



The Floister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church September 2009



From Fr. John:

*"The mortal moon hath her eclipse endured... and peace proclaims olives
of endless age"* Shakespeare, Sonnet 107.

Welcome home from your summer journey! How have you been?

Well, over the summer, there was the triennial Convention of the Episcopal Church, which made many important decisions... Meanwhile some of us have been traveling to distant places, others have stayed at home, and others of us have struggled through the torments of the economic recession. In parallel, the Episcopal Diocese of New York intends to cut its budget by 20%. We all pray that this economic situation has indeed reached a turning point, towards an improving prospect ahead.

On Sunday 13 September, following the preparations of our worship group, we will throw open the glorious new red oak front doors of the church for our "Homecoming Sunday". People say that these doors radiate a sense of warmth and permanence, as it were, an intimation of things which are 'of endless age' and value.

On this "Homecoming Sunday" (with fanfare!) the services will be associated with the recognition of our "Title" Sunday, that is, with the Blessed Virgin Mary – which marks the beginning of a year for our Christian Education (Sunday School), and for our Parish choir.

Mary was well acquainted with travel, change, and poverty; and with challenges like war, disease, and the absence of health care. Through all that she endured, Mary was an example to us: Despite everything, she was still the channel of the grace of God, of marvelous life of Jesus Christ, and of the inauguration of an endless age of peace.

Over the summer past, there has been broad anxiety about just how severe might be the incidence of influenza of one kind or another during the months ahead. Furthermore, we continue to pray for those serving in the armed forces in Iraq and in Afghanistan; for those suffering from the wild fires in California; and for the national debate regarding health care reform.

Upcoming, in this Parish, in terms of fund raising, and communal relations, we have our own Fall Festival on Saturday 3rd October, followed by the Parish dinner and drawing on Sat 17th October. Please participate in these events to the very best of your ability. They are most important for the continuing life and the enduring witness to the gospel by the Parish of St Mary's.

Irrespective of all the various cycles of the world, the nation, or the community, there are the joys and the tears within our own personal experience. One year ago we had the baptism of

Sophie, and during this year other families, like the family of Joe and Laura McKibbin (with son Evan) have baptized children here as well, while others have given thanks for a safe birth. Several families have struggled through serious disease, some with success, and some not. Some families have had those in active military service. On an even more poignant note, we remember also, at this time of the “year's mind”, the death of Donna Esposito, the sister of Dave Carnegie and his wife Cathy. Other families also grieve over their losses, including Cathy Meyer's family, Marcia Farrell's family, Ingrid Grosso's family, and other families as well.

Fr Richard Markham has moved from his apartment on St Paul's Avenue into St Cosmas and Damian (at 2099 Forest Avenue). During August, Marcia Farrell was so kind and so generous as to have a 70th birthday dinner for Fr Richard at her home. Fr Richard's move has paralleled his retirement in terms of active clergy service. The Parish intends to hold a retirement party for Fr Richard in November of this year.

Over the last few months, approximately three quarters of the worshipping members of the Parish have consented to their photographs appearing in the Parish Sunday bulletin. If you missed any photos, and yet would like to see them, please know that we plan to have a file containing these photos near the entrance of the church.

In terms of worship, we are moving into the concluding weeks of the liturgical season of Pentecost. Over the previous months we have been following along with gospel readings regarding the ministry of Jesus in Galilee. At the same time, the Wednesday morning bible study group has been working through the Book of Galatians, with its emphasis on God's grace through Jesus Christ. During this period of time, we have been taking special note of what the gospel readings mean in terms of the Parish theme of “Outreach”, of the proclamation of the gospel of eternal peace through Jesus Christ. The Parish Outreach discussion group has had a few meetings over the summer time, and is working its way towards making recommendations to the Parish Vestry regarding this important aspect of our common life together.

Whether things are going well, or are going with difficulty, may our Lord Jesus be the grace of God to you and your loved ones, the sovereign of your life, and of your home. Is there any safer and more wonderful way than his way? Can any other way give such good reason for confidence and contentment?

With love in Christ,

Fr John Stubbs

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.
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From the Vestry and other Parish News

- Several projects were completed over the summer months. The magnificent front doors (given in memory of loved ones by the Rizzo and Byrd families, the Robert Campbell family and in memory of Isabella Gundry) will open wide to welcome everyone to St. Mary's. Other projects include the roof over the entry way to the parish house, a railing on the stairs to the stage steps, and new draperies in the Rectory.
- At our vestry meeting on September 8th we will discuss the upcoming exterior work on the rectory, the format of our service including the Laying on of Hands and the church grounds and signage.

Sunday School registration will begin on Sunday, September 13. Please be sure that all school age children are registered and attend regularly.

**** Nursery Care **** - We are in need of two or more people to assist with the pre-school and baby sitting service provided during the 10:00 a.m. service. If you are willing to assist on Sundays, please speak with Fr. John or Arlene Weiss.

Outreach Committee

The outreach committee met regularly over the summer and the next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend as there are many ways to get involved within our community and the committee needs your input.

One idea the committee is discussing is the formation of an after school choir program for boys. Another is some form of monthly social event held in the parish house open to our parishioners and the community. All ideas are welcome. If you are unable to attend the upcoming meeting please share your thoughts with Fr. John or Sally Rizzo.

Altar Society

Jane Cangemi has completed her two year term as the directress of the Altar Society. We thank Jane for her continued dedication and service to St. Mary's. Marcia Farrell has been selected by the Wardens to be the current directress and her term will run through June 2011. If you are interested in learning more about the Altar Society or would like to help, please speak with Marcia Farrell or Fr. John.

The Altar Society's annual appeal is underway and your monetary help is needed. If you are able, please make a donation and support the work of this society. Thank you to those who have already contributed, your support is appreciated.

Fundraising Committee

Robert Campbell

St. Mary's, Castleton will hold its second Autumn Festival on Saturday, October 3 (Rain or Shine) and the Autumn dinner on Saturday, October 17. The prize drawing for a Caribbean cruise for two (5 nights from New York) and Sweepstakes Share to win \$1,000 will take place on Saturday, October 17th at the Dinner. **(Winner need not be present).**

A separate mailing (including two Land of Chance Caribbean Cruise raffle tickets and two sweepstakes tickets) was sent detailing these events. Please return the sold sweepstakes and raffle tickets with a check made payable to St. Mary's Church by October 15th 2009.

The Autumn Festival 2009 depends on Volunteers like you!
Have fun while supporting our Church.

Autumn Festival Committee meetings - Sunday, September 20 following the 10:00 a.m. service

Our Parish Family

Wedding Bells



Stephen Gundry (son of Bruce and Nancy Gundry) married Sajini Wijesinghe on August 7, 2009 at St. John's Lutheran Church. The couple resides near CSI, where they both work. Stephen is also attending CCNY for his PhD in electrical engineering and Sajini attends CSI to achieve her BS in Biology. Congratulations!!

Condolences:

We grieve with Ernie and Lindy Figueroa on the loss of Ernie's brother Raymond Gusweller. Raymond was retired from the NY State Police and resided in Manhattan.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Ingrid Grosso on the death of her mother Yolande Nylander; and Eileen Hermansen and Peter Franco on the death of her son Kris Hermansen.

Celebrate

September Birthdays



September 3 - Fr. John Stubbs; 8 - Ryan Lamarche; 9 - Rose Myslicki, Fr. Schraplau; 12 - Patrick Cunningham; 15 - Alison Bohnenberger, Linda Klein; 16 - Arthur Grannis; 19 - Kevin Carlson; 20 - Matthew Smith; 24 - Gloria Carlton, Peter Franco; 26 - Ted Yarns; 27 - Zachary Davis.

September Anniversaries

September 12 - Arthur and Faith Grannis; 15 - Lee and Elizabeth Davis; 27 - Dave and Cathy Carlson

⇒ *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.*

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE** Make Strides – Join the movement to end Breast Cancer
Saturday, October 18, 2009
Clove Lakes Park

Find out more at www.cancer.org/stridesonline
or call 1-800-227-2345

Calendar

Sunday Services:	8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Weekday Services:	Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by Bible Study. Friday 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Prayer Book Holy Days, 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

September Dates:

Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Prayer Group (third Wednesday of every month), September 16

Fundraising meeting, Sunday, September 20 following the 10:00 a.m. service

Outreach Committee meeting, Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Worship Committee meeting, Wednesday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.

⇒ Mark your Calendar:

Autumn Festival, Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Autumn Dinner and Sweepstakes Drawing, Saturday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.



Autumn Festival

October 3, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

gift items...baked goods...books...

carnival games...chuck wagon...tea room...

attic treasures... balloons...pretzels and more...

