

# Maneline

ST. MARK Catholic Community

## ST. MARK Music Ministry: Many Ways to Praise the Lord

By Lynne Finta

As Director of Liturgy and Music at ST. MARK, Laura Cooman has a big job! Laura recently took time out of her busy schedule to talk about herself, the Parish Music Ministry, and the plans for ADVENT and CHRISTMAS. I also learned that in addition to overseeing the Music Ministry, Laura is responsible for overseeing the Eucharistic Ministry, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Altar Guild, Weddings, Funerals, Candle Team, Liturgical Art, Children's Liturgy, and Liturgy Coordinators!

### About Laura

Laura was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, and her family still lives there. She has three siblings: two brothers and one sister. Laura married her husband, Colby, in 2017.

An accomplished musician, Laura holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance, as well as Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Degrees in Piano Pedagogy. She earned all three

Degrees at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she minored in Organ.

Laura enjoys spending her free time reading, being outdoors, baking, dancing the Argentinian tango, and teaching piano lessons. In 2013, she hiked the entire Camino de Santiago in Spain!

### Music Ministry Highlights

Music is an integral part of every Mass at ST. MARK, whether led by a Cantor and Accompanist or a full Choir. Parishioners are encouraged to join in with the sung parts of the liturgy and the hymns. We are truly blessed to have many fine music groups here at ST. MARK. The Music Ministry belongs to all of us!

■ ST. MARK Church Children's Choir: Sings on a rotating basis at a different Mass each weekend.

■ ST. MARK Church Youth Choir: Sings at the once-a-month Youth and Family Mass.

■ ST. MARK School Children's Choir:

Sings at the Friday morning 9:15 a.m. Mass.

■ 5:30 Choir: Sings at the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. (Contemporary Choir)

■ 9:00 Choir: Sings at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass (Traditional Choir)

■ 11:00 Choir: Sings at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass (Contemporary/Folk Choir)

■ Resurrection Choir: Sings at funerals and Holy Day Masses.

■ Handbell Choir: Supports different Masses throughout the year. This Choir has a magnificent set of Schulmerich handbells, which are all made of bronze.

■ Festival Choir: Sings for special events, such as TRIDUUM liturgies.

Cantors, Accompanists, and Instrumentalists: Each individual Choir Director decides on and directs the Cantors, Accompanists, and Instrumentalists.

Anyone interested in volunteering to join one of the Choirs should contact Laura Cooman at [lcooman@stmark.org](mailto:lcooman@stmark.org).

## What ST. MARK's Music Ministry Means to Me

Following are testimonials from ST. MARK Choir members and musicians on what the Music Ministry means to them.

■ "We have been with the 5:30 Choir since its founding in 1978. This Choir is our second family as we sing, pray, and socially interact with each other. It's been a wonderful support group."  
— Ann and Tom Brownell

■ "It's so difficult to express this spiritual experience of singing in ST. MARK Choir, but the bottom line is, I love it!" — Joyce Myers

■ "Playing clarinet at the 5:30 p.m. Mass provides a rich, mellow, gentle, and melodic voice to the selected music that reflects the Readings of the liturgy. Whenever I practice my music, I consider it to be prayer time, and I offer up these prayers for all the members of ST. MARK."  
— Judy Buchino

■ "I joined the Resurrection Choir in January 1998. What a wonderful ministry it has been through the years. Our Choir known by some as 'Sisters in Song' is able to give comfort to the grieving family as we sing the hymns that they requested." — Peggy Kelly

■ "Singing with our Resurrection Choir at funeral celebrations has truly been a blessing. witnessing through the homilies and eulogies the lives of people who in times of sickness, grief, trials, and pain have shown such faith, humor, courage, and love. A long-time parishioner of ST. MARK, Fred Heinzelmann, who passed away a few years ago, told me that the 'The Resurrection Choir strengthens and reinforces our faith.'"  
— MaryAnn Obernberger

# Liturgy Coordinators: Serving Our Worshipping Assembly

By Jeff Jamison

As explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the word “liturgy” originally meant a “public work.” You may not see *ST. MARK* Liturgy Coordinators, serving behind the scenes in a not-so-public way, but their work helps make each of our celebrations of the Mass a grace-filled experience.

Our five active Coordinators assume duties for a month and rotate among themselves to cover all of the weekend Masses. They encourage more volunteers to come forward. They are ready



to train new people with the knowledge passed on by their predecessors, shared with one other and accumulated over their years of service.

Simply put, the job description of a Liturgy Coordinator is to ensure that everyone and everything is in place by the time Mass starts. Over time, the Coordinators are able to establish a comfortable routine, but there is always enough to keep things interesting and keep them on their toes. Guest presiders, special celebrations such as Sacraments, or visits by the Bishop require careful attention to some unique details. Often it is just a matter of practical interventions, such as lighting candles, replacing

a malfunctioning microphone, or finding an extra chair for a Concelebrant or Deacon.

All Coordinators, from seasoned veterans to recent recruits, can consult checklists and schedules, but they also rely on a few simple practices to manage the unexpected. The first is “being observant”—keeping eyes and ears open to Mass preparation and the work being done by others—such as Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Lectors—in their own pre-Mass routines. The second is “staying calm”—not being flustered (or at least not showing it!) when thrown a curve. With this attitude, and with the support of others involved with the liturgy, problems can be anticipated and are solved fairly easily.

The Liturgy Coordinators all spoke of a strong connection to “their Mass” as a motivation for their ministry. Their vantage point as a Coordinator—interacting with members of the Assembly, assisting their needs and the needs of Presiders, and troubleshooting any difficulties that might arise—has deepened their attachment to their fellow Parishioners and enhanced their appreciation of the Sacrifice of the Mass.

A sense of humor can also be helpful, and the camaraderie among the Coordinators and with those serving in other liturgical ministries makes for a pleasant experience, one that the Coordinators look forward to when they come to Mass. The smiles you may see when entering the Narthex are sometimes born of exasperation, but they also show the joy they get from greeting you and, as one explained, having “my hands join the hands of others.”

With such an experience of ministry, it was not surprising to hear the Coordinators speaking of an “expression” and not a “role.” Their service is not just a series of tasks but a way to live a life of faith

demonstrated and animated by works, taking to heart the exhortation in the Letter of James. If you are considering ways to expand your involvement in the *ST. MARK* community, and want to learn more about the Liturgy Coordinator Ministry, please contact Laura Cooman, the Director of Music and Worship, at [lcooman@stmark.org](mailto:lcooman@stmark.org) or 703-938-3293.



## Altar Servers Needed

We invite all *ST. MARK* youth, incoming fourth grade and older, to participate the Altar Server Ministry at Mass. We know that many of you may be interested but have not had a chance to train earlier in the pandemic. Here is your chance! Please contact John Kuchenbrod at [jkuchen1@gmail.com](mailto:jkuchen1@gmail.com) for more information.

If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Cantor, or would like to be a part of the Liturgical Arts Team, Candle Team, or Altar Guild, please contact Laura Cooman in the Worship Office at [lcooman@stmark.org](mailto:lcooman@stmark.org) or call 703-766-3423.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Make your plans now! Here is the Parish calendar for the ADVENT and CHRISTMAS seasons.



- November 27 and 28: First Sunday of ADVENT (Year C)
- December 8: Solemnity of the *Immaculate Conception*
- December 12: Youth and Family Mass
- December 13: *Our Lady of Guadalupe* Mass and Fiesta
- December 16: Taizé and Blessing of the Creche
- December 19: Communal PENANCE Service
- December 24: 5:00 p.m. Mass (Church, Cassidy Activities Center, Gym), 8:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Masses
- December 25: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses



## The Giving Tree Needs You!

By Carolyn Peterson

The Giving Tree will be back this year!

The Tree will be set up in the Narthex on the weekend of November 20-21, and the gifts will be collected in the Cassidy Activities Center two weeks later on the weekend of December 4-5. The gifts will be delivered to the charities in the following days—in time to be distributed to recipients before CHRISTMAS.

People who wish to participate can take a tag from the Tree for the individual charities, or they can pick up a booklet that will be located near the Tree that lists all the charities we help and their needs. This information will also be available on the *ST. MARK* website.

Local charities that have participated in the past include the following groups that provide important services in our local community:

- **Bethany House:** Operates two emergency shelters in Fairfax County for victims of domestic violence and their children.
- **Britepaths:** Provides emergency food, financial assistance and mentoring to families that are often members of the working poor. More than half of those served are children.
- **CASA:** Trains volunteers to work

at the request of the Fairfax County Juvenile Court, advocating for abused and neglected children to ensure they have a voice in court; serves more than 300 children each year, 50 percent of whom are under age five.

■ **Kate Hanley Shelter:** Accommodates up to 28 homeless families in Fairfax County, helping them move quickly into permanent housing and then continuing to provide needed services.

■ **Catholic Charities Migration and Refugees Services:** Most clients are Afghans who receive help with housing, employment, ESL, schools, and a path to U.S. citizenship, as well as El Salvadorians, who receive help with employment and schools.

■ **Second Story:** Provides temporary residences for teenagers who find it impossible to live at home; includes a home for pregnant/parenting teen mothers and neighborhood-based after-school programs.

■ **CHO Clothes Closet:** Serves the poor in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring, and Merrifield.

■ **HOPE and A Woman's Choice:** Private, nonprofit organizations providing pregnancy support and material resources to women in crisis pregnancies.

■ **CHINS:** Delivers heartwarming gifts for pediatric cancer patients at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, hoping to provide comfort, support, and smiles.

■ **Service Source Long-Term Community Integration Programs:** Facilitate services and partnerships to support some 550 people with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and community members to build more inclusive communities through seven centers in Northern Virginia.

### Special Adoptions

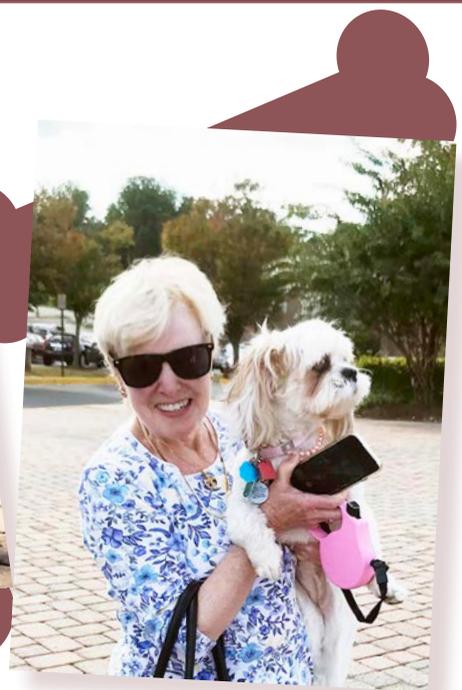
In addition, we will continue to have Special Adoptions, which allow Parishioners to select a personal gift for an individual, family, or foster child in need. The names are given to *ST. MARK* by social service agencies in Fairfax County and Family Pass. Anyone wishing information on participating in Special Adoptions should contact Nancy Dunaway at 703-758-8142 or Mary Lou McIntire at 703-938-4276.

Anyone who would like more information about the Giving Tree can contact Carolyn Peterson at 703-281-3941 or [cf-peterson@verizon.net](mailto:cf-peterson@verizon.net). Several Confirmation Spirit Teams have already volunteered.



## Parish Holds Annual Blessing of the Animals

More than 60 people participated in the *Blessing of the Animals* on October 4, the Memorial Feast-Day of *St. Francis of Assisi*. Father Pat read from *The Book of Blessings*. Pets present included dogs of all shapes and sizes, from a large and well-behaved German Shepherd to a tiny chihuahua. There were also cats, a fish, and a guinea pig. In addition, Fr. Pat blessed some pets via phone. Quite a few *ST. MARK* students were present. It was a fun and well-attended event!



## ST. MARK Honors the First Troop 1978G Female Eagle Scout

By *Patty Whelpley*

The Eagle Scout Award is one of the most prestigious awards a high schooler can earn. In fact, it is estimated that less than 6 percent of all Scouts attain the rank; nationwide, only 0.3 percent of Americans have attained this distinctive honor. In February 2019, the Boy Scouts of America decided to allow girls to join the Scouting program. Now young ladies have the opportunity to earn the Eagle Scout award, too.

Libby Root, a parishioner at *ST. MARK* and a member of our Scout BSA Troop 1978G, has been honored as one of the first inaugural female Eagle Scout Award winners in the country. Over 1,000 girls worked hard to finish their Eagle Award within two years by the deadline of February 8, 2021. This was very difficult to do. The Eagle Award requires that the Scouts complete 21 merit badges, hold long-term leadership positions, and complete a complicated Eagle Scout project to complete the award.

### The Start of Troop 1978G

When Libby heard that the Boy Scout Troop at *ST. MARK* was starting a Girls' troop, she was not even sure she would join. However, meeting other girls who had the same desire for adventure convinced her that it would be worth it.

Libby liked that the Girls' Troop, referred to as 1978G, was determined to be a high adventure troop—with campouts and activities for the girls every month. She immediately connected with the other girls who matched her excitement for camping and learning about outdoor survival. The girls in the Troop work hard and play hard. Every month, they go on a campout or do some kind of adventure. Even during Covid-19, they found ways to keep the Troop active via Zoom and socially spaced outdoor meetings and activities.

Organized and willing to work hard, Libby progressed quickly through her merit badges and ranks. For her Eagle project, she organized a team of volunteers to build garden beds outside the first grader's window at Flint Hill Elementary School. She even added

painted wooden cutouts for the garden in the theme of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."

### Libby's Favorite Memories of Scouting So Far

One of Libby's favorite memories of her Scout career was the high adventure trip she took this past summer. She participated in the rigorous Northern Tier high adventure canoeing trip in the boundary waters between Minnesota and Canada.

She said, "My favorite trip was Northern Tier this last summer. I had never canoed before. We set a goal to canoe 100 miles before the end of the week and have fun. A few times we did a 'Dawn Paddle.' We woke up at 3:00 a.m. and got on the water so that we could see the sunrise. It was beautiful."

### How Scouting Helped Libby

Libby believes that Scouting has helped her grow in so many ways. She explains: "Through Scouting, I have learned so many leadership skills. I was a leader in the Troop for quite a while, and I have learned so many things from that. Public speaking was never one of my strong skills because I do not like drawing attention to myself. Through Scouting, I have grown more mature. I feel a whole lot older and more self-confident. I grew in leadership skills, public speaking, and friendship. I would never have met these girls since they do not go to my school. It is surreal to have had this experience, to meet all these people, and have these experiences."

Libby's mom, Mrs. Kristin Root, was happy that Libby joined the Troop. "I feel like Libby's personality was well suited for Scouting. She loves sports, she loves camping, and she likes getting out of her comfort zone. I believe that Scouts are given the amazing opportunity to develop the skills to organize themselves and others on their journey through Scouting."

Libby's father, Mr. Phil Root, was surprised at the growth that he saw in Libby. "I definitely noticed a degree of confidence in her that I had not seen previously. She developed an ability to acknowledge her anxieties and keep stepping forward. Scouts

gave her the opportunity to challenge the things that used to cause her anxiety."

Mr. Root continued: "I think this is the first time she was

able to bring out the best in other people. I think she does that informally, but Scouts has given her a formal mechanism to do that. It has been really neat to see that it is part of her nature."

### Scout Troop 1978G

Libby would encourage other girls to consider joining Scouts BSA. The Troop meets on Tuesday nights from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at *ST. MARK*. Girls are invited to just pop in and try it out. They can also email the Scoutmaster, Mr. Todd Lundquist, at [lundy569@aol.com](mailto:lundy569@aol.com).

Libby promises it will be worth it: "I'm so glad that I joined because I had all of these experiences with these girls that I am great friends with—that I never would have met. I encourage girls to just try it out. It is such a positive experience for everyone."



Libby Root

### MEANING OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The "yes" of the Virgin to the announcement of the Angel fits into the reality of our earthly condition, with humble respect for the divine will to save humanity not from history but in history. Indeed, ever preserved free from all taint of original sin, the "new Eve" benefited uniquely from the work of Christ as the most perfect Mediator and Redeemer. The first to be redeemed by her Son, she shares to the full in his holiness; she is already what the entire Church desires and hopes to be. She is the eschatological icon of the Church.

*Pope John Paul II*, December 8, 2004

## Receiving Through Giving: FACETS Hot Meals

By Carol Dieterle

Once every two months, for about two hours, the kitchen and Msgr. Tom Cassidy Activities Center become a hive of activity as volunteers put together over 100 meals for our less fortunate neighbors. An additional cadre of volunteers then picks up and distributes these meals at three different locations in the Fairfax County area.

The *Hot Meals Program* is managed by FACETS—a local nonprofit organization that helps those who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. More than 35 faith-based organizations support the overall program. Evening meals are provided every evening—365 days a year—to anyone who asks. The number of meals ranges from 90–300 each evening. *ST. MARK* provides a meal through this program on the fourth Monday of odd-numbered months.

Things begins with a prayer for those whom we are preparing meals. We offer a prayer of thanksgiving for those who have shopped; those who have prepared side dishes; and those who are packing, cooking, and delivering the current meal.

We also pray for special blessings for those enjoying the meal, and we pray that this meal will draw the receiver closer to God. Everyone recognizes that we are indeed blessed and are humbled to be able to offer this meal.

When asked why they support this ministry, longtime volunteers Mary and Bob Purdy stated that they love to share in the abundance of God's love. Despite being very tired at the end of each Hot Meals preparation process, they feel GREAT about the work they do. Several other volunteers noted that this ministry gives them camaraderie and fellowship with other parishioners. When asked, all volunteers agree that helping those in need is the right thing to do. And everyone feels that they receive more than they give through this act of feeding others.

The process of preparing and feeding more than 100 people begin with obtaining the ingredients for the month's menu. The ministry strives to deliver a meal that is nutritious as well as delicious. During the warmer months, a cold chicken salad



**Volunteers Karen Asta, Carol Dieterle, Mary Purdy, and Mario Asta in kitchen prepare cold chicken pasta salad.**

is prepared that includes pasta, chicken and fresh vegetables. Black beans are substituted in preparing vegetarian meals. Besides the cooks, volunteers also bag side items—cookies, rolls, carrots, and fresh fruit.

The volunteers who distribute the meals are rewarded with smiles and “thank yous.” Everyone is asked how many people they are picking up for and how many meals they would like. There is no limit, and all who ask are fed.

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering to support this ministry, please contact David Kent at [david-kent057@gmail.com](mailto:david-kent057@gmail.com).

## Fr. Ghengan Mbinkar Is in Residence at *ST. MARK*

*ST. MARK* has been blessed to have Fr. Ghengan Mbinkar in residence while he pursues his doctoral studies at Catholic University in Washington, DC. He was born in Cameroon. He is the second of four children, and he has nine nieces and nephews. He recently returned from a visit home with his family.

He earned a scholarship to study Canon Law at Catholic University. He has received his Licentiate Degree and expects to complete his PhD in the next two years. When he graduates, he will return home to serve the Church.

His discernment of his vocation led him to enter the minor seminary and then the major seminary in Cameroon. He has one Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and one in Theology. He was ordained in 2012. He is fluent in a number of languages, including his native language, English, French, Latin, and Greek. He also studied Hebrew.

In a recent interview, he discussed the history and challenges of Cameroon. Approximately 70 percent of the

population is Christian; 40 percent of this Christian population is Catholic. Moslems constitute about 20 percent, and traditional religions and nonbelievers account for the rest. The Catholic Church came to Cameroon in 1890, and it established a school system, hospitals, and other vehicles to help the people.

### History of Colonialism

He explained that Cameroon's history is tied to British and French colonialism in Africa. The country became a German colony in 1884; following World War I, it was largely run by the French, with a western section run by Britain. The United Nations, in the wake of World War II, formalized the arrangement, and the country was divided into the two regions of British Cameroon and French Cameroon. The country won its independence in 1960-1961 and became the Republic of Cameroon. In practice, though, the differences in the two regions persisted. In the British region, the legal system is based on British common law, and English is the language; in the more geographically extensive French area, the legal system is based

on the Napoleonic code, and the language is French. The French areas have high levels of corruption and inequity, and the British area is denied full access to legal and civil rights.

### Civil War

Starting in 2017, these legal, cultural, and political differences broke out into what is effectively a civil war. In addition to the turmoil, radical Islamists engage in violence in the north. The guerilla warfare has taken a heavy toll. Fr. Mbinkar explained that families are forced to hide their sons so that they are not forcibly taken to be soldiers. The conflict is diverting the country's resources from meeting the needs of the people.

Despite these very real challenges, Fr. Mbinkar reports that the Catholic Church remains strong. The number of seminarians—from both the English-speaking and French-speaking areas—is growing.



## Parish Celebrates the Blessing of the Creation Care Mary Garden

By Betsy Zolper

The sign, “Future Site of Mary Garden,” has sparked interest in our *ST. MARK* Community. Parishioners and students have asked questions, offered suggestions, and given words of encouragement while we have been working the soil to prepare for planting. Generous people have reached out to offer donations to help purchase native plants and the statue of Our Lady. Third-Grade Students and their Teachers from *ST. MARK* School are working with the Care for Our Common Home Ministry to bring our Mary Garden to life.

What is a Creation Care Mary Garden? A Mary Garden is a sacred space that has a shrine or statue of Our Lady and includes plants that have an association with Mary and Jesus. This tradition originated in Europe in the Middle Ages. Our Mary Garden cares for creation because it will be filled with native plants. A native plant is one that has been growing in this region for thousands of years. Our birds, bees, and butterflies are adapted to use these plants for food, shelter, and places to lay their eggs. Many butterflies need specific plants for their eggs. Upon hatching, the tiny caterpillars are hungry, and they can only digest certain plants.



Caterpillars are the primary food for baby birds. By inviting butterflies and caterpillars to our gardens, we provide food for nesting birds.

Our Creation Care Mary Garden, is an example of one way our Diocese is participating in the *Laudato Si'* 7-Year Action Platform, which calls us to embrace the spiritual and environmental principles that Pope Francis laid out in *Laudato Si'*. We are called to repair relationships with our brothers and sisters throughout the world and with all of

God's creatures. (Learn more at [laudatoactionplatform.org](http://laudatoactionplatform.org).) Our Garden will be highlighted as a demonstration project to encourage Parishes, Schools, and Parishioners to add native plants to their yards to care for Creation.

On Thursday, October 7, Fr. Bob Cilinski, Chair of the Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission, blessed our Creation Care Mary Garden. In his short homily, Fr. Cilinski talked to our Third Graders about caring for Creation. He mentioned that our own Fr. Pat sets a good example of Creation care by carefully recycling. After the Third Graders read their original Mary Garden poem, Fr. Cilinski blessed the soil. Then a student from each class planted Jacob's Ladder in the Garden. The plants were sprinkled with water to help nurture new growth.

Stop by the Garden and take a look at our first two plants. Jacob's Ladder has opposite leaves. Does it make you think of a ladder? This plant is also evergreen, which can signify everlasting life. Hmm, a ladder to Heaven (Gen 28:10-17)? Jesus likened himself to a ladder in John 1:51. The name of this native plant is rich with Biblical symbolism.

## *ST. MARK to Celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe*

*ST. MARK* will celebrate the Memorial Feast-Day of *Our Lady of Guadalupe* at the evening Mass on Monday, December 13, at 7:30p.m., followed by a Fiesta in the Msgr. Cassidy Activities Center.

The appearance of the Blessed Mother on a hilltop outside of Mexico City in December 1531 A.D. came at a pivotal moment in the history of the New World.

The Spanish had come to Mexico in 1519 A.D. and conquered the country. The people were Aztecs, and their pagan religion required human sacrifice. Each year, 50,000 to 70,000 people were sacrificed in the rituals.

Relatively few Aztecs became Christian in the following years. That changed when Mary appeared to the humble Juan Diego as he was traveling to a catechism class early one morning. His route took him to

Tepeyac Hill, which had been sacred to an Aztec goddess. Mary identified herself speaking his native language; she called him “My son” and told him not to be afraid. She sent him—and he went reluctantly—to tell the Spanish Bishop in Mexico City of her appearance and her wish that a chapel be built on the site. The Bishop did not believe Juan Diego's report, and he required some proof of the truth of his claim. When Juan Diego told May what the Bishop had said, she instructed him to meet her on Tepeyac Hill the next morning. When Juan Diego arrived, the hilltop was covered with snow. It was also covered with roses and other flowers. He was thrilled because he thought the flowers were the proof for the Bishop. In the Aztec culture, when one important person would send a messenger to another important person, the

messenger would carry flowers as a sign that he was an authorized messenger and would speak only the truth.

Juan Diego gathered up the flowers and brought them to Mary. She arranged them in his cloak and told him to show them only to the Bishop. When Juan Diego was allowed into the Bishop's presence, he reported that he had the sign, and he released his cloak. The flowers fell to the floor, and the Bishop fell to his knees—not at the flowers but at the image of herself that Mary had left on the rough cloak.

That image—which modern science cannot explain—is still on display 500 years later in what became the largest Shrine to Mary in the world. In the decade after the apparitions, some 9 million Aztecs became Christian, and human sacrifice ended.

## DECEMBER FEASTS AND SAINTS AND BLESSEDS

3 Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	13 Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
4 Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church	14 Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
6 Saint Nicholas, Bishop	21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
7 Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	23 Saint John of Kanty, Priest
8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Patronal Solemnity of the United States of America)	25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) Solemnity, Holy Day of Obligation
9 Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin	26 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
10 Our Lady of Loreto	27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
11 Saint Damasus I, Pope	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Feast	29 Saint Thomas à Becket, Bishop and Martyr
	31 Saint Sylvester I, Pope

## M&Ms Resume Meetings and Plan Activities

*By Bill McCarthy*

ST. MARK Seniors group, Maturing Matters (M&Ms), resumed its activities with a coffee on September 8. Some 25 members enjoyed seeing one other in person after the long hiatus. All enjoyed coffee and dessert, thanks to Anne Shea, who coordinated the event. The group discussed its future plans.

### Coffees

The monthly coffees will continue on the first Wednesday of each month. The October 6 coffee was hosted by Anne Shea.

### Luncheons

The monthly luncheons resume soon. Anna Claudia is in charge of providing and displaying all decorations, as appropriate, for the season.

### Speakers

The Seniors are working on setting up speakers for the monthly luncheons.

Deacon John will be the November Luncheon speaker.

### Trips

Eva Sneade volunteered to host some trips, and Mike Battaglia suggested going to the White House this year to see the Christmas decorations. Other suggested trips are the Library of Congress, Dumbarton Oaks, the Philadelphia Flower Show, and the Sight and Sound Museum in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A volunteer is needed coordinate bus transportation.

## ST. MARK Book Club

The Book Club meets monthly via Zoom. The members have found it helpful to keep a Zoom component for those who live out of the area; who travel; and who prefer not to come out on dark, cold, icy Fall and Winter nights.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Participants recommend books, and the members make selections from those recommendations.

The selected book for Wednesday, November 10, is *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* by Francis S. Collins (304 pages).

Mark Morneau is the facilitator. He sends out the link to participants a week before the meeting and again the day before the meeting. Anyone who would like more information on the Book Club should contact Mark at [mark-morneau@outlook.com](mailto:mark-morneau@outlook.com).

## Milestones

### BAPTISM

ST. MARK welcomes the following new Parishioners to our Parish family:

Robert Anthony Echevarria  
Isabella Trinity Hanna  
Amelia Elise Kowalski  
Javier Pedro Corbella Mignoni  
Archer James Niblett

### DEATHS

The following Parishioners entered into eternal life:

Michael Hoffman  
Patricia Ann Payne  
Thomas Pellerito  
Regina "Jean" Richards  
Mona Shultz  
Aaron Yazdani

*Maneline* is the publication of ST. MARK Catholic Community, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna, VA 22181. It is published eight times a year, with a January/February issue, a June/July issue, an August/September and a November/December issue. Individuals wishing to submit articles should contact the editor.

Editor:

Mary Fisk:

[maryfisk2@gmail.com](mailto:maryfisk2@gmail.com)

Writers:

Lynne Finta

Jeff Jamison

Artist:

Susan Scanlon:

[TSMosaics@hotmail.com](mailto:TSMosaics@hotmail.com)



**Maneline**  
**ST. MARK Catholic Church**  
**9970 Vale Road**  
**Vienna, VA 22181**

**Non-profit Organization**  
**U. S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 16**  
**Merrifield, Va.**

**Address Service Requested**

## *Mark Your Calendar*

### **December 2021**

- 1 CYC, 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Embry Rucker Food Delivery, 9:00 a.m.
- 3 First Friday EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
10:00 a.m.
- 6 Alpha via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION Vigil Mass, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION Masses, 6:15 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,  
5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- 8 CYC, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Junior High Friday Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Youth and Family Mass, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Fiesta, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Alpha via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 CYC, 7:30 p.m.



- 16 ADVENT TAIZÉ and Blessing of the Creche,  
7:00 p.m.
- 18 High School Saturday Night, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 ADVENT Communal PENANCE Service,  
7:00 p.m.
- 20 Alpha via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 CYC, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 CHRISTMAS Eve Masses: 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m.,  
10:00 p.m.
- 25 CHRISTMAS Masses: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- 27 Alpha via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 CYC, 7:30 p.m.

### **January 2022**

- 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF God
- 2 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD