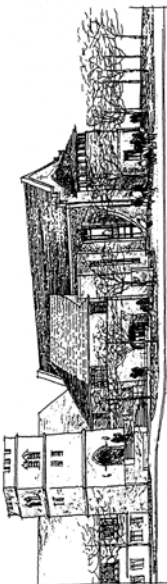


November  
2011

Saint Mary's Messenger



Dear Friends,

A lament uttered by almost all of us, often accompanied by a shake of the head, spoken to no one in particular, is the cry, "Where did the time go?" The question should, of course, be squarely directed at a very specific object – ourselves. I have always maintained that one of the most innocuous and yet truly damaging fictions that we maintain is that we "don't have time". The logical implication of that statement is that we are victims of too many demands placed upon us rather than our being responsible agents who determine how we choose to use our time.

This issue is particularly pronounced during the upcoming hectic holiday season. Rather than a letter per se, therefore, let me invite you to place some items on your calendar now that might act as markers as the weather cools and the pace of life continues to heat up. I don't expect you to do everything but I do hope you will make at least one a priority.

In November five items that deserve your special consideration: (1) On All Saints Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, during the coffee hour after the 9:00 service we have a chance to visit with The Rev. Barbara Boghetich, Vicar of our companion parish in Honduras. In the evening of that day at 5:00 p.m. the Requiem Mass will be offered to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the lives of loved ones who have died in the preceding year.

(2) On Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, our annual Alternative Gift Mart will be held when "holiday shopping" can be informed by a larger purpose - the buying of thoughtful gifts while engaging in ministry by supporting the efforts of our partners in Outreach.

(3) On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, will celebrate with the people of Santa Maria in Falls Church as they welcome their ordained leader becoming an Episcopal priest. Why is this significant for us in particular? This former Baptist church was purchased by the Diocese of Virginia to become the first free-standing Latino congregation in the Diocese. Bishop Jones has publicly stated that without the leadership of our parish this would not have happened. We are in the ninth year of our ten year commitment to provide a quarter of a million dollars to buy the property. I will be there. Who will join me?

(4) It is our privilege this year to host the ecumenical Thanksgiving service. This gathering of neighboring parishes at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning is a wonderful complement (dare I say corrective) to the turkey and football the rest of the day. Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and home by 11:15 a.m.

(5) Thanksgiving food bags are coming. The issue of the hungry in our midst is becoming ever more pronounced. Washington has fared better than other parts of the country in these difficult economic times. I hope you can empathize, not just sympathize, with the plight of so many of our fellow Americans. Food bags are not enough but if they act to spur us on to ask the hard questions that must be articulated about the major issues our country faces, then hopefully it will point us toward the food that does not perish.

May the peace of the Lord always be with you.

Faithfully,



## PARISH LIFE

### Adult Forum Schedule: Nov. 13– Dec. 4

- Nov. 6 **All Saints Sunday** ☕  
10:15\*am Come meet the priest from San Lucas in Honduras, **The Rev. Barbara Boghetich**.  
5:00 pm **All Saints Requiem**
- Nov.13 **10:15\*am Alternative Gift Mart**  
St. Mary's Outreach hosts this event where various local non-profit organizations offer items for purchase that raise funds for their mission work.
- Nov. 20 **10:15\*am MISSION POSSIBLE: "Near" In my backyard.**  
St. Mary's Outreach Committee will present the 2nd part of its series on how St. Mary's reaches out to the local community and to the world. "Part 2" will focus on our local outreach ministries. Hear stories, see pictures, engage the Spirit.
- Nov. 24 **Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)**  
10:00 am **Ecumenical Service here**
- Nov. 27 **10:15\*am COFFEE HOUR** ☕  
6:30 pm **Potluck & Advent Wreath Making**
- Dec. 3 **9 am-12 pm Advent Quiet Morning**  
Fr. John Runkle will focus on the practice of Centering Prayer. The method of Centering Prayer is drawn from the 14th century classic of spirituality, *The Cloud of Unknowing*. In the 1970s, several Trappist monks distilled this ancient practice into a simple, contemporary method of prayer for those with busy lives. The essence of the prayer calls for an individual to sit for an extended period of silence and consent to the presence and action of God in his or her life.
- Dec. 4 **10:15 am The Advent Collects**  
We are blessed with many liturgical sources of prayer. The collects for Advent are a particularly rich source for contemplation. Seminarian Andrew Terry will explore this part of our tradition.

In addition to the Adult Forum in Paca Hall, we will be offering a short course in the Chapel "Peace of the Season: Mindfulness in Advent." The Rev. Anne Turner and parishioner Neely Meyers, a postdoctoral fellow in psychiatry at Georgetown University who conducts research on mindfulness for mental and physical health, will lead the sessions Dec. 4, 11, 18. How would Christ want you to celebrate his birthday? "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) Please join us to learn and reflect on the ways that renewing your mind with simple mindfulness practices may open your heart as God intended to the peace and joy of Advent. Class is limited to 12 so sign up this month in Paca Hall, or by e-mailing [anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org).

## Christmas Pageant 2011

Preparations have begun for our Christmas Pageant. This year, we will be returning to two pageants, held at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. **(Please note the time change!)**

Parents of interested performers should look for registration information to come home from church on Sunday, November 20. Registration for the pageant will take place (both paper and on-line) from the 20th until December 1. Speaking roles will be required to attend 1-2 advance rehearsals, and there will be a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 23 (mandatory for all participants). All children aged 3 and older are welcome to participate.

Interested in helping make the pageants happen? This is a terrific opportunity for short-term ministry, and we need many talents--from costume making to organizing volunteers to shepherding all those little sheep. Please contact the Rev. Anne Turner at [anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org) if you are interested.



## Christmas Gifts that Make a Difference in Someone's life!

Does Uncle Bobby really need another tie, or Aunt Mary more cologne? Why not give a gift that blesses both the receiver and our neighbor in need? Join us on Sunday, November 13th after the 7:30, 9 and 11:15am Services for our annual **Alternative Gift Mart**. Local and global organizations offer goods or accept donations to support very worthy causes. We'll have a host of wonderful gifts you'll feel great to give, receive, or use. Bring your checkbook!

**St. Mary's volunteers fed 367 hungry men, women and children who came to So Others Might Eat (SOME) on Oct 3. Want to help? Contact George or Sue Covucci at [covuccis@verizon.net](mailto:covuccis@verizon.net)**

## OUTREACH-CLOSE TO HOME

On any given Wednesday, the parish office at St. Mary's begins to fill with those down on their luck; between jobs, with no job, with children to feed, with electric or water bills about to be cut off. In many cases, these, literally, poor people want someone to listen to their story. Many weep.

And St. Mary's clergy listen and pray with those who come to us. "Outreach has to come from worship," says Father Merrow. "The intimate connection of worship to outreach is what makes it Christian outreach, proclamation of Good News in Christ as opposed to being another agent of help."

In stark contrast to the peacefulness and beauty of St. Mary's Sundays, Wednesday mornings find us facing the sad, hungry, frantic and worried. Hispanic mothers bring their children to speak for them. Without fail Fathers Andrew, Tim, John and Grant greet each person with respect and kindness. (Mother Anne is off on Wed. or she would be part of the rotation as well.)

Visits with each individual can last 20 minutes or more and generate out-sized paperwork. Our clergy double-team on Wednesdays because assistance is offered only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. In the past, we were inundated with people throughout the week before we set a specific time to help.

Those in need come to us from other churches, from Arlington County's social service agency and a network of social service organizations such as the Samaritan Ministry, the Hispanic Committee and the Salvation Army. Through this network some may receive a St. Mary's Thanksgiving Food bag.

Referrals are required so the clergy know each person has actively sought help from the network of organizations available as they struggle to regain some semblance of financial normality.

The Arlington Gazette reported in September that the number of families seeking assistance from the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)—a group we support financially and through gleaning and food donations—was at an all time high. Likewise, the number of people St. Mary's helped with a check to a landlord, power, water or storage unit company has steadily increased since 2009.

The numbers can leave one feeling at a loss as to how to help. But your pledges do help. St. Mary's spends 25 percent of its income on outreach. While financial support to organizations such as the Arlington Free Clinic, AFAC and others is vitally important, giving your pledged income to help someone keep the lights on, feed children, and keep belongings in storage until a new home is found is surely St. Mary's putting God's love front and center in their lives. —By Tricia Klintberg

## Thanksgiving Food Collection

*"Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them."*

Each year St. Mary's parishioners are asked to provide a nutritious, traditional Thanksgiving dinner to neighbors in need. We hope to collect 250 dinners this year to distribute through Samaritan Ministries, Offender Aid and Restoration, Doorways for Women and Families, Northern Virginia Family Services Healthy Families, Northern Virginia Aids Ministry, and Arlington View Terrace.

Look for the orange cloth shopping bags (shopping list attached) at St. Mary's beginning Nov. 6, fill with non-perishable groceries and return no later than Sunday, Nov. 20. Donations for Giant Food gift cards are also greatly appreciated. If you prefer to buy a turkey write a check to St. Mary's and write 'turkeys' in the subject line. Please call Tricia at [703-527-6800](tel:703-527-6800) or Christine [703-599-7117](tel:703-599-7117) with questions.



## Second Sundays @6 p.m.

On Nov 13th, A-SPAN comes to St. Mary's to lead our youth in a homeless role-playing exercise developed by the Young Playwright's Theatre. We need 20 youth to make it work! Come join us for a scrumptious dinner prepared by the 9th grade boys and divine desserts prepared by the 9th grade girls. After, we'll stuff bagged meals for the homeless!

\*\*\*\*\*

Our SecondSunday@6 youth group in October was blessed by a visit by Fr. Joseph Mathieu Brutus, head of St. Martin de Tours Church and school of Haiti. While eating a (relatively) authentic Haitian dinner, our youth were spellbound with homemade video and photos from a recent visit to St. Martin's by St. Mary's own Mindel Delatorre. Mindel and Fr. Mathieu both spoke of life in Haiti and at St. Martin de Tours. After, our youth made an e-penpals profile book for Fr. Mathieu to return with to Haiti. It is our hope that the students of St. Martin's upper school and St. Mary's youth are able to start friendship relationships via email.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Oct 2nd, our remarkable 2nd graders learned about community members in Arlington that need the support of AFAC and then proceeded to bag 100# of white rice into family-sized portioned bags. AFAC is experiencing an all-time high demand for its services and is grateful to St. Mary's 2nd graders for lending a hand! —by Nina Bacas

# Calendar Page

Click the Calendar link on  
[www.stmarysarlington.org](http://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>

Tuesdays Nov.1, 15, 29	6:30 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Classes
Tues, Nov. 1	7:30 p.m.	England Choir Trip Info Meeting
Wed., Nov. 2	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls
Wed., Nov. 9	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Guys/Sr. High Girls
Wed., Nov 13	6:00 p.m.	Second Sundays@6
Wed., Nov. 16	7:30 p.m.	Jr. High Guys/Jr. High Girls
Sun., Nov. 20	6-8:30 p.m.	Pizza with a Purpose
Wed., Nov. 30	7:30 p.m.	Sr. High Guys/Sr. High Girls

## A FAREWELL FROM YOUTH MINISTER MATT CENTERS

Dear Friends,

I hope this note finds you well and settled into your new school year. This is a fruitful time with the opportunity of a new class in school, a new perspective on your friends after a summer of mission trips and camps, and a time to regroup as a community of purpose fed and made whole by the Body of Christ.

And so it is with mixed emotions of sadness and joy that I announce my time as Youth Minister of St. Mary’s Church is coming to an end. I have been offered an opportunity to become a full time guitar instructor at a local music school, and after a long period of prayer and discernment, I have decided that is where God has called me to be.

Please know how grateful I am to all of you for holding me up during times of trouble and celebrating with me in times of joy. I will remember all of you and treasure our time together. You are my community, my tribe, and the best adopted family that anyone could ask for.

A major part of that family is also about to be revealed to you soon. Father Tim and Mother Anne are simply the best and you will be in good hands. Take care of them as much as you have me. They have been working hard behind the scenes already, but I am very excited for the opportunity that you all now have to get to know them better. You are very lucky to benefit from their presence.

Always be yourselves and go with you God. There is great opportunity in the church because its care rests in the hands of its young people: You. The final lines of President-elect Abraham Lincoln’s farewell speech to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois sum it up best: “Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.” Thank you for your ministry to and with me. I love you all.

Faithfully yours, Matt Centers

## OUTREACH FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



On Sept 25th, our fabulous 5th graders stuffed 29 generous Winter Re-Entry Kits for Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.). Filled with basic toiletries, warm clothing and a \$10 Subway sandwich shop card, these kits will help men newly released from the Arlington Country Jail who have very few people in their support network. They do not have a home or a friend or family member with whom to stay. During the cold months this can be especially difficult. They are job searching but they have no place to go to get warm, no money for lunch, no transportation to get to job interviews, no money for clothing and grooming necessary to look presentable. O.A.R. thanks St. Mary’s for addressing these needs and supporting these individuals in their return to productive citizenship. —Nina Bacas

# UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERINGS

## The Sunday after All Saints' Day, November 6, 5:00 p.m.

### Requiem Choral Eucharist for All Saints

The St. Mary's Choir will lead the remembrance of departed saints with the singing of Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*. The model for this work is drawn from Fauré's *Requiem* sung at St. Mary's in 2007 and 2008; Duruflé sets the same texts as Fauré and adopts a similarly restrained approach. The strength of Duruflé's composition lies in its extraordinary fusion of elements: plainsong, subtle counterpoint, and the sensuous harmonies and refined scoring of Debussy, Ravel and Dukas. Duruflé's often literal use of plainsong melody gives the work a great expressive and rhythmic freedom and results in a natural flow of both text and music. When seated within such colorful tonalities and underpinned with modal harmonies, the emotional impact is heightened, yet somehow the all-pervading tranquility and spiritual optimism is maintained. The work is accompanied by organ (Paul Skevington, St. Luke's Catholic Church, McLean) and a string quintet. The prelude for the service is Gerald Finzi's poignantly beautiful Eclogue for Piano and Strings. A reception follows the service in Paca Parish Hall.

### Candlelight Concert and Compline, November 20, 7:30 p.m.

**Kimberly Hess, DMA, organ** playing works of Buxtehude, Litaize, C. P. E. Bach and Foote, followed by Compline at 8:00 p.m. sung by St. Mary's Schola and offering music by Eric Whitacre and Thomas Tallis. For Dr. Hess's bio and complete program, to [http://www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/upcoming\\_events](http://www.stmarysarlington.org/stmarysarlington/upcoming_events)

### Sunday, December 4, 5:00 p.m.

#### Advent Lessons and Carols

St. Mary's Choirs of Trebles, Boys & Girls, Men & Women and Handbell Choir will lead this service of spiritual preparation for Christ's incarnation. Area civic and charitable leaders will join parishioners in reading lessons from the King James Bible in celebration of its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. St. Mary's parish family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this special offering, and it is followed by a reception in Paca Parish Hall.



### UTO Ingathering Sunday is Nov. 6

Remember to bring in your United Thank Offering contributions on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6. Those coins you've put in your little blue box as an outward sign of profound and continuing thankfulness for all life will benefit those in need around the world.

UTO is a program founded by and administered by Episcopal Church Women since 1889. Each year over \$2 million is given away in grants to continue, support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Church in this country and throughout the world.



### Advent Wreath Making and Potluck—Nov. 27



Come on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, at 6:00 p.m. in Paca Hall, to make an Advent wreath for your home.

Please bring your own greenery and clippers; \$10 covers all other necessary materials. Please also bring a dish to share. Sign up on the sheet in Paca Hall or by e-mailing [anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org](mailto:anne.turner@stmarysarlington.org). The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 20. Children of all ages are welcome, but if you would like nursery care, please let us know by Sunday, November 6, so we can make appropriate arrangements. Volunteers are also needed for set-up, clean up, and material distribution, so please also let us know if you can help in any of these areas.

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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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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