



Let it Shine

As the sun returns ever so gradually from its visit to the Southern Hemisphere, the days almost imperceptibly seem longer. But I have great hope that by June 21st, we will be basking in sunshine.

The other day I received a small Christmas present of a wooden creche. The stable is a single carved log, and the Holy Family are tiny wooden figures. For some reason as I hold the creche in my hands, the wood glows with an energy of light and peace, and I hold it as a talisman often. It reminds me that sometimes the little things in our lives bring us the greatest joy.

My time at Saint Mary's continues to bring me joy. It is the little things such as:

- ♦ the compassionate people who gathered at the Blue Christmas reception on December 16th and freely shared with each other why it was a less than happy time for them or
- ♦ At the Christmas pageant, a little girl who must have been barely two and dressed as a holy chicken amidst of the holy sheep. She was so intrigued by the baby Jesus doll, that she almost ran away with it.

May we be aware of the moments and things that bring us light.

May we know the Light of Christ today, tomorrow and throughout this new year.



The Rev. Jane Milliken Hague

Sunday Morning Adult Formation

Please join me on Sundays in the New Year at 9:30 am in the Guild Room for a lively discussion of the day's lectionary readings and a sneak peek of the sermon! - JMH

Annual Meeting and Program: January 30, 2022

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2022

With the ever-changing climate of COVID, we are still in the discussion phase regarding the timing of services and the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022. Regardless, we will gather together in person or on Zoom to elect new Vestry members and new Diocesan Convention delegates, and to discuss plans and hopes for 2022.

There will be a number of resources available to all, including 2022 parish budget. In order to vote, you must be at least 15 years of age and have been attending and supporting Saint Mary's for at least 6 months prior to the Annual Meeting. But whether you are voting or not, all are welcome to come and gather together. More to come!

From Deacon Christine:

shared by Deacon Christine Bennett

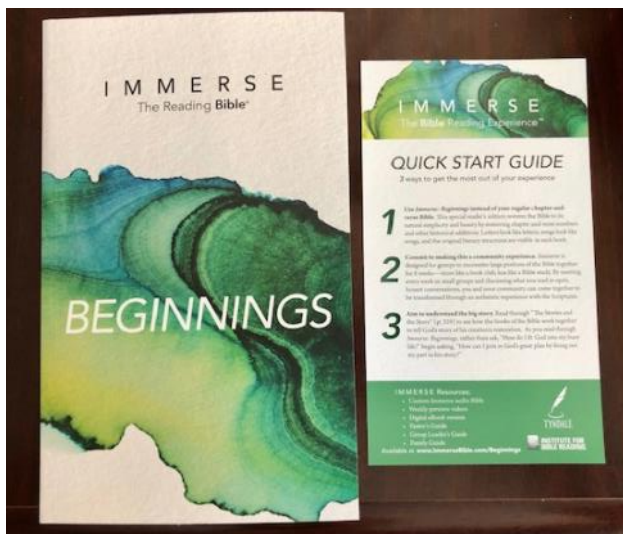
Dear Ones,

IMMERSE: 'Beginnings' Bible Study

What better way to begin a new calendar year than to immerse ourselves in Holy Scripture. This year the Immerse Bible study will cover the first five books of the Old Testament known as the Pentateuch. We will begin on **Sunday, January 16, 2022 from 5 - 6 PM on Zoom**. The link is here. The program will last for 8 weeks and all are welcome. Books are available at

no cost in the parish office. I look forward to participating in this process of reading the Bible as a novel and discussing our thoughts and questions together.

Faithfully,
Deacon Christine



five books of the Bible. Genesis through Deuteronomy, using one of the Immerse: The Reading Bible series, 'Beginnings.' Instead of chapters and verses, this study allows us to read in easy-to-follow paragraph form. Wisdom Seekers meets Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in person with masks and up-to-date vaccinations or via Zoom.

If you have questions or are interested in joining, please contact Nadine Timberlake at ntimberlake@aol.com FYI: Reverend Jane will be studying the lectionary every Sunday at the 9:30 Formation time or those 8 weeks.

Tuesday morning Wisdom Seekers to study Immerse: Beginnings at 10:30

Starting January 18 for eight weeks, Wisdom Seekers will be using a slightly different format for our Bible study. Instead of using the usual lectionary, we will be studying the first

Stewardship 2022

In early December, our 10-year-old elevator died. While accessibility is not required for churches, it was the right thing to do when we renovated the parish hall. The elevator made our lower level accessible for everyone—differently-abled parishioners and others who use our spaces! An elevator is expensive with the required annual maintenance, the necessary alarms and the dedicated phone line it costs us \$2,800. annually.

When it stopped working due a mishap that released all the hydraulic oil, the repair company, said it's something that happens even though our elevator doesn't have a lot of use. Our annual maintenance is also expensive, estimated to be \$3,400. Fortunately the cost ended up being less than \$2,500, but it was still a large hit to our budget. Thankfully, we have so much support from our parishioners and Sparkles brought in a record amount for our budget, so we could afford to make the repair.

Please help us get to our pledge goal of \$270,000 for 2022. Send your pledge form in confidentially to Beth Shaw, 43 Foreside Rd, Falmouth, admin@smary.org or online from our website. If you wish to make a stock gift or a gift from your IRA, email or call the parish office for the Charles Schwab information



Vestry Highlights from the Wardens

by Janet Bowne

The Vestry met on December 15. Reverend Jane opened the meeting with a prayer and a Big Question. She asked us all to consider what is Saint Mary's purpose. It's a question we will continue to discuss in the coming months.

Jim Stoddard presented a Building and Grounds update. The Building and Grounds team works to maintain our property. We are blessed with a wonderful campus that allows us to serve our mission and ministries. However, it's costly and time consuming to ensure the buildings are in good working order.

With the guidance of the B/G team, we completed:

- Painted chancel. \$2,900
- Upgraded bell \$2,300 (con't from 2020)
- Repaired the lights and wiring front of church and lights now on working timer
- Rented lift to change lights to CFL and to remove tree limbs \$295 plus \$60
- Purchased a safety belt
- Fixed fencing at Rectory \$900 for 25% deposit
- Repair of Elevator (not planned) \$3,400

Urgent Projects in the near future

- Bell Tower stairs : need to determine the scope of the project.
- Rectory Bathrooms - plumbing and tile work, possible update
- Masonry in Rectory chimney
- Rectory front porch - waiting for estimate
- Church front steps

The lychgate situation is not clear. We have several contractors reviewing the project but no consensus about the right path and the cost.

The Vestry thanked Jim and the entire B/G team for their dedication!

Treasurer Ben Parks-Stamm presented the financials for the previous month. We continue to keep our head above water during the pandemic thanks to generous parishioners and to Sparkles under Jana Burke's leadership. Sparkles raised a record total of \$28,755 for the year with roughly half raised before December with online sales. Our expenses were up due to Building and Ground costs.

2021 illustrates how important the pledge campaign is. Pledging gives the Vestry an understanding of what revenue we can expect over the year enabling us to meet our obligations and plan for expanding our ministries. At the time of the Vestry meeting, we had 74 pledges totaling to



Janet Bowne, Sr. Warden



Aaron Splint, Jr. Warden

about \$153,000, which is way below our goal of \$270,000. We cannot expect Sparkles to raise as much money in 2022.

Following the monthly review, Ben Parks-Stamm presented the 2022 budget which at this time has a deficit of \$35,000. Our budgeting is very conservative. When we have done this in the past, our revenue has caught up through the year, but it's not a good practice. Parishioners can help us by sending their completed pledge forms to Beth Shaw, our parish manager, as soon as possible.

We will be making reminder calls in January.

The Nominating Committee chaired by Stan Eaton presented the Vestry slate:

Aaron Splint is slated to serve as Junior Warden. New Vestry members are: Steve Conley, Chris Martin and Steve Reeves.

Rector's Report:

We had a good discussion about COVID protocols given the recent rise in breakthrough infections. The Vestry agreed that we need to require masks in both the church and parish house. We are working on capacity and distancing measures for Christmas Eve services. We will offer overflow streaming in the auditorium. Reverend Jane is working on a parish-wide email to outline the protocols.

Father Nathan finally arrived in Bahrain on December 15, a month later than anticipated. We do not know if his deployment will be extended, but it seems likely. He will update us as soon as he finds out.



Saint Mary's Advent Angel Giving Tree

So much thanks and gratitude for all those who supported Saint Mary's Advent Giving Tree. By purchasing gift (s), you have helped local families, for whom many struggle financially, especially true during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Did you know the Salvation Army provides gifts and food to over 2,000 families every Christmas? Saint Mary's contributions were very well received by the Salvation Army. Thank you for your time and effort, and perhaps in teaching our own children, how we help others in time of need.

Many, many children will experience a joyous Christmas, Your support is much appreciated. Betsy Stoddard



A Magnificat for the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

The theme of the Advent Quiet Morning on December 11th was Mary's song, the Magnificat. At the end of the morning, participants were invited to write their own Magnificat and we collected these contributions into one song. Here is the beautiful result.

O Divine Spirit,

On this wintry day,
We see the structure of the leafless trees resting in the cold air,
Their seeds scattered and waiting in the fecund and dark earth
To swell and split and grow with the coming light and warmth.

And now we catch sight of
Mary and Joseph, mother and father, woman and man,
With the Holy Spirit, bringing God's gift to us.

May our hearts be open, as Mary's was,
That your light may enter and give birth to love and gratitude within us,
As Mary gave birth to Love Incarnate in her son Jesus.

O, Absolute Being,

You are the breath that ignites the spark of our souls.
You are the sun and the moon and the stars, the nighttime sky and Orion.
You are the animals, the waters, the land.
You are the air we breathe.
You permeate all that is.
All that is holy, is imbued with you.

We magnify you, O Holy One,

By joining the buzzing atoms, mesons, electrons, and sub-atomic particles,
By chanting with the stars, the supernovas, and the black holes,
By humming with the deep-sea whales, and dancing with the leaping fish,
By caroling with the eagles and falcons,
Whistling with the pines and giant sequoias,
And singing with all creation that exclaims
"Praise, praise, praise to our source and sustainer."

Your all-encompassing love for us and all creation humbles and exalts us.
We delight in our total insignificance
And our absolute significance in your Heart of Hearts.



God of Justice,

Although we may resist at first,
In time, give us the grace to give thanks for all that turns upside down
Whatever is unjust, oppressive, arrogant, and smug.

We give thanks

For workers and repair help,
For all who aid in mending this fragmented world.

We give thanks

For our companions on this spiritual journey who give quiet support
And represent God's whispers to us.
It is a gift to be together.

We give thanks

With the angels and the archangels
And the great cloud of witnesses that forever sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"
To the accompaniment of every instrument that is
Plucked, bowed, blown, rattled, or drummed to the glory of God!





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

Tremendous Interest in Sacred Ground Program

Beginning this month, 22 parishioners will participate in Saint Mary's version of *Sacred Ground*, a 10-month 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.

It is an opportunity to grow in wisdom and understanding as we pray together and learn the depth of our American heritage and share our own stories. Each month two groups – one meeting on Zoom and the other in Father James' Chapel – will walk the road of Asian, Latinx, Black and Native Americans, many of whom have experienced deep pain and seemingly insurmountable odds of achieving the American dream merely due to their ethnic background and the color of their skin.

By embarking on this journey, Saint Mary's joins Episcopal churches throughout the United States, including Maine, that have participated in more than 2,000 such groups, known as Dialogue Circles. Saint Mary's Circles are full for this cycle, but if you are interested in joining one in the future or obtaining more information, con-

A Time to Pray

In an effort to continue the online daily/weekly services and to get even more people involved, we are switching the noonday services to Morning Prayer at 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. There will be no Morning Prayer on Thursdays because of the live Thursday Eucharist at noon. We will be making the switch in the new year- on January 3rd.

The data reflects that 35-40 people watch the recorded noonday services, but only about 1 or 2 watch the live service at noon! For this reason we are continuing with [Facebook live](#) and [here's the link](#)

When Reverend Jane is in the office, she will be saying the service from the Fr James Chapel. Because the

priests' duties may take her elsewhere in the morning, please call the office to see whether the service will be in the Fr James Chapel or whether it is streamed elsewhere or recorded earlier.



Audre Lorde, poet, 1934-1992

"Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." That's how Audre Lorde famously introduced herself. In her work, she called out racism and homophobia and chronicled her own emotional and physical battle with breast cancer. Her writing also humanized Black women in a way that was rare for her time. In her later years, she founded a small press to publish the work of Black feminists and served as the state poet laureate of New York.

**Did You
Know?**

Outreach Ministry - All Ages Serving Near and Far

Saint Mary's is adopting an Immigrant Family!

Join The Effort to Welcome Saint Mary's Adopted Angolan Family of Four

The Outreach Committee is delighted to report that, in partnership with the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition (MIRC), Saint Mary's is joining churches, non-profits and government entities across the state by "adopting" and welcoming one of 134 new immigrant families (458 individuals) who are newly arrived to Maine. These New Mainers are being temporarily housed in hotels in South Portland and Old Orchard Beach. Many thanks to those who responded to the general needs of these New Mainers by donating Hannaford Gift Cards: these have been delivered to the MIRC for distribution to these New Mainers.

Our adopted family is an Angolan family of four, Joao Vemba and Belinda Ndelela Kande, and their two children (girl-5, boy-4), who arrived here in September after a long journey from Angola, where Joao worked as a product manager for Samsung Electronics before having to flee the country. By law, he and his wife will not be eligible for work permits until their asylum status is finalized, a process that takes about one year. In the interim, Joao is applying to Portland Adult Education to refine his already strong English language ability to prepare himself for employment.



Anne LaFond is the Parish point person working with this family and coordinating with the MIRC. The family is currently housed at the Quality Inn in South Portland with many other New Mainers, and they will continue to live until there is a better option. As they search for housing, they have immediate needs, listed below. Through Anne, we will be working with Joao and Belinda to help them by providing whatever resources we can so they and their children can begin to build a better life here in Maine. Regrettably, COVID precludes any in-person contact with this family, but Anne is already in touch by telephone.

Please consider donating gift cards for the following immediate needs of this family. All donations may be left in the box by Beth Shaw's office and will be collected often.

- ⇒ Cellphones & Phone Recharge: H2O is Joao's cellphone provider and Walgreens/CVS sell those products.
- ⇒ Transportation Support: Monthly/Weekly Metro Bus Pass, Concord Bus Tickets to Boston (for Asylum Hearings). Joao will be taking courses at PAE, and he needs bus transportation to get there.
- ⇒ Food Store Gift Cards: Save A Lot, Ethnic Groceries, Hannaford's
- ⇒ Laundry Mart: Rolls of Quarters needed

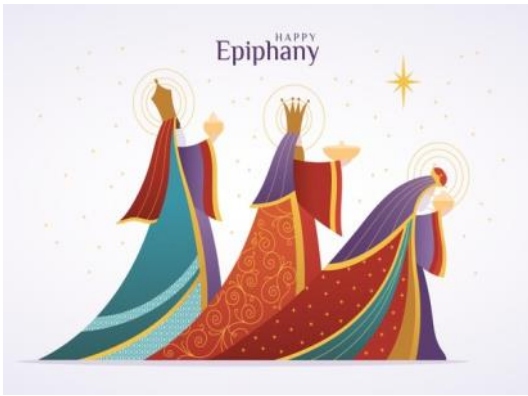
Falmouth Food Pantry

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



Epiphany Sacred Music & Readings



Epiphany, January 6, at 7 PM

Celebrate Epiphany at Saint Mary's at a special Epiphany Sacred Songs and Readings service, Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 pm. As we enter into the Epiphany season, we will share beautiful readings and music that reflect upon the themes of this time of year.

The readings will include the Epiphany passage from Matthew, and the poems "Epiphany" by Walter Brueggemann, "The Journey" by Christina Rossetti, "A Star Not Mapped on Human Charts" by Thomas H. Troeger, "The Journey of the Magi" by T. S. Eliot, and "The

Gift" by William Carlos Williams." Interspersed throughout, there will be moments of silent reflection and musical selections, such as the Provençal carol "Le marche des rois" and the lovely "Prière" by Camille Saint-Saëns with John Bennett playing the cello. We will also sing the Epiphany hymns #135 "Songs of thankfulness and praise" and #112 "In the bleak mid-winter." Bruce will close the service with a rousing organ piece, "March of the Kings" by Carl Simone.

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

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 January. 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 locally-owned business... and get GREAT organic coffee! Win! Win! Win!

Caring for God's Creation Insight from the Outreach Committee

Skeptical About Recycling Ending Up In a Landfill? Not in Falmouth!

Ashley Krulik, the Sustainability Coordinator for the Town of Falmouth acknowledges the prevalence of expressions of concern about recycling not making its way out of the landfill in some areas. She confirms, however, that through Falmouth's partnership with Ecomaine, all Falmouth recycling is brought to market and not landfilled or incinerated. She notes as well that the recycling market is actually doing incredibly well right now--a win/win! Recycle with confidence!



Outreach Ministry - All Ages Serving Near and Far

St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center!

Thank you for your support in 2021!

Thank you for your wonderful generosity helping to meet the need for winter jackets/coats and boots of all sizes! To-date, more than 400 coats and 150 pairs of boots have been distributed by St E's. We still welcome additional coats and boots, along with adult-sized winter socks, gloves, mittens and hats.

A new opportunity for sharing is the outdoor Children's Book Corner which has become a favorite of kids and parents alike. We would be pleased to receive additional new or gently-worn books for ages birth to 10 years of age. Also, the housewares department has a special need for soup pots with lids.

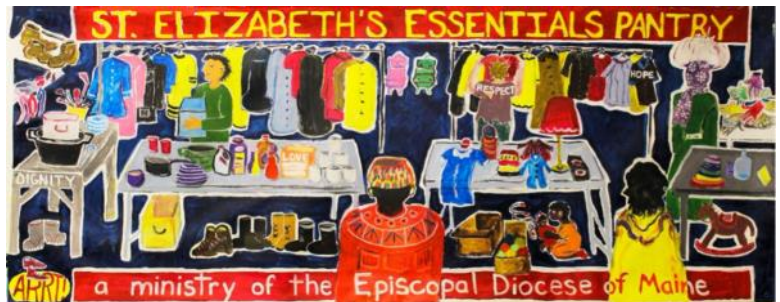
St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center (St. E's) is a low-barrier pantry serving non-food essentials to all those in need, including new Mainers and others from more than 20 countries. Saint Mary's Episcopal Church volunteers serve at St. E's on the third Tuesday of the month from 8:15 - 11am

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. St. E's continues to provide some essentials (such as diapers, house/kitchenware, bedding, feminine hygiene products, oral health products, etc.) each week to our neighbors. Despite the arrival of the wintery cold, we still average about 150 neighbors each week.

Donations are collected in the marked box in the hallway outside the S. Mary's Guild Room. No other clothing items are being collected at this time. 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 30 and January 28***

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.

Nominating Committee Update

Each year, the Nominating Committee is comprised of the retiring Vestry members and typically one or two parishioners-at-large. Each parishioner suggested for nomination has been 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): Steve Conley, Chris Martin, and Steve Reeves

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 are below.

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

Aaron Splint, Junior Warden

Aaron grew up on Cousins Island in Yarmouth and attended St. Bartholomew's Church and was an acolyte with Father Gill Burney. After graduating with a desire to enter the medical field, schooling and career changes along with stints in New Haven, CT, and Grand Rapids, MI, Aaron ended up back in Maine and works in Tech Medicine in spite of his Business Management degree.

Aaron is blessed with two young adult daughters. Aaron's mom, Johanna Frisell, also travels to Saint Mary's from Brunswick as she loves this parish almost as much as Aaron does.

Aaron says, "My path long ago was paved by temptation as well as other problems. It is here with all of you and Father Nathan that I am kept strong and willing...thank you."



Steve Conley



Steve Conley has lived in Falmouth for 21 years and was formerly a communicant of Holy Martyr's in Falmouth. In 2011, he met Michele Duvall who has attended S. Mary's for over 14 years with her daughters Kayla and Amber. Steve began attending S. Mary's with them shortly after they met, and he received confirmation into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Thomas in 2019. Steve and Michele will be married at Saint Mary's on January 9, 2022. Steve has a degree in Economics from the University of Maine and has worked in the health insurance industry for 30 years. He has worked for the last 15 years with Harvard Pilgrim healthcare as an account manager and new business sales representative for large groups. Steve is the proud father to 3 sons, Patrick,

Ryan and Griffin. In his spare time, Steve enjoys running and has completed 35 marathons and ultra marathons, including the last 12 consecutive Boston Marathons.

Chris Martin

Christopher Martin was born and raised in rural northwest Pennsylvania. His father is a retired United Methodist minister, and his mother is a retired teacher. Chris attributes his strong faith to being raised in a very loving and Christ-centered home, church, and community. He has lived in five different states and has attended various church denominations but found his fit in the Anglican/Episcopal church about 15 years ago. Outside of church, Chris is a claims manager at Liberty Mutual Insurance. He and his partner, Steven Constantino, live in Freeport and love to cook, travel, hike, and spend time on Cape Cod.



Steve Reeves

Steve Reeves grew up in Boothbay Harbor and resides in Cumberland Maine with his wife Austin and two children Elle & Cooper. He is an undergraduate of Muhlenberg College and earned an MBA from Auburn University. As an active-duty US Navy Veteran he was deployed twice to the Arabian Gulf during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Steve first encountered the Episcopal Church in bootcamp, where he attended church as respite from the rigors of his new enlistment. Steve has been in finance for 10 years and presently works for the compliance and governance firm, Foreside Financial Group in Portland.



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.

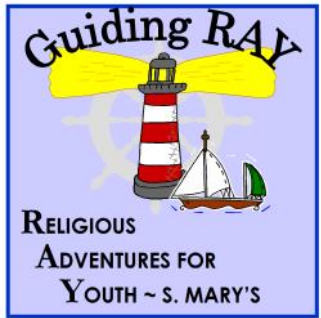
We hope everyone has/had a wonderful Christmas break! First of all, thank you to everyone who participated in, watched or cheered on the Christmas pageant on December 19. Everyone did an awesome job. It was really meaningful to be able to share the story

of Jesus' birth with the whole Saint Mary's congregation.

For the month of January, we will continue to meet as a group beginning Sunday, January 2, 2022. All are welcome! Please stay tuned for a fun, family activity after church in late January/early February!

Blessings to you all this Christmas season,

Jeff and Courtney



Share Healthy Habits with your Youth

Tip of the Month



For a Happy New Year

- Enjoy alcohol-free activities
- Select healthy food options and exercise
- Device-free mealtimes
- Get enough sleep
- Spend time with family & friends

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

A grant funded project sponsored by
Cumberland County Government
Cumberland County

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

Dear Fellow Saint Marians!

“Be Still on Sunday Mornings” is offered in “hybrid” mode in the Chapel from 9:30-10:15, with some gathering in-person and others joining by others via Zoom. Each Sunday we enjoy a contemplative 45 minutes reading aloud and responding to offerings from a variety of sources offered by a facilitator, beginning and ending each morning with 5 minutes of silent reflection. Know that you are welcome to drop in on any given Sunday! Questions? Reach out to any of the facilitators as you wish: John Bennett, Jennifer Gregg, Becky Pride, Merle Marie Troeger.

We invite you to spend a quiet moment pondering the following selection of offerings that we have considered in December on the theme of “Stillness.”



“To the biblical mind *menuha* is the same as happiness and stillness, as peace and harmony. The word with which Job described the state after life he was longing for is derived from the same root as *menuha*. It is the state wherein [one] lies still, wherein the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. It is the state in which there is no strife and no fighting, no fear and no distrust. The essence of good life is *menuha*.” Rabbi Abraham Joshua Herschel, Sabbath



“Stillness is vital to the world of the soul. If as you age you become more still, you will discover that stillness can be a great companion. The fragments of your life will have time to unify, and the places where your soul-shelter is wounded or broken will have time to knit and heal. You will be able to return to yourself. In this stillness, you will engage your soul.

Many people miss out on themselves completely as they journey through life. They know others, they know places, they know skills, they know their work, but tragically, they do not know themselves at all. Aging can be a lovely time of ripening when you actually meet yourself, indeed maybe for the first time. There are beautiful lines from T. S. Eliot that say:

‘And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.’ “

~ John O’Donohue



A Testament of Devotion

“Deep within us all, there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a Light Within which illumines the face of God and casts new shadows and new glories upon the face of humanity.” ~ Thomas Kelly (Quaker mystic 1893-1941)

SPARKLES 2021 - A GREAT SUCCESS!

The last 2 years of Sparkles have been different and remarkable in so many ways. We were forced to rethink and to adapt Sparkles to a new time, including a pandemic, with mask mandates, social distancing and contact tracing. We learned

to be more nimble, and we developed a hybrid Sparkles combining multiple in-person events with e-commerce. We could never have guessed how different and remarkable

they would be, how much we would learn, how much fun we would have, and how much support we would receive from Saint Mary's and our wonderful community.



To everyone who supported us in person through Sparkles Makers, by donating items, by baking goodies, by working at our Sparkles events, and countless other jobs, Thank You! You were resilient, and you were patient as we made changes and pivoted so many times. For those of you who supported us at home, your thoughts, prayers, and kind notes of encouragement meant more than you could know. Our memories of Sparkles 2021 will be very different from those of other years, but they warm our hearts just as much. From our seasonal *Sparkles* events Facebook Marketplace sales, to our new website, we learned many new ways to give of ourselves, to reach out to our community and to celebrate this Blessed Season of Light and Hope.

We also want to thank several local companies who helped Sparkles:

---Skillins Greenhouse

---Coffee by Design

---Colleen Donovan, Foreside Antiques

If you have the opportunity, please give these merchants a personal *Thank You*.

Our Facebook page, [facebook.com/saintmarysparkles](https://www.facebook.com/saintmarysparkles) continues, and we will continue to sell remaining items through Facebook Marketplace and our website, saintmarysparkles.org. We ask that you share those with friends and family. As you know, your purchases help fund Saint Mary's amazing community programs.

In closing, The Sparkles Team again says, ***Thank You!*** and we wish you all a ***Happy and Blessed 2022!***



Calling all books

Saint Mary's BOOK SALE

Saturday, MARCH 19, 2022

9 am - 12 noon

To donate books, help sort books, lead a section, or if you have any questions.
PLEASE EMAIL

- Betsy Stoddard at jbstod@myfairpoint.net
- Jan Mordarski at janmordarski@gmail.com
- Becky Pride at rebeccapride1@gmail.com

This event will benefit Saint Mary's local charities and mission work!



Realm is Saint Mary's church database software program. It's how we track parishioners' address, emails, contributions, committees, meetings, and so much more. One of the features of **Realm** is **you** may have access to your own information or 'Profile' from address to donations.

But first, you have to accept the invitation ! It's in your email Inbox from Notifications @ onrealmmail.org. If you haven't received the Invitation to join our online community, please contact Beth Shaw at admin@smary.org

Saint Mary's Operating Finances - as of 30 Nov 2021 (+ 6330)

INCOME

General Plate & Pledge Support	260,056
Use of Parish House & Sanctuary	12,492
Fundraisers	15,882
Miscellaneous Gifts & Revenue	6,871
Invested Funds Revenue	70,416
Dedicated Gifts	10,779
	<u>\$ 376,496</u>

EXPENSE

Diocesan Assessment	54,416
Personnel (includes, taxes, benefits, & pensions)	183,748
Maintenance, Capital	46,184
Operating (utilities, insurance, taxes, supplies)	67,877
Program	17,942
Countless volunteer donated hours of time	0
	<u>\$ 370,167</u>



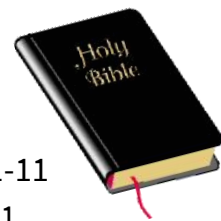
Pledging Made Easy:

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

Our Upcoming Lectionary Texts



Sunday, Jan 2, 2022, CMas 2: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 84, Luke 2.41-52

Sunday, Jan 9, 2022, Epiph 1: Acts 8.14-17, Psalm 29, Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Sunday, Jan 16, 2022, Epiph 2: 1 Corinthians 12.1-11, Psalm 36.5-10, John 2.1-11

Sunday, Jan 23, 2022, Epiph 3: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a, Psalm 19.1-6, Luke 4.14-21

Sunday, Jan 30, 2022, Epiph 4: 1 Corinthians 13.1-13, Psalm 71.1-6, Luke 4.21-30

Sunday, Feb 6, 2022, Epiph 5: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Psalm 138, Luke 5.1-11

Sunday, Feb 13, 2022, Epiph 6: 1 Corinthians 15.12-20, Psalm 1, Luke 6.17-26

Sunday, Feb 20, 2022, Epiph 7: 1 Corinthians 15.35-38, 42-50, Psalm 37.1-12, 41-42, Luke 6.27-38

Sunday, Feb 27, 2022, Last Epiph: 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2, Psalm 99, Luke 9.28-36

GROW IN GOD EVERYDAY

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

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

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

***MORNING PRAYER:** Monday – Wednes. & Friday 9AM on [Facebook Live](#)

CHAPEL HEALING EUCHARIST - Thursday at 12NOON on [Facebook Live](#)

ONLINE SPIRITUAL FORMATION

BE STILL: Sundays at 9:30 AM 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 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

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)

Thank you to Alice Brock and Joyce Verey for their help with the lovely lunch following the Blue Christmas Eucharist. Thank you to Deacon Christine and Reverend Jane for creating a lovely service.

Thank you to the INCREDIBLE Sparkles team, led by Jana Burke, for their efforts. What pandemic? Sparkles had a banner year thanks to so many amazing volunteers!

Bless you, Merle Marie Troeger, for leading another Advent Quiet Morning with such meaningful results to share with us all.

Thank you to the Nominating Team: Stan Eaton, Matt Fulton, Alice Brock, Darren Clark and Jan Wentling for their work to recruit new vestry members and convention delegates.

Thank you to Matt Fulton for his help with our streaming program.

Thank you to Bruce Fithian, the choir and the bell choir for providing such wonderful music to frame our worship services.

Thank you to Janet Bowne for her caring nature and the thoughtfulness she puts into every decision for Saint Mary's. These have been a strange couple of years and her level-headed, logical thinking and her availability to talk with anybody at anytime has been a key factor in Saint Mary's staying productive and attentive to the needs of each other and the community thus fulfilling our mission as best we can during COVID.

We are so fortunate to have Wardens, Vestry, Executive Committee, and staff who listen, take every issue to heart, and make sound decisions based on Christ's teachings. Thank you, ALL!

Dear Saint Mary's friends,

It is with pleasure that we work among you all and get to call you friends and colleagues. You are an extraordinary parish with so many diverse people and personalities ~ yet you make it work even in a pandemic. We, the staff, are so grateful to be assisting you in God's work.

The Christmas purse you collected and shared with us is you, again, going beyond what's expected in making us feel appreciated and valued. We are so grateful and humbled. Thank you just can't express strongly enough how thankful we are and supported we feel.

We wish for all a season of joy, love, and comfort followed by a new year of strength, recovery and more joy. Beth, for the staff

Thank you to the Sacred Ground Team for their work to launch the program!

yay!

Thanks to the generous anonymous donor of funds for 3 new New Malver families who will now eat well this week.

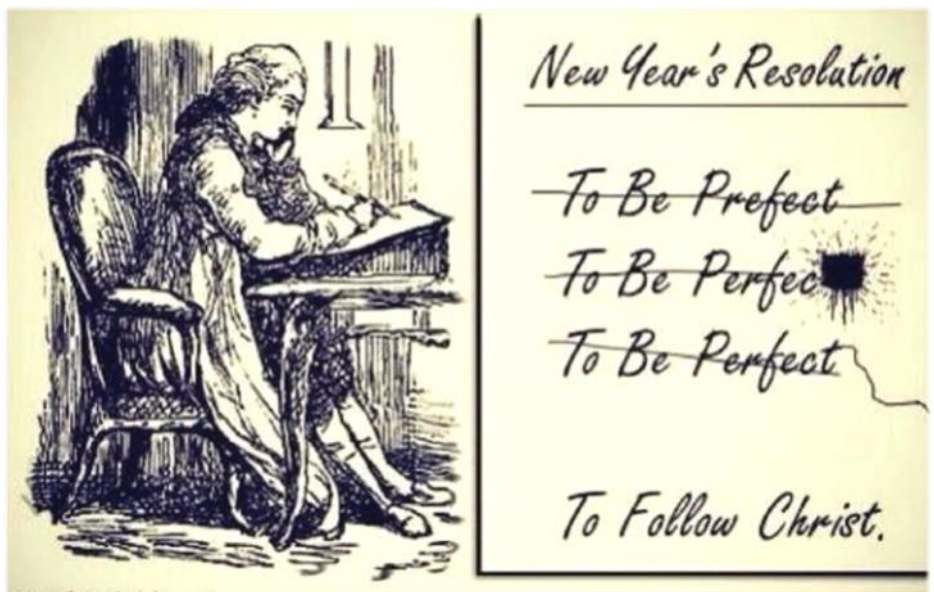
Thank you to all of our parishioners for understanding how challenging it is to manage an active parish during an ever-changing pandemic.

Thank you to Andrea Myles-Hunkin, Jeff and Courtney Morgan, the children and parents who supported the 2021 Christmas pageant. What a wonderful way to begin the last week of Advent!

**T
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S!**

Thank you to Len Taylor for clearing the entrance for the 8 o'clock service after an overnight snow fall. And Dana Madison too!

Thank you to the Souper Supper team for the curbside effort on Christmas Eve.





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

Happy January Birthdays to:



1	Margaret Fast	7	Helena McMonagle		
3	Hilary Isacke	9	Jamie Kane	20	Jill Malony
4	Ollie Brown	9	Priscilla McGarry	22	Kathy Edwards
4	Dave Stimpson	10	Matthew Carr	22	Andrea Gauvreau
5	Bobby Brouillette	11	Sarah Amato	25	Harry Duvall
6	Kayla Hourihan	11	Penny Daborn	26	Will Smithwick
6	Katie Doehne	12	Drew Cheney	27	Joan Dow
6	Kristin Doehne	16	Jere Fox	29	Carrie McIntosh
6	Katharine Echavarri	17	Neil Kiely	29	Michael Wing
6	Liam Keefer	18	Bernie Echavarri	30	Ellie Asherman
6	Noelle Unfricht	18	Brownlow Parks-Stamm	31	Patrick Diamond
7	Johanna Kearins	20	Claire Shannon		

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 January Anniversary wishes to:



18 Jere & Eleanor Fox

Worship Server Schedule

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

Date	8am Usher	8am EM	10:15 Usher	10:15 Lector	Altar Flowers
Dec 26	Steve Conley	Len T	Dawn & Noah	Nadine T	Cmas
Jan 2, 2022	tbd	Lad T	tbd	Dawn Y	Cmas
Jan 9	tbd	Mary Ann M	tbd	Andrea M-H	
Jan 16	tbd	Al A	tbd	Betsy P-S	
Jan 23	tbd	Greg U	tbd	Stan	
Jan 30 AM	Time tbd				

CELEBRATE

HONOR

SERVE



January 2022

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 1st Sunday of Christmas 8 & 10:15 Holy Eucharist	27 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 5 Be Still	28 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 4 FLUKES rehearsal in Aud 4:30 TOPS in GR 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	29 5 Morning Prayer on Fb 10-3 Mainly Weavers 1 Staff meeting 3-7 HV auditions in Aud 6 ORI in Guild Rm.	30 9-2 Blood Drive <i>The Parish Office will close this week for the holidays. See you on January 3, 2022</i>	31 Office closed	1/1
2 2nd Sunday of Christmas 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10 Guiding RAY 10:15 Holy Eucharist 7 12-step meeting	3 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 5 Be Still	4 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 4 FLUKES rehearsal in Aud 4:30 TOPS in GR 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	5 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 10-3 Mainly Weavers 1 Staff meeting 3-7 HV auditions in Aud 6 ORI in Guild Rm.	6 The Epiphany 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Group 4:30 Outreach 7 Epiphany Sacred Songs & Readings	7 Office closed 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 5 rehearsal	8 10 Priscilla Con- nard's Memorial Service & Re- ception 3 Michele & Steve's Wed- ding
9 1st Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of our Lord 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10 Guiding RAY 10:15 Holy Eucharist & Baptism 7 12-step meeting	10 9-2 Garden Club 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 4-6 OC Horizon Voice 5 Be Still	11 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 3 CARE Gr 4 FLUKES rehearsal in Aud 4:30 TOPS meeting 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	12 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 4-8 OC Horizon Voice 6 ORI in Guild Rm.	13 9-2 Blood Drive 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Group 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY	14 Office closed 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 5-6 Souper Supper TO GO	15
16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10 Guiding RAY 10:15 Holy Eucharist 7 12-step meeting	17 Office Closed for Martin Luther King observance 4-6 OC Horizon Voice 5 Be Still 6:30 PCC Board meeting in GR	18 Confession of St Peter 8:30-11 St. Elizabeth's 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 4 FLUKES rehearsal in Aud 4:30 TOPS meeting 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	19 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 1 Staff meeting 10-3 GC Judges Council 4-8 OC Horizon Voice 6 Vestry meeting	20 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Group 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY Feb. AVE deadline	21 Office closed 9 Morning Prayer on Fb	22
23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Formation groups 10 Guiding RAY 10:15 Holy Eucharist 7 12-step meeting	24 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 4-6 OC Horizon Voice 5 Be Still	25 Conversion of St. Paul 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 4 FLUKES rehearsal in Aud 4:30 TOPS meeting 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	26 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 4-8 OC Horizon Voice	27 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Group 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY	28 Office closed 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 5-6 Souper Supper TO GO	29 9-12 Women in Harmony
30 4th Sunday after Epiphany ANNUAL MEETING Timing to be determined	31 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 4-6 OC Horizon Voice 5 Be Still	2/1 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 10:30 Wisdom Seekers 4:30 TOPS in GR 6/7 12-step in Aud & GR	2/2 Presentation of our Lord 9 Morning Prayer on Fb 1 Staff meeting 4-8 OC Horizon Voice 6 ORI in Guild Rm.	2/3 12 Chapel Eucharist 3 Merton Group 6 SM Bells rehearsal 7 SM Choir in G RAY	2/4 Office closed 9 Morning Prayer on Fb	2/5

Our New Year's wish

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console; to be understood
 as to understand; to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning
 that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that
 we are born to eternal life.

Amen



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
390/1
Copyright DEMETZ ART STUDIO

Did you know?

The Feast of the Epiphany, or Manifestation (revelation) of Christ is observed on January 6th. Epiphany proclaims the good news that Jesus revealed God to all humanity.

At Christmas the church celebrates the birth of Jesus, when God entered fully into the human experience. The Feast of the Epiphany takes the Christmas proclamation a step further, when the divine revelation in Jesus was revealed to the world as the magi came from the east.

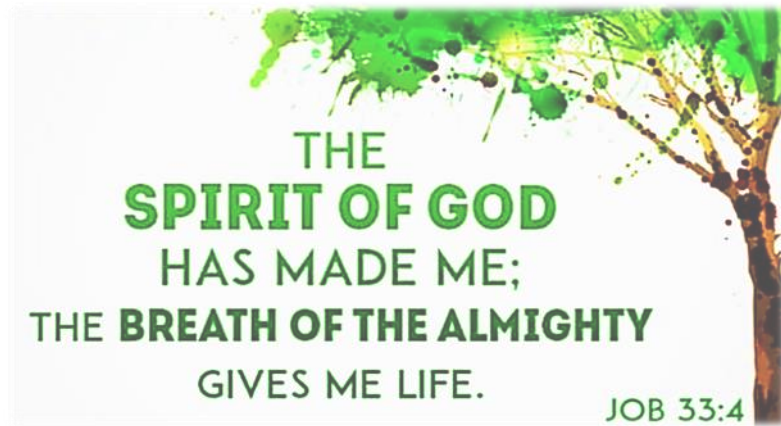
The eve of the Feast of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night) marks the end of the Christmas celebration. The Epiphany, January 6th, is followed by a period of "Sundays after the Epiphany"; the length of the Epiphany season varies in length from four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of

Easter that year. The Last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.

During the season of Epiphany, we remember and recognize Jesus as God as witnessed by many people in our Sunday readings: the magi, John the Baptist, Jesus' disciples, and Christians in every age, including our own. It is a time for rededicating ourselves to our own ministries and our missionary task – to continue the spread of Jesus' light in the world.

Look out into the night sky and look up at the stars and wonder at the gift of Jesus and what the magi discovered when they offered their gifts to Jesus.





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*

MORNING WORSHIP

MON - WED & FRIDAY

9 Morning Prayer on Facebook Live

NOONDAY WORSHIP ON THURSDAYS

12NOON - Chapel Eucharist in-person & Fb Live

BE STILL 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 Feb AVE: Jan 20

YOUR 2021 SAINT MARY'S VESTRY

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