



"GREETINGS, MARY, FULL OF GRACE."

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary - Falmouth, Maine



From the Rector:

**"The most influential of all educational factors
is the conversation in a child's home."**

The Most Reverend William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-1944)



The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is fast approaching. It brings to mind many thoughts and feelings, and it particularly makes me think of the joy of children who take such delight in the magical atmosphere of Christmas. But it is also sad to consider how many children in Maine will not experience the joy of Christmas because their homes are not havens of blessings and peace. Far too many homes do not offer positive, godly conversations that support the education and healthy formation of children.

What can we, as followers of Christ, do about this sad situation? We can help one child at a time. Erin and I have gone through all of the required steps to become a "Resource Family" in the system of the state's Office of Child and Family Services. Our official license is likely to be issued any day and that will permit us to provide temporary foster care for a child who needs a good and safe place to be.

Do you know that there is a desperate need for foster parents in Maine right now? State budget cuts have reduced the resources available to help children in the system, while the drug crisis has simultaneously increased the number of children who need a safe place to live.

These are innocent children who never made the choice to be born into difficult circumstances. These are thousands of Maine children who just need a safe place to be and someone to care for them. These are the poorest of the poor because they have no way at all to provide for themselves. And we all know far too well that many of the world's problems are created by young people who carry deep scars from broken childhoods and who now search desperately for meaning and purpose in life.

As you prepare once again to welcome the coming of the Christ Child into the world, will you consider welcoming a foster child into your home? If you have an extra bedroom, will you consider being inconvenienced by the needs of a child with nowhere else to go? Will you sacrifice your comfort and routine for the future of a child at risk?

Erin and I are hoping that all of you will help us to care for the children who are placed with us in the rectory. And we hope that a number of you will be touched by this need and respond to the call. Together, we can change the trajectory of the lives of many children at risk. Together, we can show them that God loves them and has a beautiful plan for their lives. Perhaps there is no more important thing that we could ever do.

Nathan W. Ferrell +

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THE SPARKLES CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

Sunday, November 29	3pm Advent Wreath Workshop, Potluck, and Memorial Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 5th	9am - 2pm Sparkles Fair featuring our Boutique, Cookie Walk, Cafe and Bake Sale.
Friday, December 11th	4pm Christmas Caroling and Souper Supper
Sunday, December 13th	4pm Sparkles Concert - St. Mary Schola "Today's Light" and Reception



From the Deacon's Corner:

Dear Ones,

On December 10, Larry and I will board a plane and fly to Hawaii. Our daughter, Laura, is stationed there, so we will spend a month visiting with her, her husband, Ron, and our beautiful grandchildren, Ryker (5 year old) and Cadence (2year old). We are so excited to be able to visit a beautiful place we have never seen and to share that experience with family, especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Part of the joy of the trip is the anticipation, the excitement of preparing and imagining what it will be like to see the colors of the trees, flowers, sea and sky and to feel the warmth of tropical air. We also look forward to watching the joy and excitement of our grandchildren as they look forward to Christmas and what Christmas looks like in a tropical paradise!

Anticipation is such a part of the joy and excitement of the season. Anticipating the family celebrations and the traditions we enjoy here at Saint Mary's: Sparkles, Lessons & Carols, Advent wreath making, lighting the memorial tree, seasonal hymns and scripture readings, fragrant greens and candlelight. So much to do and so much to prepare for. Whether we spend the season at home or away, the deepest joy of all is our anticipation of the coming of the Creator of all that is and was and will be into our sad and weary world in the person of Jesus.

The gift of the Christ Child is the greatest gift of all. We wait in hope and wonder for the transforming power of God's boundless love to come, not only for us but for all the people of the world. God invites us into that work of transformation as agents of God's healing love. Hope must be shared to grow, and love must be shared to be transforming. As you plan and look forward to this wonderful season, remember those who are alone, hungry, cold, and suffering. Sharing with them in whatever way you can will expand your joy in special and unexpected ways.

I wish you health, peace, love and joy during this holy season,

Deacon Christine



Celebrate Honor and Serve - Stewardship 2016

by Janet Bowne

At press time for the AVE, we have just passed the \$100,000 level toward our goal of \$265,000 for our 2016 pledge goal. Thank you to the over 65 households who have sent in their pledge forms. We hope to hear from many more Saint Marians!! We are hoping to have all the pledge intentions turned into the parish office by the end of December.

There are several companies who offer "canned" pledge campaign materials. The conventional wisdom shared in the promotional materials for these packages advise to stay away from discussing fixed or administrative costs because donors are bored by such topics. We can all agree it's much more engaging and interesting to talk about mission, programs, and lives changed, souls enriched. There's no question that here at Saint Mary's we are serving Christ in each other and in the broader community in many ways. However, the reality is that if we can't cover our administrative costs and overhead expenses, we don't have a platform on which to build our programs. The truth is that mission and ministry are inexorably tied to insurance and utilities.

How could we serve our Souper Supper guests if the stove isn't working or the parking lot isn't plowed? How would any of our programs run if the buildings aren't heated? And what about our staff? Could we do what we do without them? In addition to salaries, it's only right to offer them health care and pension options. Our founders left us these buildings in trust for the generations to come. It is important to pass them on in good repair. It's all connected to who we are and what we do. So just as we sign up to work on committees and support our outreach efforts, near and far, we need to support our mission with our financial support. The amount is up to you and what fits into your budget. Pledges can be a few dollars per week or over a hundred dollars per week. You can choose to give weekly, transferring electronically from your bank, or by asking for pledge envelopes for checks or cash. Some choose to give monthly, quarterly or annually.

Please take some time to consider what your pledge will be in 2016. If you've just joined us, you may not be ready to make a pledge. You can elect to pledge at any time during the year. Perhaps you'd like to know more about our governance and finance. We would be pleased to share that information with you. Please contact Jim Kane, Senior Warden (207-329-1764) or Janet Bowne (207-318-7045) to set up a time that is convenient for you.



Vestry Highlights from your Wardens

Your Vestry held its November meeting on Wednesday the 18th. Good fellowship and a cooperative spirit were present as they have been all year. Attendance was OK, and the meeting moved along nicely

Vestry discussion highlights included:

* Long Term Planning ... A "Mutual Study of Ministry" (which is the name/format/process for our long term planning) was discussed and will likely be formalized at our 2/6/16 Vestry Retreat that will include our new Vestry members. It has been several years since our last Study so please convey your thoughts/suggestions to any Vestry member. This planning process is designed to be inclusive, thoughtful and deliberate.

* Finances ...

Current financial situation ... on a positive note ... The Legacy Capital Campaign continues to be very successful. The pledge payments coming in are now going directly into the endowment, and our total assets continue to increase for the fourth year in a row, both positive signs. On a not so positive note ... our operational budget for 2015 currently projects a deficit of ~\$26,000. We started off 2015 having not met the pledge goal but we've had a great deal of success with other revenue lines. However some expenses have come in higher than expected. We urge everyone to complete their 2015 pledges and to invite your friends and neighbors to support all of the Sparkles events, especially the December 5th fair. 2016 Operating Budget: It is extremely important to meet our \$265,000 pledge goal. We encourage all parishioners to turn in their completed pledge forms as soon as possible but by the end of 2015. We are also hoping for a 10% increase in individual pledges but want all of our parishioners to know that every pledge is valued, appreciated and spent carefully. Our budget for 2016 is in its second DRAFT and various items were discussed by the Vestry. We will conduct a further review at our December Vestry meeting and we will bring forward our proposal at our Annual Meeting on 1/31/16.

Stewardship campaign for 2016 is underway ... all parishioners have been sent a letter in US-Mail asking for pledge commitments for 2016.

A 10%+ increase in pledge amounts would be most appreciated and helpful.

* Newcomers List ... Saint Mary's is blessed to have a nice long list of newcomers. Your Vestry believes that this list is the longest we have had in years and is a tangible sign of the attractiveness of Saint Mary's as a welcoming Christ-centered community and the attractiveness of our various programs, ministries and initiatives. Please keep up the good work



Janet Bowne, Jr. Warden and Jim Kane, Sr. Warden

Father Nathan reviewed "6 Tools to Grow Your Church" from The Living Church, June 14, 2015 which highlighted:

A kingdom road map (clear communicated focus on what is God is calling Saint Mary's to be)

Children go up front (children come first)

Sunday school still works (for us Guiding Ray)

A culture of learning for adults (adult discussion and education)

Hospitality that counts (truly welcoming)

Add a service, stir up the sound (try new service types)

Please read through our AVE for the specifics on our many activities and initiatives that are made possible by the dedicated work of so many ... truly "many hands make for lighter work."

Janet and I want to thank all of the vestry and our parish family for your continued support and to thank Father Nathan for his inspiration and leadership. We look forward to the busy Christmas season and all of our planned activities which reinforce our Mission to CELEBRATE, HONOR and SERVE. We are humbled to be your wardens and appreciate the trust you have granted us!

Jim Kane and Janet Bowne

Buildings & Grounds Update

by Jim Stoddard

A BIG THANK YOU to all who pitched in on Saturday, November 21, for the Fall cleanup. Mother Nature cooperated and all went smoothly, and a good time was had by all. The leaves were vacuumed up on Monday, and the campus looks better than ever and is a tribute to all who helped. The vacuuming was done by Bill's Property Maintenance who is also doing the snow plowing this winter. Also on November 21, B&G put up garlands, trees and lights in preparation for Advent. Thanks to all who helped.

We received the first heating oil delivery from Fielding Oil at \$1.699. Quite an improvement from last year (\$3.17), which bodes well for great savings on our fuel bill. Keep our fingers crossed.

Johnson & Jordan serviced all three heating systems and corrected a problem with the Parish House furnace. There was air in the line which inhibited hot water and heat from getting to the wool room and bathrooms outside the auditorium. All the rest of the heating systems are in good working order.

The B & G committee has drawn up a draft comprehensive 'to do' list that gives timetable goals to complete minor and major projects which needs to be finalized with the B&G Committee. As time permits, the projects will be tackled.

Lastly, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and wonderful Merry Christmas.

SPARKLES is HERE!!!

Following the Advent Lessons & Carols at the 10am service on November 29th, we continue the first day of the Advent Season with the lighting of the Memorial and Celebration Tree after the Advent Wreath-making Workshop and Potluck that all begins at 3:00 pm.

December 5th is the festive and "sparkling" Fair and Boutique with the Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, and Cafe (with delicious lobster stew and yummy tomato basil soup and herbed biscuits). We hope you will join us for fun, good food and wonderful shopping. We are still looking for more baked goods for the bake sale and warm bodies to help out the day of the fair and for the Schola reception. Just show up and we will put you to work.



December 11th is when we gather and sing our praises through Christmas Caroling to a local nursing home and then to the folks at our own Souper Supper and have a delicious meal.

December 13th closes the Sparkle Season with the beautiful St. Mary Schola Concert *"Today's Light"* and Reception that follows. This year you may want to come early and listen to the lecture on early music that will begin at 3:30 with the concert beginning at 4:00. Ticket price includes the lecture, concert and reception.

Your Sparkle Chairs (Jan Mordarski and Onnie Hastings) wish to thank all of you who have helped by donating and doing all the many chores that are necessary to make Sparkles a success. Sparkles would not happen without so many willing volunteers. THANK YOU and MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. The three weeks of Sparkles concludes, but Advent continues until Christmas Eve when we welcome the Baby Jesus among us.

Outreach Opportunity - Saint Mary's Snow Angel Tree



We look
forward to having
a Giving Tree once again!

Here is an opportunity to become engaged
in the spirit of giving this Christmas. Saint Mary's, together
with the Salvation Army, is hosting a "Snow Angel" Giving Tree.

Snowman tags will be on the Christmas tree with a child's gift request.

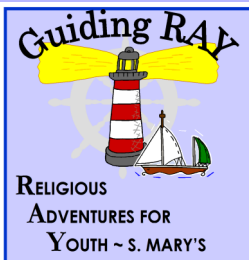
Kindly take a tag, purchase one or more of the items on the tag, and bring back to
S. Mary's. Unwrapped gifts should be back under the tree no later than December 13
with the tag on them to ensure the families receive them in time for Christmas. For more
information contact

Betsy or Jim
Stoddard
829-2026.

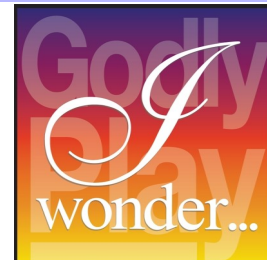
jbstod@myfairpoint.net



Christian Formation - RAY Beams - December 2015



ADVENT is upon us and, with it, the competing, often frenetic, pre-Christmas season. At Saint Mary's, Advent is a time for blessed anticipation of the coming of Christ, an invitation for reflection, preparation and, yes, joy!



Sunday, November 29, First Sunday in Advent

10 am: Children are invited to join their parents in church at 10am for the service of Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

3pm: Create Advent wreaths together as a family and enjoy pot-luck snacks/supper

Sunset: Enjoy the lighting of the Memorial and Celebration tree, remembering the names of loved ones in celebration and/or in memory.

Sunday, December 6, Second Sunday in Advent— Godly Play: The Story of St. Nicholas

Friday, December 11, 4-6pm: Caroling at nursing homes followed by dinner and caroling at Souper Supper

Sunday, December 13, Third Sunday in Advent, 4-7pm: Sparkles Concert, "Today's Light" featuring the St. Mary Schola, in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday in Advent, 10am — The Christmas Pageant



Thanks also to our children and their choirmaster, Betsy Stoddard, for their superb rendition of "*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*" on All Saints Sunday!

Especially for busy parents, a time to "Be Still" each Monday of Advent 5:30-6:30,

(November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21).

A time for quiet in the Father James Chapel. Time to breathe, re-center, reflect, to "be" with God. Come for five minutes, come for an hour.

INTERGENERATIONAL COFFEE KLATCH A HUGE SUCCESS! Many thanks to youngest and older parishioners for participating in a precious opportunity to get to know each other. A wonderful time was had by all!



Guiding RAY Leadership Team

Jennifer Gregg: Communication: jenniferanngregg@gmail.com 207-781-2665
 Elizabeth Heinzman: Bulletin Boards: theheinzmans@hotmail.com 207-797-6867
 Aleece Herlihy: Curriculum, Teacher Development: aleece.herlihy@gmail.com , 207-899-1030
 Denise Lund: Outreach/Service: Dsnlund@gmail.com 207-233-4669
 Julie Otte: Nursery Coordinator: juliemomotter@aol.com, [207-781-2322](tel:207-781-2322)

Guiding RAY Teachers and Volunteers

Monique Brown, Sandy Couch-Kelly, Jennifer Curran, Heather Gale, Penny Guyton, Alison Hayward (Nursery) Julie Otte, Roberta Stothart, Heather Teng, Carolyn Thomas

Christian Formation ~ Middlers and High Schoolers

Advent for the Middlers: Christmas Around the World

Gather at 9:30 am in the youth room on the four Sundays of Advent to learn how Christmas is celebrated in Ethiopia, Germany and Mexico. Christians on each continent have their own unique traditions which we will explore with special food, activities and games particular to each culture. Questions? Call or email Meg Hurdman 400-9011 or hurdman@maine.rr.com.



Nov. 29th - Focus on Ethiopia, one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, learn about their beautiful white robes, unique church buildings and why no gifts are exchanged.

Dec. 6th (St. Nicholas Day) - Focus on Germany and learn about Advent calendars, Christmas trees and what children hope for when they leave their shoes out overnight!

Dec. 13th - Focus on Mexico, learn about poinsettias and pinatas and what it means when you greet someone by saying, "Feliz Navidad".

Dec. 20th - Meet briefly for hot chocolate with cinnamon and special snacks and learn how the wise men/three kings represent foreign countries and cultures paying homage to Jesus. ***Attend the Saint Mary's children's pageant at 10 am.***



Young Life Casco Bay: Club on Mondays at 7:31 PM

It's time! All area high schoolers are invited to crash the Herdrich's home at 2 Town Landing Rd in Falmouth (the corner of Foreside Rd and Town Landing).

Park in the corner lot. Bring ALL of your friends!

Nominating Committee Report

Each year, the Nominating Committee is comprised of the four retiring Vestry members and a parishioner-at-large. This year we were pleased to have Anne LaFond and Mary Ann McLean serving as co-chairs of the committee; they were joined by Jim Stoddard, Mac Hinkel, and Shelly Maher.

The Nominating Committee had four (4) open vestry positions to be filled for January 2016. Each parishioner suggested for nomination was contacted to determine his/her willingness and availability to serve. After much prayerful discussion, work, and weeks of deliberation, the committee is pleased to announce the following nominees to fill all the vacant offices. We are most grateful to those others willing to serve as well!!

John Fallon

John grew up in a Catholic household in Weston, MA and Osterville, MA. After living in Boston for many years, he and his wife, Patrice, decided to raise their family in Osterville, MA, and made St. Peter's Episcopal Church their home.

John served over twenty years in commercial property management and sales as Vice President and co-owner of RM Bradley, Inc. in Boston. His background includes management of One Beacon Street, 250 Boylston Street (company headquarters of RM Bradley), and the Prudential Center.

In addition, he has served on many non-profit organizations including commodore of the Wianno Yacht Club, Wianno Senior Class Association, Three Bays Preservation Inc., Falmouth Football Boosters, and Town of Barnstable Coastal Resource Committee.

John and Patrice and their two children, Trey (17) and Sara (13) made a recent life move to Falmouth and are enjoying all the wonderful opportunities this community has to offer. Being a part of the Saint Mary's parish has been a true highlight. They have felt embraced by the Saint Mary's family and are looking forward to being more involved in its mission to welcome and serve



Rick Hirschman

My wife, Portia, and I retired and moved to Maine in January 2014 and found Saint Mary's. (My wife calls East Boothbay home.) Previously we had lived in Indianapolis until 12 years ago when we moved to Maryland where my wife was Rector of St. James, Mt. Airy. I received an MBA and a JD and was a member of the Indiana Bar. I was owner/president of a mattress manufacturing company for 20 years, a member of a law firm, a business manager of 3 different large Episcopal churches—two during search processes - and a professional pastry chef for 8 years.

I have been a Vestry member of two Episcopal churches and a board member and search committee member of an Episcopal day school. I have also served on the Board of Directors of Serta, Inc., Indianapolis Rotary Club, and Broadway Methodist Church (Indianapolis). I am a member of the Saint Mary's choir and also sing with the Portland Community Chorus. I enjoy baking and painting watercolors. We have two married daughters, Rachel in North Canton, Ohio, who has a 4-month-old daughter Virginia, and Jill in Barrington, Illinois, who has two sons, Jack who is 7 and Sam who is 4.



Julie Otte

I grew up in Cumberland attending the Tuttle Road Methodist Church until I was a junior in high school. Looking for something more and different, I began attending Saint Mary's with David Snow's daughter, Kitsey. I became an official Episcopalian as I was confirmed at Saint Mary's the following spring. I married another Episcopalian from Minneapolis at Saint Mary's in 1977. I attended Saint Mary's off and on for many years before being a more permanent member when we moved right down the road in 1997. I have 3 children ages 31, 27 and 16.

I am the nursery coordinator here at Saint Mary's and also take my turn at being a Door Person and Storyteller in Godly Play. I have been involved with the Christmas Pageant for many years as the Wardrobe Mistress but that was not enough stress for me so I now also direct. I currently live on Falmouth Foreside but will soon be moving to Cumberland Center. I run an in-home child care. I care for children from 6 weeks to 5 years. I am married to Harold Otte and my son Benjamin still lives at home with us. I enjoy the community feel I find at Saint Mary's. I am sure to be the demur quiet old lady on the vestry.

Saint Mary's. I am sure to be the demur quiet old lady on the vestry.

Tim Record

Tim grew up in Brunswick and attended the First Parish Church for many years where he was actively involved in youth groups and the children's choir. After graduating from Bowdoin College, Tim met his wife, Vanessa, while they were each traveling in Australia. Tim and Vanessa were married at the beautiful Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Greenwood, Virginia in 1999 and subsequently attended St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Providence, Rhode Island.

Upon moving back to Maine, Tim and Vanessa attended Cumberland Congregational Church for many years – a vibrant community church that provided the first church experience for their children William, Felicity and Alden. Upon moving to Falmouth in 2012, the Record family found a welcoming new church home in Saint Mary's.

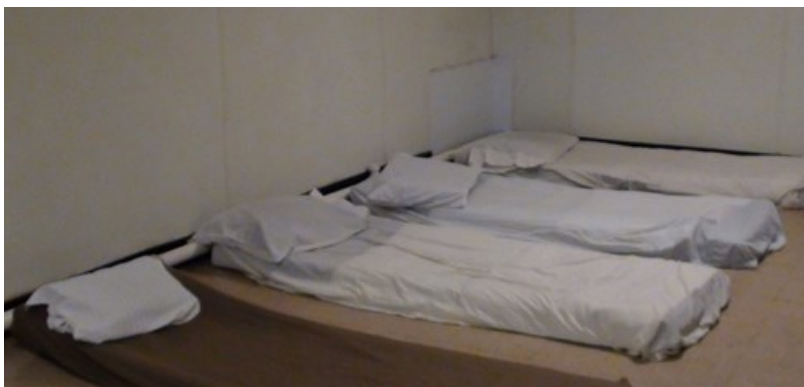
Tim is a 15-year employee of L.L.Bean, where he has worked in a variety of marketing and analytical roles. In his current position, Tim is responsible for the L.L.Bean Visa card program. Tim also serves on the Board of Lift360, an organization dedicated to strengthening Northern New England communities by improving the effectiveness of leaders and organizations.

Tim has a strong passion for the outdoors and for Maine, and he is particularly proud that he and Vanessa are able to raise their children in such a wonderful part of the world. He is deeply honored and humbled to have been approached about serving on the Vestry. He looks forward to bringing his skills and passions to serve the Saint Mary's family and community.



Outreach Ministry - All Ages Serving Near and Far

Saint Mary's Partnership with Milestone Foundation



Milestone Foundation, in Portland and Old Orchard Beach, provides the best quality of services to empower individuals with substance use problems to attain stability, dignity, recovery and an enhanced quality of life. They operate the ONLY overnight emergency "wet" shelter for homeless men in Maine. This shelter on India Street provides a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals, clean clothes, showers, and substance abuse counseling.



Out of YOUR pledges and offerings, the Outreach Committee of Saint Mary's has provided Milestone with funds to purchase NEW sleeping mats and blankets for the men who will sleep there this winter. Forty-one men sleep here every night. Here are photos of the shelter and their OLD beds. Remember to praise God that we at Saint Mary's could work together to help these men, and pray for them as they struggle with the demons of addiction.

FMI: www.milestonefoundation.org

Dec. 11 - Join us at 4:30 for Cmas Caroling and then Souper Supper !!

Community Souper Supper December 11th and 25th

Enjoy this community-wide fellowship offering, dining in a relaxed candle-lit atmosphere. You will be feted with a complimentary main course, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage. Wonderful for singles and families alike!
Offered twice each month on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 5-7 PM in the parish house auditorium.
No reservations required. Just bring your family and friends and enjoy! It's a blast!



Support "Souper Supper" Buy Fair Trade "Coffee by Design" Coffee!

Casco Bay - a medium roast

Black & Tan - a slightly darker roast

"Coffee by Design" 12 oz. bags of ground fair-traded, organic, delicious coffees are on sale at S. Mary's for \$10 a bag (Decaf is \$11). ...and support fair trade practices ...and a local parishioner-owned business... and get GREAT organic coffee! Win! Win! Win!

Classic Cinema will switch Fridays in December only December 25th at 7pm

"CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT" (1945)

A food writer who has lied about being the perfect housewife must try to cover her deception when her boss and a returning war hero invite themselves to her home for a traditional family Christmas.

Starring: Barbara Stanwyck, Dennis Morgan, Sydney Greenstreet



Outreach Ministry - All Ages Serving Near and Far

Our Annual BOOK, BAKE, and SOUP SALE!

Save the date: Saturday, March 5th, 2016

The Outreach Committee is once more holding its annual event in the dark days of March to gather us together as a parish family for a "heartwarming" day of good food and good reads available at practically give-away prices. As many parishioners will remember ~ and for those who are new to the parish, the dual purposes of this major activity is *fellowship*, the coming together of many parishioners and community members ~ not to mention book dealers from as far away as Presque Isle and New Hampshire ~ and raising money for our mission work!!

Outreach's mission in organizing this event is to offer the community and our parish family a chance to have some fun together time and to welcome folks from near and far into the fold of our joyous Christian family at work and at play. We also raise several thousand dollars for mission work. All books that are not sold are donated to the Salvation Army, so this entire event is a charitable cause!!

Babs Bell will once more dazzle us with homemade soups, stews, biscuits to eat in our cafe or to take home for dinner.

Elizabeth Heinzman will yet again head up our fabulous bake sale in the Guild Room and manage publicity.

Barbara Murray, Jan Mordarski, and Becky Pride coordinate the sorting of books and the sale so that the Auditorium is transformed into a bibliophile's wildest dream, as we typically have 5000 books [+/-] to peruse and purchase.

The books come from all of us ... and sometimes persons in the community bring their donations by as well. SO, start saving up books now, and ~ as soon as Sparkles is over, you may bring your donations to the Parish Hall basement store room. [Please: no magazines, encyclopedias, or books in poor condition.]

Since this is a parish event, we hope that everyone will participate in one of the many ways to join in the fun!! **WANTED:**

People to donate books.

People who would like to serve as sorters during the month prior to the sale ~ you may choose your own hours!

People who will bake.

People who will transport books from the basement to the auditorium on Thursday night, March 3rd, for one hour.

Sellers, greeters, treasurers for Saturday day.

Finally, the **parish family packers** for twenty minutes after the Sunday 10 o'clock service on March 6th.

SIGN-UP sheets will appear in January. Any questions, contact Becky Pride at 781-4391 or at rebec-capride1@gmail.com.

Long Creek project seeks birthday cakes AND volunteers



A small but stalwart band of volunteers has continued to visit the Maple Unit at Long Creek Youth Correctional Center over the summer. We put on barbecues in June and September, which are greatly enjoyed by the boys on the unit. Jim Stoddard is the Master of the Grill, overseeing the hot dogs and hamburgers.

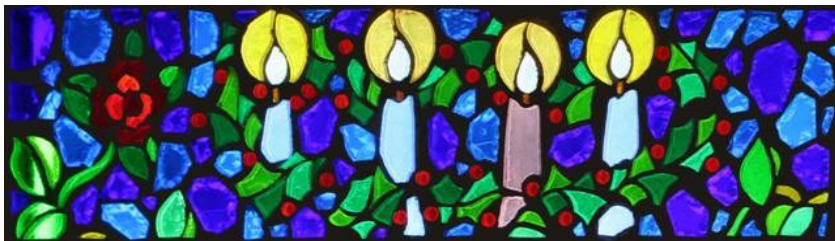
The Maple Unit, which we have sponsored now for three or four years, is a transitional unit, where the boys are first held for trial or are awaiting placement. They are always grateful and appreciative of our visits. We usually just hang out with them, and often play card games (the game director is Rayle Ainsworth). Even that minimal effort of a couple of hours each visit is appreciated by the boys. It would be great to have new volunteers, which does require a background check and an orientation session.

We are also continuing the tradition of bringing birthday cakes to Long Creek on the second Monday of each month. We bring two dozen of the small cupcakes you can buy at Hannaford, as they must be store-bought. If you're interested please sign up and you can e-mail Marian for details at mmccue@maine.rr.com.

Advent at Saint Mary's

8AM Experiment in Advent

The Episcopal Church has begun the process of preparing for a new Book of Common Prayer. We don't know exactly when this will happen (in 9 or 12 years perhaps), but it seems clear that, when this process is complete, the traditional liturgy found in Rite One will no longer be authorized. In order to prepare ourselves in a thoughtful way for this eventual change, we will begin a series of small experiments at our 8 AM liturgy. Our goal in these experiments will be to distinguish what is non-essential.



Our first experiment will take place in Advent as we begin a new liturgical year together. For the 4 Sundays of Advent (beginning on November 29), we will use the Rite Two form of the Eucharist as it begins on page 351 in the BCP. Feedback from our 8 AM community will be crucial as we discern our way forward together.

The inclusion of Rite One in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer was intended to provide a transition for those who felt strongly attached to the Elizabethan language and structure of the 1928 Prayer Book. We are now approaching 40 years in this transition. One of the foundational principles of the 16th century Reformation, which the Church of England adopted, is that true worship must always take place in the language of the people. This is clearly stated in Article 24 of the 39 Articles, first published under the authority of Queen Elizabeth I in 1563 and found in our Prayer Book on page 872. It states:

"It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the Primitive Church, to have public Prayer in the Church, or to minister the Sacraments, in a tongue not understood of the people." The English language, like every piece of the universe, continues to change. There is no form of human language which is holier and more acceptable to God than any other. What God desires is heartfelt love and devotion. Let's spend some time thinking about what enables us to offer that kind of devotion and what things are just comfortable and familiar. If you have any questions or feedback on this experiment, please let Nathan know at 310-0268 or nathanferrell@smary.org.

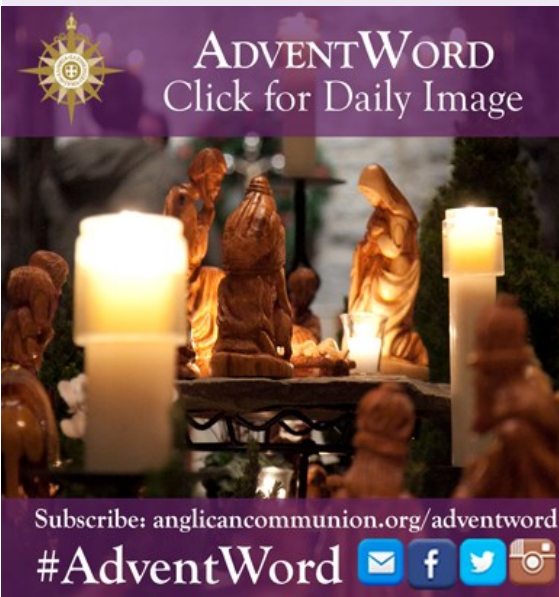
Fire of Advent

Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac, p. 187

"Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent...If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time."



The Anglican Communion with the SSJE Brothers invite you to:



ADVENTWORD
Click for Daily Image

Subscribe: anglicancommunion.org/adventword

#AdventWord

- ⇒ Sign up
- ⇒ Pray through Advent
- ⇒ Use your phone camera
- ⇒ Help create a Global Advent Calendar.

How To:

Receive the daily AdventWord meditation and respond with an image of your own on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook. Watch the Advent Calendar grow each day.

On Twitter & Instagram tag with #adventword & the tag for the day. Make sure that there is a space between the tags for example: #adventword #proclaim. On Facebook go to the AdventWord Page and write on page using #adventword & the tag for the day.

Visit: www.instagram.com/adventword

Visit: www.twitter.com/adventword

Visit: www.facebook.com/AdventWordOrg

Clergy and Youth Leaders - Ask your congregants to send in pictures that resonate with the word and image of the day. Tag them #adventword and the day's word so they can see one another's inspirations.

"Be Still"

We hear it and experience it daily: "Life is so busy." "I have no time." "I can find no balance." While S. Mary's cannot offer a "cure" to 21st century stresses, as a community of faith we believe that God can. Saint Mary's serves to offer multiple ways for all to seek, hear, experience God. One such way is to stop...and give ourselves an opportunity to listen.

Parishioners and friends are warmly invited to gather in the Father James' Chapel on the first Monday each month between 7PM and 8PM for silent reflection, contemplation or meditation. There will be no presentation or service. Come for five minutes or come for an hour. Bring something to read...or not. There will be readings available for your use. A fellow parishioner will always be in the Chapel to "be" with you, but this is for YOU: An opportunity for you to "Be Still" with God.

"Be Still"

Father James Chapel : 7- 8 PM on
Mondays in Advent: November 30, December 7, 14, 21

Music Ministry at Saint Mary's

Sacred Repetition

by Bruce Fithian

We repeat words and music many times in a service, and sometimes it may be that we become somewhat disengaged by repetition. If this happens, it is useful to think about the mysterious connection that binds us to the past. This became abundantly clear to me while watching a BBC broadcast of the music of Monteverdi. I have been fortunate to sing Monteverdi's towering masterpiece *The Vespers of 1610* in Boston and France, and it was always very moving to join other singers and instrumentalists in bringing this glorious music to life. In the BBC broadcast, the solo singers were fortunate to handle and sing from the actual parts from 1610. Imagine the thrill of holding the same music score that the original singers in 1610 held - to reproduce the same notes and melodies from these precious documents!

There is a wonderful poem by James Elroy Flecker called "To A Poet A Thousand Years Hence" that expresses this link between the ages:

I who am dead a thousand years, And wrote this sweet archaic song,
Send you my words for messengers The way I shall not pass along.

I care not if you bridge the seas, Or ride secure the cruel sky,
Or build consummate palaces Of metal or of masonry.

But have you wine and music still, And statues and a bright-eyed love,
And foolish thoughts of good and ill, And prayers to them who sit above?

How shall we conquer? Like a wind That falls at eve our fancies blow,
And old Mæonides* the blind Said it three thousand years ago.

O friend unseen, unborn, unknown, Student of our sweet English tongue,
Read out my words at night, alone: I was a poet, I was young.

Since I can never see your face, And never shake you by the hand,
I send my soul through time and space To greet you. You will understand. (*Mæonides is a name for Homer)

I have been fortunate to visit libraries in which I was able to hold in my own hands ancient documents. At the Vatican library and the library of the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, I gazed upon a Sistine Chapel singer's "Salmi Passaggiati of 1615" (alas, I could not sing the music, because I was in a library! At the Harry Ransom Center's Manuscript Collection at the University of Texas in Austin, I got to look upon a Schubert song and a piano piece by Ravel. To actually see the hand-written music by these idols of mine was a real thrill. We are not so lucky to be able to read or sing from historical documents during our worship services (although, take a look at the beautiful Gregorian chant in the narthex the next time you come to Saint Mary's), but we can *imagine* that we are linked to our ancestors. We may even be breathing the same molecules they breathed as we repeat these texts and songs, as will maybe countless others in the future. Or maybe there should be an eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not go on automatic pilot." Not easy, of course, but worth the effort, right?



News, Notes, Kudos, Dates & Reminders

(Send your 1-3 line notes, announcements or thanks to Beth at admin@smary.org by the 20th of the previous month)

Thanks and praise to Bruce and the choir for the beautiful Evensong requiem. Thanks to those who helped make the evening possible. Anxious to hear the Advent Lessons & Carols on November 29th

Thank you to the Stoddards, Ainsworths, Hirschmans, LaFonds and Bownes for serving as hosts for the progressive dinner. Delicious food, warm homes and fantastic conversation—thank you!

Thanks to the many that came out on Nov 21st to help clean up the Saint Mary's campus from leaves, sticks and get it ready for upcoming winter. When we all work together, it is fun and the time flies. Thank you !!

Merci

To Valerie Kyros for donating so many things from Papier to Sparkles. The wonderful stationery, napkins, notecards, wrapping paper, journal books and cards are great additions to our Sparkles boutique!

Thank you to all who participated in the All Saints' Day services, especially the two baptisms at 10 a.m.



Thanks to the Memorial Reception Committee. This group jumps to serve typically with a short timeframe. We appreciate all this ministry does for our grieving families.

Thanks to the Souper Supper crew for their devotion during busy holiday times. You are living examples of serving others!

T H A N K S !

Thanks to all of the proofers, writers and submitters for the AVEs throughout the year. You Rock!!

THANK YOU TO BRUCE for hosting the organ presentation. He gave us all a great tour of the Casavant organ and demonstrated its capability. And we all now know the origin of the term "pulling out all the stops" ..So if any of us make it to Final Jeopardy and that's the question, we have to share our prize winnings with Bruce!

Kudos to Denise Lund and the Guiding Ray team for the Intergenerational Coffee Hour. Everyone had a great time! Playing old fashioned games was a fantastic idea even if it meant being beaten at checkers by a 6 year old!!



St Mary Schola
Bruce Fithian, Music Director
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 13 at 4pm
The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary

Dec. 8	Dec. 11
7:30pm	7:30pm
Brunswick	Portland

Today's Light Christmas concert features chants from medieval Sparin, choral works from Byrd and Monteverdi, Bach arias and Charpentier's magnificat
Tickets \$20 - students free
Stmaryschola.org




Promoting a Healthy, Safe and Substance-Free Holiday Season



- ❖ Encourage family outings
- ❖ Include youth in holiday preparations
- ❖ Play games together
- ❖ Volunteer at a local organization

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

December 2015
Tip of the Month



Casco Bay CAN
CREATE AWARENESS NOW
TOGETHER, PREVENTING YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE



www.cascobaycan.org

A grant funded project sponsored by Cumberland County Government
www.cumberlandcounty.org SAMHSA #1H79SP016497

Meine
Cumberland County



December 2015 AVE

Here are some important dates in our
Saint Mary's parish family

Happy December Birthdays to:



1	Len Taylor	14	Lowell Brown, Jr.		
1	Stephen Woodberry	14	Eva Draeger	20	Nicholas Reeve
3	Cameron Meek	14	Andy Hyland	20	Chris Richards
5	Hadley Becker	15	Kate Barter	20	Kayla Rose
6	Missy Smithwick	15	Sonia Barter	21	Harold Otte
7	Kathy Street	15	Elise Gauthreau	22	Mary Ahlers
8	Melissa Kane	15	Jan Mordarski	22	Charlie Dayton
9	George Bokinsky	15	Karee Rhoades	24	Nancy Russell
10	Chloe Fisher	16	Micaela Amato	26	Caroline Grace
10	Andrew Oestreicher	16	Emily Kearins	26	Wayne Woodworth
10	Jan Searway	16	Ron Vincent	27	Garrett Bowne, V
10	Caroline Smith	17	Joe LaPlante	29	Michael Manetti
11	Elsa Dean-Muncie	17	Molly Mulligan	29	Matthew Reeve
11	Michael Kane	18	Suisan Chapman	30	Obinna Mokeme
12	Rob Fast	19	Henry Shannon	31	Ruth Kimball
13	Sarah Young	20	Katie Clark	31	Mary Ann McLean
14	Archer Akers	20	Teddy Baldacci		

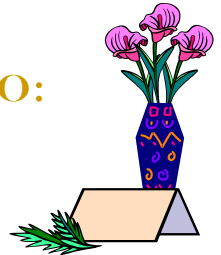
We'd love to include good wishes on your birthday and anniversary. If we don't yet have the dates, please send your and your family's special dates into the parish office and we'll be sure to include them on your special month. admin@smay.org or call 781-3366 or drop a note to the church. Thanks!

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:



23 Tatjana & Chris Connors
28 Kyla & David Duchin

30 Meredith & Mark Winter
31 Sandra & David Snow



Save the date and plan your New Year's resolution to get in shape!



May 14, 2016

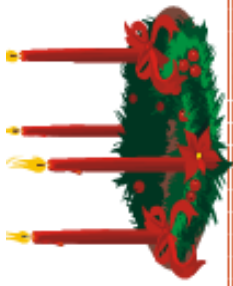
For more information or to sign up early,
visit the links below

Habitat for Humanity 5k Run or Walk

habitatportlandme.org, click on "events"

Casco Bay Young Life 21K half Marathon or Relay Race

Casco Bay Young Life



December 2015

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11/29 The First Sunday of Advent 8am - Traditional Eucharist 9:30am Family Chapel 10am Advent Lessons & Carols 3pm Advent Wreath workshop, Potluck & Memorial Tree lighting	11/30 12 - Noonday Prayer 7pm - Be Still in the Chapel	12/1 9:11 - SM goes to St. Elizabeth's 9:12 Art Group in Aud 10:30am - Wisdom Seekers 9:20pm Embracers' Chats 12 - Noonday Prayer 1pm - Staff Meeting 3:30pm Excursion 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AM Alanon (630 beginners)	2 10am - Mainly Weavers 12 - Noonday Prayer 6-8 Chorale rehearsal 2pm - Set-up Sparkles Fair	3 12 - Thursday Eucharist 4pm BSM rehearsals 7pm SM Choir Rehearsal Set-up Sparkles Fair	4 Office Closed 12 - Noonday Prayer 5:30pm Alanon Set-up Sparkles Fair	5 Sparkles Fair 9am - 2pm
6 The Second Sunday of Advent St. Nicholas Day 8am - Traditional Eucharist 9:30am Family Chapel 9:45am Guiding RAY begins 10:00am Contemporary Eucharist followed by coffee hour	7 12 - Noonday Prayer 7pm - Be Still in the Chapel	8 9:12 Art Group in Aud 10:30am - Wisdom Seekers 12 - Noonday Prayer 1pm - Staff Meeting 1pm - Get Stitches 3pm Prayer Chain meeting 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AM Alanon (630 beginners)	9 12 - Noonday Prayer 6-8 Chorale rehearsal	10 12:30pm Milestone Christmas Party 12 - Thursday Eucharist - IT 4pm BSM rehearsals 6:15 Downers in Aud 7pm SM Choir Rehearsal Christmas away Ferret's away	11 Office Closed Boutique clean-up 12 - Noonday Prayer 4:30pm Cmas Caroling 5-7pm Community Souper Supper 5:30pm Alanon	12 9am BSM
13 The Third Sunday of Advent Celebrate Fr. David Illingworth 8am - Traditional Eucharist 9:30am Family Chapel 9:45am Guiding RAY begins 10:00am Contemporary Eucharist followed by coffee hour 4pm - Sparkles Christmas Schola	14 9:30 - Garden Club meeting 7pm - Be Still in the Chapel	15 9:12 Art Group in Aud 10:30am - Wisdom Seekers 12 - Noonday Prayer 1pm - Staff Meeting 1pm - Get Stitches 3pm Pastoral Partners 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AM Alanon (630 beginners)	16 12 - Noonday Prayer 6pm - Vestry 6-8 Chorale rehearsal	17 12 - Thursday Eucharist 4pm BSM rehearsals 7pm SM Choir Rehearsal	18 Office Closed 12 - Noonday Prayer 5:30pm Alanon	19 9am BSM 3pm Pageant Full dress rehearsal All Welcome!
20 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8am - Traditional Eucharist 9:30am Family Chapel 9:45am Guiding RAY begins 10:00am Contemporary Eucharist and Christmas Pageant followed by coffee hour Jan. AVE deadline	21 12 - Noonday Prayer 7pm - Be Still in the Chapel Annual Report deadline	22 9:12 Art Group in Aud 10:30am - Wisdom Seekers 12 - Noonday Prayer 1pm - Staff Meeting 1pm - Get Stitches 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AM Alanon (630 beginners)	23 12 - Noonday Prayer	24 Christmas Eve 12 - Noonday Prayer 4pm and 6pm Family Eucharist 9pm Choral Candlelight Eucharist	25 Christmas Day 10am - Joyful Christmas Day Liturgy 5-7pm Community Souper Supper 5:30pm Alanon 7pm - Classic Cinema - Christmas in Connecticut	26 1/2/16
27 The First Sunday of Christmas 8am - Traditional Eucharist 9:30am Family Chapel 9:45am Guiding RAY begins 10:00am Contemporary Eucharist followed by coffee hour	28 Office Closed 12 - Play wherever you are	29 Office Closed 9:12 Art Group in Aud 12 - Play wherever you are 1pm - Get Stitches 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AM Alanon (630 beginners)	30 Office Closed 11:30pm College Club Tea 12 - Play wherever you are 6-8 Chorale rehearsal	31 Office Closed 12 - Play wherever you are PEACE	1/1/16 Office Closed Happy New Year!! 12 - Play wherever you are 5:30pm Alanon	1/2/16 310-0268

The Parish Office is closed the week between Christmas and New Years. Pastoral Emergencies should be directed to N-Cell

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary
Worship Leader Schedule: December 2015 - January 2016

	8am Ushers	8am EM/Lectors	10am Ushers	10am Lector	10am Euch Minister	Acolytes	Altar Flowers	Flower Delivery	Coffee Hour Host
29-Nov Advent 1	Al Ahlers Dave Fenderson	Len Taylor	Lessons & Carols - Tom LaPlante Andrew McIntosh	4 readers Ginny Stelk Linc Stelk	no HE Tom Pettingill Terry Brown	Michael	greens	~	The Dougans
6-Dec Advent 2	Len Taylor TomDonaldson	Mac Hinkel	Chuck Horton Harold Otte	Betsy Stoddard	Ginny Stelk Tom Pettingill	Quinn Sarah K Elizabeth Maggie G	greens	~	Sparkles team
13-Dec Advent 3	Baer Connard Al Ahlers	Becky Pride	Charlie Hurdman Jack Heinzman	Greg Unfricht	Terry Brown Jeff Campbell	Joseph Ellie	greens	~	Marti Galli
20-Dec Advent 4	Ed Ainsworth Rayle Ainsworth	Al Ahlers	Andrew McIntosh Jack Heinzman	Jennifer Gregg	Carla Birt Jim Stoddard	Michael Julia Emily	greens	~	Guiding RAY
Th, Dec 24 Cmas Eve	4pm Usher Jack H Jim K Mac H.	4pm EM Terry Brown Greg Unfricht	4pm Readers Becky Pride Greg Unfricht Natalie Unfricht youth	6pm Ushers Dave F Harold O Len T	6pm EM Mac Hinkel - EM	6pm Readers Mac Hinkel Len T. youth youth	9pm Ushers Tom LaPlante Charlie Hurdman	9pm EM Mary Ann McLean Jim Stoddard	9pm Lector Betsy Stoddard
Fr, Dec 25 Cmas Day	4pm Acolytes: Kevin, Kyle & Lauren 10am Usher Chuck H	10am lector Alison Hayward	10am EM Stan & Linda E.			6pm Acolytes: Maggie, William & xxx	9pm Acolytes: Julia, Emily & Michael		
27-Dec Cmas 1	Tom Donaldson Dave Fenderson	Len Taylor	Andrew McIntosh Jack Heinzman	Harold Otte	David Robinson Greg Unfricht	Quinn Michael Mcl Elizabeth	CMas	~	OPEN
3-Jan Cmas 2	Len Taylor Baer Connard	Lad Taylor	Aaron Splint Ton LaPlante	Andrea M-H	Linda Eaton Andrea M-H	tbd	CMas	~	OPEN
10-Jan Epiph 1/Bap	Al Ahlers John Fournier	Mary Ann McLean	Chuck Horton Harold Otte	Marian McCue	Jim Stoddard Stan Eaton	tbd	Jan M	The Stoddards	OPEN
17-Jan Epiph 2	Ed Ainsworth Rayle Ainsworth	Becky Pride	Ryan Stinneford Jack Heinzman	Ginny Stelk	Terry Brown Ginny Stelk	tbd	Onnie	Ruth Kimball	OPEN
24-Jan Epiph 3	Jim Kane Tom Donaldson	Mac Hinkel	Megan Akers Charlie Hurdman	Betsy Stoddard	Jeff Campbell Tom Pettingill	tbd	Hannah & Helga	The Hortons	Guiding RAY Scarf making
31-Jan Epiph 4	One Service Annual Meeting	9am ushers	9am lector Al Ahlers	9am EM David Robinson Al Ahlers	9am Acolytes tbd		Jessica	Edie Tucker	AM Brunch

If unable to fulfill your scheduled duty on the assigned day, please find your own replacement and inform Beth in the office of the change, 781-3366

CELEBRATE



HONOR



SERVE



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

43 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
207-781-3366 www.smary.org

Our Worship Schedule

SUNDAY Hours

8:00AM - Traditional Eucharist

10:00AM - Contemporary Eucharist

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Noon Day Prayer in the Chapel
and wherever you find yourself

THURSDAYS

12noon - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, Christmas Eve

Family Eucharist - 4pm & 6pm

Choral Eucharist - 9pm

Christmas Day Eucharist - 10am

CELEBRATE  HONOR  SERVE



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

**43 Foreside Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105**

Tel: 207-781-3366

E-mail: smary@smary.org

Website: www.smary.org

The Rev. Nathan Ferrell, *Rector*

The Rev. Christine Bennett, *Deacon*

Bruce S. Fithian, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Beth Shaw, *Parish Administrator*

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Copy deadline Jan. AVE is **Dec. 20**

Annual Report Deadline Dec. 21

Your 2015 Saint Mary's Vestry

Nathan Ferrell, Rector, 899-2543, nathanferrell@smary.org
Cell phone number 310-0268

Jim Kane, Sr. Warden, 775-3968, melissa1959@earthlink.net

Janet Bowne, Jr. Warden, 318-7045, janetbowne@maine.rr.com

Bill Gowen, Treasurer, 415-1412, wwg914@aol.com

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Patricia Mordecai, 396-4233, pcmordecai@gmail.com

Jim Stoddard, 829-2026, jbstod@myfairpoint.net

Nadine Timberlake, 508-648-4734, ntimberlake@aol.com

Mark Winter, 865-6766, mwinter@nmic.navy.mil



Advent and Christmas 2015 at Saint Mary's

Sunday, November 29

8am - Traditional Holy Eucharist for the First Sunday of Advent

10am - Advent Lessons & Carols

3pm - Advent Wreath Workshop, Pot-luck followed by
The Lighting of the Kyros Memorial and Celebration Tree

Saturday, December 5

9am - 2pm - Sparkles Christmas Fair - Gifts, Crafts, Food and more

Sunday, December 6

8am - Traditional Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

10am - Contemporary Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

Friday, December 11

4pm - Traditional Christmas Caroling to local establishment ending at Souper Supper

Sunday, December 13

8am - Traditional Holy Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

10am - Contemporary Holy Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

4pm - Sparkles Concert & Reception - Saint Mary Schola presents *Today's Light*

Saturday, December 19

3pm - Christmas Pageant full dress rehearsal

Sunday, December 20

8am - Traditional Holy Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am - Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant and Contemporary Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4pm and 6pm - Family Christmas Eve Eucharists

*A one-hour service with the Blessing of the Crèche,
the Christmas story & Holy Communion*

9 pm - Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day

10am - Joyful Christmas Day Liturgy