

# WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, FAITHFULLY ANGLICAN SINCE 2012

MAY 1, 2020 ED. 2, VOLUME 5

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Ps 23:1  
KJV

## Sharing the Good

### News

**Comforting words.** The excerpt from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm printed above is certainly comforting, especially as we prepare to observe Good Shepherd Sunday on May 3. We'll be talking about all the things about Jesus that make him a Good Shepherd, especially during the Pandemic that we are going through now.

**Coming home.** One of the things that must be on all of our minds is our return to services at St. Mary's. I have given this much thought, and here is how I feel: It is not our President who will decide when you come back, nor is it our governor. It won't be our Bishop, and it won't be me. You are the ones to decide. Staying at home and worshipping via Facebook Live or YouTube is NOT living in fear; it is being cautious. When we do return, it will be necessary to: wear a mask and gloves (these will be required in public after May 1), sit at least 6 feet apart and take full advantage of the hand sanitizer that is available. I assure you that I will turn away no one who is healthy and willing to do those three things. Until that time, Operation "Holy Hub" will continue to be available.

**Facebook.** I am pleased to say that our metrics on Facebook are soaring. 306 people have like our page and are able to view our services. 318 are following our page. 141 people viewed our services on Easter Sunday. In addition, you might be interested to know that I, in the last four weeks, we have had 13 new likes, and we have improved 1,753% in the "Reach" category and 863% in Post Engagements. As I said last month, this is an extraordinary opportunity to show the world what our church is all about. \*it is the family of God. Our online services give us the opportunity to practice virtual evangelism.

## FR. TOM'S SCHEDULE

### Sunday

10:30 AM – Mass

followed by coffee hour

### Wednesday

Office hours 9 to noon

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – 10 AM.

Church council mtg.

Thursday At his point, my schedule at South Park is in flux.

### **Contact information**

Cell/text. – 309-798-0739

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**

**Pentecost video.** As part of our Pentecost service, we are asking each of you, wherever you are, to make a short video (20-30 seconds) about the working of the Holy Spirit in your lives here at St. Mary's. These will be included in our Pentecost service, so it would be great if you could wear red. Please tell your friends about our Facebook Live services as we pray that those who view locally may want to join us in our church when this is over.

**Schedule change still in effect:** For obvious reasons, I am not at this time going to Holly Brook and South Park. Beginning today, my office hours at church change to 9 to noon on Wednesdays. I will not be going there on Thursdays, but I remain on call. Holy Hub is always available.

**Outreach** – This Sunday, May 3, is Food Pantry Sunday. We will be blessing our donations at Sunday's service before the food is delivered to the local food pantry at a later date. If you wish to make a donation, you can drop it by (literally) church between 9 and noon today (April 1) Please contribute to our donations so we will have a good amount to donate this month.

**ACNA Prayer book** – We have begun our trial use of the AST liturgy in traditional language. Most of you have this service in your worship folders. But if you cannot locate it, you can find it on the ACNA website. We will be using this at least through Pentecost. I beg you to let me know how you feel about the three liturgies we have been using in order to facilitate a final decision.

**Bible Study** – Our Bible Study on Revelation will resume when we are able to safely return after sheltering in place.

**Update: Board:** St. Mary's advisory board was scheduled to meet Wednesday, **May 5**, at 10 am in the Parish Center. However, it will be necessary again to postpone this meeting for the time being. We are grateful for those of you who remain faithful in your giving, as our expenses continue even when we cannot be together.

**Thoughts from the Vicar, 8th edition:** Did you know that you can now view "Thoughts from the Vicar on Facebook and You Tube on Wednesday at 6 PM. I also want to apologize for the quality of the Facebook Live video. Technology is not my strong point.

This Sunday, May 3, is also the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, which is designated as "Good Shepherd Sunday". While we continue to shelter in place, it is helpful to remember the first verse of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd." God is in control. "I shall not want." He will provide for all our needs. Amen.

**Important dates on our church calendar:** We have two birthdays coming up in the near future:

May 10 – Sylvia Swegle and June 5 – Debbie Brown

**Holy Hub** will be in operation after church on May 10. Please let Fr. Tom know if there is anything you need, such as consecrated hosts.

## Parish Prayer List

**For those fighting cancer:** Margie, Jody, David

**For those in need of uplifting prayer:** Dr. Bill, Bruce, Bonnie, Jerry, Donna, Diane, Jonas, Zac, Reise, Allan, Kathy, Bishop Jack, Karl, Tabita, Jim, Melinda, Sherry, Penny, Sara, Joan, Laurie, Maryann, Kevin and all our church members in quarantine: Debbie, Diane, Graham, Elisabeth, Deacon Tom and Kathy

**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 pastors, and the Transformation Spiritual Church

**For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission and St. Peter's, Canton**

**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 above email address so I can send it directly to you next month.**

**A message from our Bishop on pp. 3-4.**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

PAX!

As I wrote in my Easter message just a few weeks ago, I want us to be mindful of what we are missing. Mindful that we are scattered. But I want us also to look forward with hope. To anticipate the joy. One day soon we will be able to gather together again.

Yet at this time of confusion, and illness, and separation, we need to remain ever mindful of the circumstances facing our friends and neighbors, and even our churches and clergy. We are in a time of tribulation. At times such as these, we as Christians often turn to the church when we find our lives turned upside down.

I need to share with you, in a general sense, some of what I have been hearing and reading in the many emails and phone calls I have been receiving. Some of our parishes and missions are experiencing a period of great trial. With services moved to extraordinary means, and with parishioners experiencing their own hardships, giving has in many cases dropped drastically. Some of our congregations are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage, utilities, insurance... basically the cost of operation. In addition, as you know, many of our clergy are bi-vocational, counting on outside employment to meet the needs of their families, including housing expenses and health insurance. Several of our clergy have been furloughed or laid-off due to the social distancing requirements we are all living with, and in some cases, their spouses have lost their employment as well.

The diocese is helping, and hopes to continue so, to the extent we are able. Our finance committee is hard at work developing plans to move funds around to fund this. However, if you recall from Synod, our budget was largely dependent on generosity, through both the parishes, and the individuals therein.

In order to specifically aid our congregations and clergy in crisis, I am establishing a Bishop's Emergency Fund. We need your help, your compassion, and your generosity to help assure all our churches can make it through these trying times, and that basic needs of our clergy and their families are being met.

You will soon be receiving communication from your local clergy on how you can help us meet this challenge. I invite you to consider the blessings you enjoy in this life and ask you to kindly consider making a commitment, large or small, to this effort.



I am reminded of the lesson of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41–44, Luke 21:1-6)

The story of the widow's mite describes a widow who gives two small copper coins to the temple treasury. Jesus witnessed this offering and described how great her gift was because it represented "all that she had" while the religious leaders gave of their excess. This widow's act of generosity was a work of God in her heart to give to the temple treasury. This is why Jesus valued it as so precious because it was a work of God.

Generosity is a moral quality that God desires in his people, not just an action that he requires to be repeated arbitrarily and without a heartfelt sense of mission.

The story of the widow's mite is an opportunity for our own hearts to be changed. We are all widowed and destitute in our own way. And if we are not, then one day, we will be, even if it is on our death beds. God calls us to give him what we can and to give to the church.

God always wants to bring together those who need and those who give. May we manifest the merciful heart of God to those in need as we ask him to make us as generous toward the church as the widow with her two copper coins.

Yours in Christ-our Great High Priest,

The Rt. Rev. J. Alberto Morales, OSB, DD  
Quincy IX

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