

# WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

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

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." Exodus 13:17

## SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

### Sharing the Good News

Here is the Lector and coffee hour schedule for September:

- September 4 Diane/McCoys
- September 11 Elisabeth/Langfords
- September 18 Kathy
- September 25 Debbie

**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, September 14.**

It's been three months, so I'd like to remind you of some ways that we can be God's hands here at St. Mary's:

- 1. As is our custom, the first Sunday of the month** (September 4) 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

## 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

Cell/text – 309-798-0739

Personal Email -

fathertom28

@gmail.com

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Visit our webpage at

[saintmaryanglican.org](http://saintmaryanglican.org)

Join us at 122 W. Walnut in

Chatham, IL

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](#).

**We were blessed** this past Sunday with a visit from our Bishop. For those of you who normally watch our services online, we apologize for the fact that there was a problem with the internet which prohibited the broadcasting of the service.

**Before church**, I had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the Bishop. Among the subjects discussed were:

1. The Bishop assured me that he has no intention of closing St. Mary's. We are very viable financially and our attendance has remained steady throughout the pandemic.
2. When asked about our virtual services, the Bishop encouraged us to continue them as a way to evangelize our viewers in other countries.
3. Another subject that we discussed was music for our services. He gave me several suggestions as to how we might be able to download the accompaniment music that we need. We will be discussing this further at our council meeting on September 14.

Following Eucharist, we enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner with the Bishop along with a conversation which covered a variety of church related topics. Thank you to everyone who made the visit possible.

**As the Bishop was leaving**, he wanted me to remind you about the Synod to be held in East Peoria from Oct. 20-22. The registration fee is \$295 if paid by September 15th. As a Mission, Fr. Tom is the only representation to which we are entitled. However, **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. Please make your check payable to the Diocese of Quincy and note on the memo line "SYNOD."

**Mail checks to:**

Diocese of Quincy  
4911 N. Knoxville Ave.  
Peoria, IL 61614-4913

**Did you know** that we have budding authors in our midst? In the past month, Kathy Hahn and Sylvia have published books. For information on how to buy their books, see them on Sunday. I have a hunch that you might even be able to get an autograph if you buy a book!

**It's been 3 months** since I posed this question, and we have yet to discuss it. Maybe we can discuss the following on Sunday: **I have been approached virtually about resuming our Sunday morning Bible studies. As you may remember, we were in the middle of a Bible study on the book of Revelation when COVID first hit. So I'd like to hear your feelings. A.) Would you like to resume the Bible studies? B.) Would you prefer to meet before church or after church?**

**There are no Birthdays and Anniversaries** at St. Mary's for the month of September.

*Thoughts from the Vicar -*

**As I was reading** my Bible Study lesson this morning, which was based on the Bible verse on the top of page one of this newsletter, a strange thought cam to my mind. I'll share it with you.

Have you ever seen the movie "National Lampoon's European Vacation"? In that movie, the Griswold family wins a trip to Europe. While driving in Paris, their car enters the Place de l'Etoile which circles the Arc de Triomphe. The problem with driving there is that there are 12 different streets entering the traffic circle and if you get stuck in the inside lane of traffic as they did, it is dangerous and nearly impossible to get to the outer lane in order to exit.

**When I go to Wisconsin** for clergy retreats, there are many traffic circles and I find it difficult to navigate them since we don't see many of them in Illinois.

**Keep reading, please.** I am about to tie this to the afore-mentioned Bible verse and then to our little church.

**When the Israelites** left Egypt, God did not send them directly back home. Instead, He led them on paths that kept them safe from threats so that they would not want to go back to Egypt. He did not leave them alone, but went ahead of them as a pillar of cloud during the day and as a pillar of fire at night. But He also led them in circles for 40 years while they complained and grumbled, but in the end, they learned to trust God.

**The four years that** we have been in Chatham is a short amount of time when compared to the forty years that the Israelites spent in the wilderness. In that time, we have sometimes felt as if we were going around in circles, but we know that God has not abandoned us. He has been with us in remarkable ways. I pray that we can always be aware of the presence of God, because it is by following Him that we will be able to exit the circle and arrive at our destination.

*Blessings, Fr. Tom*

**Here is our current parish prayer list as of the end of August. As usual, please email Fr. Tom if you have any further additions or subtractions. You can offer up any of these names on Sunday, but I would ask you to pray for those on the list during your daily devotions.**

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

**For those fighting cancer:** Penny, Debbie, Joan, Carol, Lisa

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