



The Cloister

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



From Fr. John:

We meet with joy in sweet Jerusalem (Shakespeare, Henry VI, V, v, 7)

Surrounded by spring, we are full of joy during the season of Easter, as we listen again to those marvelous accounts of the way the disciples met with the resurrected Jesus, in Jerusalem and beyond. He is the good shepherd of the sheep, who knows us all by name. During this Paschal period we have celebrated (or will do so) our children – including the baptism of Christopher Sorrentino (parents Christopher and Andrea), and in giving thanks for the birth of the twins Alexa and Olivia Suratt (to parents Todd and Christine). On Sunday 10 May we celebrate also the mothers of the congregation. We give thanks for healing and recovery as well, including recovery of Faith Grannis, the progress of Winona Bascombe (mother of Linda Blanchette, the wife of Rupert), Celia Nalty, Sally Rizzo's sister, Wallace Carnegie, and Fr Markham's release from hospital.

This goes along with the tears we have experienced in our lives as mortals – a feast of joy, a dish of pain, said Chidiock Tichborne in his *Elegy* in 1586. We grieve with Rose Myslicki in their loss; and with Ernesto Figueroa, and his wife Lindy, over the tragic loss of his brother Stephen Miles. Many of us are struggling with severe challenges at work and in terms of the economy. We take heart in President Obama's words that there are some signs of a tendency towards the economic decline slowing. Then there is the flu pandemic – we are all being warned to be cautious, and to wash our hands often!

So on our journey of faith in Jesus, though suffering and struggle is often close at hand, yet so many things fill us with praise and gratitude. The month of May ends with the great celebration of Pentecost. We celebrate our empowerment by the Holy Spirit to carry this good news into our lives, families, friends, and into the world at large “with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

As we begin to look around us, there are these developments: Our invitation to Revd Canon Pat Mitchell to discuss Christian Education with us on Sunday 17 May; and the launch of our Parish discussion about outreach at St Mary's over the months ahead. Also, preparations have begun for the events of September and October, including our Patronal Event, and our Fall Festival.

In the wider Diocese: The Bishop called the clergy to a wonderful gathering for the Mass of Collegiality on Tuesday of Holy Week. On Sunday 3 May we participated in the Episcopal Charities Sunday -- which is a most a worthy companion to Meals on Wheels, senior care, and the wide range of wonderful service agencies here on Staten Island. Then we have the service for the retirement of Bishop Taylor on Saturday 16 May at 10:30 at the Cathedral. On May 17th there is the AIDS Walk -- please see our Parish website for ways in which everybody can find a way to support the Diocesan Episcopal Response to AIDS in the month of May.

Do send in your email address if you would like to receive Parish news updates.

With faith, hope, and love in Christ,

Fr John

Through all the tumult and the strife

I hear that music ringing

It finds an echo in my soul

How can I keep from singing?

- Kathy Galloway

Episcopal Charities – The Official Outreach Arm of the Diocese of New York

Since 1996, Episcopal Charities' mission has been to provide funding and support to a broad range of community-based human services programs throughout the Dioceses of New York. These programs, sponsored by Episcopal congregations, serve disadvantaged individuals, youth and families on a non-sectarian basis.

Episcopal Charities currently supports more than 90 outreach programs: of these 48 address basic human needs, 41 offer youth opportunity services and three are long-term collaborative projects. 100% of publicly-raised funds are awarded directly to Episcopal parish programs.

For more information about making a contribution or how to apply for a grant please contact;

www.episcopalcharities-newyork.org, Email: episcopalcharities@dioceseny.org or call 212-316-7403

Outreach

The A.M. Veterans Memorial Post 917 (49 The Boulevard, SI, NY 10314) is sponsoring a weekend on Staten Island (May 15th - 17th) for wounded vets from Walter Reed Hospital. St. Mary's has sent a \$100 donation to help with the cost of this event. If you'd like to help out and make a donation, please speak with Joe DiGiovanni, or contact the parish office. Event t-shirts are for sale for \$10 and \$11 for size XXL.

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.

Mother's Day Service

Please join us on Sunday, May 10th at 8:00 or 10:00 a.m.

as we celebrate the women of St. Mary's.



From the Vestry

- The vestry /search committee will attend a workshop 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.
- The installation of the new front doors in the church as well as the external rectory repair will begin shortly. The vestry is currently getting bids for the installation of a rail on the steps to the stage and repair of the flooring in the choir area of the church.
- Over the summer months, St. Mary's will maintain two Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

Over the next few months, the committee will be focusing on our parish "mission" and in collaboration with the vestry will be developing a Mission and Vision Statement. If you have any questions regarding the search process please speak with any member of the Search Committee. Committee members are: Cathy Carlson, chair person; Rupert Blanchette, Robert Bohnenberger, Sylvia Campbell, Patrick Cunningham, Sue Peterson, Sally Rizzo and Mary Logan Zagami.

Bishop E. Don Taylor

On May 16, the Diocese of New York is celebrating a service of Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to honor Bishop E. Don Taylor on the occasion of his retirement. Christ Church has arranged for two busses to travel up to the Cathedral. If you have reserved a seat on the bus from Christ Church, you will be contacted directly with final instructions.



Easter Prayers

The splendid flowers throughout our church are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Louise H. Byrd, Eugene S. Byrd, Catlin S. Byrd and Doris Carr; Olivia Robinson; Elsie E. Smith, Werner E. Johnson and all deceased members of the Smith family; Lillian Delzotti; the Whitford and Grant families; Alan M. & Judith G. Hill, Evelyn M. Donohue and Donna M. Esposito; Donald Farrell; Holt Meyer; Anthony Fiore and Rock Bertini; Stephen & Frances Zagami; Penalia Hussett; Elsie E. Smith; Agatha Jordan and Jean Weatherhead; Emma & Vernon Hoffman, Alma & Halcombe Taylor, Paul & Clarice Hoffman and Esten Clark; William Carroll; Paula Ciocia and Anthony Cangemi; Genevieve M. & Harold E. Taylor, Muriel G. & George M. Eckhardt and Mildred A. & Edward M. Gunnell; William & Evelyn Van Wart; Arlene Carlson; Adione Marshall. Flowers were also given as a thanksgiving by the Grannis family; The Cunningham Family; Sylvia Campbell; Sandra Delzotti & Julia Brown; and Anthony & Libby Regina. The Paschal Candle is given in Thanksgiving by the DiGiovanni Family

Our Parish Family

Celebrate

May Birthdays



May 12 – Corinne Yarns; 18 – Jay DiGiovanni; 24 – Ken Donohue, Robert LaRosa

May Anniversaries

May 6 – Nancy and Tony Ventrone

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.

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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.

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

Please sign up at the church entrance or e-mail administrator@stmarysi.com



Fundraising Events

Anyone interested in helping with any of our events, or has additional fundraising idea please speak with Fr. John, Robert Campbell, or any member of the vestry.

Planned events for 2009:

- *Summer Kick-off Picnic – June 14 – It's Flag Day, wear your red, white and blue!
- *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)

Calendar May / June

- Sun. May 10 Mother's Day Services 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

- Wed. May 20 Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. (Ascension Day, transferred)
Prayer Group, 7:30 p.m.

- Thurs. May 21 Ascension Day - Service at Church of the Ascension, 7:30 p.m.
One Kingsley Avenue 718-442-4187

- Mon. May 25 Memorial Day

- Sun. May 31 The Day of Pentecost, Holy Eucharist 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

- Tues. June 2 Vestry Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

- Sunday, June 7 Trinity Sunday, Holy Eucharist 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

- 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.

- Sunday, June 21 Father's Day

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

If you know of anyone who is feeling poorly, or is a shut-in and would like a pastoral visit, please contact Fr. John Stubbs at 347-844-2402 or the parish office, 718-442-1527.

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