

AVE

December 2018 AVE ♦ Saint Mary's Newsletter ♦ Vol. 83 No. 12

"GREETINGS MARY, FULL OF GRACE."

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary in Falmouth, Maine



From our Rector: "My Soul Waits For The Lord, More Than Watchmen For the Morning" (Psalm 130.5)



Patience is the key word for Advent. How much of our lives are spent waiting? The average American commuter spends around 40 hours each year just waiting in traffic jams. And all of us are forced to pass large amounts of time waiting in reception areas, waiting for test results, waiting for a video to stop buffering, waiting in check-out lines. But here is the question: do we wait well? Are we skilled in the practice of patience as we wait?

Advent is a time of waiting. It is like the early morning when we first wake up. We need to get ready for the day to come, but how we prepare ourselves is super important. Are we intentional enough to ensure that we are physically and spiritually nourished for the day to come? Advent is an invitation to slow down, to go back to the beginning and remember what the story of Jesus is all about. In the past, the earth was waiting for God to act, to redeem, to restore the life of this world. We live today on the other side of the Messiah's Birth, Passion and Resurrection, but we are still waiting. Even with all of our technological knowledge and skill, we cannot save ourselves. We must still wait for God to act once again and complete "the time of universal restoration" (Acts 3.21).

Advent is a time of waiting for the church as well. Yes, this means no Christmas carols! And I hope that you will experience Advent as an opportunity to grow in the practice of patience. Christians ought to be the most patient people of all. After all, patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, a reliable sign that we are maturing in Christ. With the eyes of faith we can see that everything is safely held in God's hands. We are free to wait and to watch, knowing that in God's good time all will be well. So let Advent be an intentional time for you to grow in patience. You will not regret it.

Nathan W. Jewell +

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How To Keep Advent at Home: Dec. 6, 5 – 7PM

Come together on *Common Ground* on Thursday, December 6 to get resources for keeping the season of Advent in your home. Advent is not "almost Christmas." It is a distinct season with its own stories, songs, practices and traditions. Bring a dish for the potluck dinner beginning at 5, or just come for the Advent discussion beginning at 5:45pm. All are welcome. After this, *Common Ground* will take a break until after Christmas and begin again on January 10, 2019.





Advent and Christmas 2018 at Saint Mary's

Sunday, December 2

8AM - Advent Lessons & Carols

9:30am - 10:00am - Formation groups for all ages

10:15AM - Advent Lessons & Carols

Thursday, December 6

5 - 7 PM - Common Ground potluck & talk: How to Keep Advent at Home

Sunday, December 9

8AM - Contemplative Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am - 10:00am - Formation groups for all ages

10:15AM - Choral Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

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

Friday, December 14

4PM - Christmas Caroling at Falmouth-by-the-Sea and ending at Souper Supper

Saturday, December 15

9AM - 12:30PM - Advent Quiet Mini-Retreat in the Parish House

Sunday, December 16

8AM - Contemplative Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am - 10:00am - Formation groups for all ages

10:15AM - Choral Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 23

8AM - Contemplative Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am - 10:00am - Formation groups for adults. No Formation for children today.

10:15AM - Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant and Eucharist

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4PM - Family Christmas Eve Eucharist

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

7PM Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

Beginning and ending in candlelight with the singing of many carols

9 PM - Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

Beginning and ending in candlelight with magnificent music from the Choir

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

10AM - Joyful Christmas Morning Eucharist



Think Sparkles! It's Here!!

December 1 is the festive and "sparkling" Fair with Boutique, Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, Cafe (with delicious lobster stew and yummy tomato basil soup), Sparkles Toyland and Santa with Mrs. Claus too! 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 7 and 9 continues the Sparkles Season with the beautiful Schola Concerts. This year, we have a Concert on Friday, December 7 at 7:00pm, and another on Sunday, December 9, with a Gala Reception to follow. The concert on Sunday 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 (\$30) includes the lecture, concert and elegant reception. Tickets are available for sale online and in the office.



December 14 is when we gather and sing praises through Christmas Caroling at Falmouth-by-the-Sea and then to the folks at our own Souper Supper---and join in for a delicious meal.

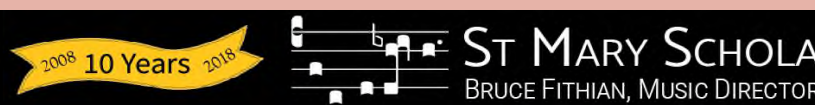
Your Sparkle Chairs (Jana Burke and Kathy Galen) wish to thank all of you who have helped by donating goods and doing all the many chores that are necessary to make Sparkles a success. Sparkles would not happen without so many willing volunteers. THANK YOU, and a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW 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.

Christmas Story presented by the Saint Mary Schola

As part of the Sparkles festivities, the St Mary Schola will present their annual concert, *Christmas Story*, on Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 pm, followed by an elegant reception in the auditorium. The featured work will be a festive cantata by Heinrich Schütz, bringing to life the birth of Jesus through shepherd songs, angel choruses, solemn wise men processions and an expanded ensemble of period instruments: strings, lute, organ, recorders, and brass.

The program will begin with joyous processional from the medieval ages, perfect for our Norman style chapel, beautiful motets, a special piece from our own Sabbathday Shakers and a newly composed anthem by Bruce Fithian. Tickets are available at the church office, after coffee hour or online at stmaryschola.org. If for some reason you can't make the Sunday performance, the program will also be offered on Friday December 7, 7:30 pm at Saint Mary's and Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral.



"One of the most finely polished choirs in Portland"
Allan Kozinn

Schütz's
**CHRISTMAS
STORY**

Friday, December 7 7:30 PM
Sunday, December 9 4:00 PM
Church of Saint Mary, Falmouth

Tuesday, December 11 7:30 PM
Cathedral of Saint Luke, Portland

Tickets at stmaryschola.org

From the Deacon's Corner



She stood in line in front of me at the grocery store. Her darling little boy, probably around three years old, sat quietly in the shopping cart, his big brown eyes looking me over with a casual curiosity. He had a new warm jacket on, but he had sandals on his feet and it was cold outside. Then I noticed his mom was wearing sandals too and a knit hat, but no warm jacket. There were three items on the conveyer belt, maybe their evening meal? The cashier, a young woman wearing a head scarf, told the mom how much she owed. She dug around in her pockets and came up with a couple of bills and some change and showed them to the cashier who patiently counted the money and then tried to explain to the mom, whose English was minimal, that she didn't have enough to pay for her items. I was touched by the patience and kindness the cashier showed to this mom. I could not begin to imagine what it must be like for her to be in a new country struggling with a strange language, super markets, a cold climate for which she was not prepared and a monetary system that was a mystery. Her precious little boy had a jacket, but she did not, and I bet she worried that he needed shoes and socks.

Mary had a precious little boy. She and Joseph traveled far from home and she had her baby in a stable. She and Joseph had so little. Were they fearful being away from home and alone when the baby came? Did they have enough food? Were they cold at night? When they felt threatened and they fled to save their baby's life, they had to depend on God for everything, even their lives. Even though they had already put all their trust in God, they must have had moments of fear.

This mother and child in front of me in line at the grocery store strangers in a strange land, like so many mothers and fathers love their children and want them to be safe, warm, happy and healthy and will suffer and sacrifice and struggle to give them that. She becomes a stranger no longer as I watch her. We are connected. We are God's daughters, mothers doing our best for our children, fellow travelers on a journey of faith. Soon it is my turn at the cash register. I smile goodbye to her and her little boy and wish them a good day. She is smiling too, her groceries in a bag and her money back in her pocket.

In Christ's Love, Deacon Christine

“Rest for your Soul”

An Advent Quiet-but-not-Silent Morning Saturday, December 15

You have probably seen materials around Saint Mary's or perhaps attended one of Deacon Christine's Sunday morning Formation offerings about Presiding Bishop Curry's invitation to The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life. You may have noticed that the 7th “way of love” (after Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, and Go) is **REST**. That is what our Advent Quiet Morning is all about. After the wonderful hub-bub of Sparkles and before Christmas is fully upon us, we'll take a few hours to reflect on the ways God calls us to rest – with intention and creativity. We'll spend our time in the company of Mary and her kinsfolk Elizabeth and Zechariah. They are all taking a deep breath as they absorb the news that they will become parents to very special sons, Jesus and John. Our intention is to provide some breathing space for ourselves too. We'll focus on biblical and non-biblical injunctions to rest, a theme we need to keep in mind year-round.



It would be helpful if you would let us know that you are coming so that we can set up appropriately. Sign ups are at the door to the Guild Room. Still, if you wake up Saturday morning and are moved to come but didn't RSVP, come anyway!

Please pray for our Bishop search process!

God of Grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings of our common life and ministries as the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, and for our leaders who are guiding us through this season of change. Grant to our candidates Kenneth, Thomas, Anne, Rachel and Janet the Holy Spirit's gifts of faith, hope and love. We ask also that you grant discerning hearts, minds, and spirits to the Transition Committee and all the delegates to the Electing Convention. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**



Vestry Highlights from the Wardens

by Janet Bowne

The Vestry met on November 14th. Jennifer Gregg, representing the Outreach Committee, and members of the Budget and Finance Committee, Garry Bowne and Pat Mordecai, joined the meeting.

Jennifer presented the Outreach list of grants being given for this year as well as a plan for a focus for 2019 on the opioid crisis.

The Budget and Finance Committee presented the 2019 Budget for the vestry's review to be voted on in December. Again this year, due to our fixed costs, this budget carries a deficit of about \$20,000. Thank you to the Budget and Finance Committee for its work on the Budget.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate for 2019.

We discussed a by-law change that would allow but not require vestry members to serve two consecutive terms if they wished to do so. Doing so would allow for retention of institutional memory. The Executive Committee will consider this at the December meeting. We discussed the importance of Sparkles and the need for volunteers and help with spreading the word to



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

friends and colleagues.

Father Nathan shared a chart that showed the decline in affiliation across the Episcopal provinces based on parochial report numbers. Our province has seen a decline, but we have increased after the drop in numbers after Father James' death. However, we should continue to focus on membership as we start a new year.

The Stewardship campaign is underway. We hope to get pledge commitments in by the end of the year.

Our goal for the Grace Given campaign is \$285,000.

Stewardship: Grace Given

by Janet Bowne

It's easy to see the grace at Saint Mary's in December during the reflective season of Advent and then the beautiful celebration of Christ's humble birth. However, grace is also among us in other ways every month of the year.

It's in the work of the pastoral team who hold us all in their prayers each day and with those who cook for the casserole ministry or the soup chefs and servers for Souper Supper. Grace is in the volunteers who go to Long Creek to mentor young people needing support. It's in the teaching of our Guiding RAY volunteers who pass on God's word to our children.

Grace is in the hands of those who care for our buildings so that we can welcome, warmly and safely, all who come to our buildings whatever the reasons.

Grace is in the hugs and loving gestures offered to friends and newcomers celebrating joys and sharing sorrows.

Help us continue to share the grace given to us by God. Please complete a pledge form and return it confidentially to Beth Shaw our Parish Manager by email (admin@smary.org), mail or in person. Thank you!



Traditional Family Christmas Caroling

Where: Falmouth by the Sea Nursing Facility and Foreside Harbor

Who: ALL ages welcome!

When: Friday, December 14th, 4-5:30pm

How: Gather at S. Mary's at 3:45 for carpooling & distribution of music.

Upon your return, join the festivities at Souper Supper and dine on soup, salad, breads and dessert!

FMI: Jennifer Gregg; jenniferanngregg@gmail.com; 650-1462

Christian Formation - RAY Beams - December 2018

As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. Genesis 17:4

Guiding RAY was very busy in November! We learned to believe in God and have faith that God will fulfill God's promises just as Abraham and Sarah believed and were patient. While gathered in our tent, we learned the lessons of Abraham and Sarah and wondered what tent life was really like and how to listen for God's call.

We also....

- Celebrated and said "Thank you!" to our Saint Mary's Veterans
- Made 'Holy Smokes' and birdseed ornaments for Sparkles
- Shared faith, laughter and smiles!



Coming up in December

This Advent in Guiding RAY we will be preparing and looking forward to Jesus's coming at Christmas. Our Advent rotation theme is **Isaiah Promised; Jesus Fulfilled**. We will be focusing on the kind of Messiah that Isaiah taught us to look for, why God sent the Messiah into the world, and how we know Jesus is the one we have been waiting for.

We still need leaders for this Advent rotation

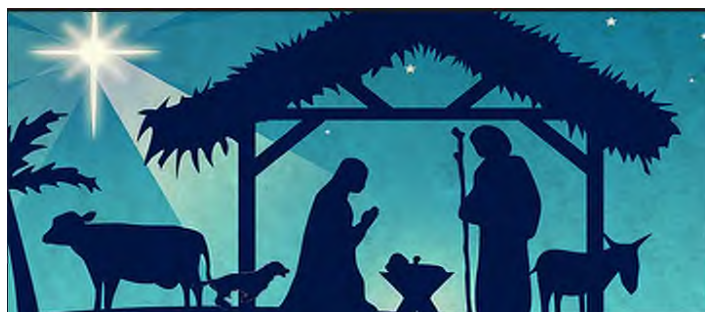
If you would be interested in helping with this ministry, please visit our website, smary.org, to volunteer or contact Megan Akers, GuidingRAY@smary.org

December 2: Advent 1
9:30 - 10 Family Chapel with
Fr. Nathan - Saint Nicholas

December 16: Advent 3
Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 - 1:00

December 9 Advent 2
Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 - 1:00

December 23: Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant
No Guiding RAY programming



The Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant

The retelling of the Nativity story in scripture and carols will be presented during the 10:15 am service on Sunday, December 23rd.

All are welcome to enjoy this celebration of the mystery of Christmas!

Christian Formation ~ High Schoolers & Middlers



Saint Mary's hosted the Falmouth Middle School Youth Groups for an awesome evening of

ESCAPE THE CRYPT and Apple Crisp. All of the kids made it out of the crypt alive and then had a blast making 50 Apple Crisps that we shared with the Falmouth Food Pantry and Milestone. Stayed tuned for more Christ-filled fun times.....



The Young Adult Service Corps is a missionary program that gives young Episcopalians ages 21-30 an opportunity to be the hands and feet of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement across the world-wide Anglican Communion. Our Baptismal Covenant calls us "to seek and serve Christ in all persons", loving our neighbors as ourselves. The young people who serve as YASCers take this call seriously as they engage in loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with our Anglican brothers and sisters around the world.

Join our Nursery Ministry

We are in need of volunteers each Sunday to help care for our littlest Saint Marians. The nursery is open each Sunday from 9:30– 11:30am. Anyone who enjoys reading stories, having tea parties and building amazing structures is encouraged to volunteer (teens, grandmas, grandpas, etc.). Please contact Alison Hayward, ajhmcmmonagle@gmail.com, and sign up today.

Guiding RAY is Growing

As a result we are asking that Parents/ Guardians "check- in" their Guiding RAY kids before dropping them off in the Guiding RAY space. Our formation time begins at 9:30 with a special guest, outreach program or sometimes just some fun, games and socializing. Please be sure to let us know that your child is joining us!



Young Life Casco Bay

Weekly Club: Mondays at 7:31 pm at 56 Quiet Lane in Portland

All high schoolers are invited!

FMI, visit the website:

www.younglifecb.com.

or call Jordan Droge at 805-453-1999

Spending Time Together is the Best Gift



Casco Bay CAN
CREATE AWARENESS NOW
www.cascobaycan.org

A grant funded project sponsored by
Cumberland County Government
Cumberland County

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season!

- Have fun with outside activities
- Include youth in holiday preparations
- Play games together
- Volunteer at a local organization

Outreach Ministry ~ All Ages Serving Near and Far

Saint Mary's Multicultural Fair on November 4th was a huge success!

It was a wonderful celebration of two communities, New Mainers and Old Mainers, coming together; one to share their culture, foods and crafts and the other to meet and learn about their new neighbors.

Over 200 people came to enjoy delicious foods and beautiful arts and crafts from talented NEW MAINERS. Flags from around the world and colorful tablecloths set the stage for an amazing mix of culture, community and friendship.

Many people came thinking they would snack but ended up having a delicious dinner with take home food for the holidays. There were empanadas from Bolivia, hot plates of Nyat Catering's Ethiopian food, Yolanda's delectable array of French pastries from the Congo, Foodie Friends delicious lamb kebob wraps from Baghdad, C. Love Cookie Project's amazing cookies and mouth watering Italian dessert cakes, cookies and homemade pastas, beautifully wrapped for holiday gifts. We're happy to report that all of the food vendors **SOLD OUT!**

There were wonderful arts and crafts. Akakpo from Ghana had exquisite gold earrings, bracelets and necklaces, with a unique design, glasses with geometric patterns and a Maine motif of

animals. Diana from Colombia uses all recyclable products to produce her cards, belts, bags, bracelets scarves and more. Keezo from DRC designs his own logo clothing, and Catherine from Angola is a beautiful seamstress with custom designed clothing. Nabaa from Iraq displayed incredible pyrography, along with her custom designed cakes that were a work of art. The list goes on of vendors who had the opportunity to promote and sell their unique products.

We've had glowing remarks about how friendly, inviting and interesting the event was and how much it contributed to sought-after community-building. The most meaningful remarks came from the vendors themselves, so appreciative of S. Mary's for providing the venue for them and welcoming them so warmly. Outreach has decided we need to continue this event, so for those of you who missed the November 4th Fair; there will be another one in the near future.



Outreach Opportunity - Saint Mary's Snowman 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. To ensure the families receive them in time for Christmas, the unwrapped gifts should be under the tree no later than December 16 with the Snowman tag on them. For more information, contact Betsy

or Jim Stoddard
829-2026.

jbstod@myfairpoint.net



Guiding RAY children hanging tags & decorations



Community Souper Supper December 14 and 28



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. No reservations required. Just bring your family and friends and enjoy! It's a blast!

PLUS, on the 2nd Friday, stay for the **FREE Classic Movie**

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



Medium to robust coffees: Casco Bay, Black & Tan, OR Rebel Blend
"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 get GREAT organic coffee! Win! Win!

Classic Cinema

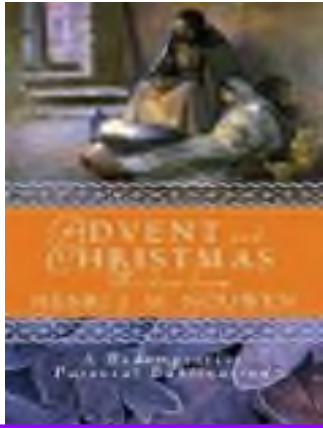
**Our monthly FREE in-house movie
Presents on December 14
Saboteur (1942)**

Starring: Priscilla Lane, Robert Cummings, Otto Kruger
Director: Alfred Hitchcock

An aircraft factory worker goes on the run after being wrongly accused of starting a fire that killed his best friend.

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





Adult FORMATION: two options for ADVENT at 9:30 AM

Henri Nouwen Advent Reflections with Deacon Christine

Meeting in the Kneeler Room. No advance reading required. Stop in any Sunday in Advent to join the discussion.

BE STILL Guided Meditations with Merle Marie Troeger and Jennifer Gregg. *Meeting in the Chapel. Lots of silence to center yourself in the presence of God, with one thought for meditation.*

All four Sundays of Advent. Make an effort to grow this Advent.

Digesting the Scriptures

by Merle Marie Troeger

The Collect for last Sunday is one of my favorites. It's about our relationship to the Scriptures. We pray that we may *hear, read, mark, learn and* (I love this) *inwardly digest* them. The prayer describes a process of slow assimilation.

We read the same set of lectionary passages from the Bible in a three-year cycle. That means that every three years I get to hear the same story again. The words are the same. Perhaps the translations vary a bit, but the narrative is well known. Yet I am not the same person I was three years ago. I have experienced more of the ups and downs, the joys and griefs of life. I am older than I was the last time I heard that passage. Perhaps I'm with a different community this time around.

All this means that I am invited to hear the Scriptures fresh. I am invited to pay attention from my new vantage point. I am invited to learn something new that I never saw there before. Then I can begin the process of layering this new insight over all the other understandings I've gleaned over the years. I have a layer cake of Biblical story that grows more complex and nuanced year by year. My patience and appreciation for the apocalyptic readings from Mark, for instance, have grown as I have read the newspapers and watched TV news during recent years.

The process of digestion is perfect for our relationship with scripture. It reminds me of the moment when "the word of the Lord" came to the prophet Ezekiel. *The voice said, "O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.*

Yet I know well that the Scriptures are not always sweet. There are tough passages to read and inwardly digest. Revelation is a good example of another scroll-eating prophet. In his revelatory trance, John of Patmos is given a little scroll. *The voice from heaven said, "Take it, and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach, but sweet as honey in your mouth." So I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.* That's inward digestion for you. It's a lifelong process.

Buildings & Grounds Update

by Jim Stoddard, Chair

Well, we had good intentions to rake leaves, but God had other ideas. Once the snow has melted, the leaves can get raked up in the spring - at least we were able to get Pre-Sparkles and Pre-Advent projects accomplished. Thank you to all the parishioners and Milestone group for their great work. Let the festivities begin!! Stay tuned. It has been a busy year for B&G with many projects getting done; next year will be just as busy. If you would like to get involved, let me know. Our merry band has fun and a feeling of a job well done. On behalf of the B&G clan, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

CELEBRATE

HONOR

SERVE

Be Still Monday Evenings 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.



Learning and Growing together

FORMATION



This Autumn, we implemented a slight shift in our Sunday morning schedule in order to better accomplish **our mission of "building authentic, vibrant, Christ-centered community" where we celebrate, honor and serve together.**

The overall Sunday schedule for the school year looks like this:

8:00AM: Contemplative Eucharist (Rite 1 or Rite 2)

9:30 AM: Formation for all ages (Guiding RAY and choir rehearsal for youth)

10:15 AM: Choral Eucharist

If you have a group that you would like to facilitate or to see offered, please send Fr. Nathan an email or reach out to your Wardens. Look for a new group to begin in Advent. (see front cover)

COMMON GROUND



Thursday gatherings. Our final **Common Ground** gathering for 2018 will be on Dec. 6. The topic is:

How To Keep Advent at Home

Common Ground is designed to be a second meeting time each week when our parish family comes together to share a meal, to do ministry together, and to discuss things that are important to our life. This is a flexible and informal time and people are welcome to come and leave as necessary. We encourage all committees and guilds to hold their meetings either before or after this core event which will create a greater synergy for connecting!

The basic structure is:

5 - 7PM Potluck dinner. Take a break from cooking a whole meal. Bring a dish or just eat what we have. If you can't eat this early, come and enjoy fellowship and discussion. Open to everyone!! Food will be available throughout this time.

5:30PM Voice For Life: music training for all ages (adult and youth) **OR**

5:45PM Group presentations and discussion. Topics will vary or be seasonal, and will return in January

6:45PM Compline in the Chapel and clean-up

Questions? Ideas for future topics? Contact Janet Bowne (janetbowne@maine.rr.com)

Common Ground will resume in January

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)

From Nathan & Erin: Thank you to our wonderful parish for your support following Erin's breast cancer diagnosis. As surgery approaches on December 13, we know you are all walking with us, and for that we are very grateful. Thanks be to God.

Kudos to Anne LaFond and the new Mainer fair organizers. What a great afternoon of eating and shopping—all helping New Mainers grow their businesses.

GRACIAS

Special shout out to Julia Splint for being such an awesome all round help in Guiding RAY!

Thanks to the amazing assistant cooks, Janet Bowne and Priscilla McGarry, for helping the Middlers make 50 yummy apple crisps.

Merci

Our thanks to Bruce, special talents, and all choir members for the gorgeous Concert Spirituel. Unbelievable the talent in this parish!

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

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

Thank you to the people who lead classes in Guiding RAY this November. Heather Gale, Jill Stevenson, Betsy Parks-Stamm and Heather Teng



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

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!!

Kudos to Ed and Len for talking with GR about their service on Veterans' Day. And thank you to all Veterans.

Thanks to Charlie Hurdman for setting up the "Paul" tent to be enjoyed by all as an 'Abraham and Sarah' tent.

Game master Rod McGarry deserves kudos for helping to lead the middle school kids in (and out!) of the crypt. GG!

Thank you to all who joined in to help do the garlanding for Sparkles.

Thank you for keeping your pledges current!

**Saint Mary's Operating Finances
as of October 31, 2018 (- 4,408)**



INCOME

General Plate & Pledge Support	251,878
Use of Parish House & Sanctuary	17,498
Fundraisers	9,757
Miscellaneous Gifts & Revenue	47,395
Dedicated Gifts	11,926
	<u>\$ 338,454</u>

EXPENSE

Diocesan Assessment	46,145
Personnel (includes taxes, benefits, & pensions)	184,807
Maintenance, Capital expenses	27,858
Operating (utilities, insurance, taxes, supplies)	58,837
Program	25,215
Countless volunteer donated hours	0
	<u>\$ 342,862</u>

Folk Art Retreat: Wednesday- Friday, February 20 - 22, 2019

The perfect opportunity for beginner artists to escape to the snowy woods of Greenfield, NH. Enjoy a relaxing midweek retreat offering good company, great food and the chance to learn a brand new skill.



- ♦ Painting 101 with **Erin McGee Ferrell**
- ♦ Intro to Knitting with Cricket Cooper
- ♦ Learn to Quilt with Vickie Hill



For questions, more information or to register, please visit the Barbara C. Harris website:
www.bchcenter.org/folkartretreat

CELEBRATE



HONOR



SERVE



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

Happy December Birthdays to:



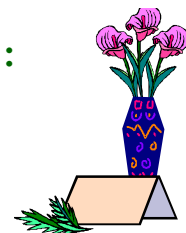
1	Len Taylor	14	Lowell Brown, Jr.	20	Nicholas Reeve
3	Cameron Meek	14	Ava Draeger	20	Chris Richards
3	McIntyre Robich	14	Andy Hyland	20	Kayla Rose
5	Agnes Parks-Stamm	15	Kate Barter	21	Harold Otte
6	Missy Smithwick	15	Sonia Barter	22	Mary Ahlers
7	Kathy Street	15	Elise Gauvreau	22	Emma Ross
8	Melissa Kane	15	Jan Mordarski	24	Nancy Russell
9	George Bokinsky	15	Karee Rhoades	25	Anna Cianchette
9	Adeline Scott	16	Micaela Amato	26	Caroline Grace
8	Chloe Fisher	16	Emily Kearins	26	Wayne Woodworth
10	Andrew Oestreicher	16	Ron Vincent	27	Garrett Bowne, V
11	Caroline Smith	17	Joe LaPlante	29	Michael Manetti
12	Elsa Dean-Muncie	18	Suisan Chapman	29	Matthew Reeve
11	Michael Kane	18	Henry Shannon	30	Obinna Mokeme
13	Sarah Young	19	Katie Clark	31	Ruth Kimball
14	Archer Akers	20	Teddy Baldacci	31	Mary Ann McLean

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY (AND TO-BE) WEDDED IN THE S. MARY'S FAMILY







February 11	Chelsea Peluso & Jonathan Scott
May 13	Rachel Sluder & George Murray
August 4	Elizabeth Carney & Brian Bryson
October 6	Emily Avis & Mark Legere
October 20	Brianna Wing & John Young
December 29	Sarah Young & Tim Caven



December 2018

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 The First Sunday of Advent 8am Advent Lesson & Carols 9:30am FORMATION groups <i>Fr Nathan with Guiding RAY</i> 10:15am Advent Lessons & Carols 10:15am Guiding RAY classes begin	3 10am - GC wreath workshop 12 Play where you are 6-9p PCC rehearsal	4 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12:30 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 12:45pm Staff meeting 4:30pm - St Cecilia rehearsal 6pm Schola rehearsal 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AA/Anon (6:30 beginners)	5 11am Falmouth House & Legacy Eucharist 9am Mandy Weavers in Aud 9am GC Workshop in GR 12 Noonday Prayer 6pm - ORB/Dowisers in Aud	6 St. Nicholas 12 Chapel Eucharist 1pm CARE & Prayer COMMON GROUND 5-7 pm Potluck 5:45pm Presentation 6:45pm Compline 4:30pm Outreach 7pm Choir rehearsal	7 Office Closed 12 Play where you are 5:30pm Alanon 7:30pm Schola Christmas Story Concert <i>Nathan+ Navy drill</i>	1 Sparkles Fair 9am - 2pm  8 9a-2p JAYSA in Aud & kit 10a-1p OC in church
9 The Second Sunday of Advent 8am Contemplative Eucharist 9:30am FORMATION groups 10:15am Choral Eucharist 10:15am Guiding RAY classes begin 11:45 am Pageant rehearsal & pizza 4pm Schola Christmas Story Concert	10 10am Garden Club if each Aud, GR & Kit 12 Noonday Prayer	11 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12:30 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 12:45pm Staff meeting 4:30pm - St Cecilia rehearsal 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AA/Anon (6:30 beginners)	12 Noonday Prayer 3-8pm ME Audibon in GR 6pm - SING rehearsal in Aud	13 12 Chapel Eucharist w/ Pastor Sara D-W COMMON GROUND will resume in January 7pm Choir rehearsal	14 Office Closed 12 Play where you are 4pm Christmas Caroling to Fam by the Sea 5-7pm Souper Supper 5:30pm Alanon 7pm Classic Cinema	15 9am - 12:30pm Rest for the Soul: Advent Mini-Retreat
16 The Third Sunday of Advent 8am Contemplative Eucharist 9:30am FORMATION groups 10:15am Choral Eucharist & Baptism 10:15am Guiding RAY classes begin 11:45 am Pageant rehearsal & pizza	17 12 Noonday Prayer Jan. AVE deadline	18 7:30-9am BNI 9:30-12:30 Art Group 10:30a Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 12:45pm Staff meeting 4:30pm - St Cecilia rehearsal 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AA/Anon (6:30 beginners)	19 Noonday Prayer 6pm Vestry meeting 6pm - SING rehearsal in Aud	20 12 Chapel Eucharist	21 St. Thomas Office Closed 12 Play where you are 5:30pm Alanon 7pm Oratorio & Sing Concert in Sanctuary	22 9am-3pm in Her Presence in Aud. 2pm Oratorio & Sing Concert in Sanctuary
23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8am Contemplative Eucharist 9:30am Adult FORMATION groups 10:15am Christmas Pageant and Eucharist	24 Christmas Eve 4pm Family Christmas Eve Eucharist 7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist 9pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist	25 Christmas Day 10am Christmas Day Eucharist 	26 St. Stephen 12 Play where you are	27 St. John 12 Play where you are	28 Holy Innocents 12 Play where you are 4pm Wedding rehearsal 5-7pm Souper Supper 5:30pm Alanon	29  2pm Cavan & Young Wedding
30 The First Sunday after Christmas 8am Contemplative Eucharist 10:15am Choral Eucharist No Guiding RAY classes	31 Office Closed 12 Play where you are	1/1/2019 The Holy Name Office Closed 12 Play where you are 7pm AA in Auditorium 7:30 AA/Anon (6:30 beginners)	1/2 9am Mandy Weavers in Aud 12 Noonday Prayer	1/3 12 Chapel Eucharist 1-4p Mainely Weavers in Guild Room	1/4 Office Closed 12 Play where you are 5:30pm Alanon	1/5 

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

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary Worship Leader Schedule: December 2018

	8am Ushers	8am EM/Lectors	10:15am Ushers	10:15am Lector	10:15am Euch Minister	10:15am Acolytes	Altar Guild	Altar Flowers	Flower Delivery	Coffee Hour Host
Advent L & C. No HE		4 Readers		5 Readers						
2-Dec	Len T	Lad Taylor	Jack H	Stan Eaton	~	Anabelle T.	Janet			
Advent 1	Jim K		Chuck H	Jim S			Tricia & Katie	Greens	~	Sparkles
9-Dec	Baer C	Al Ahlers	Aaron S	Ben P	Nadine T	Kevin	Betsy			
Advent 2	Len T.		Ryan S		Maggie	Lauren & Kyle	Mary L	Greens	~	OPEN
16-Dec	Al A	Becky Pride	Jim P	Dawn Y	Andrea M-H	Emily	Tricia	Greens	~	OPEN
Advent 3	Charlie H		Jack H		Terry Brown	Michael, William G.	Katie			
23-Dec	x	Mary Ann M	Aaron S	Pageant	Jim Stoddard	William R	Mary L	Greens	~	OPEN
Advent 4	x		x	na	Stan Eaton	Michael & xx	Barbara & Portia			
4pm Usher		4pm EM	4pm Readers	7pm Ushers	7pm EM	7pm Lector	9pm Ushers	9pm EM	9pm Lector	
24-Dec	x	Greg Unfricht	Becky Pride	x	David R	David	Tom L	Len	Maureen	
Cmas Eve	x	Terry Brown	Ginny Stelk	x	Maggie		Ryan S	Lad		
	x		Natalie U.	x						
			Geo Brown							
4pm Acolytes:	Sarah, William & Harrison			6pm Acolytes:	Kevin, Lauren & Kyle		9pm Acolytes:	Emily, Julia & Michael		
25-Dec	10am Usher	10am Lector	10am EM					Cmas	~	~
Cmas	Jack H	Al A.	Al A.							
8am Ushers		8am EM/Lectors	10:15am Ushers	10:15am Lector	10:15am Euch Minister	10:15am Acolytes	Altar Guild	Altar Flowers	Flower Delivery	Coffee Hour Host
30-Dec	x	Becky Pride	xx	Linda E	Linda E	Maggie G		Cmas	~	OPEN
Cmas 1	x				Ben P.					
6-Jan	x	Len Taylor	x	x	x		Janet			
Epiphany	x		x		x		Maggie & Jana			

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, 781-3368



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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

Our Worship Schedule

Sunday worship

8 AM - Contemplative Eucharist
9:30 - 10:00AM Formation for All
10:15AM - Choral Eucharist

MONDAY ~ WEDNESDAY

Noon Day Prayer in the Chapel
and wherever you find yourself

THURSDAYS

12NOON - Chapel Eucharist
+5-7pm - COMMON GROUND
Connecting with our community
5:00PM Potluck dinner,
5:45PM Program & discussion
6:45PM Compline service

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*
deacab@maine.rr.com

Bruce S. Fithian, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Megan Akers, *Dir. of Christian Formation*
GuidingRAY@smary.org

Beth Shaw, *Parish Manager*
admin@smary.org

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

Copy deadline for January AVE - **December 17**
Annual Reports due the first week of January

Your 2018 Saint Mary's Vestry

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Cell phone number 310-0268

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

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

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

Sandy Couch-Kelly, 233-7994, scouchkelly@gmail.com

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

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