

## Diving Deeper into the Gospel

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby Jesus as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.



January 1, 2023 The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

## Weekly Readings

**2 Mon** Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, white Bishops and Doctors of the Church Memorial 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28 (205) Pss II

**3 Tue** Christmas Weekday white/white [The Most Holy Name of Jesus] 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34 (206)

**4 Wed** USA: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious white Memorial 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42 (207)

**5 Thu** USA: Saint John Neumann, Bishop white Memorial 1 Jn 3:11-21/J 1:43-51 (208)

**6 Fri** Christmas Weekday white/white [USA: Saint André Bessette, Religious] 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38 (209)

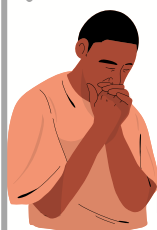
**7 Sat** Christmas Weekday white/white [Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest] 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 2:1-11 (210)

**8 SUN USA: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** white Solemnity Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 (20) Pss Prop

## **Basilica of Saint Mary**

### **NEW Mailing Address**

Please send all correspondence to the following address: 1000 City Hall Ave  
Norfolk, VA 23504



### **"Lord, hear our prayer"**

For all who are ill: that they may trust the Lord as their refuge and strength especially  
Mary Ann Miller, Betty Davis, Audrey Plaskett, Helen Cooper Young, Daisy Lee, Lydia Adams, Dana Gray, Helen Kidwell, David Jackson, Deborah Jackson, Betty Robinson, Michelle Maull, Arnell Elliott- We pray to the Lord

For those who have died: especially  
Fr. Wilbur Thomas and Linda Albert  
may they know the peace and joy of God's

- We pray to the Lord

TO BE ADDED TO OUR PRAYERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE  
PARISH OFFICE



### **Service Members of Our Parish**

We pray for members of our parish who are serving overseas, as well as their families.

SPC Kevyn L. Sears is now stationed in the Middle East.  
Please keep him in your prayers.

If you would like to add or remove a name from this list  
contact us at: [office@bsmic.org](mailto:office@bsmic.org)



### **Giving Envelopes**

**Envelopes for Dec/Jan have been mailed out. If you have not received your envelopes and would like a mail trace performed, please email [tmarvinebsmic.org](mailto:tmarvinebsmic.org) with your name, address, and envelope number.**



The Prayer Group would like to invite you to join them in prayer & Scripture reading every Tuesday evening from 6 -8PM. Since COVID we have been meeting via telephone.

Our prayer line number is: 267-807-9601. After you enter this number you will be asked to enter an Access Code. The Access Code number is: 530 694 365#. Do not forget to add the # at the end.

We look forward to praying with you and for you, and we welcome you to join us. If you have any questions, call Sandra Jarvis at 757-589-3797.



### **New Year's Prayer**

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

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### **Telephone Ministry Volunteers Needed**

All parishioners interested in joining the Telephone Ministry, please call Alma Brown @ 757-488-5801 or Lois Brown @ 757-412-5677.

Our mission is to inform all parishioners of general communications and upcoming events at the Basilica of Saint Mary.



### **Religious Education Class Update:**

Religious Education Classes will not be held on the following days:  
January 1, 2023.



### **African American Family Prayer**

God of Mercy and Love we place our African American Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life.

Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us. Prayer composed by FR. JIM GOODE, OFM, who in 1989 founded this National

The Bishop Keane Institute presents:

## Dr. Shannen Dee Williams "Why Black Catholic History Matters"



Dr. Shannen Dee Williams is Associate Professor of History at the University of Dayton, and author of *Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African-American Freedom Struggle*.



The Bishop  
Keane Institute

A Ministry of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



Immaculate Conception  
Catholic Church

**Saturday, January 21, 2023  
9:00am-12:00pm**

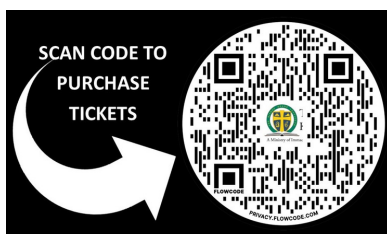
Tickets will be on sale online at [icchampton.org](http://icchampton.org) or contact the Parish office for more information

2150 Cunningham Drive, Hampton, VA  
757-826-0393

Join other parishioners and Catholics throughout the diocese for a morning of immersion in the stories, spirituality, and music of our Black Catholic brothers and sisters. Keynote speaker, Dr. Shannen Dee Williams, who is recognized for her gift of using history to foster racial justice and reconciliation, will speak about Why Black Catholic History Matters.

After Dr. William's presentation, there will be time for dialogue and a closing prayer service that embodies Black Catholic spirituality.

Tickets are \$20 per person, and may be purchased by scanning the QR code. For more information, go to [icchampton.org](http://icchampton.org), or call 757 334 0129.



## Homeless Ministry



The City of Norfolk now hosts a shelter for our homeless sisters and brothers. It is located on Tidewater Drive in Norfolk VA. There is still a great need for donations. Below is a list of items needed to care for our homeless family members.

Donations can be dropped-off before and after each Mass in the church hall starting December 11th to January 29, 2023. Should you have any questions please contact Trig Goodman at 757-406-2298 for more information.

### Items Needed:

New Winter Hats, Gloves and Scarfs (men and women) New Underwear (men and women) and socks.

### TOILETRIES:

Shaving (razors/shave cream for men and women), toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, brushes/combs, and women personal items

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## **Family Connection**

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honored her commitment to God by naming her child Jesus, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save the people. The name Jesus means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.

Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named?

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfill their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."





## WE ARE HERE TO SERVE



Fr. James Curran

**Rector**

(757) 876-0554

frjimcurran@gmail.com

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Office Address:**

1000 Holt Street Norfolk, VA 23504

**Phone:** 757-622-4487 | **Fax:** 757-625-7969

**Email:** office@bsmic.org

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you someone or know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic Church? Would you like to journey with this faith community as we encounter Christ in our faith and life journey. The RCIA is a process that prepares inquirers for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. We welcome you with your questions, your insights and your faith story. For more information, please call Oretha Pretlow at (757) 622-4487, or email at opretlow@bsmic.org.

### Sacrament of Marriage

A couple seeking marriage must approach the pastor at least 6 months prior to the date of the wedding. Marriage preparation gives the Church and the couple adequate time to properly prepare for the sacrament. For Marriage Preparation and scheduling your wedding, please contact the church office at (757) 622-4487.

### Infant Baptism

Jesus said “Let the children come to me,” Luke 8:15. Parents wishing to have children under 7 years of age baptized must first attend a baptism preparation class. For more information contact Barbara Wright at (757) 622-4487 or bwright@bsmic.org

Parish Staff	Title	Email
Sammie Logan	Minister of Music	slogan1514@gmail.com
Oretha Pretlow	Liturgy Coordinator	opretlow@bsmic.org
Luther Adams	Sexton	ladams@bsmic.org
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Willie Lawrence	Maintenance	wlawrence@bsmic.org
Nicole Drummond	DRE/Dir. Youth Ministry	ndrummond@bsmic.org
Phyllis Gary	Bookkeeper	pgary@bsmic.org
Kenneth Powell	Maintenance/Driver	kpowell@bsmic.org
Irene Elliott	Receptionist	ielliott@bsmic.org
Michael Woodhouse	Soup Kitchen Chef	mwoodhouse@bsmic.org
Tia Marvin	Office Manager	tmarvin@bsmic.org

Our Soup Kitchen is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 12:15-1:30pm

Our Food Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday from 9:30am-11:30am and Saturday at 12:30pm

**The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception at 232 Chapel Street Norfolk, VA 23504**

**USDA Distribution Mondays: 9:30-11:30am. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

Do you need to schedule a ministry meeting or an event at the Basilica?  
If so, please call Tia Marvin at (757) 622-4487 or email at tmarvin@bsmic.org.