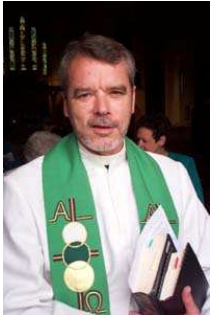




The Floister

Parish Newsletter of Saint Mary's Church, Castleton February 2010



From Fr. John:

The deep darkness of winter is already past by a month or more. The close follower of that winter's darkness is the bitter cold; and that cold is also passing. The darkness and the cold have both shot their bolt now. Indeed, tomorrow, February 2nd, will be the day the groundhogs, whether Chuck of Staten Island (or Phil of Punxsutawney) predict how soon we will experience spring. The spring is coming, as surely as day follows night. With the increasing light, the buds are swelling and rising. The flowers are going to be blooming soon. By the grace of the Divine Creator, Mother Nature is raising life, and bringing to us a wonderful new spring, summer, and fall.

The season of Lent is upon us. The word "Lent" means "the season of spring". In church circles, it is that time when catechumens prepare for baptism. Christian sisters and brothers accompany the catechumens by reliving our own baptismal journey. Both physically and spiritually, this is a season and a journey away from darkness and towards light; away from cold and towards warmth; away from emptiness, starvation, and bleakness and towards growth, food, and life.

We are all well aware of the crushing surge of pain from human actions like those of our current economic woes, and war. We are well aware of the agony from natural disaster like the earthquake in Haiti, and widespread disease in other places on earth. These things contain elements of darkness, cold, emptiness, and bleakness.

Despite those extremely harsh events, nevertheless, there is this: This season of the year, along with this season of Lent, remind us that the love of Christ is always forward oriented. It is true that there has been darkness and pain. It is passing now. Today and tomorrow we can always experience more light, warmth, growth, and life. The great key is expressed in words like those of Jesus: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. As you daily and hourly look to me and call upon me, says Jesus, I will make you into a person of that kind. You will become a person who knows and expresses the love and the compassion of God. You will become a person who conveys the grace of God to each person you meet.

With much love

Fr John Stubbs

Notable events at St. Mary's during January

On Sun 3rd we celebrated the baptism of the Connors twins, Devin and Eric. At her burial on Fri 8th we mourned the loss of Janet Forssell, a widely respected teacher and faithful member of the Parish here throughout her long life. On Sun 10th we had our "youth Sunday", in which our young people did very well in their special roles in the service. On Fri 15th we held our first game night: a small but most happy step in the direction of holding social events for the members and friends of St. Mary's.

The meetings of the worship and outreach discussion groups in January continued to pray and work regarding several very positive steps for the Parish at the moment and on into the future. Then, on Sun 24th we had our Parish Annual Meeting led by our churchwardens Herb Smith and Cathy Carlson. The Churchwardens and Parish Vestry for 2010 were elected or confirmed. A wide range of groups and committees made their reports; and there was a most happy and positive feeling at this Annual Meeting.

Towards the end of the month, there was the natural disaster of the earthquake in Haiti, when so many thousands of people died in and around Port-au-Prince. The Bishop of NY has asked the parishes to make a special collection to assist victims, as one important way of expressing our compassion in the name of Christ. These collections will take place on Sun 7th and Sun 14th Feb.

*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
February 16 @ 7:00 p.m.*

Join us for an evening of fellowship

\$15 per person
\$6 for children 5 - 15 yrs.
children under 5 are free

Please include your name on the sign-up sheet located in the parish house.
You may also call the parish office at 718-442-1527 to reserve your dinner seat

From the Vestry

The Annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 24, 2010 following a united service at 9:00 a.m. In the absence of a rector, a motion was made to have Herb Smith act as the presiding officer of the meeting. Reports were given by; the Wardens, Fr. John Stubbs, the Treasurer and all Organizations and Committees of St. Mary's Church. If you would like to read a copy of the minutes from this meeting, please speak with Pat Cunningham, Clerk of the Vestry. Vestry members will be installed on Sunday, February 28 at the 10:00 a.m. service.

In order to address concerns voiced at the annual meeting regarding the church driveway and parking, a committee was formed to review the current parking situation around the church. Members of this committee are Herb Smith, Cathy Carlson, Marcia Farrell and Joe Zagami.

2010 VESTRY

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

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

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

The Search Committee

Cathy Carlson

As of January 20, 2010, the position Rector of St. Mary's has been posted as "open" and the Search Committee will be receiving names from potential candidates. Over the next two months, the committee will receive names, review candidate resumes and may choose up to 12 individuals to interview. Prior to interviewing, the list of names is submitted to the Diocesan Bishop for review and approval. Once the committee receives the approved list, back from the bishop, we will begin to interview.

If satisfied with some of the candidates, the committee may recommend up to three candidates for the Vestry to interview. The Vestry makes the final decision regarding the hiring of a rector. If there are no satisfactory candidates at this time, the position would again be posted as open and the committee will wait to receive additional applications. The parish will be notified when the interview process begins.

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.

Our Parish Family



Engagement News

Bruce and Nancy Gundry announce the engagement of their daughter Erika to Mr. Peter Katalenas. The couple is planning a July 2011 wedding. Congratulations!

Baby News

Arthur and Faith Grannis welcome great-granddaughter Dina Rose. Arthur is pictured holding Dina Rose.

Celebrate



February Birthdays

1 - Susan Smith; 5- Fr. John Walsted; 7 - John Carlson, Laura Cunningham;

8 - H. Walcott Benjamin; 19 - Shirley Smith; 28 - Jayne Lamarche

February Anniversaries

2 - John & Dorothy Nelson

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.

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.

Fundraising Events

Sally Rizzo is the vestry liaison for fundraising and outreach events. If you would like to organize a fundraising or outreach (community) event, please speak with Sally.

Thank you to Robert Campbell for agreeing to Chair our Annual Fair.

Fundraising News:

A fundraising meeting was held on Sunday, February 7 following the 10:00 a.m. service. The order of business was our Annual Fair and whether to hold the event in the spring or the fall. This year's Fair will be held in June, on Saturday, June 19. The Fair Dinner will be held in May, date to be determined.

⇒ This year instead of a single "raffle prize" we hope to have several raffle baskets (i.e. movie basket, wine basket, small electronics, board games, floral gift certificates, etc.). If you would like to donate a complete raffle basket, or can solicit items from your favorite merchant, or donate items towards a basket, please speak with Bob Campbell or Cathy Carlson. We will also accept monetary donations towards the purchase of raffle basket items. We look forward to a successful spring event.

Outreach Committee

The outreach committee is working on developing a parish "mission statement". A statement has been submitted to the vestry for comment.

At this time the committee is putting the idea of an after school program on hold, but does plan to have a small summer program, Vacation Bible School. It is the intent of this committee to incorporate some of the musical aspects previously discussed into this summer program. If you are interested in helping with this upcoming program, please speak with Fr. John. We hope our teenagers will volunteer some of their time and talents to assist with the day to day operation of the summer program. More information is to follow. The Outreach Committee's next meeting is March 11 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.

The Stewardship Campaign is still underway. If you have not returned your 2010 pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Additional pledge cards and information on e-pledging (electronic pledging) can be found in the back of the church, or in the church office.

CALENDAR

Note:

Please return your palm crosses from Palm Sunday 2009, which are used to make the ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Furthermore, please check the reading table for the various offerings there, and make your own choice for yourself of a spiritual reading assignment during Lent 2010.

February

Tue. Feb. 16th Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Supper at 7:00 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 17th Ash Wednesday: Eucharist and Ashing at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sun Feb. 21st First Sunday in Lent: Evensong & Benediction at 4:00 p.m.

Wed. Feb 24th: Lenten Program

- We welcome the Staten Island Council of Churches (SICoC) to the first of their series of Lenten events, this first one being at St. Mary's. The program will be a hymn sing followed by Compline and refreshments; all beginning at 7:30 p.m. After that, on Wednesday evenings, there will be a continuing series of Lenten events with the SICoC at neighboring churches. We encourage parishioners to participate in these events.

Sat. Feb. 27th: Parish Retreat – All are welcome!

- from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Paul's church, 225 St. Paul's Avenue. Fr. Roy Cole, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, will lead the retreat.

Future Events – March

Wed. Mar. 10 @ St. Andrew's in Richmond town

- Carpenter Kids – An outreach program of the Diocese of New York for the Children of Tanzania. Guest Preacher Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo Bishop of the Diocese of Tanzania.
6:30 p.m. Light supper
7:45 p.m. Eucharist led by Bishop Mhogolo

Sun. Mar. 14 – Youth Service at St. Mary's, 10:00 a.m.

Fri. Mar. 19 – St. Mary's Game Night, 7:00 p.m.

(Come dressed in green and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us)

Sun. Mar. 21 – Richmond IPC Lenten Program

- All Saints Church at 4:00 p.m. Guest Preacher will be Dr. Robert Wright and he will speak on the Anglican Communion and Beliefs. Light supper will follow.

⇒ ***SAVE THE DATE***

Inter parish picnic on May 23 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at All Saints', Victory Blvd.