

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

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

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

James 1:2-3

OCTOBER 1, 2022

Sharing the Good News

Thoughts from the Vicar -

1. As nearly all of you know, our church has a long and close connection with the Villas of South Park. They provided us with a church home in between Immanuel Lutheran in Springfield and our current location, and I have a ministry there every Thursday afternoon. When I was there last week, the activities director offered us the organ that the late Dorothy Baldwin played for our services on the condition that it be moved ASAP. Many thanks to Graham for making it possible to move it. They also gifted us with two walkers.
2. As we begin the month of October, we are reminded that we are getting closer and closer to election day. Let's all remember that politics should not be a discussed in church.
3. Beginning this Sunday, October 2, we will begin our discussion of the workbook "The Faith of Anglicans" by John Rodgers. The book is subtitled "Knowing Anglicanism" and explains the "39 Articles" that form the root of Anglicanism. I have 5 copies of the workbook which we will share. If you would like your own personal copy, you may order one for \$5.
4. A reminder that Fr. Tom will be at the Diocesan Synod in Peoria from October 20-October 22. During that time, you will be able to reach him via cell phone. **If you would just like to join Fr. Tom for dinner Thursday night or the Synod Banquet on Friday night, the cost is \$60 per guest per dinner. Please register any additional guest dinners by October 13, 2022.** You may pay by check, payable to the Diocese of Quincy and note on the memo line "SYNOD."
5. Thanks also to Deacon Tom for conducting Morning Prayer last Sunday so Sylvia and I could attend the baptism of our

FR. TOM'S SCHEDULE

Sunday 10:30 AM – Mass

followed by coffee hour

Wednesday - Office

hours 10 to 12:30 PM

1 pm, Bingo @ Holly

Brook

2 pm Bible Study @

Holly Brook

2nd Wednesday – 10

AM. Church council mtg.

Thursday

Reflections: Prayer

service @10 am; Bingo

follows

South Park; Prayer

service @1:30; Bingo

@2:00

Contact information

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Visit our webpage at

saintmaryanglican.org

Join us at 122 W. Walnut in

Chatham, IL

youngest granddaughter.

Here is the Lector and coffee hour schedule for September:

October 2 Diane/McCoys

October 9 Elisabeth/Langfords

October 16 Kathy

October 23 Debbie

October 30 Sylvia/Swegles

If for any reason you will not be there on your Sunday, please switch with someone. I hope you'll be willing to yield your opportunity to read when the Kemps are here.

This month, the church council will meet at 10 am on **Wednesday, October 12.**

Although there are new several new things happening this month (see page 1), I want to remind you of our ongoing monthly activities:

- 1. The first Sunday of the month (October 2) is designated as **Food Pantry Sunday.****
- 2. The jar remains** on the welcome table near the front door for donations to support our friends in Nepal. Currently, there are mere pennies in the jar.
- 3. We are also** accepting donations of used women's clothing for the women's shelter. You can bring them to church any Sunday and Fr. Tom will deliver the donations to Eric at the Knife Guy.
- 4. Anointings will also take place** after Mass this Sunday and every first Sunday of the month. Fr. Tom and Deacon Tom will anoint any members of the congregation who desire this sacrament. This is our response to the Epistle of **James 5:14**: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." This verse makes it evident that we are called to minister to those who are sick or in need of comfort. The service is found on pages 225-226 in the green BCP.

There are no Birthdays and Anniversaries at St. Mary's for the month of October. But hold on, we'll have lots of them in November and December.

Thoughts from the Vicar - part 2

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." James 1:2-3

Getting back to the story of Stu, when we left him in the sermon, he was once again shaken by suffering when he was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease which would turn out to be fatal. The diocese canceled his ordination and sent him to a nursing home, his dream crushed. Or was it?

One day, his family came and wrested him away from the nursing home to take him to church. He had done such a good job of ministering to his parish while in seminary that the parishioners petitioned the bishop asking that Stu be ordained.

The bishop yielded to their plea and agreed to ordain Stu. After his ordination, Father Stu began his ministry and quickly developed relationships with the people in his parish. He is later confined to a skilled nursing facility, where he continued his ministry and people flocked to see him every day until his death at the age of 50. All the suffering that Father Stu had undergone not only improved his faith but it led him to the priesthood where he touched the lives of many people. (Romans 8:28)

If you feel comfortable sharing it, I would like to hear your story of how suffering has improved your faith.

As I was preparing this week's sermon, I found this quote about faith and suffering that was attributed to John Piper: "Strange as it may seem, one of the primary purposes of being shaken by suffering is to make our faith more unshakeable."

Much else has been written on the subjects of suffering and faith. Elizabeth Peale Allen wrote the following: "One of the hidden benefits of suffering is that it can draw us closer to God—if we are willing to move in that direction. We can reach for a deeper connection with God and learn things we've bypassed in times of comfort and pleasure. Suffering teaches us humility and opens our hearts. Jesus did not come to explain away suffering or remove it; He came to fill it with His Presence."

Another quote that I found is this: "Faith is like muscle tissue: if you stress it to the limit, it gets stronger, not weaker. That's what James means here. When your faith is threatened and tested and stretched to the breaking point, the result is greater capacity to endure. He calls it steadfastness."

Blessings, Fr. Tom

Here is our current parish prayer list as of the end of September. I am convinced that this list is out of date. If you have additions or deletions please fill out the bottom of this page and put it in next week's collection plate. Thank you.

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

For those fighting cancer: Debbie, Joan, Carol, Lisa, Ann

For those in need of uplifting prayer: Diane, Dan, John, Sherry, Frank, Anita, Hannah, Jon S., Kathy, Karl, Michael, Susan, Carolyn, Gary, Fr. Jason, Sylvia

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 war in Ukraine

For victims of the COVID pandemic worldwide

For persecuted Christians throughout the world, especially in Nigeria, Nepal and Myanmar

For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission

Please remove these names from the prayer list:
