

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

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

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled. I Peter 3:14

OCTOBER 1, 2020

Sharing the Good News

Thoughts from the Vicar:
You may not know that I have been struggling with an anxiety disorder for many years. It's nothing that I deal with constantly; it comes and goes. But in the last few weeks and months, it has been fairly consistent, and I am sure that it won't be going away any time soon as a result of the upcoming election. Just this morning on Facebook, I came across a post from one of my former students who is now a Lutheran pastor in Waverly, Iowa. He wrote: "I have been struggling to put into language this idea until I heard this phrase yesterday - weaponizing anger. In our culture, the pandemic, economy, political division

and racism has put many of our brains into a semi-permanent mode of fight or flight. Both the right and the left has (sic) weaponized anger against one another in a moment where our brains are susceptible to such manipulation. We are heading down a road of Americans hating Americans. Given our national emotional state, the days after our election will grow even more angry and anxious. As a pastor, I believe we need to pull back from the edge and remember the center of our faith - love. Yes, the differences are real. But hate should not be our response to these differences."

As has happened with us so often, as I was struggling to find a way to bring this to a close, our Canon to the Ordinary, Fr. Jim Fosdick of Eagle River, Wisconsin

FR. TOM'S SCHEDULE

Sunday

10:30 AM – Mass

Wednesday

Office hours 10 to 1 PM

1st Wednesday – 10 AM.

Church council mtg.

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

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Join us at 122 W. Walnut in Chatham, IL

provided a "God Wink" in the form of the following prayer, which we will be adding to the Prayers of the People this Sunday (**October 4**) through the end of our current national election. Feel free to add it to your daily prayers:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and

work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

October 4 – Sylvia

October 11 - Kathy

October 18 - David

October 25 – Elisabeth

November 1 - Diane

If you cannot be present on your Sunday, could you please notify a substitute?

Board Meeting: St. Mary's advisory board will meet Wed., **October 7**, 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.

Outreach – This Sunday, **October 4**, is Food Pantry Sunday. We will be blessing our donations at Sunday's service before the food is delivered to the local food pantry. If you wish to make a donation, please contribute humbly and lovingly so we will have a good amount to donate this month. Each month, I think of the disciples asking Jesus when they had seen him hungry and fed him, and Jesus responded that whenever they had fed the least of their brothers, they had fed him.

Operation Christmas Child – Our annual Christmas project also begins this Sunday, **October 4**. Please take as many boxes as you want to fill. There is no charge for the boxes, however it will cost about \$20-\$25 to fill them, as well as a check for \$9 for each box which will cover the cost of shipping. Participating in this program helps us to fulfill the Great Commission since the boxes are sent to unchurched children throughout the world. Sunday, **November 8**, is the day that we will return and bless our boxes.

October 4 is also the **Feast of St. Francis**. Although we have observed this feast in the past with pet blessings, I have decided after much thought that this is a tradition that we need to set aside, hopefully for this year only. If anyone wants me to come and bless your pets, please give me a call or a text at **309-798-0739** and I will be happy to come by your home and do that.

Synod, October 17 - <https://www.dioceseofquincy.org/synod-2020.html> This year's Synod will be a virtual one and will be available for viewing on Facebook Live. I am not sure of the times yet, but I will keep you informed in the event that you want to watch.

Looking ahead to November (since the 1st is on a Sunday, and therefore **Food Pantry Sunday**. We will also observe **All Saints' Day**. **All Saints' Day**, also known as **All Hallows' Day** **Hallowmas**, the **Feast of All Saints**, is a **Christian festival** celebrated in honor of all the **saints**, known and unknown.

The following day, Monday, **November 2**, is **All Souls' Day**, a day set aside to honor those deceased members of the congregation and our families. It is the third of three consecutive days of "celebration": **All Hallow's Eve (Halloween)**, **All Saints' Day** and **All Souls' Day**. The latter has decreased in popularity over the years. However, if the congregation wishes to do so, we can hold a commemoration on **November 2**. Please let Fr. Tom know your thoughts on this matter.

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

Holy Hub continues to be in operation on demand. Please let Fr. Tom know if there is anything you need, such as consecrated hosts.

Could you please check over the prayer list below and let Fr. Tom know 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

For those fighting cancer: Jody, David, Alan, Sherry, Penny, Doug, Debbie and Archbishop Ben Kwami

For those in need of uplifting prayer: Bruce, Bonnie, Jerry, Donna, Jonas, Zac, Reise, Allan, Kathy, Karl, Michael, Jim, Lois, Russ, Melinda, Sara, Joan, Danielle, Debbie, Kevin, Naomi, Breeanna, 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, Kar Lama Tamang, 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 my personal email address on the first page so I can send it to you directly to you next month.

