

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

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

JANUARY 1, 2022

Sharing the Good News

Our friend, and a neighbor of our church, Eric “the Knife Guy” has asked 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. I just talked to Eric, and he told me that they are also collecting food, pots and pans, used furniture and other things that would be needed to set an abused woman (and her children) in a new home.

Here is the Lector schedule for January:

1/2 - Diane
1/9 – Tressie
1/16 - David
1/23 – Elisabeth
1/30 – Kathy

Here is the coffee hour schedule for the month:

January 2 McCoys
January 9 _____
January 16 _____
January 23 _____
January 30 Kathy Hahn

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Parish Center for January 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.

Final church attendance, 2020 – 409

Final church attendance, 2021 – 1,088

Our church council will meet at 10 am on Wednesday, January 12. Due to COVID, this meeting only for members of the council. **As is our custom, the first Sunday of the month** (Jan.2) is designated as Food Pantry Sunday.

There is a jar on the welcome table near the front door for donations to support our friends in Nepal.

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 -

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Like us on Facebook

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Visit our webpage at

saintmaryanglican.org

We're on Instagram at

st.marys.anglican

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

For the time being, we will continue to have coffee hour in the church proper.

Here is our current parish prayer list as of December 29, 2021. As usual, please email Fr. Tom if you have any further additions or subtractions.

For Foley, our Archbishop; Alberto, our Bishop; Tom, our priest; and for Deacon Tom

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

For those in need of uplifting prayer: David, Tressie, Dave, John, Anita, Susan, Brenna, Hannah, Barb, John P., James, Jon S., Luke, Jerry, Donna, Jonas, Kathy, Karl, Michael, Jim, Melinda, Sara, Joan, Josh, Annette, Andrew, Margot, Terry, Jim and Susan, Carolyn and Gary, Elisabeth

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

For the repose of the soul of Ethan Kellerstrass, age 15

Thoughts from the Vicar –

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2

Maybe it's the way the liturgical calendar is set up, or maybe it's just tradition that causes many Christians to believe that the Magi arrived at the manger right after the shepherds left. Can't you just visualize them running into each other as the shepherds left and the kings arrived?

Apart from the Gospel according to Matthew, the other three Gospels say nothing about these Magi. So, who are the Magi, or Three Kings, who visited the infant Jesus?

We don't know their names or even how many of them that there. It is widely accepted that they had come from the East. One thing of which we can be very certain is that the Magi did NOT arrive in Bethlehem the same year that Jesus was born. In fact, it is now widely accepted that at least two years passed between the visit of the shepherds and that of the Magi.

Two years makes sense when you read on in the second chapter of Matthew, verse 16: “When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were **two** years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. From reading Matthew, one gets the impression that Herod ordered the slaughter of the innocent children in Bethlehem because the Magi returned to the East without telling him where he could find the baby Jesus.

Our Wisemen have been stealthily moving toward the manger. It won't take them two years to get there. And rest assured, Mary, Joseph and the newborn babe did not remain in the stable/cave for those two years. They had undoubtedly found a home to stay in, not wanting for whatever reason, to return to Bethlehem. God's blessings to you all in 2022. **Happy New Year! 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.

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