

Hello SMC Vestry & Parishioners,

My name is Nicole Marino, thank you for considering me as a SMC Vestry member, it is an honor to be nominated. My family and I discovered SMC in 2018 through the Day School. Both my husband, Joe, and I were raised Roman Catholic. Though we baptized our boys in the Catholic Church, we wanted to provide our children a church that is approachable and attainable. It was through SMC that we found exactly what we were looking for.

I was born and raised in Annapolis, MD and have resided in Cape St. Claire since 2000, with the exception of four years spent in Myrtle Beach, where I attended Coastal Carolina University. There, I majored in Communications and minored in Political Science. Upon graduation and to my parents delight, I returned home with not only a degree, but a great appreciation of my hometown. Between its beauty, history, and uniqueness Annapolis was absolutely where I intended to stay and raise a family.

All in God's plan, my husband and I met in beautiful downtown and knew rather quickly that we were each-other's person. We held many of the same values and shared the same goals; we both wanted to stay in close proximity to our parents, we wanted a traditional marriage, and we wanted to raise children of faith. Joe and I married and were blessed with 3 boys; Nicholas (Nick), Roman, & Luca.

Being their mother is the most important role I have ever had the privilege of. The ability to be a stay at home mom is a gift I thank God and my husband for each day. As their mother, it is my job to guide them along God's path; to raise them to be strong & morally grounded, to be respectful to all, to make the right choice even when it feels difficult at times. I hold these values center in raising my boys in hopes they will one day grow into men of God. It is my hope that whoever they turn out to be, they always lead and protect those they hold dear, while holding the Lord close.

Though I hold traditional values, it does not make me naive to today's world. What I value most about SMC is that it is realistic; each sermon is applied to today's problems. The message isn't to attain perfection, but that God loves us regardless of our imperfections. I value this most about SMC because church and God should not be intimidating, it should be exciting! It should be welcoming! In my opinion this is especially important to engage such curious little minds and encourage a younger generation to choose God.

In closing, I thank you for taking the time to consider me. St. Margaret's truly holds a special place in my heart, I feel blessed to have found this parish and to be able to give my boys the gift that is SMC.

Warmly,
Nicole Marino