



The Cloister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Church, Castleton June 2009



From Fr. John:

The fig tree... and the vines are in blossom (Song of Solomon 2:13)

My dear brothers and sisters

The month of May, with all its springtime glory, has been full of events for St Mary's as a parish, and for individuals within it.

On Sunday 3rd May our focus was on Episcopal Charities. Then, on 10th May, Mother's Day, the principal focus of the 10 a.m. service was our wonderful mothers, living and deceased, and on those who nurture others around them. Not only that, but the focus was also on the couple of dozen young people and children of the Parish. Everyone was delighted. You can read more below.

In venturing on the above service (celebrating our mothers, and our youth), we were advised by the Diocesan Christian Education advisor, Revd Canon Pat Mitchell. At our invitation, Canon Mitchell came to visit us the week later, on Sunday 17th May, to discuss Christian Education at St Mary's. This excellent meeting is described elsewhere in the newsletter.

Meanwhile, the midweek services of the Parish, (Wednesday and Friday) continue to not only reach pretty much historic highs in terms of attendance, but continue to do so on a consistent basis. On Sunday mornings, however, the attractions and distractions of spring and summer cause some of the normal 'loss of weight' in attendance. Well, even if you are traveling elsewhere during the summer weekends, please do not forget St Mary's.

Other joyous events in May were thanksgiving for the long and faithful ministry of retiring Bishop Don Taylor at the Cathedral; for the birth of Alexa and Olivia to parents Christine and Todd Suratt (who were also married at St Mary's); the accomplishments of Gabrielle Lamarche, Alison Bohnenberger, and all other students at the end of the academic year; and for the wonderful and continuing recovery of Sally Rizzo's sister, Caren Costello; that of Kim Yarns; and also Churchwarden Herb Smith. There was the marriage of Andrena Ellington and Daniel Patakis (on Saturday June 6th); and the upcoming baptism of Evan, son of Laura and Joseph McKibbin (on Sunday June 14th). On Sunday 14th June we will wrap up the Sunday school year with a picnic in the church grounds. Please do join in with this, because it will be fun, and also a great signal to our community that we are alive and well.

So there have been so many blossoms and flowers blooming during May and into June – lots of good news, and many most promising things.

During June, there will also be the first meeting of a discussion group regarding outreach at St Mary's; and later on, a meeting of the Vestry with Canon Claudia Wilson, to discuss Parish development. Parish

Churchwarden Cathy Carlson met Canon Wilson at a Diocesan meeting for churchwardens, and invited her to visit our last Vestry meeting. The Vestry then decided to have a workshop on Saturday 20th June. The preparations for a “homecoming”/ Patronal Festival recognition (in September) continue apace; along with those for the Fall Festival, under the able leadership of Bob Campbell.

All this (and more) means that we are getting our engines warmed up for what promises to be a sparkling fall season at St Mary's.

I have great confidence in the fact that there are going to be many good things in the months and years ahead for this lovely Parish of St Mary's.

Finally, at the personal level, I have an announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wishing you faith, hope, and love

Fr John Stubbs

Merrily, merrily shall I live now

Under the blossom which hangs on the bough (Shakespeare, Tempest, V, I, 88)



Personal announcement from Fr. John Stubbs



With the blessing of our Diocesan Bishop of New York, the Rt Revd Mark Sisk, I am delighted to announce my upcoming marriage to Barbara Whitaker Davis on Sunday 28 June at St John's, Lockport, near Chicago.

Barbara has been a long time and devoted member of St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal church, and will continue so (fortunately for them!). Barbara and I intend to hold a reception at St. Mary's at 3 p.m. on Saturday 19th September, which will give you an opportunity to meet Barbara.

RSVP to me by telephone or email by mid-August. (No gifts please!)

E-mail Database

We are setting up a parish database of e-mail addresses. This e-mail relay will be used to contact you regarding upcoming event and parish news.

Please send an e-mail to the Parish Office administrator@stmarysi.com and asked to be included on our parish database. Even if we have your e-mail on file we need your permission to add your name, so please send us an e-mail message.

Vestry News and Other Happenings at St. Mary's

The youth and children's service on Mother's Day May 10th

The decision to have a Sunday service celebrating our mothers, and our youth, arose from several discussions: Discussions with our wonderful Sunday school staff, Arlene Weiss, Jayne Lamarche, Claire Oyelaja, and Gabrielle Lamarche; with the worship discussion group; and the Vestry. The result was a joyous service, very well attended. Ashley Bohnenberger and Julia Nix read the lessons well. Ushers were Alison Bohnenberger and Ryan Nix, and Acolytes were Kevin Carlson and Jomo Terry. Gabrielle and Ryan Lamarche assisted with the young children who sat in the choir area during the Eucharist so as to see what was going on. The flower helpers were Reggie and Amanda Horsford, along with the pre-school children. It seems that we could well do this again in October, and after that, perhaps once a month at the 10 a.m. Sunday service. Let's see how it goes.

The Christian Education meeting with Canon Pat Mitchell on Sunday May 17th

A very good group of about ten people attended the meeting, which covered a sweeping range of possibilities for building up Christian Education at St Mary's. Canon Pat emphasized the importance of the nursery program, which has been so well cared for by Jayne and Gabrielle recently. She then touched on the needs of the several age groups, all the way through to adults. There was such a lively discussion, that it was difficult to bring the meeting to a close, even after 1 ½ hours! The report on this meeting came before the June meeting of the Vestry, where next steps will be resolved.

Congregational Development Worship on Saturday June 20th

The vestry /search committee will attend a workshop at St. Mary's on Saturday, June 20 from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The presenter will be The Rev. Canon Claudia Wilson, Canon for Congregational Development in the Diocese of New York. The workshop topic is "Who are we? Who are our neighbors? What is God calling us to do?" and how do we make ourselves known to the community? The workshop will begin with Morning Prayer.

Last Day of Choir and Sunday School, Sunday June 14 – Parish Picnic to follow

- ⇒ Thank you to our Sunday school and Nursery teachers Arlene Weiss, Claire Oyelaja, Jane Lamarche, and Gabrielle Lamarche for their dedication to the children of St. Mary's. Sunday school and child care will break over the summer months and begin again in September.
- ⇒ Thank you to Dan Fannon and the choir for their continued service to St. Mary's. Dan will be taking a well deserved break over the summer months and our own Remington Gregg will be substituting as our organist.

Fundraising Events

Fundraising meeting, Sunday, June 28 following the 10:00 a.m. service. All ideas are welcome!

Planned events for 2009:

- *Fall Festival, October 3 (Robert Campbell and Herb Smith, Co-chairs)
- * Fall Dinner and sweepstakes drawing, October, 17 (Jane Cangemi, Chairperson)
- *Turkey Shoot, November (organizer, Herb & Barbara Smith)
- *Christmas Boutique, December 5 (The Women of St. Mary's)

Outreach Committee

We are forming a committee to explore the outreach opportunities and needs within our community. Our first meeting was held on June 4th, there were six of us there along with Fr. Stubbs. It was a lively discussion. Some of our ideas included seniors, college age students, single parents with children and school age children.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 14th at 7:30 and we would really like your input. There are a lot of things that we can do to reach out and get involved within our community. Let's all of us reach out and get involved....The time is right.

Sally Rizzo 718-273-1335

Our Parish Family

We grieve with Ernie and Lindy Figueroa on the loss of Ernie's brother, Stephen Miles. Stephen's remains will be interred in the memorial garden at St Mary's. We grieve also with Rose Myslicki, on the death of her cousin Marie Ortiz; and John & Gordon Waite and family, on the loss of Barbara and Pamela.



Graduation News:



Eighth Grade Graduation:

Alison Bohnenberger graduates on June 12 and will attend Notre Dame Academy High School in September.

High School Graduation:

Congratulations to Gabrielle Lamarche. Gabrielle is graduating from Curtis H.S. and will attend the College of Staten Island this September.

Celebrate



June Birthdays

June 5 - Ashley Bohnenberger; 8 - Remington Gregg; 10 - William Yarns; 14 - Horace Wilson;
24 - Michelle Howard; 28 - Robert John LaRosa

June Anniversaries

June 24 - Joseph & Joan DiGiovanni

July Birthdays

July 4 - Margaret Beckman; 9 - Ellen T. Dempster; 12 - Joe DiGiovanni; 13 - Ellen F. Dempster;
18 - Dorothy Nelson; 21 - Michael Zaniewski, Jr.; 23 - Barbara Smith; 30 - David Carnegie

If your special day is not in our records, call the Parish Office at 718-442-1527, or send an E-mail to administrator@stmarysi.com so it can be added.

Calendar June

- Sun, June 14 Last day of Sunday school and Choir
Parish Picnic following the 10:00 a.m. service

- Wed, June 17 Prayer Group, 7:30 p.m.

- Sat. June 20 Congregational Development Workshop 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- Sunday, June 21 Father's Day

- Tues, June 23 Vestry Meeting

- Sun. June 28 Fundraising meeting following the 10:00 a.m. service
Wedding of Fr. John Stubbs and Barbara Whitaker Davis
(St John's, Lockport, near Chicago)

- Tues. July 14 Outreach Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m.

Faith Methodist Church is celebrating their 112th Anniversary on Sunday 28th June.

Weekday Services: Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by Bible Study.
Friday 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

- Over the summer months, St. Mary's will maintain two Sunday services; 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

◆ If you have any news to share, please send a note or e-mail to the parish office; attention Cloister Newsletter.

Let's Welcome the Summer Season at St. Mary's with an Old Fashioned Picnic

Bring a picnic basket for a parish event full of fun, games and fellowship
on the lawn following 10 a.m. Mass, Sunday, June 14.
Drinks will be provided.

It's Flag Day, so wear red, white & blue

**Please add your name to the sign up sheet by the church
entrance, or e-mail administrator@stmarysi.com**



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Castleton (*established 1848*)

Telephone: 718-442-1527

Fax: 718-442-4555

www.stmarysi.com

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Nursery Care and Sunday school will begin again in September

Weekday Services: Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by Bible Study.
Friday 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Holy Days, 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

PRIESTS: Fr. John Stubbs, *INTERIM PASTOR*. Fr. Richard Markham, *Sunday Assistant*, Fr. John Walsted, *Honorary Asst.*

Fr. William English, *Rector Emeritus*

WARDENS: Mr. Herbert Smith III and Mrs. Cathy Carlson

VESTRY: Mr. Robert Campbell, Mr. David Carnegie, Mr. Jay DiGiovanni, Mrs. Marcia Farrell, Mr. Ernest Figueroa, Mrs. Rose Myslicki, Ms. Sally Rizzo, Ms. Arlene Weiss, and Mr. Joseph Zagami.

Officers: Mr. Patrick Cunningham (*Clerk*), Mrs. Claire Oyelaja (*Treasurer*)

PARISH OFFICE: Miss Cara Barry, administrator; Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

SEXTON: Mr. Edward Barry; Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Ms. Arlene Weiss, *Superintendent*.

ST. MARY'S CHOIR: Mr. Daniel Fannon, *Organist and Choirmaster*

ST. MARY'S ACOLYTE GUILD: Dr. Robert Bohnenberger, *Master*

ST. MARY'S ALTAR SOCIETY: Mrs. Jane Cangemi, *Directress*, Mrs. Cathy Meyer, *Secretary*