# January 1, 2021 **Happy New Year!**

**6**And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

 **TO MAKE A DONATION please send a CHECK, MADE OUT TO THE DIOCESE OF QUINCY, to the diocesan office at 4911 N. KnoxvillE Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 6161WITH ST. MARY’S MISSION ON THE MEMO LINE.**

Fr. Tom’s Schedule

**Sunday**

10:30 AM – **Mass**

**Wednesday**

**Office hours** 10 to 1 PM

**11:30** each Wednesday Midday Prayer on Facebook Live

**1st Wednesday – 10 AM.** Church council mtg.

**Thursday** My visits to SouthPark have once again been curtailed.

 **Contact information**

Cell/text.– **309-798-0739**

Personal Email -**fathertom28 @gmail.com**

Like us on Facebook

**stmarysanglicanchatham**

Visit our webpage at **saintmaryanglican.org**

We’re on Instagram at

**st.marys.anglican**

**Please**  like us on YouTube

**Join us at 122 W. Walnut in Chatham, IL**

St. Mary’s Anglican Church, faithfully Anglican since 2012

**Welcome to St. Mary’s**

**Sharing the Good News**

**Important January Dates:** Please add the following to your calendars:

**Sunday, January 3: 10:30 am** 2nd Sunday of Christmas mass

 **Food Pantry Sunday**

**Wednesday, January 6: 10 am** Church Council meeting

**Sunday, January 10: 10:30 am** 1st Sunday after Epiphany mass

**Sunday, January 17: 10:30 am** 2nd Sunday after Epiphanyat church and on-line

**Sunday, January 24: 10:30 am** 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Eucharist at church and on-line

**Sunday, January 31: 10:30 am** Septuagesima\* Eucharist at church and on-line

\*Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima Sundays actually fall on the 61st, 54th, and 47th days before Easter, respectively. This season was a part of the Roman Church calendar until 1969. It was the second shortest liturgical season on the calendar, after the twelve-day Christmas season.

Here are some important news items:

1. **Beginning this Sunday (Jan. 3),** please begin making out your donation checks to “St. Mary’s Anglican Mission.” We’ll no longer be sending the checks to the Diocese, which means they will clear the bank much sooner. As always, thank you for your generosity.
2. **A reminder regarding our live-streaming of services:** This is a way for us to practice evangelism and to spread our love for Christ throughout the world. (really). In order to make this happen more easily, please become quiet when Fr. Tom goes behind the altar to begin the service. Likewise, please remain silent for 10 seconds after the dismissal giving time for the camera to be turned off. Thank you.
3. **Food Pantry Sunday –** The first Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday, and as such, it is time for our donations to the Chatham Food Pantry. If you forget your food donations, you can make a donation in the Outreach jar on the welcome table next to the door and the money will go to the Food Pantry. Did you know that, in addition to providing food for the needy that the Chatham Food Pantry also provides guidance to the families that they serve on how to best use the food items that they distribute? Did you see that someone made a $500,000 anonymous donation to the Springfield food pantry? Our donations may pale by comparison, but we can only give what we are able to give.
4. **A bit of good news came to us from the Diocese just this week.** Our appeal on our 2021 assessment has been approved, which means that what we owe the diocese will increase by only 10% instead of the previously requested 30%+.

**Since the Bishop has asked** that one person do all the readings each week, our **lector** schedule for the month of December will be:

**January 3 – Kathy**

**January 10 - Elisabeth**

**January 17 - Diane**

**January 24 – Sylvia**

**January 31 - Diane**

**If you cannot be present on your Sunday, please notify a substitute.**

**Board Meeting: St. Mary’s advisory board will meet Wed., January 6, at 10 am in the Parish Center. Please note that, due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting is open only to the three members of the advisory board.**

**Thoughts from the Vicar: During the Christmas season, we sometimes find inspiration in unexpected places. One of those places for me is, believe it or not, the Chatham McDonalds. They often forego using their electronic signs for advertisement by posting Bible verses. Their most recent post was Philippians 1:6, the Bible verse at the top of this page.**

**You may have noticed that the decorations remain up at church. As we heard in my sermon on the first Sunday of Christmas, Christmas Day is the first day of the Christmas season. When we gather this Sunday, the second Sunday of Christmas, we will also be observing the 10th day of Christmas.**

**I am sure that you all know the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, but did you know the symbolism of the song?**

Here are the verses of the song, along with their supposed symbolism [source: [BBC.com](http://www.bbc.co.uk/?ok)]:

* **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** - Jesus Christ
* **Two Turtle Doves** - The Old and New Testaments
* **Three French Hens** - The three virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
* **Four Calling/Collie Birds** - Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
* **Five Golden Rings** - First five books of the Old Testament
* **Six Geese-a-Laying** - Six days of creation before God's rest on the seventh day
* **Seven Swans-a-Swimming** - Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
* **Eight Maids-a-Milking** - Eight Beatitudes
* **Nine Ladies Dancing** - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
* **Ten Lords-a-Leaping** - Ten Commandments
* **Eleven Pipers Piping** - Eleven faithful disciples
* **Twelve Drummers Drumming -**Twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

**We have no birthdays or anniversaries in our church family this month.**

**Could you please check over the prayer list below and tell Fr. Tom if there is anyone who needs to be added (or removed)?**

**Parish Prayer List**

 **For Foley our Archbishop, for Alberto, our Bishop, for Tom, our Priest, and for Deacon Tom**

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| **For those fighting cancer**: Jody, David, Alan, Sherry, Penny, Doug, Debbie and Archbishop Ben Kwami**For those in need of uplifting prayer**: Fr. Larson, Betty, Bruce, Bonnie, Jerry, Donna, Jonas, Allan, Kathy, Karl, Michael, Jim, Lois, Russ, Melinda, Sara, Joan, Danielle, Debbie, Kevin, Naomi, Rachel, Carolyn and Gary **For those in long term care**: Grace, Carol, Marilyn, the residents at Holly Brook and South Park**For the Church’s ministry in Nepal**: Mahendra, Dipendra, Reshma, Tirtha, Purna, their families and Churches; the Transformation Spiritual Church and the pastors **For the growth of St. Mary’s Anglican Mission** **And speaking of prayers, you might want to continue to include this one in your daily prayers.****IN THE TIME OF ANY COMMON PLAGUE OR SICKNESS**O Almighty God, who in your wrath sent a plague upon your own people in the wilderness for their obstinate rebellion against Moses and Aaron, and also in the time of King David, sent a plague of pestilence which killed seventy thousand, but remembering your mercy spared the rest: have pity upon us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality; and in the same way that you then accepted an atonement and commanded the destroying Angel to cease from punishing: so it may now please you to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen. BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, 1662 (ENGLAND)****If by chance you are reading our newsletter for the first time and wish to receive it on a regular basis, please send me an email at the my personal email address on the first page so I can send it to you directly to you next month.**

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