



To See Hope

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

KJV Isaiah 40:31

Isaiah's words were written to a people who had very little strength to carry on. The Hebrews were living in exile and had no hope. The prophet's words encouraged the people that things would get better. God had not abandoned them.

Advent is a time of waiting and watching for hope. Waiting for the baby's cry that has echoed through the centuries as Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Watching for the advent (meaning arrival) of new hope for the coming year and beyond. If God appeared as God's self in human flesh and walked amongst us, then there is hope that God continues to walk our earth even as we face darkness.

At the end of a long day last week, I wanted to take a walk in my beautiful new neighborhood. It was pitch dark! One of the startling revelations about living in Falmouth is how early the sun sets as we glide towards the winter solstice. While we assume the sun will return from its journey below the equator, I often think of our ancestors who were never sure it would return. We have learned to have hope.

Isaiah's words ring true for us today. May our strength be renewed as we wait upon the Lord. May we not grow weary. May we see hope.



The Rev. Jane Milliken Hague

Look towards
the east,
O Jerusalem,
and see the joy
that is coming
to you



Jane Milliken Hague



Advent begins November 28: 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. For the eighth year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online advent calendar. Forward Movement, the new home of AdventWord, will offer 28 daily meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, November 28.

Gathering a worldwide community, #AdventWord provides a daily meditation, visual image, and invites your personal reflections via social media to share your own Advent journey. Images and meditations can be experienced via the [AdventWord website](#), [direct daily emails](#), as well as on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Meditations are available in English, Spanish, French, and American Sign Language via [YouTube](#) videos.

To learn more, Visit: <http://adventword.org/>

Advent and Christmas 2021 at Saint Mary's

Sunday, November 28: Advent 1

8:00 Advent Lessons & Carols

10:15 Advent Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 4

9 - 1 SPARKLES FAIR with Boutique, Jewelry, Gifts. Café, Baked goods

Sunday, December 5: Advent 2

8:00 Contemplative Eucharist

9:30 Formation groups for all ages

10:15 Choral Eucharist

Saturday, December 11

9:00 - 12:30noon Advent Quiet Morning in the Fr. James Chapel

Sunday, December 12: Advent 3

8:00 Contemplative Eucharist

9:30 Formation groups for all ages

10:15 Choral Eucharist

Thursday, December 16

12noon *Blue Christmas*

Sunday, December 19: Advent 4

8:00 Contemplative Eucharist

10:15 Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve

3 & 5 PM Family Christmas Lessons and Carols

A one-hour service designed for families and young people

9 PM Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist

Beginning and ending in candlelight with magnificent music from the Choir

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 Joyful Christmas Morning Eucharist

Sunday, December 26: Christmas 1

8:00 Contemplative Eucharist

10:15 Choral Eucharist

From Deacon Christine:

shared by Deacon Christine Bennett

Dear Ones,

About ten months ago, I adopted a nine-year-old West Highland White Terrier. Her name is Minnie, and she has brought me so much joy, and I am very grateful for her.

If I have one criticism, it is that she has no patience! When she wakes up, it is time for breakfast, and she nudges and pushes her nose at me whining softly until I get up and get her food. When it's time for our afternoon walk, her internal clock goes off, it's time to go. It makes no difference what I might be doing. Again, with the nudging or jumping up and the soft pathetic whining until I hook the leash to her collar. Sometimes I get a nudge when I pick up a book or attempt to talk on the phone. Lobbying for supper starts at about 3:00 PM. You might think her behavior is the result of being spoiled, but that can't be true! She just has no patience.

You've heard it said that patience is a virtue, and so it is. It takes work to cultivate the kind of patience that is full of hope and is more than just waiting with frustration for the next thing to happen. The pandemic that we have been going through for almost two years has been an opportunity to slow down and begin to appreciate the simple things in life that we sometimes take for granted. Others have marked time with frustration and anxiety. As we enter this new Advent season, we can slow down and anticipate the coming of the Christ Child with joy and hope.

How wonderful it is to live the Advent journey every year and to have the opportunity to learn something new about actively waiting for the gift of Christmas. Set aside a time each day to quietly ponder the story of the Annunciation, Mary's visit to Martha and Zachariah, Joseph's response to Mary's miraculous pregnancy, and the birth narrative.

Practice patience when shopping for holiday gifts, and remember those who are less fortunate. Worship and pray together on Sunday. Attend the Quiet Day. Allow yourself to find the joy in the preparations and not be overwhelmed by all there is to do.

I pray that with patience and hope this Advent and Christmas season will bring you peace and joy.
Faithfully,
Deacon Christine



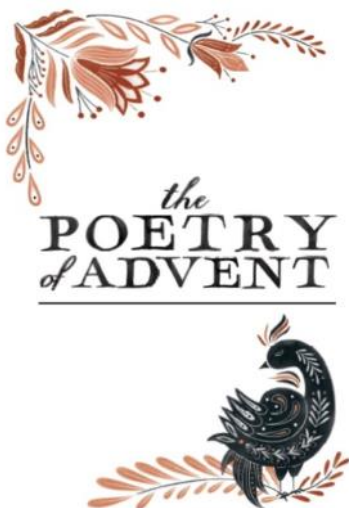
Advent Series: Poetry for Advent

by Rev. Jane Hague

Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God to come near: keeping awake, staying alert, and paying attention. Over the four Sundays in Advent, we will be offering a series called: [Poetry for Advent](#). We will be using a booklet that combines the readings for Advent and appropriate poems by Mary Oliver. In this Advent devotional, biblical texts and accessible practices interact with Oliver's poems to create a four-week journey to Christmas morning. All you'll need is your favorite Bible and Oliver's classic collection, *Devotions*. Week by week, we'll walk through the woods and along the seashore with Mary Oliver as our guide. For Mary Oliver, poetry is a beautiful way to sharpen our senses, helping us notice what we might otherwise miss. Every Sunday in Advent, I will be holding an informal discussion about the poet Mary Oliver at 9:30am in the Parish Hall.

The booklet (for free) will be available at church or in the office or you can download a [digital copy here](#).

If you do not have Mary Oliver's compendium of poetry, *Devotions*, you can find the poems online. There will also be copies available on Sunday morning at the discussion.



Vestry Highlights from the Wardens

by Janet Bowne

The Vestry met on November 17 with Reverend Jane Milliken Hague presiding as our temporary priest in charge.

The Sacred Ground team made a presentation about the upcoming program. This is a national program with several groups in Maine. It seemed to be an appropriate next step after our parish explored the book *White Fragility* after the George Floyd murder. This program is another way to move into something more transformational, allowing for study and conversation. So far 14 parishioners have signed up. The Vestry can be supportive by sharing the information with others in the parish.

Jennifer Gregg presented on behalf of the Outreach Committee. She shared the challenges of the last 20 months. Despite the pandemic, the Outreach Committee continued to support programs like Souper Supper, St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry and FFP. These are in place and established. Programming for families from Casco Bay CAN was not as successful as we'd hoped. Sacred Ground will offer a new focus on racial justice. Milestone Recovery will offer opportunities for the parish to work with the recovery community. We will continue with our recycling program and the annual coastal cleanup. The Vestry thanked Jennifer, and the entire team for their fantastic work.

Ben Parks-Stamm gave the treasurer's report. Pledging and general income continues to be strong. Expenses are over budget especially in the Buildings and Grounds category. We should end the year with a surplus.

Ben continued with the draft budget presentation for 2022. We tend to be conservative in our budgeting. Energy costs are going to be higher next year, and inflationary pressures will affect us. Sparkles leadership is stepping down, so the future of our biggest fundraiser is in doubt. Most of our expenses are fixed costs, so there's very little room to cut. Pledge income is critical to our financial success. Ben and the budget team will make adjustments and return with a final budget for a vote in December.

Building and Grounds continue to work diligently to keep our campus buildings functioning and welcoming. They



Janet Bowne, Sr. Warden



Aaron Splint, Jr. Warden

have recently uncovered an issue with the stairs to the bell tower. It's not clear if it's a bigger structural issue or a simple repair. They are working to determine the problem but will likely need a structural engineer/consultant to diagnose the problem fully.

Tom LaPlante reported that a builder from No Yarmouth has looked at the lychgate and feels that it can be repaired by fixing the rotted spots, the roof and other areas. We don't have any pricing information yet. It may be too expensive, but we should get pricing soon.

Representing the Nominating Committee, Stan Eaton reported that they had received over 25 nominees for vestry. The committee will work to complete the slate quickly.

Rector's Report

Reverend Jane has felt very welcomed at Saint Mary's. She's working on the schedule for Christmas. Noonday prayer is going to switch to a zoom format. Lay volunteers are going to lead some of them. We are returning to an in-person Thursday noon Eucharist on 12/2.

On 12/16 we will host a Blue Christmas for those who struggle with the holidays.

We will host three services on Christmas Eve, 3 pm, 5 pm and 9 pm. There will be a 10 am zoom and in-person Christmas Day service and the usual Sunday services on 12/26.

Did You Know?

Gil Scott-Heron, poet and spoken-word performer, 1949-2011

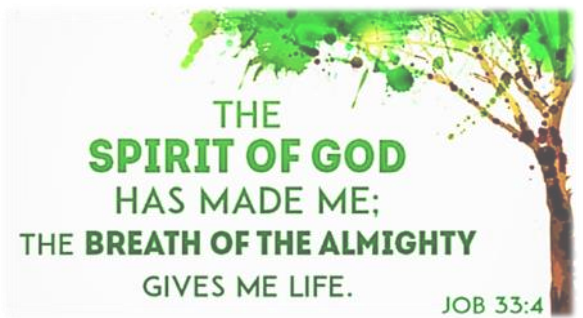
Scott-Heron's songs in the '70s helped lay the foundation for rap music. Whether you realize it or not, you've probably come across one of his poetic turns of phrase — namely, "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised." A darling of the cultural left wing, Scott-Heron never achieved mainstream popularity. But his social and political critique still figures in pop culture and protest movements around the world.

Stewardship 2022

The November Vestry meeting is a time when the two sides of Saint Mary's come together: program and budget. We started off the meeting with a report from Outreach and the new Sacred Ground program bringing the programs into focus. We heard a bit about our part in supporting Saint Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry. These are the core work of our mission. The needs are great, and this is where we are helping in big and small ways. Reverend Jane shared her plans for Advent study, weekday, and Christmas services as well as thoughts on migrating through the pandemic. Saint Mary's is blessed to have come through this year in good shape.

We also discussed the draft 2022 budget. 2022 is full of uncertainty; COVID is still an unwelcome visitor. Our parish's physical framework, which hosts our services and programs, will cost more to light, heat, and maintain. We have a list of major projects that needs to be completed. Our staff, the connective tissue of our parish, needs our support too. The reality is that our infrastructure is directly connected to our mission and ministry. It's all made possible by parishioner support.

So, thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge intention for 2021. To date we've heard from 37 families and have pledged \$83,620 toward our goal of \$270,000. Please pull out your pledge packet, complete it and send it in confidentially to Beth Shaw (admin@smary.org or 43 Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME 04105).



Sparkles



2021 SAINT MARY'S SPARKLES

43 FORESIDE ROAD, FALMOUTH 781-3366 WWW.SMARY.ORG



SPARKLES FAIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

9AM TO 12NOON

THE BOUTIQUE, JEWELRY, HOUSEHOLD TREASURES,
HOLIDAY GIFTS, COOKIE WALK, BAKE SALE, AND MORE!

Accepting Credit Cards ♥ Masking is recommended per CDC

VISIT OUR SPARKLES WEBSITE FOR ONLINE ORDERING WWW.SAINTMARYSPARKLES.ORG/

AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAINTMARYSPARKLES

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

Christian Formation

Guiding RAY: It's a fun, fellowship-oriented time on Sunday mornings for kids through the age of 13. We offer our children an opportunity to learn Bible stories and to develop their relationship with God. Our hope is to guide them to the safe harbor of God's everlasting love where they can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please come (and bring a friend!) for a time of fellowship and fun.

If you feel led to do so, we need volunteers in Guiding RAY! The commitment is low, and the reward is high. Whether or not you are a parent, please consider signing up to volunteer. We will provide you with all of the material; you just need to show up. <https://signup.com/go/kdBtgeu> You will be a part of Guiding RAY from 9:30-11 and be able to join the congregation in the sanctuary for communion afterwards.



Advent is upon us, and we look forward to celebrating the season with you in Guiding RAY! We have a few fun activities planned. First of all, we are excited to have Andrea Myles-Hunkin directing our Christmas Pageant again this year on December 19. This is a low-commitment activity, but promises to be fun and meaningful for all who are involved. We will also be creating our own *Advent Wreath* craft during the month of December. All young people are invited to gather at 9:30 downstairs in the Parish House. Masks are required for all in Guiding RAY, except for those in the Nursery. Class time will begin at 10 AM, and children will be brought over for Communion with their families around 11 AM.

Many thanks! Jeff and Courtney Morgan

December dates to remember!

12/5: Guiding RAY and Pageant Rehearsal at 11:15am
12/12: Guiding RAY and Dress Rehearsal at 11:15am

12/19: Christmas Pageant
12/26: NO Guiding RAY

2021 Christmas Pageant at Saint Mary's - All can participate

Casting Call! We are excited to retell the story of the Nativity. We welcome all chickens, horses and sheep, to join the cast. 3 Kings, pages, Mary, Joseph, the star in the east, Gabriel, Innkeeper, shepherds to participate.

The pageant is December 19th. One rehearsal will take place December 5th and dress rehearsal will occur on December 12th.

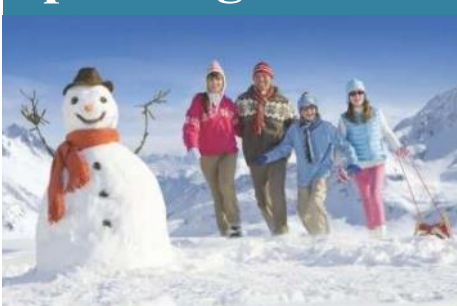
By the time you read this, most children will be learning songs and practicing. For more information contact Mylesfromhome@msn.com or by text at 207-939-8294. To keep it simple, your children can call me Miss Andrea.



Looking forward to a great pageant, Andrea Myles-Hunkin

Spending Time Together is the Best Gift

Tip of the Month

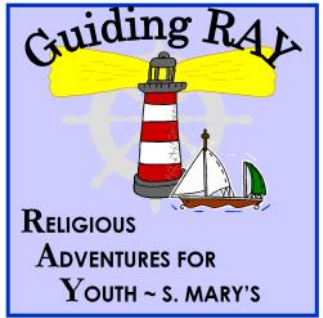


Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season

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

Casco Bay CAN
CREATE AWARENESS NOW
TOGETHER, PREVENTING YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE
f www.cascobaycan.org

A grant funded project sponsored by
Cumberland County Government
Cumberland County



Saint Mary's Advent Angel Giving Tree



We are having the Advent 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 an Advent Angel Giving Tree. Angel tags will be on the Christmas tree with a child's gift request. The tree is located outside the auditorium in the Parish House, so you can enter and safely take a tag, purchase item(s) on the tag, and bring back to the tree. To ensure the families receive them in time for Christmas, the *unwrapped* gifts should be out back under the tree no later than December 13 with the Angel tag on them. For more information, contact Betsy Stoddard, 829-2026, jbstod@myfairpoint.net



You are invited to a Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 16, 12noon
 Fr James Chapel in the Saint Mary's Chapel

A quiet, reflective service for those of us who are grieving, sad, lonely, not feeling particularly festive, feeling the fatigue of 21 months of COVID or just in need of quiet in the busy-ness of the season.

Join us for this memorable communion service



Caring for God's Creation Insight from the Outreach Committee

Save money and help the environment!

Adjusting temperature controls is an easy task. A typical **home water heater should be set no higher than 120 degrees, a refrigerator should be around 35 to 38 degrees and a freezer at 0.**

Con Edison, says the refrigerator is the top energy-consuming appliance in most homes. **Cleaning the condenser coils** of dust and grime can also help reduce its energy use.





Sacred Ground: A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Race and Faith

The Episcopal Church's program *Sacred Ground*, a program which has been offered hundreds of times across the United States in Episcopal churches and in many Episcopal churches in Maine, is now arriving at Saint Mary's doorstep.

Sacred Ground offers us the chance to take a spiritual journey, grounded in our Christian faith – to live what Jesus modeled for us, to step closer to the dream of beloved community for all of God's children. We have the chance to grow in wisdom and understanding, with our Saint Mary's community as we pray together and learn the truth of our American heritage and share our own stories. A little scary to open ourselves up, but hugely freeing to walk this road together.

This program, which begins in January, consists of ten 90-minute sessions, one session each month, excluding summer months. Participants will watch a video and hopefully read several articles provided online prior to each session. Our two groups, called "Dialogue Circles," will be small to allow for bonding and sharing at a deeply personal level as we delve into the essence of what it is to be a Christian, a child of God, a human being who longs for justice. We want to learn about our history as Americans. We want to learn about the grim side of our history from which we have been sheltered. We want to walk a deeply personal road that matters to all of God's children, especially our brothers and sisters who are Asian, Latino, Black and Native Americans, our fellow children of God, who have lived on the fringes, in poverty, in terror, left out of the American dream that is so full for us, yet seemingly insurmountable for others to attain.

Our baptismal covenant, which we just recited in church several weeks ago, raises essential questions:

What have we done and left undone, regarding racial justice and healing?

How do we seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves?

How will we actively grow relationships across dividing walls and seek Christ in the other?

Micah put into words our purpose as God's children when he said, what does the Lord require of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

The best hope we have to grow is not by avoiding history but by owning it, and our best hope for creating sacred ground for all of God's children is through the church. While none of us have any answers on how to make America's ground more sacred, more level for all of God's children, we're in for the struggle. And two things we do know: the Holy Spirit will guide us and the dialogue itself is a step toward justice.

To learn about the experience of participating in Sacred Ground, [click here to view a similar program](#) at St. Paul's in Brunswick.



[Click here or on the picture to the left for a trailer](#) of a documentary used in the curriculum.

FMI and to sign up for Sacred Ground, contact Bonny Rodden at brodden1.br@gmail.com or 781-4978.

To sign up, contact Bonny at brodden1.br@gmail.com or the office admin@smary.org by December 15. Dialogue Circles will have 8-10 people in each. Additional dialogue circles may be formed to accommodate more people at a future time.

Outreach Ministry - All Ages Serving Near and Far

Helping Hands at Home Ministry: Help for Parishioners

Parishioners Turn Out For Sunday Afternoon Leaf-Rake!

They took a while to fall, but when they did, the leaves at Susan Chapman's home were there in abundance! Never fear, the group from the "Helping Hands at Home" ministry was up to the task! Kathy Galen, Tim and Matthew Grace, Jennifer Gregg, Tom and Jessica LaPlante, Doug and Becky Pride, and Jim and Betsy Stoddard arrived in force with leaf blowers and rakes. It took three hours but, fortified by the delicious donuts and cider provided by Susan, scores of bags were methodically filled and set out for Falmouth Town pick-up, as Susan's yard was made ready for winter. What a team!!

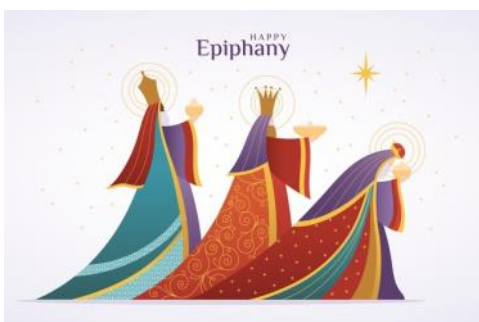


Susan writes: "As many thanks as there were leaves raked to the Saint Marians who turned my lawn from brown to green on Sunday afternoon, the 14th of November. There are as many as sixty leaf bags lined up along the fence waiting for collection. It is a great blessing to know that there are those willing and able to do what I am no longer able to do."

Falmouth Food Pantry

The Falmouth Food Pantry continues to be unable to accept food donations from individuals, but rest assured the Pantry is busy serving over 300 families in our community using a doorstep delivery distribution system. Boxes of food are being packed at the Pantry and delivered by volunteers to area families. If you know a Falmouth family with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at the Pantry at 776-0081. At this time, the best way to support the Pantry is through monetary **donations. Donations should be made payable to the Falmouth Food Pantry and mailed to: 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105. Donations may also be made online via PayPal at:**

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1807575>.. If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Record at recordvanessa@gmail.com



Save the Date and Mark your calendars! January 6 Epiphany Sacred Music & Readings

We welcome you to a contemplative evening hour of sacred music and readings in the church on

Epiphany, January 6, at 7:00 pm.

*A second lovely evening hour will be held on
Candlemass, February 2, at 7:00 pm.*

Advent Quiet Morning: Mary Sings Her Heart Out

Saturday, December 11, 9:00 – 12:30

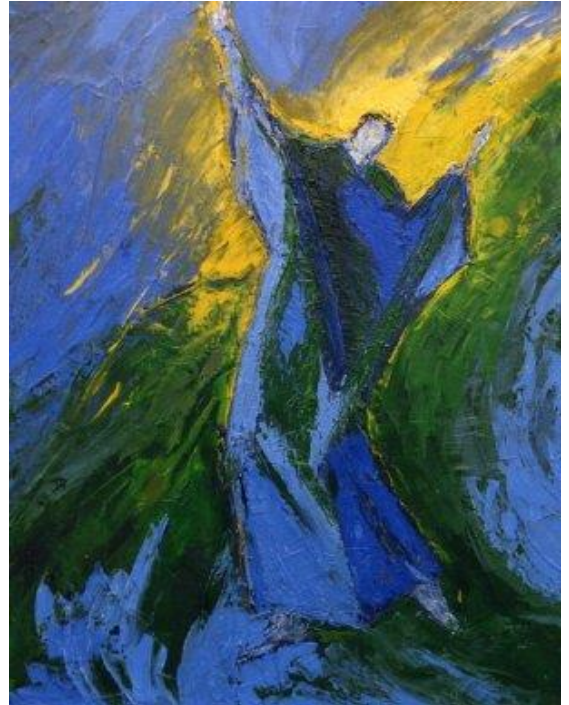
After Mary gives Gabriel her “yes,” she sings a song that has become famous. “My soul magnifies the Lord”

Here at Saint Mary’s, we sing the Magnificat once a year, on the feast day of Mary, which falls in mid-August. Wouldn’t it be nice to dig a little deeper into her music?

What is on her young mind as she bursts into song? Where did her song originate? Suppose she sang it to young Jesus as she rocked him to sleep? What if she taught him to sing the song too? Who else learned the song? What meaning does it have for us today?

Join Saint Marians, in person or on zoom, as we experience the Magnificat in all its glory and history. We’ll gather about 9 a.m. for coffee and snacks and begin the program at 9:30. We’ll spend time as a group, and we’ll spend time in guided meditation.

If you are planning to attend in person, please contact Merle Marie Troeger (merlemarietroeger@gmail.com) so we know how to set up the chapel for in-person attendees.



Souper Supper To Go: 2nd & 4th Fridays

Soup, bread and a sweet treat will be *CURBSIDE TO GO* between **5 – 6 PM**. ALL are welcome!

With the evolving virus, curbside delivery will continue through December. We will review any in-person possibilities on a month-by-month basis. Stay tuned!



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

Medium to robust coffees: Casco Bay and 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 local-ly-owned business... and get GREAT organic coffee! Win! Win! Win!

Buildings & Grounds Update

by Jim Stoddard

Thank you, thank you to everyone that came out to help clean up the campus on Saturday, November 20 and before. It has been a busy year for the B&G group; even with COVID, we have been able to get many projects accomplished that will help preserve our buildings and campus. But alas, this year is drawing to a close. After a brief respite, we will be at it again in 2022. Come and join us, as we have a good time and welcome more hands and ideas. At this time, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very healthy and happy New Year.

Outreach Ministry - All Ages Serving Near and Far

St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center!

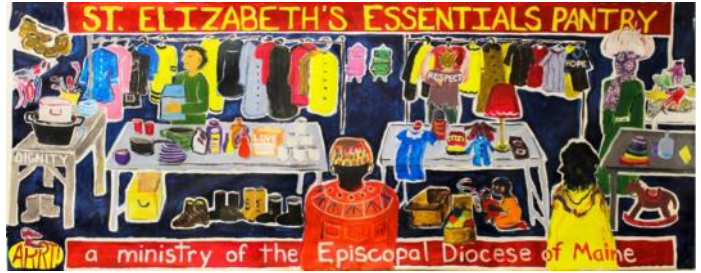
St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center (St. E's) is a low-barrier pantry serving non-food essentials to all those in need, including new Mainers and others from more than 20 countries who speak 19 languages. The Center is located at the rear of St. Luke's Cathedral, at 134 Park Street, Portland, ME.

The Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from seven Episcopal churches in the Greater Portland area, welcomed Sarah Coburn Borgeson as Executive Director in February and celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Center this fall. The COVID-19 pandemic required some operational adjustments, but the mission has continued to meet the challenge: weekly basic essentials are now distributed outdoors, with weekly specials offered indoors; masks are worn by all volunteers and neighbors; vaccination clinics were held as part of the activities.

Every Tuesday morning St. E's offers to our neighbors, at no charge, basic, daily non-food essentials that cannot be purchased with SNAP funds. We also connect people with other resources in the community for needs such as housing, furniture, language acquisition, job search assistance, and other social needs. Saint Mary's Episcopal Church's volunteers serve at St. E's on the third Tuesday of the month. Weekly supplies of toilet paper, powder laundry detergent, body soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and adult incontinence products are available. In addition, we distribute: on 1st Tuesdays - infant diapers through our collaboration with the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine's diaper bank; on 2nd Tuesdays - bed, bath, and table linens; on 3rd Tuesdays - kitchenwares (pots, pans, covers, slow-cookers, glasses, cups, bowls, pitchers, kitchen utensils); on 4th Tuesdays - oral health care products.

Periodically all seven churches participating in St. E's are encouraged to focus donations on a special need, such as winter coats and boots as winter approaches or sun screen in summer.

For more information, please contact Stan Eaton at stan.eaton@gmail.com.



Saint Mary's Current Volunteers!

(Pictured: Stan Eaton, Lee Dernehl, Rev. Jane, Janet Bowne, Fred Webber. Missing: Merle Marie Troeger)



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Critical Need Blood Drives

***at the Saint Mary's auditorium, 43 Foreside Rd, Falmouth
December 9 and 30***

There is a critical need for blood! It's safe for all healthy people to give blood. Sign-up today to be a blood donor and help give to those who need your blood to survive! Go to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code "StMary" to make your donor appointment.

PLEASE donate, if you can. The need is great.

Souper Supper at Saint Mary's - With Gratitude for 2021 and Hope for 2022



Souper Supper at Saint Mary's, one of our best-known Outreach programs, continued to flourish during this challenging year of continuing pandemic. We continued our curbside service to an average of 35 patrons on the second and fourth Fridays of every month, free of charge. Most of our patrons this year were not parishioners and were of varying ages and hailed from all over the Greater Portland community. Some were friends who have enjoyed these meals at Saint Mary's for years, but many new faces have appeared this last year as well. We handed out an average of 40 pints of soup accompanied by rolls and a sweet each Souper Supper evening between 5 and 6pm. Always exceedingly grateful and understanding, our patrons regularly asked, "When can we come together inside again?" The answer to the question is not so clear, as we make calculations based on the ever-changing cases/vaccination/break-through infections data and the implications for both guests and Souper Supper volunteers. The question itself is no surprise: For over 12 pre-Covid years, our patrons had enjoyed sit-down dinners filled with joyful camaraderie, feeding souls as well as bodies. That social interaction is sorely missed by all.

Despite this topsy-turvy year, the Souper Supper team has grown delightfully! We have welcomed two sets of additional cooks, the Vereys and the Brock/Peards, as well as additional shoppers and dessert providers, Kathy Galen and Katie Porter and soup distributor, Barbara Mooar. Sincere thanks to them and the entire Souper Supper Team for your unfailing and loving commitment.

This ministry's door is wide open! If you are interested in helping in any capacity, (shopping/cooking/dishing up and packaging/distributing/clean-up) just contact Jennifer Gregg, jenniferanngregg@gmail.com.

And please consider coming by to pick up dinner for you and/or your family and friends: The second and fourth Friday of every month; no charge, no black-out dates, in all weather conditions!

As we look forward to resuming indoor service-at table in the new year, enjoy some Souper Supper memories of years past:



Be Still.....and know that I am God.

As we move into the beginning of a new church year, the Be Still group will be changing its over-arching theme from Transformation to Advent/Be Still. It has certainly been a time of both transformation and transition for Saint Mary's and for the world, but now we enter a time of waiting and anticipating the birth of the baby Jesus.

We, the leaders of Be Still, want to extend to you an invitation and a welcome to join us on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 either in person or on Zoom. Each week we start with 5 minutes of meditation followed by discussion and reflection on the readings the leader has chosen. It is a wonderful time for a deep and far-ranging conversation, and a different way to experience the Divine.

Please contact anyone of us: John Bennett, Becky Pride, Jennifer Gregg, or Merle Marie Troeger with any questions.

I was reading about rationalism,
the kind of thing we do up north
in early winter, where the sun
leaves work for the day at 4:15

Maybe the world is intelligible
to the rational mind;
and maybe we light the lamps at dusk
for nothing...

Then I heard the wings overhead.

The cats and I chased the bat
in circles—living room, kitchen,
pantry, kitchen, living room...
At every turn it evaded us

like the identity of the third person
in the Trinity: the one
who spoke through the prophets,
the one who astounded Mary
by suddenly coming near.
~"The Bat" by Jane Kenyon

Here are examples of what we have been exploring:

LAYING HANDS ON MOTHER EARTH

In order to receive the exchange offered by Native American tradition, we must put down the idea that the earth is nothing more than a vast accumulation of natural resources. Instead, we must see the earth as a living presence. We must recognize the interrelatedness of all life and begin to actively engage in protecting and learning from all of our relations.... They call it a laying on of hands. In many faith traditions, when the prayers of healing are offered, people place their hands on the patient. I have decided to do that for someone, and am inviting you to join me. The patient is our Mother Earth. She is struggling to recover from the effects of toxic poisoning and exhaustion. I am going to intentionally lay my hands on her and say, "Thank you, Mother, for all you have given us. Be healed of all that harms you." It is only a symbol, but symbols have power. Please share my invitation, it might inspire us all to act, to work, to give for the sake of the Mother.

~Steven Charleston



MAKING THE HOUSE READY FOR THE LORD

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice — it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.~ Mary Oliver



Blown By God Toward Newness

The news is that God's wind is blowing.
It may be a breeze that
cools and comforts.
It may be a gust that
summons you to notice
It may be a storm that blows you where you have

Whatever the wind is in your life,
pay attention to it...
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Spirit,
will abide with you always.
~Walter Bruggemann

Advent Lessons and Carols: November 28

The First Sunday of Advent ushers in a season of expectation, and Saint Mary's will again celebrate this occasion with a Lessons and Carols service. The seven lessons, drawn from the old and new testament scriptures, will be augmented by hymns and music that further explore the advent message.

Processional Hymn: Come, thou Redeemer of the earth *Veni redemptor gentium*, attributed to St. Ambrose

Hymn: Creator of the stars at night, 7th century Office hymn

Anthem: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree, Somerset folk song arranged by Alan Bullard

Anthem: There is no rose 15th century carol, music by Graham J. Ellis

Hymn: Comfort ye my people Hymn 67

Hymn: 66 Come, thou long expected Jesus

Hymn: Hills of the North, Rejoice; poem by Charles Edward Oakley, music by Martin Shaw

Anthem: A maiden most gentle; words and music by Andrew Carter

Mission hymn: Hymn 57 Lo! He comes with clouds descending



The St Mary Schola will be presenting
Handel's Messiah (Parts I and II)
 at St. Luke's Cathedral
December 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm and
December 12 at 3:00 pm



Maine's premiere early music ensemble, the St Mary Schola, will present Handel's Messiah, parts I and II at the Cathedral of Saint Luke, Portland on Friday, Dec. 10 (7:30 pm), Saturday, Dec. 11 (7:30 pm) and Sunday, Dec. 12 (3:00 pm).

This beloved masterpiece will feature the soloists drawn from the rank of Schola's excellent singers as well as guest musicians from Boston playing natural trumpets and a Baroque bass. Audience members are required to show proof of vaccination and wear masks. Musicians will wear masks, except for the soloists.

Horizon
voices

Circle of Light

classical
Uprising

On Sunday, December 12, Horizon Voices will offer a program of choral music to help usher in the holiday season. Titled "Circle of Light", the concert will feature the three performing youth choirs of Horizon Voices under the direction of Maria Belva. Pieces by John Rutter, Jim Papoulis, Pinkzebra, and others, including "Hot Chocolate" from the Polar Express, make this a performance that can't be missed! Tickets: \$10 adult / \$5 child

Sunday, December 12, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St, Portland ME 04103

For more information and to purchase tickets: <https://www.classicaluprising.org/events/circle-of-light>

Pledging Made Easy:

1. Decide what pledge amount is right for you!
 2. Decide the way you want to fulfill your pledge (annually, quarterly, monthly or weekly).
 3. Determine how you'll pledge!
 - Via check with pledge envelopes
 - Automatic transfer from your bank
 - A distribution directly from your IRA
 - Selling stocks or other appreciated securities
 - Complete the pledge intention form.
 - Send it in confidentially to Saint Mary's. If you leave it in the collection plate, please use an envelope.
- If you have questions or need help with making a stock or IRA gift, please contact Beth Shaw (admin@smary.org, 781-3366 with questions. Give yourself a big pat on the back for pledging! We appreciate all gifts!



See page 19 for pledge form

Nominating Committee Update

Each year, the Nominating Committee is comprised of the retiring Vestry members and typically one or two parishioners-at-large. This year we are pleased to have Stan Eaton serving as chair of the committee: he is joined by Darren Clark, Jan Wentling, Alice Brock, and Matt Fulton. Each parishioner suggested for nomination has been (or is being) contacted to determine his/her willingness and availability to serve.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce good progress on a slate of nominees for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30:

Jr. Warden: Aaron Splint

For the Vestry (3-yr terms): 2 candidates have been identified, and we continue to contact nominees

For 2022 Diocesan Convention Delegates (1-yr terms): Nadine Timberlake has agreed to represent Saint Mary's, but three more candidates are being sought.

Brief biographical information on the Vestry nominees will follow in the January AVE

For the Nominating Committee: Darren Clark, Stan Eaton (chair), Jan Wentling, Matt Fulton and Alice Brock



WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED: JULY - DECEMBER 2021

Palmer Parker, born October 24, 2020

Daughter of Corwin & Catalina Parker

Hannah Soule Murray born June 26, 2010

William George Murray born on October 4, 2013

Children of William and Elizabeth Murray

Charlotte Gene Reaves born on December 20, 2020

Maribel Elizabeth Reaves born on September 22, 2017

Children of Madeleine and Scott Reaves

Mallory Rose Herrold, born July 3, 2014

Meredith Susan Herrold, born December 8, 2015

Naomi Jane Herrold, born April 18, 2018

Claudia Joy Herrold, born February 19, 2020

All are the daughters of Jeff & Kate Herrold



Thanks and Kudos!

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

Thanks to everyone who helped with the fall clean up. Our campus looks wonderful! B & G team: Jim Stoddard, Hugh Smith, Chuck Horton and Ed Ainsworth. Volunteers: The Rana Family, Erin Ferrell, Steve Connolly, Rayle Ainsworth, Greg Fergin, Casey, Jan and Dave Andrews.

Merci

To Reverend Jane for hitting the ground running on day 1 with humor and energy!!!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey on the subject of Christmas Eve services.
3pm, 5pm, 9pm

yay!

To all the Sparkles team who prepared the appetizers for pick up: Betsy Stoddard, Onnie Hastings

To everyone who have shared their pledge intentions for 2021. We are so grateful for your support of our mission and ministries.

To the Stream Team who help us broadcast our Sunday services and to everyone helping with Noonday prayer.
We could use more volunteers if you might be interested. See Janet or Jane

T
H
A
N
K

To all our parishioners (big and little) for taking care of themselves and others by following COVID guidelines. No one likes wearing a mask. Everyone hoped we'd be in a better stage of Covid by now. Your patience, understanding, thoughtful questions and ideas on ways to operate more safely are gratifying.

To the ushers, choir, flower guild, bell choir, lectors and everyone who work so hard to support our liturgy.

To the Buildings and Grounds Team and all the volunteers who have worked hard to manage leaves and prepare the campus for winter.

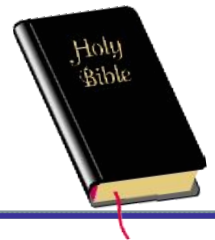
Our Upcoming Lectionary Texts

1st Sunday of Advent: Advent Lessons and Carols, see page 13

2nd Sunday of Advent: Philippians 1.3-11, Canticle 16, Luke 3.1-6

3rd Sunday of Advent: Philippians 4.4-7, Canticle 9, Luke 3.7-18

4th Sunday of Advent: 8am Hebrews 10.5-10, Canticle 15, Luke 1.39-45



GROW IN GOD EVERYDAY

ONLINE WORSHIP (worship videos are available a day later on the website)

NOONDAY PRAYER: Monday – Friday 12noon [on ZOOM](#)

SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST: Sundays at 10:15 AM [on Facebook Live](#)

BE STILL: CENTERING PRAYER: Mondays at 5 PM **IN PERSON AND** [on ZOOM](#)

ONLINE SPIRITUAL FORMATION

BE STILL: Sundays at 9:30 AM **IN PERSON AND** [on ZOOM](#)

A contemplative time of themed reflection on scriptural passages, poetry and prose. Contact Jennifer Gregg at jenniferanngregg@gmail.com

WISDOM SEEKERS: IN PERSON AND [on ZOOM](#) *A group discussion of the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. A great way to learn and be prepared for worship. Contact Nadine Timberlake at ntimberlake@aol.com*

MERTON GROUP: Thursdays at 3 PM **IN PERSON AND** [on ZOOM](#). *During the small, spiritually diverse, inquisitive, tolerant, open-minded, and supportive group of “seekers” that each week pray, read aloud from a chosen book, reflect, question, and grow. FMI, jenniferanngregg@gmail.com*



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



Happy December Birthdays to:

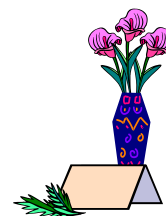
1	Len Taylor	14	Lowell Brown, Jr.	20	Nicholas Reeve
3	Cameron Meek	14	Ava Draeger	20	Chris Richards
3	McIntyre Robich	14	Andy Hyland	20	Kayla Rose
5	Agnes Parks-Stamm	15	Kate Barter	21	Harold Otte
6	Missy Smithwick	15	Sonia Barter	21	Elle Reeves
7	Kathryn Street	15	Elise Gauthreau	22	Mary Ahlers
8	Neila Blake	15	Jan Mordarski	22	Emma Ross
8	Meredith Herrold	15	Karee Rhoades	24	Nancy Russell
8	Melissa Kane	16	Micaela Amato	25	Mark Legere
9	George Bokinsky	16	Emily Kearins	26	Caroline Grace
9	Adeline Scott	16	Ron Vincent	27	Garrett Bowne, V
10	Elsa Dean-Muncie	17	Joe LaPlante	29	Michael Manetti
11	Michael Kane	18	Susan Chapman	29	Matthew Reeve
13	Sarah Caven	18	Tom Leighton	30	Obinna Mokeme
14	Archer Akers	18	Henry Shannon	31	Ruth Kimball
14	Alice Brock	19	Katie Clark	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@smay.org or call 781-3366 or drop a note to the church. Thanks!

Happy December Anniversary wishes to:



23	Tatjana & Chris Connors	29	Sarah & Tim Caven
28	Kyla & David Duchin	30	Meredeth & Mark Winter



Worship Server Schedule

Be sure to let Beth in the office know if you have switched dates with someone. 781-3366 or admin@smay.org

Date	8am Usher	8am EM	10:15 Usher	10:15 Lector	Altar Flowers
Nov 28 L & C	Al Ahlers	Lee VD, John B, Lee D, Al A, Len T	Aaron Splint	Betsy S Jim S, Linda E, Will S, Ginny S	Advent greens
Dec 5	Len T	Al A	Steve & Chris	Stan E	Advent greens
Dec 12	Greg U	Lad T	Aaron S	Ginny S	Advent greens
Dec 19	Len T	Mary Ann M	Steve Conley	Cmas Pageant	Advent greens
Dec 24, 3 & 5	3p	3p Ginny, Lee VD, Terry B, Becky	5p	5p Maggy, Will, Stan, Jim	CMas
Dec 24 9pm	9p	9p Betsy S	~	~	CMas
Dec 25 10am		10a Maggie	~	~	CMas
Dec 26		Len T	Dawn & Noah	Nadine T	CMas



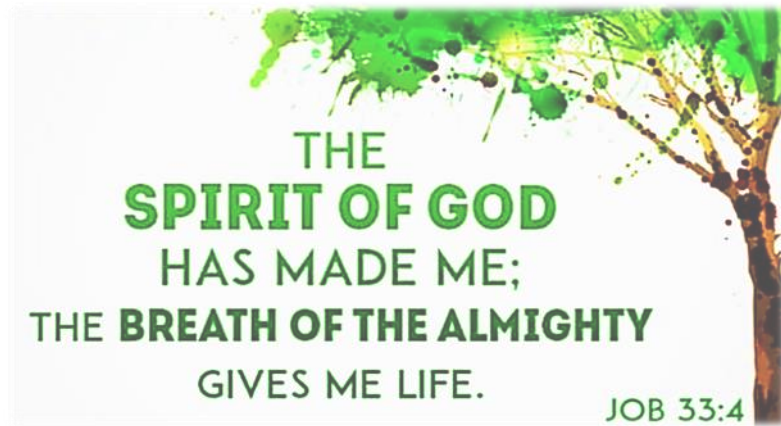
December 2021

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 1st Sunday of Advent 8 Advent L & C 9:30 Formation groups 10 Guiding RAY 10:15 Advent L & C 7 12-step meeting	29 12 Noonday Prayer 4-6 OC Horizon Voice 5 Be Still in Chapel 6:30 PCCR rehearsal	30 St Andrew 10:30 Wisdom Seekers-Ch 12 Noonday Prayer 4:30 TOPS in Chapel 6/7 12-step in Aud & Chl	12/1 12 Noonday Prayer 1 Staff meeting - in Ch 4-8 OC Horizon Voice in Church Sparkles	12/2 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Gr. in Teen Rm 4 Outreach 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY Set-up	12/3 Office closed 12 Noonday Prayer on Zoom	12/4 9-11 Sparkles Fair
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10:00 Guiding RAY And Pageant Rehearsal 10:15 Holy Eucharist 7 12-step meeting	6 St Nicholas 10:12 GCBowwood in Aud 12 Noonday Prayer 4-6 OC Horizon Voice 5 Be Still	7 12 Noonday Prayer 3 CARE Gr 4:30 TOPS meeting 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	8 10-3 Mainly Weavers 12 Noonday Prayer 1 Staff meeting 4-8 OC Horizon Voice 6 ORI in Guild Rm.	9 9-2 Blood Drive 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Group	10 Office closed 12 Noonday Prayer 5-6 Souper 7:30 Schola Messiah Concert at St. Lukes	11 9-12:30 Advent Quiet Morning in Chapel 7:30 Schola Messiah Concert
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10:00 Guiding RAY 10:15 Holy Eucharist 11:30 Pageant Dress Rehearsal 3 Messiah: Schola Concert at St Luke's	13 9-2 Garden Club 12 Noonday Prayer 5 Be Still	14 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 4:30 TOPS meeting 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	15 10-3 GC Judges Council 12 Noonday Prayer 6 Vestry meeting	16 12 Blue Christmas HE 3 Merton Group 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY	17 Office closed 12 Noonday Prayer	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10 Guiding RAY 10:15 Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist No Guiding RAY classes - Nursery available 7 12-step meeting	20 12 Noonday Prayer 5 Be Still 6:30 PCC Board meeting in GR Jan. AVE deadline	21 St Thomas 8:30-11 St. Elizabeth's 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 4:30 TOPS meeting 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	22 12 Noonday Prayer	23 12 Noonday Prayer 3 Merton Group 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY	24 Christmas Eve 3 Family Christmas Lessons and Carols 5 Family Christmas Lessons and Carols 9 Candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist 56 Soup TOGO	25 Christmas Day 10 Christmas Day Eucharist
26 1st Sunday of Christmas 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups No Guiding RAY 10:15 Holy Eucharist 7 12-step meeting	27 St Stephen 12 Noonday Prayer 5 Be Still	28 St John 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 12 Noonday Prayer 4:30 TOPS in GR 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	29 Holy Innocents 12 Noonday Prayer 1 Staff meeting 6 ORI in Guild Rm.	30 9-2 Blood Drive 12 Noonday Prayer 3 Merton Group	31 Office closed 12 Noonday Prayer	1/1 Holy Name

The Parish Office will close this week for the holidays. See you on January 3, 2022



Saint Mary's Annual Pledge Campaign 2022

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

• In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We pledge \$ _____ to Saint Mary's for 2022.

• I/We will plan to pay this pledge: *(please check one line)*

_____ weekly _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ annually

• *Ways to make pledge payments:*

_____ I/We will send or bring the pledge payment(s) to office or place in the Sunday offering plate or mail to Saint Mary's 43 Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME 04105.

_____ I/We would like to receive offering envelopes to pay this pledge by check or cash.

_____ I/We will set up direct payments to Saint Mary's church from my/our bank.

_____ I/We will make pledge payment(s) by giving electronically through Saint Mary's website (above).

_____ I/We wish to make pledge payments through my IRA and need instructions on the way to do this.

_____ I/We wish to use Venmo to make pledge payments to @Churchof-SaintMary.

• Information for making Annual Pledge payments with *stock*: Please ask your broker to contact Charles Schwab 1-800-435-4000 and Beth in the parish office so that your gift is credited correctly

• DTC: 0164 Code 40

• Account: 80091830

• *I/We have considered a gift from my/our estate(s), and:*

☐ I/We have included Saint Mary's in our estate planning.

☐ I/We would like information on planned estate gifts to Saint Mary's.

* * *

This Annual Pledge form is a prayer in action that you offer before God for the support of this parish family known as Saint Mary's, and for the needs of the wider world as well. We understand that circumstances may change after pledges are made. If you need to adjust your pledge, please contact our Parish Manager, Beth Shaw, in confidence.



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 - 10AM *Formation for All*
10:15AM - *Choral Eucharist*

NOONDAY WORSHIP

MON - WED AND FRIDAY
12 Noonday Prayer on Zoom

THURSDAYS

12NOON - Chapel Eucharist in-person & Zoom

BE STILL In-person and on Zoom
Sundays 9:30 AM
Mondays 5 PM



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF SAINT MARY



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

43 Foreside Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105
207-781-3366 / smary@smary.org
www.smary.org

The Rev. Jane Milliken Hague, *Priest-in-Charge*
revjane@smary.org

The Rev. Nathan Ferrell, *Rector (deployed)*
nathanferrell@smary.org

The Rev. Christine Bennett, *Deacon*
deacab@maine.rr.com

Bruce S. Fithian, *Organist*
bsfithian@aol.com

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

Office Hours

MON - THU, 9 - 4:30

Copy deadline for Jan AVE: Dec 20

YOUR 2021 SAINT MARY'S VESTRY

Nathan Ferrell, Rector, 310-0268, nathanferrell@smary.org

Jane Milliken Hague, *Priest-in-Charge*, 301-580-8610, revjane@smary.org

Janet Bowne, Sr. Warden, 318-7045, jmitchellbowne@gmail.com

Aaron Splint, Jr. Warden, 838-2708, asplint@yahoo.com

Ben Parks-Stamm, Treasurer, 458-3151, ben.parks.stamm@gmail.com

Darren Clark, 781-424-9905, ddclark@maine.rr.com

Stan Eaton, 317-6097, stan.eaton@gmail.com

Rick Hirschman, 310-3800, rrhirschman@msn.com

Rudy Israel, 917-923-9444, rfisrael@aol.com

Tom LaPlante, 272-5621, laplante@maine.rr.com

Pat Peard, 781-3710, peardpatricia@gmail.com

Thom Pettingill, 781-2219, thomaspettingill@gmail.com

Will Salomon, 240-1646, wsalomon@clinical-metrics.com

Jan Wentling, 400-9904, janwentling@hotmail.com