

To the Parishioners of St. Mary the Virgin

It has become a campaign in our modern culture among some of the faithful. There are signs and cards urging people to keep "Christ" in Christmas. In fact, at one of my parishes in Tennessee, that was the theme of our Christmas parade float. The float had Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds and wise men, and we gave away Christmas ornaments featuring the Holy family. I walked beside the float in my cassock -- not a sight you see too often in Tennessee town parades.

We were trying to battle the secular juggernaut of Christmas displays, sales, foods and parties. Christmas trees are put up even before the Thanksgiving turkey leftovers have been consumed. The day after Thanksgiving this year I watched a team of three people hired by my neighbor climb over and around the house to attach lights to every conceivable nook and cranny. Another neighbor put up seven strands of strobing blue lights over their backyard pool. Down the road there is a house with about 20 blowup penguins and just down from the parish there is display of a giant Santa accompanied by a festive dragon.

I must admit I previously was a member of the light brigade. When we lived in Maryland, we had planted our first and only live Christmas tree in the front yard. When we decided to purchase a live tree, we had no idea of the size and weight of the tree's root ball. The only container we could find that would hold the tree was the girls' red wagon. I also discovered how hard it is to plant a tree in frozen

ground. But somehow the tree survived and thrived, so I duly put lights on it a couple of weeks before Christmas every year.

There is nothing wrong with these traditions and others such as baking Christmas cookies, buying presents, decorating trees unless they dominate and obscure the coming of Christ. It is so easy to slip into the mania of traditions that suck up our time, energy and thoughts and bring us no closer to the babe in the manger. We need traditions such as Jesse trees and daily Advent prayers that focus on what we are preparing to celebrate.

Teresa and I became aware of the power of Christmas distractions last year. We were not visiting family and family was not visiting us. And while we missed family, it also made the Christmas of 2018 special. For the first time, we had the freedom to let Christmas only be about Christ. It wasn't about presents or food. We could focus on Jesus alone and that freedom brought a unique joy and peace. We realized how much some of the family traditions of Christmas had lured away our hearts from the Holy family. We had time to be still and quiet and pour out our love for Jesus, the only gift he seeks from any of us.

No, we won't put up a do not disturb sign on our door at Christmas, but we will make time to shut out the world and make room in our heads and hearts to put back the "Christ" in Christmas. ad Jesum per Mariam (to Jesus through Mary), Fr. Dean

We could focus on Jesus alone and that freedom brought a unique joy and peace.

Prayer for Vocations

Priest: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy priests, brothers and sisters to His Holy Church.

All: O God, / we earnestly beseech Thee / to bless this Ordinariate / with many priests, / brothers / and sisters, / who will love Thee with their whole strength / and gladly spend their entire lives / to serve Thy Church / and to make Thee known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families. / Bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes / those who are needed for Thy work.

Priest: Mary Queen of the Clergy!

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

(For the Greater Glory)

Flowers: No Flowers During Advent.

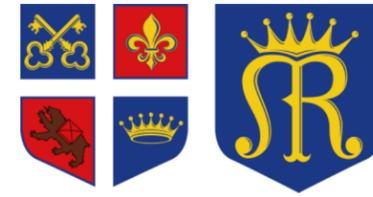
Sanctuary Light: The Bellinger family *in celebration of Jihui's birthday.*

Lamp at the Shrine of Our Lady: The Brignac family *in celebration of Brigitte's birthday.*

Lamp at the Shrine of Joseph: The Kaplan family *in loving memory of Anthony Fasano.*

Lamp at the Shrine of St. Therese: The Brignac family *in celebration of Rita's birthday.*

Lamp at the Shrine of Blessed Charles I: The Harmjanz family *in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.*



The Catholic Church of ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

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Fr. Prentice Dean, Pastor

Fr. Thomas Kennedy, Parochial Vicar

Welcome to The Catholic Church of St. Mary the Virgin. We are a parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter authorized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 for Anglicans seeking to become Catholic. Ordinariate parishes are fully Catholic, while retaining elements of their Anglican heritage and embracing the roots of the Catholic faith's rich tradition through reverent liturgy and historical music. All Catholics are invited to participate in our Divine Worship liturgy and receive communion by kneeling (if able) at the altar rail and receiving our Lord on the tongue.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish for details regarding the preparation program. Under Ordinariate policy, couples should contact a member of the parish clergy at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date.

Liturgical Ministers

December 15, 2019

8:00 a.m. Altar Server.....Jon Carr
UshersNance FitzGibbon & Eli Castro

10:30 a.m. Master of Ceremonies.....Brian Jones
ThuriferJohn Heise
CruciferBen Skinner
Torchbearers... ..Alexander & Graham Muller
Boat Boy.....Thomas Muller
First ReadingJohn Williams
Intercessory PrayersAnnie Muller
Ushers.....Charles & Daisy Bellinger

6:00 p.m. Altar Servers ...Derek Histen / William Harvey (C)
Ushers.....Sam Stauffer / Ken Manichi
Office Help.....Chuck Lynk / Terry Southard

Divine Worship Order of Holy Mass

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Music of the Mass

Music is in the red or blue hymnal or in the tabs of the Divine Worship notebooks indicated in bold.

Prelude.....*Improvisation on Gaudete for Organ*
by Mary Nesvadba

Kyrie.....**Mass Settings Tab** Page 2

Sanctus, Agnus Dei.....**Mass Settings Tab** Page 2

Offertory Hymn.....**Hymnal** Page 76

Mysterium Fidei.....**Mass Settings Tab** Page 14

Amen.....*Simple Chant Amen*

Pater Noster.....**Mass Settings Tab** Page 17

Communion Hymn.....**Hymnal** Page 59

Communion Anthem.....*Gaudete*, Anonymous

Recessional Hymn.....**Hymnal** Page 68

Adult Choir will rehearse Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Youth Choir will rehearse after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on
Sunday until 1:15 p.m.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Scripture of the Mass

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the lily it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Masses said by lector and people after the First Reading. Chanted by the choir at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Gradual

Show thyself, O Lord, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim: stir up thy strength and come.

V. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may

End of Year Contributions

If you are considering making a year-end contribution to the parish, it must be received in the parish office by 12/31/19 or postmarked by 12/31/19 for it to be considered a 2019 donation. These are the rules promulgated by the IRS and the parish follows those rules. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary the Virgin.

Knights of Columbus Tamale Sale

The Knights of Columbus Tamale sale is ongoing.

not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Masses chanted by priest and people. Chanted by the choir at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Alleluia

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come and help us.
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

In those days: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man dressed in soft robes? Behold, those who wear soft robes are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Tamales are sold frozen and the cost is \$10 for 15 tamales. Make sure to get your traditional Christmas Tamales on Sundays during Advent after every Mass.

Adoration at St. Mary the Virgin

Eucharistic Adoration at SMV is on Fridays following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Two adorers are needed every hour beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the repose of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 p.m.

We are in need of an adorer beginning this Friday for either the 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. slot. Please contact the office if you are able fulfill this request.

The Prayers of the People

Intercession (Form 3 on Page 25)

For Those in Special Need

The Lenahan family; Nina; Dang; Soan; Chiem; Felix; Doreen; Charlotte; Robert; Chris; Lance; Fr. Reggie; Fr. Ray; Jaime; Kim; Buddy; John; Dominic; Donald; Peter; Isabella; Ronald; Carol; Beverly; Shelli; Echo.

For Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Pierson; Lucas; Patrick; Richard; Victor; Byron; Luke; Tommy; Christian; Chelsey; Dillon; Mathew; Alton; Annie; Josh; Sebastian; Brandon; James; Jacob.

For Those Expecting Children

Amy & Hunter; Rebecca & Brinton; Lisa & Chris; Alice & Joseph; Lisa & Adam; Colleen & Rafael.

For the Faithful Departed

On the Anniversary of Their Deaths

Tuesday: Alvin Valfroid Hargis; Thursday: James B. Oliver; Judy Kraemer; Wayne Elroy Drevecky; Thomas Hargis; Friday: Margaret McNulty; Albin Farmer Weber; Saturday: Elaine Williams.

For those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday: Rita Brignac (B); Kathy Hargis (B); Catherine Klauk (B); Kelvin Bui (B); Diem Pham (B); Tuesday: Lonnie & Meg Jones (W); Wednesday: Mike & Teresa Pratt (W); Keith & Bridget Burger (W); Ron Ledek (B); Friday: Nancy Reiter (B).

This Week at St. Mary the Virgin

Sunday, December 15

Masses at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Religious Ed class at 9:15 a.m.
ENDOW class at 9:15 a.m. in the parish office

Monday, December 16

Mass at 12:00 p.m.
(Mass Intention: John Hargis, RIP)

Tuesday, December 17

Mass at 7:00 p.m.
(Mass Intention: Alvin Valfroid Hargis, RIP)

Wednesday, December 18

Confessions at 11:00 a.m.
Mass at 12:00 p.m.
(Mass Intention: Leonides Mercedes Guilarte Alcala, RIP)

Thursday, December 19

Men's Examen Group at 10:30 a.m.
Mass at 12:00 p.m.
(Mass Intention: Thomas Hargis, RIP)

Friday, December 20

Mass at 9:00 a.m.
(Mass Intention: JB Oliver, RIP)
Adoration 10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 21

Mass at 9:00 a.m.
(Mass Intention: John Hargis, RIP)
Confessions at 10:00 a.m.
Martyrs Men's Group at 8:00 a.m.
Decorating the Church at 12:00 p.m.

News and Notes

Christmas at St. Mary the Virgin

Please volunteer to help decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 21 at 12:00 p.m. A pizza lunch will be provided prior to decorating.

On Tuesday, December 24, there will be a Christmas Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a punch and cookies reception in the parish hall.

There will be a Christmas Mass of the Night beginning at 11:00 p.m. with Christmas carols and Mass will begin at 11:30 p.m. There will be a champagne reception in the parish hall immediately after and we ask that you bring a finger food to share.

Christmas Mass of the Day will be on Wednesday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m. There will be no confessions that day and the parish office is closed.

On Thursday, December 26, the regular Mass schedule is in effect and the parish office is closed.

On Friday, December 27, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

On Tuesday, December 31, daily Mass will be at 12:00 p.m. There will be no 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Wednesday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a simple Solemn Mass at 12:00 p.m. Confessions for that day are cancelled and the parish office is closed.

On Saturday, January 4, the Knights of Columbus will host their annual Epiphany Party beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The Parish Offering

Weekly Offering Forecast.....\$6,000.00
Actual Offertory Collected.....\$5,529.00
Variance.....—\$471.00

Thank you for your generosity