 2012, all orders of ministry, ordained and lay alike, will come together to celebrate what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. With triumphal hymns and solemn prayers and the laying on of hands, this community will recognize God’s presence and power in each of our lives as we ask that Grant be ordained priest. Ordinations are times of celebration – celebration for each of us.



In Case You Missed it—

A Reflection from the Advent Quiet

Morning to use year round:

Take time to listen. For those of us who live in a hyperactive, crowded, noisy world, it is essential to take time to find some silence, to be quiet and allow the hunger, the thirst for God, which is inherent in each one of us, to well up inside and make itself known

Too often, we’ve grown up believing that prayer is all about talking to God, telling God what we need and which people are in need of help. We forget that prayer is also about listening, about shutting down the chatter and trying to hear that still, small voice that is God, telling us something important—the conversation goes both ways, after all.

Silence allows us to perceive the word of God communicating itself to our spirit and to our inmost being. Silence brings us to the awareness of God’s presence within. It opens us up to the potential God intends for us—to be fully human. *Father John A. Runkle*



St. Mary’s parishioners donated 321 pairs of mittens and 55 hats just in time for the cold weather. All will go to the organization Bread for the City. Its mission is “to provide vulnerable residents of Washington, DC, with comprehensive services, including food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services, in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.” A favorite group of Sunday School Superintendent Claudia Boswell, she and husband John, collect and deliver the mittens and hats the week after Christmas.



St. Mary’s fed 345 people in December at S.O.M.E. - So Others Might Eat breakfast in downtown D.C.

Join the St. Mary’s crew Jan. 2 at 6:45 a.m. For more info: Contact George Covucci at Covuccis@verizon.net

OUTREACH—NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS NETS \$3,400 FOR APC



St. Mary's youth prepare to wait tables and serve dinner to a capacity crowd. Receipts from dinner and a raffle added up to more than \$3,400.00 donated to the Arlington Pediatric Center. "What a great event," said Shelley Cooke, APC's Director of Development. "The kids all seemed so happy to be making a difference and it was fun too!" From Left to Right: First row - Athena, Johna, Claire S., Claire M., Kathryn, Emily, Lillie, Katie Faith, Gigi, Claire K. Second row - Holly, Erin, Lindsay, Amelia, Grace, Ingrid, Harper, Josie, Mia, Michael Third row - Natalya, John, Carson, Gregory

Adopt-a-Family for Christmas was a Great Success—

Ten South Arlington families and one in Alexandria were recipients of a multitude of presents given by Lindsey Bevis, Kathryn Dominguez, Jenny Hoil, Brynna Reddy & the Sr. High Youth Group, Rebecca Grady, Linda Kocher, Emily Markmann, Elizabeth Adkins, and the Runkle, Carter, Muth, Gilliland, Warren, Giesler, Nolan, Hahn, McCracken, Holley, and Yeonas families. The families in need were identified by the Child & Family Network Center. Thanks to all for your generosity!

Second Sundays @6 p.m.



Second Sundays@6 p.m. Dec. 11

Following the Night at the Circus fund raiser, St. Mary's youngsters visited APC on Dec. 11 for a light dinner, hosted by Shelley Cooke, a tour of the APC facilities followed by a wrapping party of gifts donated by Jamestown Elementary School and others.

L to R: Lillie, Claire, Alex, Kathryn, Claire, Natalya, Erin, Isabel, John and Lindsay holding the presents.

Calendar Page

Click the Calendar link on
www.stmarysarlington.org
for the most up-to-date schedule of
events here at St. Mary's
or simply click
[here](#)

**Copy and paste this URL into your browser if the link doesn't
connect you:**

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=G1L6M7M7G1F0N8N8H2>

Youth January Calendar

Sun., Jan. 1		Happy New Year! No Youth Forums
Fri., Jan. 6	7:30 p.m.	Feast of Lights
Sun., Jan. 8	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High Forum & Sr. High Youth Forums
Sun., Jan. 8	6:00 p.m.	2nd Sundays @ 6:00 p.m. Dinner and learning about Doorways
Tues., Jan. 10	6:30 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Class
Wed., Jan. 11	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Girls with Nicole Mahr & Alex Bremmer
Wed., Jan. 11	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Guys at Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Eric Baldwin & Fr. Tim Malone
Sun., Jan 15	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High & Sr. High Forums
Wed., Jan. 18	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Guys & Thirsty Bernie's for Wing Night with Fr. Tim
Wed., Jan. 18	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Girls at Abby Reynolds for S'mores with Rev. Anne
Sun., Jan. 22	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High & Sr. High Forums
Sun., Jan. 22	6:00 p.m.	Pizza with a Purpose with seminarian Andrew Terry
Wed., Jan. 25	7:00 p.m.	Ordination of Rev. Grant Ambrose to the Priesthood (no small groups)
Sat., Jan. 28	All Day	Ski Trip
Sun., Jan. 29	10:15 a.m.	Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Forums

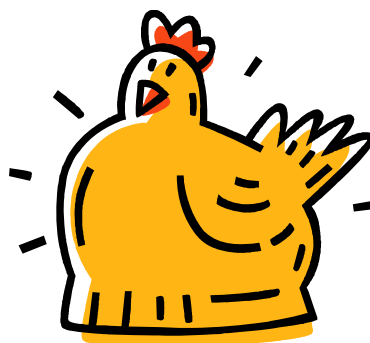
GREETINGS FROM THE YOUTH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

As members of the St. Mary's community, it is our corporate responsibility that each child in our Parish grows into the full stature of Christ as charged by the Baptismal Liturgy. Also, our Mission Statement provides: "Children are a vital part of our ministry, and we feel a special responsibility for their care and education and for insuring their full involvement in the life of the Church". During this time of transition, Fr. Merrow established the Youth Discernment Committee to review our youth programs to determine how we are fulfilling this obligation. It is important for all to participate in this process and therefore, the Committee has prepared this survey to create a profile of our youth programs and to solicit feedback. Please go to the front page of our website: www.stmarysarlington.org and click on the appropriate link. One survey is for youth, one for adults. On behalf of the Committee, thank you so much for investing time in our youth and taking the survey! The Committee will compile the survey results and present them to the Parish at an Adult Forum in February. Should you have any questions or additional information regarding the Youth Programs, please e-mail them to StMarysYouthCommittee@gmail.com.

SecondSunday@6 Youth Outreach Gathering January 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

All youth 6th-12th grade, come join us for a BBQ dinner and participate in an exercise with Wyatt Schroeder from Doorways for Women & Families. Learn about healthy relationships, homelessness, and what to do if you witness an unhealthy situation or experience one. Questions? Contact Nina Bacas at NBacas@comcast.net.

It's not a contest but——14
Wings in one sitting last



Senior High Guys ate 20 Dozen
— month.

UPCOMING LITURGIES & MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Epiphany Feast of Lights St. Mary's Boys & Girls Choir Friday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.



St. Mary's Youth and the St. Mary's Boys & Girls Choir will lead this joyful conclusion to the Christmas season. The drama of the Epiphany will be re-enacted through readings, carols and with the colorful costuming of the Three Kings in procession. A special outreach offering will be collected, and all in attendance will process from the church with lighted candles, symbolizing the Light of Christ in the world to burn the Christmas greens. A reception in Paca Parish Hall will follow.



Candlelight Concert and Compline Sunday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary's parishioners and musical artists Elisabeth Adkins, violin, and Edward Newman, piano, will present music by Grieg, Rachmaninoff and Brahms followed by Compline at 8:00 p.m. sung by St. Mary's Schola. For artists' bios and complete program, go to http://www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/upcoming_events

NIGHT @ THE CIRCUS CON'T.



The Balloon Force is with our Rector and Gregory Newman between dinner courses at Circus Night!



In addition to balloon art, circus goers also got their choice of body art! Talented face painter Holly applies a football to Quinn's arm, clearly making his day!

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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Bishop of the

Diocese of Virginia	The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Rector	The Rev. Andrew T. P. Merrow
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Tim Malone
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Anne Turner
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. John Runkle
Assistant to the Rector	The Rev. Grant Ambrose
Priest Associate	The Rev. Kate Sonderegger
Seminarians	Andrew Terry & Shireen Baker
Music Minister	Gregory Hooker
Church School Supt.	Claudia Boswell
Treasurer	Bob Waters
Asst. Treasurers	Fred Barrett Susan Wojcik
Administrator	Pam Frick
Assistant Administrator	Patricia Klintberg
Facilities Manager	Jane Shafran

2011 Vestry

Paul Wojcik, Senior Warden
John Franklin, Junior Warden
Parks Shackleford, Register
Chris Eimas
John Keith
Deana Platt
Gordon Thomas
Susan Lagon
Suzanne Stroup
Bill Porter

Diocesan Council and Region III (Arlington) Lay Delegates:

Steve Bevis
Mike Gilliland
John Keith

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