

# WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

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

DECEMBER 1, 2021

**Sharing the Good News**

**Midnight Mass – We will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord at 10:30 pm on Friday, December 24.**

**Food Pantry Sunday –** This Sunday, **December 5**, being the first Sunday of the month, we will observe Food Pantry Sunday. We've had great success with this ministry, and wouldn't December be a great opportunity to make Christmas happy for a local family?

**Operation Christmas Child – I was able to deliver our boxes on the first day of my release from quarantine.** We sent off twelve boxes, 7 of which were donated by residents of the Villas of Holly Brook. While St. Mary's has been participating in this program since 2012, helping to fulfill the Great Commission, I understand that some parishioners would prefer a different Christmas project. As I see it, this would not preclude participating in Operation Christmas Child on an individual basis.

**A second reminder** that the glass jar on the welcome table is for donations to our ministry in Nepal. Spare change or more substantial donations can go into the jar.

**Here is the Lector schedule for the coming month:**

12/5 - David  
12/12 – Tressie  
12/19 - Kathy  
12/24 – Diane  
12/26 - Elisabeth

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Parish Center for December coffee hours. Please sign up as soon as possible. Our coffee hour discussions will center around the appointed lessons and the sermon for the week. We have no one signed up for this Sunday, so shoot me an email and I'll sign you up myself.

**Board Meeting:** St. Mary's advisory board will meet Wed., **December 8** at 10 am in the Parish Center.

**December birthdays: December 4 – Fr. Tom and December 16 – Kathy Hahn**

FR. TOM'S  
SCHEDULE

Sunday 10:30 AM – Mass

Wednesday - Office  
hours 9 to 12 PM

**2nd Wednesday – 10**

**AM.** Church council mtg.  
1 pm, Bingo @ Holly

**Brook**

**2 pm Bible Study @  
Holly Brook**

Thursday

**Reflections: Prayer  
service @10 am; Bingo  
follows**

**South Park; Prayer  
service @1:30; Bingo  
@2:00**

**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

## **Anniversary: December 16 – David and Tressie (3 years already!)**

A blessed celebration to you all!

Coffee Hour: **Face coverings may be removed temporarily while actively eating or drinking (including in bars or restaurants) and may be removed by workers at workplaces when they can consistently maintain six feet of distance (such as when workers are in their office or cubicle space).**

**Our friend**, and a neighbor of our church, Eric “the Knife Guy” has asked us for donations of gently used clothing for his friend who helps homeless or abused women. If you have anything that you would like to donate, bring the items to church and I will pass them on to Eric.

Here is our current parish prayer list as of November 30, 2021. As usual, please email Fr. Tom if you have any further additions or subtractions.

### **Parish Prayer List**

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

**For those fighting cancer:** Barb, Les, Brenda, David, Penny, Alan, Debbie, Cindy, Karen, Rose, Carol, Laverne Harvey

**For those in need of uplifting prayer:** Diane, Graham, John, Anita, Susan, Brenna, Jody, Hannah, Sherry, Barb, John P., James, Jon S., Luke, Jerry, Donna, Jonas, Kathy, Karl, Michael, Jim, Melinda, Sara, Joan, Rachel, Josh, Dorothea, Annette, Debbie, Andrew, Margot, Terry, Carolyn and Gary

**For those in long term care:** Gabriel, Grace, Danielle, the residents at Holly Brook, Reflections and South Park

**For the Church's ministry in Nepal:** Purna, Mahendra, Dipendra, Reshma, Tirtha, their families and churches; the Transformation Spiritual Church

**For the victims of the COVID pandemic worldwide**

**For persecuted Christians throughout the world**

**For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission**

Thoughts from the Vicar –

How strange it is that in spite of the best intentions and the best plans, things do not always work out as we plan. A month ago, I wrote, “With the arrival of the month of November...I would like us to concentrate on our church growth.” While it is true that we still have 11 months of a new church year ahead of us, I am afraid the month of November will be remembered for our fight against COVID. As I mentioned in last week's sermon, more than one person has expressed the opinion that the pandemic is a sign of the coming Tribulation. All the articles that I have come across have indicated that, if anything, it is a sign that the tribulation is coming. It is worth our time to take a look at Luke 21:7-13, as follows:

“ 7 And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

**8** And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them.

**9** And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

**10** Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

**11** There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

**12** But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake.

**13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness."** (ESV)

In reading the above passage, we see that there are signs of the end times around us, reminders from God that we must be ready at all times. God bless you, Fr. Tom

### **A continuing feature in our newsletter: Guest Column**

This month's author is Kathy Hahn. Please feel free to submit your essays or poems to share with your church family. Deadline for submission would be 7 days before the end of the previous month.

#### **God's in His Heaven** by Kathy Hahn

I used to hear God's in his heaven and all's right with the world. Must have been the nineteen-fifty's when nobody locked their doors. Now I think to myself "God's in his heaven and we're all ignoring him."

Christmas is coming up. The morning after Halloween all the Christmas gifts show up in the stores at "special prices" and the part timers start to work marking everything. Used to be the day after Thanksgiving. That was when we spent a whole day thanking God for everything we have (especially turkey). Now we just eat ourselves sick, without benefit of prayer, and talk about what we want for Christmas. I want my family together, but relatively few families will get that. We had some good 'cousin time' Christmases, but the boys were getting older and going their separate ways. All my grandchildren are boys. I hope they don't forget their extended family. Some of my cousins are still important to me. I wish I knew what all of Aunt Judy's brood were up to. Probably mostly parents and grandparents by now. But I'd like to know. She had 6, a huge family by our standards. I wonder how many of them are Evangelical Lutheran. That's how they were brought up. I wonder how many of the second generation of ALL of my family knows anything about the "Reason for the Season." This is not turning out to be a happy piece of writing. We go into debt buying things for people we don't really love or in some cases, even like. Then we forget to hug our kids, parents, cousins, aunts and uncles, grandparents if we're still lucky enough to have them.

If I could get each of my grandkids to hug me once a week, I wouldn't want anything else for Christmas. Of course, that's impossible. I don't even SEE some of them once a week. I guess a grandma can dream. I think a little prayer is a hug for God. Just "Thanks for the parking spot" or "please see that that little lunatic gets home alive!" God must see those as hugs, just thinking about Him for a second, acknowledging that He has a place in this world. He did make it, you know. *Kathy Hahn*

**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 my personal email address on the first page so I can send it to you directly to you next month.**