



From the Rector: *"Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord. Be strong! Take heart!" Song from Taizé'*

Can you believe that it is Advent season once again? Time to prepare our hearts and our homes for the celebration of the birth of Christ – the pivotal point of all human history. I know that it is very difficult to do in our culture today, but I do sincerely hope that we will all enter into this season as an intentional time of spiritual preparation. The Feast of the Nativity begins at sunset on December 24. Until that moment, the Church is patiently waiting, patiently praying, patiently preparing for the time of celebration.

Why does Advent matter? In one sense, it is true that every day is Christmas. We can also say that every day is Thanksgiving; every day is the day of your birth, and every day is the day of your death. Within the realm of eternity, time has no meaning and all things are contemporaneous. However, you and I live primarily within the realm of earth's timing. We need the calendar to mark important events and to remember the story of God. By keeping the patient preparations of Advent, instead of rushing ahead into premature feasting, we remember the generations of our ancestors who waited for divine intervention to change the painful, bloody history of humanity. And we remember the countless millions alive today who are waiting for justice and for their share of earth's abundance. To ignore Advent is to ignore the sufferings of humanity for the sake of our own pleasure.

We can do better than that, and we do not have to do what everyone around us is doing. "Be strong! Take heart!" Together, let's keep Advent and wait as best as we can for the 12 days of feasting between sunset on December 24 and sunset on January 5. Then we will once again sing the praises of Jesus the Son of Mary and the Son of God who was born to turn the tide of human history. Alleluia!



Nathan W. Ferrell +

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Advent Faith Family Formation: ALL ages - Sundays 9 - 10AM



Advent is a time of waiting and longing as we anticipate the birth of Jesus in the manger on Christmas. On Sundays during Advent between 9:00 and 10:00 AM, all are invited to participate in an Advent Faith Family formation led by Becky Pride, Merle Marie Troeger, Linda Eaton and Betsy Elliman. We have purchased large coloring posters and an accompanying devotional guide to help us journey our way through Advent together as a community. The posters explain different parts of scripture and are a wonderful way to educate during Advent because the illustrations show the depth of the story. Please join us during this hour for Faith Family Formation and let's allow art and creativity to be our guide as we make our way through the Advent season of preparation and waiting.



Advent and Christmas 2017 at Saint Mary's



Saturday, December 2

9AM - 2PM - Sparkles Christmas Fair - Gifts, Crafts, Food , kids, Santa and more

Sunday, December 3

8AM - Advent Lessons & Carols for the First Sunday of Advent

10AM - Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols for the First Sunday of Advent

Friday, December 8

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

Sunday, December 10

8AM - Contemplative Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

10AM - Choral Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

4PM - Sparkles Concert & Reception - Saint Mary Schola presents *Christmas Pastorale*

Sunday, December 17

8AM - Contemplative Holy Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

10AM - Choral Holy Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

9AM - Christmas Pageant full dress rehearsal - All welcome!

Sunday, December 24: Advent 4 and Christmas Eve

10AM - Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant and Choral Holy Eucharist for Advent Four
The Christmas story told by our children in scripture and song

4PM - Family Christmas Eve Eucharist

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

9 PM - Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

Beginning and ending in candlelight with magnificent music from the Choir.

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day

10AM - Joyful Christmas Day Liturgy

Sunday, December 31

8AM - Contemplative Holy Eucharist for the First Sunday of Christmas

10AM - Choral Holy Eucharist for the First Sunday of Christmas

Be Still

Mondays in Advent at 5:30PM in the Fr. James Chapel

There is so much to enjoy during this season of Advent: the Sparkles Fair, the St. Mary Schola Concert, the shopping, the wrapping and the gathering of family or friends. Or perhaps you have some anxiety about the coming weeks. In either case, wouldn't it be nice to set aside a little time to "**be still**" *in the beauty of holiness*. The phrase comes from Psalm 96:9. It's the psalm that urges us to "sing to the Lord a new song." Isn't there a new song your heart and soul would like to learn? Or maybe you just long for a little peace and quiet in the midst of your hectic schedule. And there is no place more evocative of "the beauty of holiness" than a candlelit Father James Chapel. So come to BE STILL every Monday in Advent from 5:30 to 6:30. Give yourself the gift of the refreshing silence offered by the practice of Centering Prayer.

Center yourselves with a few minutes of accompanied Taizé chanting before entering into 20 minutes of UNGuided, silent contemplation/meditation. We will then offer Lectio Divina, during which we listen and contemplate a brief scriptural reading, ending with the opportunity to share, if desired, the feelings this reading evokes.

We can promise that you will leave the chapel with a sought-for sense of peace and calm and renewal. Please join us.



A Blessed Advent

by Merle Marie Troeger

There is something about Advent that always gives me a lump in my throat. We sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here . . ." The yearning ache of that line, and the rest of the hymn, always moves me.

We are in "lonely exile" in so many ways. We are isolated from each other. We are alienated from members of our families. We have abandoned our highest hopes. We have somehow lost our best selves. As one form of the confession says, "we have not loved God with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves."

And perhaps the worst part is that we are painfully aware of our condition.

The liturgical season of Advent puts us in touch with this estrangement. We might not have the will or courage to look at our lives if we didn't have to spend time in Advent on the way to the joyful season of Christmas. For these four Sundays, we take a "long, loving gaze at the real," sometimes a painful thing to do.



There is another song that pulls at my heart too. Part of it goes like this: "The honest cries of breaking hearts/are better than a Hallelujah/sometimes." Amy Grant gets at the paradox of an alienation that is heard and healed in our honesty before a loving God. This is wisdom.

The same paradox ends "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." As you know, the mournful hymn's refrain is "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!" There are no conditions or qualifications. The certain hope of Advent is simultaneous with its challenge. Even as we confess our shortcomings and yearn for an end to our brokenness, God hears our longing and sends a Comforter.

Vestry Highlights from your Wardens

The Vestry met on 11/15. We welcomed Marian McCue and Becky Pride from the Outreach Committee to share the list of grantees to receive this year's grants. We discussed their process and the list presented. Vestry action was needed to make a grant of \$2,000 to support hurricane relief for Puerto Rico. The Vestry voted to do so.

We continued our review of the proposed budget for 2018. We resolved some of the questions from the presentation in October but still have a significant deficit to deal with. Several things will help us minimize the need to draw from our 1241 savings account next year. First of all for this year, it's important for Sparkles to have a successful sale on 12/2 and Schola Concert. It is also critical that we reach our pledge goal of \$285,000. Typically we have approximately 150 households pledge support in a given year. We know that many people give occasionally without pledging.



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

If we could add 15 new pledging households pledging a minimum of \$675, we would hit our goal of \$285,000. To help ensure we don't miss a single pledge, the Vestry will make reminder calls to the parish in December.



The Rev. Jonathan Appleyard

will be our celebrant and preacher on December 10. Jonathan and Ruth, his wife, make their home in Woolwich where they tend their garden, chickens, and visiting children and grandchildren. As a Rector, he has served parishes in Brunswick and Bar Harbor. He has guided vestries and congregations on retreats and during periods of challenge, reflection and transition. He is originally from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area where his father served as bishop. He comes to us while working with Nathan and the Wardens as they prepare for the Rector's Sabbatical. Jonathan says, "I wake, most mornings, open to being surprised." We anticipate Jonathan covering many of Nathan's duties while he is on Sabbatical in 2018.

Stewardship 2018

by Janet Bowne



God's Work, Our Hands (*Proverbs 3:27*)

Thank you to the 60 households who have turned in their pledge forms. In the early weeks of our annual pledge campaign, we have received pledge intentions of \$137,092. We have a long way to go to hit our goal of \$285,000. But we can do it! Please help us! If you don't traditionally pledge, please consider doing so. Your pledge, no matter the size, will help us support our mission programs and our children's program, our choir and our outreach efforts. Your pledge also helps ensure that our staff is in place to support our mission and ministries. Your pledge helps keep the buildings warm, safe and welcoming for our parishioners and guests. Your pledge keeps our extensive grounds maintained and our buildings in good working order. Take time to complete your pledge form and return it, confidentially, to Beth Shaw, Parish Manager by mail, via email or in person. You're welcome to place it in the collection plate, but please be sure to seal it in an envelope.

Think Sparkles ... Join in on the fun!

December 2 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 chive biscuits). We hope you will join us

for fun, good food and wonderful shopping. We are still looking for more baked goods and warm bodies to help out the day of the Fair and for the Schola reception.

December 8 is when we gather and sing praises through Christmas Caroling to a local nursing home and then to the folks at our own Souper Supper----and join in for a delicious meal.

December 10 closes the Sparkles Season with the beautiful Schola Concert and Reception that follows. The concert begins at 4:00, but you might wish to come early at 3:30 and listen to the lecture on the early music that inspires the concert. Ticket price includes the lecture, concert and elegant reception.

Your Sparkle Chairs (Jana Burke and Kathy Galen) wish to thank all of you who have helped by donating goods 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 with the Schola Concert, but Advent continues until Christmas Eve when we welcome the Baby Jesus among us.



St Mary Schola
Bruce Fithian, Music Director

CHRISTMAS PASTORALE

Friday, December 8
7:30 PM

Cathedral of Saint Luke,
Portland

Sunday, December 10
4:00 PM
with reception to follow \$30

Church of Saint Mary,
Falmouth

Tuesday, December 12
7:30 PM

Cathedral of the Immaculate
Conception, Portland

Tickets at stmaryschola.org

Dec. 8 & 12 \$20

Dec. 10 \$30 (includes reception)

St Mary Schola, a 501(c)(3)
non-profit, is Maine's only
professional early music ensemble

Christian Formation - High & Middle Schoolers

Wishing You a Safe and Healthy
Holiday Season

- ❖ Have fun with your family outside
- ❖ Include youth in holiday preparations
- ❖ Play games together and limit TV watching
- ❖ Volunteer at a local organization

December 2017
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 #1795P06497

Cumberland County

YL younglife.

Every single high school student in the Casco Bay area is INVITED to gather for an amazing Club at **5 Quiet Lane, Portland.**

This is crazy fun and growing each week. FMI: visit

www.younglifeclub.com

Young Life Club: Monday night at 7:31 PM!

Check out New WYLDlife Club for middle schoolers
Every Other Friday 7-8pm at 47 Hillside Ave, Cumberland

All Younglife leaders go through background checks and training. Lots of fun in a supervised setting.

Christian Formation - RAY Beams - December 2017

Advent is a special time for waiting and watching—paying attention—to the ways God comes to us.

This Advent season in Guiding RAY we have lessons planned that will help us get ready to enter the *Mystery of Christmas*.

12/3 Advent 1 is our Faith Family Sunday of Lessons and Carols. No Guiding RAY programing.

12/10 Advent2: Mystery of Christmas I

12/17 Advent3: Mystery of Christmas II

12/24 Advent 4 and Christmas Eve

10:00 am Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant

4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Eucharist

9:00 pm Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

12/31/2017 - Holiday break—No Guiding RAY



Special thanks to Rayle Ainsworth, Diane Fletcher, Pat Rogers and Priscilla McGarry for creating a beautiful nativity bulletin board.

Older Guiding RAY kids (Middlers) Christmas Around the World

Join Meg Hurdman and Jack Heinzman and learn how Christmas is celebrated in Mexico and Germany with unique traditions which we will explore with special food, activities and games particular to each culture.

December 10 - Focus on Mexico, learn about poinsettias and pinatas and what it means when you greet someone by saying, "Feliz Navidad."

December 17 - Focus on Germany and learn about Advent calendars, Christmas trees and what children hope for when they leave their shoes out overnight.

The Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant

The retelling of the Nativity story in scripture and carols will be presented during the 10:00 am service on Christmas Eve.

Pageant practices and Angel and St. Cecilia choir practices will take place during the same time.

12/3: 9:00 to 10:00 am

12/10: 9:00 to 10:00 am

12/17: 9:00 to 10:00 am

12/23: Saturday full dress rehearsal and photo session from 9:00 - 10:30 am - all are invited! And this is the time to invite grandparents or neighbors!



Please contact Heather Gale at hpgale@earthlink.net if you would like to help with the pageant in any way.

Guiding RAY Coordinators

Megan Akers: *Director*, GuidingRAY@smay.org, 415-4260

Heather Gale, hpgale@earthlink.net, 899-3560

Meg Hurdman, hurdman@maine.rr.com, 781-7478

Christian Formation - RAY Beams - December 2017



Folks not getting "messy" while making Holy Smokes that will be sold during Sparkles



Our first venture with Messy Church on Sunday, November 12, was a fantastic success! Over 50 people gathered to enjoy each other and share a meal together. Some played football on the lawn, others created Holy Smokes and prayer bracelets for sale at Sparkles, everyone helped make postcards with words of encouragement for refugee children, people of all ages enjoyed relaxing in the tent that the older Guiding RAY kids had



constructed and the list of fun activities and fellowship can go on and on!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a great night.



A quick prayer of thankfulness before our spaghetti feast.



A fun game of giant Jenga



A group enjoying authentic middle eastern fair in the replica "Paul" tent.



Serious concentration happening while creating Sparkles prayer bracelets

OUR NEXT MESSY CHURCH

is scheduled for **February 11** and is going to be an early celebration of Fat Tuesday!

If you like to flip pancakes, have an idea for a project table or have always wanted to lead a Mardi Gras parade, please contact Beth in the office and be a part of this community and fellowship building event.



Outreach Ministry ~ All Ages Serving Near and Far

Traditional Christmas Caroling December 8

Join us in sharing Christmas joy to our local nursing home! It doesn't matter if you're talented like Schroeder or you sing like Charlie Brown, join us at 4:00pm in the Parish House. We'll travel together up the road and spread cheer and then come back to sing for those at Souper Supper.



Community Souper Supper December 8 and 22

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.



PLUS, on the 2nd Friday, stay for the FREE Classic Movie
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 OR
Black & Tan - a slightly darker roast*

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

Classic Cinema

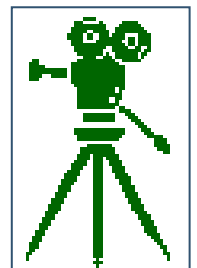
Our monthly **FREE** in-house movie

Presents on December 8

"It's a Wonderful Life"



(1946) Starring James Stewart, Donna Reed
An angel is sent from Heaven to help a desperately frustrated businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed.



Movie begins at 7PM (after Souper Supper) in the Parish House, and it's free!

OUTREACH is so rewarding!

by Becky Pride

IN HER PRESENCE, a non-profit organization in Portland that helps recent immigrants establish themselves in this new country, is a gift that keeps on giving. A dozen Saint Mary's women take turns volunteering to teach English and necessary skills to these eager new Mainers at the Portland Public Library on Saturdays from 10-12:30.

Most recently, on Saturday, November 18th, Judith Brooks, Mandy Garman, and Becky Pride went to the United Way Family Volunteer Day with our students to help make turkey centerpieces for the Wayside Food Program's Thanksgiving dinner tables. We had fun and created some awesome turkeys.



Comments from our Saint Mary's teachers include: The overwhelming feeling I have is these women's resilience. They do not wear their grief on their sleeve and seem so optimistic about their future. My one experience with our Ladies at PPL was amazingly joyful. Not only are they so receptive to learning their new language but are full of good will. It feels like they are teaching us about 'JOY' - especially in the light of their own often very difficult experiences.

I LOVE this volunteer work! I receive so much more than I could possibly give. For us [who have so much] to be able to lend a hand to these remarkable women is an honor and a gift. It's a wonderfully uplifting experience whenever I am with them.

If any of our fellow parishioners are interested in joining our team, call Anne LaFond or Becky Pride.

Saint Mary's Snowman Advent Giving Tree



We, at Saint
Mary's **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, are
hosting a Snowman Giving Tree. Snowman tags will be **on** the
Christmas tree with **a** child's gift request. Kindly **take** a tag,
purchase item(s) **on** the tag, and bring back **to** Saint Mary's. **Unwrapped**
gifts should **be** back under the **tree** no later **than** December 10 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



Nominating Committee Report

Each year, the Nominating Committee is comprised of the retiring Vestry members and typically one parishioner-at-large. This year we were pleased to have Nadine Timberlake serving as chair of the committee; she was joined by Barbara Bell, Terry Brown, and Mary LaLumiere. 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 positions. We are most grateful to those others willing to serve as well!!

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce a slate of nominees for election at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28 as follows:

- For the Vestry (3-year terms):

Sandra Couch-Kelly, Matthew Fulton, Jessica LaPlante, Jan Mordarski,

- For 2018 Diocesan Convention Delegates (4 or 5, depending upon Average Sunday Attendance at Saint Mary's for the year 2017): Contact Nadine Timberlake if you are interested.

The Wardens and Treasurer typically serve as Alternates.

Brief biographical information on the Vestry nominees follows.

Sandra Couch-Kelly

Sandy has been involved with several community groups including Junior League of Portland in a variety of board positions and as president 2013-14. In direct service as a Girl Scout leader for 2 troops for 7 years and counting, she has had some involvement with Saint Mary's assisting and teaching in the Guiding RAY program. She currently serves on the Falmouth 300 committee, the Colby-Sawyer President's Alumni Advisory Committee and is a Falmouth Education Foundation board member. Sandy is currently tennis obsessed playing 3 times a week, and she is an avid facebooker. She cares about the environment, animal welfare, and social issues. She values friendship and believes that not only through fellowship we advance our own personal growth, but equally as important, we can effect change where needed.

Sandy was baptized and confirmed at All Saints Episcopal Church in Omaha, attended St. Luke's in Portland from 2001 to 2010, then joined Saint Mary's in the fall of 2010.



Matthew Fulton

Matt and his wife, Natalia, moved from the Boston area in 2011 shortly after their first child, Eloise, was born. Matt grew up on the South Shore of Massachusetts. He attended college at George Washington University in Washington DC. He is a technologist and web developer by trade, and currently works for MaineToday Media, producer of the Portland Press Herald newspaper, as the Vice President of Digital Products.

Natalia grew up in the Portland area. Because of her childhood experience in Maine, they were determined to raise their children amongst nature and beauty in Maine. They now live in Cumberland, also with a second daughter, Marlena. They are fortunate to have both sets of (grand)parents living in the area, and Matt's mother Betsy often attends services with the family.

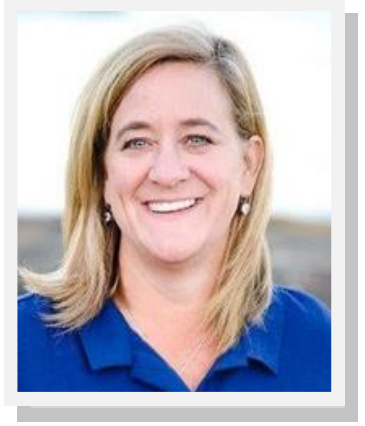
Matt and Natalia began attending Saint Mary's about two years ago, as part of an open-minded search for a church that best reflected their values and ideas of faith. St. Mary's was the fit, and in the summer of 2016, Eloise, Marlena, and Natalia were baptized and confirmed in the church. They are looking forward to watching their children grow up in the church, and having it serve as a reminder of meaning, hope and purpose in their lives as they grow.



Jessica LaPlante

Jessica came to Maine from Vermont and has never left! Jessica and her husband, Tom, have been members of Saint Mary's since 1990 when they moved to Falmouth. They have 3 grown sons.

She has served in various roles throughout the years including being on the Vestry (twice!), Church school teacher and Coordinator, Children's bell choir coordinator, Hospitality, Capital Campaign, Discernment Committee Co-chair and is presently the Co-chair of the Flower Guild. Jessica was a Registered Nurse for nearly 20 years and is currently in her 14th year as a Realtor at Locations Real Estate Group in Falmouth. In her free time, Jessica is an avid reader, hopeful painter, gardener and runner. Her favorite thing to do is to spend time with her husband and "boys," which is getting harder and harder to do these days!



Jan Mordarski

Jan Mordarski was born and raised a Presbyterian in State College, PA and moved to Bloomington, IN where she spent most of her adult life. In later years, with her second husband, she joined Saint Francis-in-the-Fields in Zionsville, IN. Jan started her working career as an RN and later earned her MSN and worked as a Nurse Practitioner until her second retirement in 2012.

After she was widowed, she moved to Cumberland Foreside in 2006 to be near her children and grandchildren. Her son, Kendall, and his wife Deanna and their two children (Gibson and Parker) live in Yarmouth and her daughter Kristina and her husband Brian live in Scarborough with their three children (Spencer, Grace and Avery).

Jan joined Saint Mary's shortly after moving here and is active on both the Kneelers Guild and the Flower Guild and is on the **Buildings and Grounds** Committee. In the Fall of 2006 she joined the Sparkles group and served as Co-chair of Sparkles for the last five years. She has also been instrumental in the leadership of our Book, Bake & Soup Sale over the past few years. She has felt so supported by the Saint Mary's family that she looks forward to working with the Vestry as a way to "give back."



Advent begins December 3

How do you make it meaningful?

Be part of the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar. It's an innovative way to engage in the season of Advent with people all over the world.

Simply respond to the daily meditation emailed to you with images and prayers that speak to your heart. To learn more,

Visit: <http://adventword.org/>

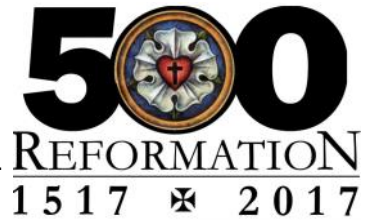


Music at Saint Mary's

by Bruce Fithian

The choirs and clergy from the Church of Saint Mary, the Falmouth Congregational Church, the Foreside Community Church, Emmaus Lutheran Church and the Church of the Holy Eucharist (cluster of 5 Catholic churches including Holy Martyrs in Falmouth and Sacred Heart in Yarmouth) met and joined together in glorious harmony to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, October 29.

It was such a pleasure to join together in fellowship and sing together the great hymns associated with Martin Luther, accompanied by a brass quartet. This service was so successful that many of us hope to plan for another ecumenical service next fall.



The Faith Family Sunday on the first Sunday of Advent is celebrated with the beautiful service known as 'Lessons and Carols.' Similar to the service at the Vigil of the Resurrection, this service begins with readings from Genesis and continues with the great messages from the prophets (Isaiah), and ends with the Christmas story.

The service begins with the beloved hymn 56 'O come, o come Emmanuel,' with hand bells accompanying. This hymn comes from an ancient collection called *The Great O's*, which were medieval antiphons for the service of vespers (our evensong service) during the last days of Advent. They are referred to as the "O Antiphons" because the title of each one begins with the interjection: "O." Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. They are:

- December 17: O Sapientia (*O Wisdom*)
- December 18: O Adonai (*O Lord*)
- December 19: O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*)
- December 20: O Clavis David (*O Key of David*)
- December 21: O Oriens (*O Dayspring*)
- December 22: O Rex Gentium (*O King of the nations*)
- December 23: O Emmanuel (*O With Us is God*)

Hymn 56 combines all of the antiphons with a verse for each day.



Following the ensuing readings, there are anthems that expand on the messages of the written texts.

The story of Adam and Eve is followed by a wonderful 15th-century English carol text set by Boris Ord. It includes the wonderful lines:

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter, Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took.
As clerks finden, Written in their book.

Nay had the apple taken been, The apple taken been,
Nay had never our lady, Of been heaven queen.

Blessed be the time That apple taken was,
Therefore we maun singen: *Deo gratias!*

Adam lay bound, Bound in a bind
Four thousand winters, Were not too long for him.

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took
As clerks have found, Written in their book.

For, if he had not taken the apple Not taken the apple
Then our lady would never have been Our heavenly queen.

Blessed be the time That the apple was taken.
Therefore, we must sing: *Give thanks to God!*

The reading from Isaiah 40:1-11, in which God promises the people and prepares them for redemption, is followed by a very powerful anthem based on the poem by Thomas Troeger, *The Dream Isaiah Saw*. The refrain of this anthem is particularly moving:

*Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.*

(and in the ensuing verses: Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
justice purifying law; and knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.)

Music continued

Further readings are followed by another anthem based on a 14th-century English carol *Gabriel to Mary Came*, and the exquisite carol by Peter Warlock *Come to Bethlehem*.

The Third reading, Isaiah 7:10-15, in which God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with Us", is followed by an anthem by our newly formed Angel and Saint Cecilia choir: *Prepare a Way for the Lord*. This will be an occasion for us to admire the beautiful blue cassocks that the Saint Cecilia Choir members will be wearing.

St. Cecilia & Angel RSCM Choirs

We are so excited about the children's choirs that have been formed, and we are deeply grateful for the direction of Priscilla Rigg. Mrs. Rigg has a lifetime experience with training young singers. It's no accident that young people and their families are so eager to join her in this worthy ministry. Her enthusiasm and love of teaching young people the joys of singing are greatly appreciated.

The success of any ensemble will depend upon the loyal commitment the children and their families can offer as a worthy 'living sacrifice.' There are presently 30 registered members of the Angel/Saint Cecilia choirs.

The children's choir will participate in the Pageant on Sunday, December 24 at 10 a.m., and we are all excited about this new program. As a singer and musician, I can tell you that my most meaningful experience with music began at church. It truly endows one with 'a voice for life.'



Greetings from the Saint Mary's Church Treasurer:

In 2017, while we have remained relatively close to budgeted expenses, we will most likely end the year with an expected deficit as the revenue position has not grown as hoped.

The Budget and Finance Committee along with the Executive Committee and the Vestry have been working since September on a budget for 2018 with the expectation of vestry approval at its December meeting. Supporting programs for families, as well as education and developing a strong pledging base, has been an emphasis in this process. The Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) is also defining the process to receive designated and un-designated bequests and will make a recommendation to the Vestry. We are fortunate to have capable parish members serving on the BFC; our thanks to Garry Bowne, Pat Mordecai, David Robinson, Mary Smith and Bill Gowen.

One final comment I would like to make in regard to the 2018 annual pledge campaign as it relates to the 2018 parish budget. The leadership has selected \$285,000 as an attainable goal. If we exceed that goal by \$20,000, we might just come very close to a deficit-free 2018. Please keep this in mind when filling out your 2018 pledge form.

Bill Gowen, Saint Mary's Treasurer

Saint Mary's Operating Finances - as of October 31, 2017

INCOME

General Plate & Pledge Support	235,491
Use of Parish House & Sanctuary	15,820
Fundraisers	12,659
Invested Fund Revenue	40,882
Miscellaneous Gifts & Revenue	618
Dedicated Gifts	12,607
	<u>\$ 318,077</u>

EXPENSE

Dio Assessment	45,673
Personnel (includes, taxes, benefits, & pensions)	177,660
Maintenance, Capital	26,606
Operating (utilities, insurance, taxes, supplies)	54,215
Program	26,828
Countless Mission & program hours	0
	<u>330,982</u>

<\$12,905>



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 to the Vestry and the Budget and Finance Committee for shepherding our 2018 budget to completion.

THANKS!

Merci

Thanks to Priscilla Rigg for her vision and dedication to the RSCM Angel Choir.

And to Maggie Gardner for assisting the RSCM Angel Choir and keeping them organized.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our first Messy Church program a big success. Next one is celebrating Mardi Gras: February 11!

CHEER

Thank you to Jana Burke for her help in organizing the Saturday after Thanksgiving Blood Drive.

Thanks to Peter Fitch and his construction skills for making the frames for our Advent banners.

To all the Sparklers who are too many to list. Thank you to all who tackle this fundraiser especially this year's co chair team of Jana Burke and Kathy Galen!!

New acolytes are: Jamie Akers, Thomas Gale, William Rana, Harrison Rana, Anabelle Teng and Cole Teng. Also thank you to Michael Manetti, Sarah Kelly and Emily Stinneford for helping with training.

Yay!

To the members of the Outreach Committee for researching the potential grantees and thoughtfully choosing the right programs for our support.

Thank you to all who joined in to help do the fall clean up and garlanding for Sparkles.

Gracias!

Thank you to Jennifer Gregg for putting together the lunch for the members of the Alida Greely Brown Society.

You're Invited: St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble Friday, December 15, 7-9 PM

The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble, an *A cappella* group from Russia, returns to Falmouth Congregational Church for a one-night concert featuring Masterpieces of Russian Choral Music from Baroque to Classical. The group performs as part of their popular annual tour through the U.S. The cost is \$15. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. FMI contact: fccdesk@maine.rr.com or call (207)781-3413.

Falmouth Congregational Church (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, 781-3413)
invites all to their monthly

Side Door Coffee House

Friday, December 8 - Doors open at 6:30pm

Enjoy a specialty coffee and snack while listening to

Katie Daggett and Bob Stakel

Bring your friends and neighbors for a relaxed evening out. All welcome! Refreshments. Free, but donations accepted.



December 2017 AVE

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

Happy December Birthdays to:



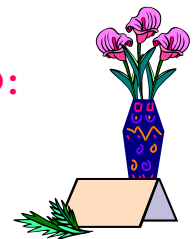
1	Len Taylor	14	Lowell Brown, Jr.		
3	Cameron Meek	15	Ava Draeger		
5	Hadley Becker	14	Andy Hyland		
6	Missy Smithwick	15	Elise Gauvreau	20	Kayla Rose
6	Libby Greenlaw	15	Karee Rhoades	21	Harold Otte
7	Kathy Street	16	Micaela Amato	22	Mary Ahlers
8	Melissa Kane	16	Emily Kearins	24	Nancy Russell
9	George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

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@smary.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	Meredeth & Mark Winter



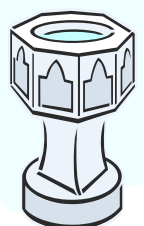
WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

Baptized at the 10am liturgy November 26, 2017

Claire Sawyer Shannon

Born January 20, 2017

*Claire is the daughter of Timothy and Camilla Shannon
and sister of Emma & Henry*





December 2017



The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 The First Sunday in Advent 8am Advent Lesson & Carols followed by coffee hour 9:00am Angel Choir & Pageant rehearsal 9:45am Nursery opens 10am Advent Lessons & Carols: Faith Family Sunday followed by coffee hour	4 12 Noonday Prayer 6pm Magic of Gmas rehearsal in Sanctuary	5 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AI/Anon (6:30 beginners)	6 St. Nicholas Day 10a Falmouth House Holy Eucharist 12 Noonday Prayer 12:30pm Staff meeting 6pm ORI in auditorium 6pm Sing rehearsal in Sanctuary	7 12 Chapel Eucharist 7pm SM Choir rehearsal	12/1 Office Closed 9a-3p Sparkles set up 12n Play where you are 5:30pm AI/Anon	12/2 Sparkles Fair 9am - 2pm 12/9 9a-2p Jane Austen Society in Aud & Kit 3-6p Music Partners rehearsal
10 The Second Sunday in Advent <i>Rev. Jonathan Appleyard, Celebrant & Preacher</i> 8am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee hour 9:00am Angel Choir & Pageant rehearsal 10am Guiding RAY 10am Choral Eucharist followed by coffee hour 4pm Sparkles Schola Concert with gala reception	11 9am - Garden Club wkp 10am - Garden Club in GR 12 Noonday Prayer 6-9p Ptld Comm Chorus	12 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AI/Anon (6:30 beginners)	13 9a-12 GC workshop in Aud 12 Noonday Prayer 12:30pm Staff meeting	14 12 Chapel Eucharist 1pm CARE Circle 6:15pm Dowse's Potluck in auditorium 7pm SM Choir rehearsal	15 Office Closed 12 Play where you are 5:30pm Alanon	16
17 The Third Sunday in Advent 8am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee hour 9:00am Angel Choir & Pageant rehearsal 10am Guiding RAY 10am Choral Eucharist 6pm Music Partners Recital (setup 2pm)	18 11am Garden Club 12 Noonday Prayer Jan '18 AVE deadline	19 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AI/Anon (6:30 beginners)	20 12 Noonday Prayer 12:30pm Staff meeting 6pm Sing rehearsal in Aud 6pm Vestry meeting	21 St. Thomas Day 12 Chapel Eucharist 7pm SM Choir rehearsal	22 Office Closed 12 Play where you are 5-7pm Souper Supper 5:30pm Alanon	23 9 - 10:30am Pageant dress rehearsal
24 The Fourth Sunday in Advent And Christmas Eve 10am Christmas Pageant followed by coffee hour 4pm Family Christmas Eve Eucharist 9pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist	25 <i>Office Closed</i> 10am Joyous Christmas Celebration 	26 St. Stephen Office Closed 7:30-9am BNI 12 Play where you are 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AI/Anon (6:30 beginners)	27 Office Closed 12 Play where you are	28 Holy Innocents Office Closed 12 Play where you are	29 Office Closed 12 Play where you are 5:30pm Alanon	30
31 The First Sunday after Christmas 8am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee hour No Guiding RAY classes 10am Choral Eucharist	1/1 <i>Office Closed</i> For New Year's Holiday 12n Play where you are Annual Report Deadline	1/2 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AI/Anon (6:30 beginners)	1/3 12 Noonday Prayer 12:30pm Staff meeting	1/4 12 Chapel Eucharist 7pm SM Choir rehearsal	1/5 Office Closed De-garlanded! 12 Play where you are 2pm rehearsal 5:30pm Alanon	1/6 The Epiphany

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's. Let us pray for hope, peace and love around the world!

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary

Worship Leader Schedule: December 2017 - January 2018

December 2017 AVE

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	8am Ushers	8am EM/Lectors	10am Ushers	10am Lectors	10am Euch Minister	10am Acolytes	Altar Guild	Altar Flowers	Flower Delivery	Coffee Hour Host
	Ed Ainsworth	Readers	Ryan Stinneford	Readers	<u>Readers</u>					
3-Dec Advent 1	Rayle Ainsworth	Greg Unfricht	Aaron Splint	Jamie, Polly, William, Tacie	Heather G. Ginny S Michael M	William R	Katie P Maggie G Janet B	Greens	~	Sparkles
<i>No N+ - Rev. Jonathan Appleyard</i>										
10-Dec Advent 2	Charlie Hurdman Jim Kane	Lad Taylor	Jack Heinzman Tom LaPlante	Stan Eaton	Nadine T. David Robinson	Emily Jamie A Meghan C.	Trish W Kelly I	Greens	~	OPEN
17-Dec Advent 3	Len Taylor Jim Porter	Len Taylor	Tom Stegemann Chuck Horton	Maureen M	Maggie Robinson Stan Eaton	Michael Anabelle & Cole	Mary S Betsy E Janet B	Greens	~	OPEN
Dec 24 Advent 4		10am Usher Tom LaPlante Charlie Hurdman	The Pageant is the readings	10am EM Stan Eaton Jim Stoddard	10am Acolytes Michael Lauren & Kyle L			Cmas		OPEN
24-Dec CMAS Eve	Tom Stegemar Ed Ainsworth Rayle Ainsworth	4pm EM Terry Brown Greg Unfricht	4pm Readers Terry B Greg U youth youth	4pm Acolytes William R Harrison R Sarah K.		9pm Ushers Jack Heinzman Ryan Stinneford	9pm EM Len Taylor Lad Taylor	9pm Lectors Maureen M	9pm Acolytes Emily Julia Michael	
25-Dec Cmas Dav	10am Usher tbd	10am lector AI A.	10am EM AI A.	Acolyte Maggie G						
31-Dec Cmas 2	8am Ushers AI Ahers Baer Connard	8am EM/Lectors Mary Ann M	10am Ushers Aaron Splint Chuck Horton	10am Lector Ginny Stelk	10am EM David Robinson Jim Stoddard	Acolytes tbd	Altar Guild Mary S, Mary L Jana B	Altar Flowers	Flower Delivery Cmas	Coffee Hour
7-Jan-18 Ep1 Bapt		Len Taylor		Andrea M-H	Andrea M-H Maggie G	tbd	Portia Maggie & Betsy	Val & Jessica	The Hortons	
14-Jan Ep 2 - MM	8am Ushers Len Taylor	8am EM/Lectors Len Taylor	9am Mission Morning							
21-Jan Epiph 3		Becky Pride		Marian McCue	Stan Eaton Terry Brown	tbd	Trish Katie, Jana	Melissa	The Stoddards	
28-Jan Ep 4 - AM	Annual Meeting		9:30am Ushers Betsy Stoddard	9:30am lector Maggie Gardner Nadine Timberlake	9:30am Acolytes	tbd	Janet B Mary L, Kathy	Maura	The Hortons	

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



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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

Our Worship Schedule

SUNDAY Hours

8 AM - *Contemplative Eucharist*
10 AM - *Choral Eucharist*

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

Noon Day Prayer in the Chapel
and wherever you find yourself

THURSDAYS

12NOON - *Holy Eucharist*



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*
Bruce S. Fithian, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Megan Akers, *Dir. of Christian Formation*
Beth Shaw, *Parish Manager*

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

Copy deadline January 2018 AVE is **Dec. 18**

Your 2017 Saint Mary's Vestry

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

Jim Kane, Sr. Warden, 329-1764, melissa1959@earthlink.net

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

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

Ed Ainsworth, 846-3191, rayleanded207@gmail.com

Barbara Bell, 653-4320, babsi821@gmail.com

Terry Brown, 310-877-0121, terryeverettbrown@gmail.com

John Fallon, 508-776-3792, jtf199@gmail.com

Peter Fitch, 576-0346, pfitch@leeautomall.com

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