

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Sharing the Good News

From Matthew 25:40: And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Important news

Did you know that Diane's sister-in-law Kris Hayek is a missionary in Africa? I mention this because I am suggesting that we contribute to her mission as our church's Christmas project this year. Last year, we raised money for Operation Smile. I asked Diane to contact Kris in order to find out how we could help her and here follows her response:

"Actually, if you want to collect money, audiBibles are the best thing. We buy 3,000 a year, but try to buy more if we can. We give every new group one because people can't read. We get the Bible read in most primary local languages. We get them from South Africa for \$30 each. The village Christians think this is the best thing to happen for them! They ask for more and more as new groups are started."

If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas project, make out your check to **St. Mary's Anglican Mission** and write "Africa". For each \$30 that we are able to give, Kris will be able to buy one audiBible and we'll be able to do our part in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Thoughts from the Vicar

First of all, you probably cannot help but notice the absence of our usual newsletter template. I had to buy a new computer which has a different "Word" program than the old one.

I am looking forward to the month of December and all the activities that we have ahead of us. Coming up first is what I hope will be our first-ever traditional New Year's Eve get-together at 5 PM on December 2 at the McCoys' home. The main course and the beverages will be provided. Graham has procured free passes for us to enjoy the Chatham Christmas lights (of which our church is a sponsor) after dinner.

Sunday is the first day of Advent and also Food Pantry Sunday. Our Bible selection above tells us why we should be generous with our donations on the first Sunday of every month. On the first Sunday of Advent and Lent, our service will include the Great Litany, found on 9.91 of the Book of Common Prayer. And during both seasons, we replace the *Gloria* with the Decalogue. Because of all these changes, we will postpone our monthly anointing service to next Sunday, the 10th.

Consider this next paragraph to be a plea for help. You'll notice that the reader and coffee hour schedule for December, which is found below, has slots marked TBD. If you are not currently a reader but would like to be, please see Fr. Tom. Also, if anyone can point me to a new template for January's newsletter, I would be very grateful.

On Sunday during coffee hour, I will be offering a discussion session on Advent. If you'd like to know more about our new season and why we do what we do, please get your coffee and your treat and come back to the church. Those who would prefer conversation can remain in the Parish Center.

Reader and coffee hour schedule for December:

- December 3 - Diane Advent I
- December 10 – Elisabeth Advent II
- December 17– TBD Advent III
- December 24 (10:30 am) – Kemps Advent IV
- December 24 –(?) TBD Christmas Eve Mass (no coffee hour)

Birthdays in December: Father Tom on the 4th; **Kathy Hahn** on the 14th; . In addition, **David and Tressie** celebrate their wedding anniversary on December 16.

We will continue to read the names from this prayer list. If you wish to add a name, please let Fr. Tom or the lector know before the service begins. You may still add names from the congregation after the list is read.

Parish Prayer List

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

For those fighting cancer: Cindy, Karen, Carol, Malia, Richard, Bill G., Barb, Kevin, Mark Heys

For those in need of uplifting prayer: Diane, Kathy, Dan, Sylvia, the Todd family, Laurie, Alex, Fr. Michael, Shannon, Susan, Jon S., Luke, Jerry, Donna, Jonas, Tim, Carolyn, Gary, Fr. Jason, Stuart, Madeleine, Brenda, Teri, Bishop Wencelas Orb, Thomas G., Teegan, Houston, Jordan K, Brandie L.

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, Purkash, their families and Churches; the Transformation Spiritual Church

For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission

For those affected by the war in the Middle East

Did you know that you can access our monthly newsletter on line? Go to our webpage (saintmaryanglican.org). There is a link on our Facebook page for your convenience.) On the homepage of the website, click on "More" in the upper righthand corner. Click on "Newsletter". On the lefthand side off the page you will find links to the most recent newsletters in reverse chronological order. A special "Thank you" to Elisabeth for making this possible.

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