

Saint Mary's Church
347 Davis Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310



stmarysi.com

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Welcome

We welcome you to Saint Mary's Church. Saint Mary's has been an important presence in the community for over 150 years. Many people who visit us comment on a feeling of spirituality when they enter our church.

About this Profile

To find out what was on the minds of our parishioners the search committee distributed two parish surveys. The first was a modified version of the Diocesan Congregational Survey asking our parishioners how satisfied they are with the manner in which the Church Activities are being accomplished, their attitude towards social issues, and characteristics of a good rector. The second survey containing three open ended questions regarding their wishes for the next rector, community outreach and the acceptance of additional service styles. In conjunction with the surveys, two parish meetings were held. The first meeting was to discuss people's feelings about Saint Mary's and in what direction we want to move. The second meeting was held to discuss the goals of our parish and the qualities most important in our next rector. Search Committee members have also sought out and spoken informally with individual parishioners, eliciting even more opinions.

Our profile is based on the insights of these tools of discernment, supplemented by historical and financial information. Our congregation had indicated that the most important characteristic of our next rector should be compassion. We are looking for someone who enjoys involvement in the parish life and who places great emphasis on pastoral care.

We hope that our parish profile will give you a feeling of who we are and help you to decide if you would like to be considered for the position of Rector. Please mail or email (email preferred) a cover letter, resume and CDO Profile to:

Cathy Carlson, Search Committee Chair
192 Slosson Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314

E-mail: stmarysearch@gmail.com

Upon receipt of materials from all interested parties, the Search Committee will conduct a first review and select a list of the most suitable applicants. This slate will go to the Deployment Office of the Episcopal Diocese of New York for vetting. The Deployment Office will return the Bishop's Approved List of candidates to the parish Search Committee. The Search Committee will then proceed with interviews, reference checks and visits of candidates in order to prepare a short list for presentation to the Vestry, who will interview the finalists.

We thank you for taking the time to learn about us and wish you well and continued blessings.

Who We Are

Saint Mary's is one of ten Episcopal parishes on Staten Island and is a parish rich in history and blessed with generations of faithful and devoted parishioners. Our ministries include the Altar Society, Acolyte Guild, Choir, Bible Study Group, Prayer Group, Sunday school and Nursery care, Lay Readers, Ushers, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. The Parish also sponsors a Girl Scout Troop, which is a community based organization. In addition, food is collected year round for the feeding ministry at Christ Church, New Brighton.



Saint Mary's Church is spiritually and liturgically a traditional Anglican Church. This traditional parish uses the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, Rite I and the 1940 Hymnal. We have two masses each Sunday, a low mass at 8:00 a.m. and a sung mass at 10:00 a.m. The Eucharist is also celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m., followed by bible study. Morning Prayer is celebrated on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. and on Holy Days. Evensong and Benediction is celebrated in Advent and Lent. Traditionally our church hosts a solemn three-hour observance of Good Friday and clergy throughout Staten Island are invited to participate.

We are situated in an area that can best be described as middle class. The members of the parish are community oriented. Members serve as volunteers in many charitable organizations. Most of the parishioners live within two miles of the parish; others come from mid-Island and as far away as New Jersey. The majority of our members have been in attendance for over ten years, and many are life-long members.

Saint Mary's Church has a particularly strong music ministry led by our organist and choirmaster Daniel Fannon. We are very blessed to have beautiful music each Sunday and on special occasions. Our choir is comprised of twelve members who help lead the weekly service. Through the generosity of our parishioners and friends of Saint Mary's we have recently added hand bells to our music ministry.

We have a small Sunday school with a curriculum for children from kindergarten through eighth grade. This past year we have added a nursery and Pre-school program. In addition to class work the children enjoy an annual visit from St. Nicholas, dyeing eggs for parishioners and an Easter egg hunt on the back lawn.

Our Adult Bible Study Group meets on Wednesday morning after the 9:30 Eucharist. Currently the Bible Study Group is studying the Gospels. There have been many spirited discussions that inspire research and lend more meaning to our spiritual growth.

Our Altar Society prepares the altar and church for all services. This small group of dedicated members is responsible for the care and upkeep of the vessels, altar linen and vestments used at the altar.

Our Acolytes add dignity to the service and assist the priest at the altar. Once confirmed any person, young or old may join.

Our Lay Readers, Ushers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the clergy and congregation in prayer and worship at all services; and the Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the clergy in home visits.

Fundraising events include parish dinners, an annual fair and Christmas boutique.

Our Worship

Worship is centered in the Holy Eucharist, using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, Rite I and the 1940 Hymnal. Our worship follows the customs of traditional liturgy including formal procession, Sanctus bells, holy water and other ceremonial accompaniments that enhance and beautify the liturgy. Music is an important part of our services.



Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Nursery Care and
Sunday school
Laying on of Hands, second Sunday

Weekday Services:
Wed. 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

Community

Saint Mary's Church and its rectory are located on the corner of Castleton and Davis Avenues in a primarily residential area. The Richmond University Medical Center and Regional Radiology facility are close by, and there are small businesses (restaurants, coffee shop, legal offices, and gift shops) along Castleton Avenue within walking distance. In contrast to the hustle and bustle surrounding the church our Cloister and enclosed memorial garden offers peace and tranquility to members of the parish and to people who live in the area or visit patients at the medical center. The memorial garden is blessed with beautiful rose bushes that bloom throughout the summer and autumn. In front of the Cloister a lovely statue of the Virgin Mary makes a blessed presence. After 9/11 the crucifix in the corner garden was rededicated to the memory of the victims who lost their lives at the World Trade Center on that tragic day.

A bus stop immediately across the street connects us to Manhattan via the Staten Island Ferry. Saint Mary's is within a ten-minute drive to the Staten Island Expressway leading to the

Verrazano Narrows Bridge to Brooklyn or Long Island. There are three bridges that connect Staten Island to New Jersey: the Goethals, the Outerbridge Crossing and the Bayonne Bridge.

There are two Episcopal parishes within a few miles of Saint Mary's; Christ Church in New Brighton and Ascension Church in West Brighton. Staten Island has always been a borough with a very large Roman Catholic population, and this is still true today. The Jewish population has seen an increase as more people have come to Staten Island from Brooklyn and we are also seeing an increase in population from all over the globe.

Although we are near major cultural activities in Manhattan, Staten Island also has an active arts community. We have the Staten Island Symphony, the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and several museums and historical homes. The Snug Harbor Cultural Center has a Botanical Garden, a Chinese Scholar's Garden, a Children's Museum, a Music Hall, Art galleries and art studios, and is within five minutes of Saint Mary's.

There are public and private elementary and high schools nearby, as well as Wagner College, St. John's University, and the College of Staten Island (a branch of the New York City University system).

Goals and Challenges

Growth in membership is a high priority and a responsibility that must be shared by the Rector and the parishioners. We need to reach out to new people in the community, particularly young families, offering them a spiritual home. It is imperative that young parents be aware that Saint Mary's is vested in providing the appropriate religious education for their children. Hopefully, with the addition of new families we will develop a more comprehensive Sunday school program and perhaps start a Youth Group.

We would like to expand our interaction with the community, and other religious organizations. We would like to identify community outreach programs in our area and offer our services in any way possible. Additionally, we would like to deepen our relationship with our sister churches and share in religious and recreational activities whenever possible.

Our committed parishioners are our strength and we need to support and nurture them. We look for deeper spiritual development and instruction and want more opportunities for: worship, adult education, and fellowship.

Our goal is to continue to worship God in the traditional Anglican way. (See pg 4, p 2 'Who We Are', and pg 5 'Our Worship') This is a cornerstone of our foundation here at St. Mary's and it is important to us. We are, however, flexible enough to prayerfully consider introducing other complementary elements into our services with an eye towards enhancing the spiritual enrichment of our congregation.

Our Rector

Saint Mary's has been blessed with exceptionally fine Rectors throughout our 160 years as a parish, and we know that God will guide us in the calling of our 16th Rector, of this we are certain. With this thought in mind, we are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to help us with our choice. We will prayerfully consider all resumes that match our profile.

We are seeking to call a spiritual leader whose life is grounded in prayer and whose ministry is faithful to the Gospel, an effective preacher who makes the Gospel relevant to our lives.

Our Priest should be someone who enjoys involvement in the parish life and who places great emphasis on pastoral care; one who can minister to the needs of our members during all phases of their life, and be both counselor and comforter during life's difficult times.

We seek;

- a well organized administrator, a partner to help coordinate and manage the day-to-day tasks and programs of our parish.
- someone who can help us attract new people to our community and offers them a spiritual home.
- a liturgical leader who conducts services that are beautiful, meaningful and dignified and who appreciates the role of music in worship.
- a leader who has the ability to inspire and work with the lay leadership, educate and support the lay ministries within our parish.
- a self-assured individual of high moral and ethical character who can be a calming presence when needed.
- someone who will organize and promote educational programs for all parishioners, as well as someone who can, out of their own spiritual quest, help lead others to find their own spiritual paths. This is very important in times of rapid global changes. The spirit can be a cornerstone to steady the course and upon which one can build an exemplarily life.
- a steward who will appreciate the beauty of our church buildings and grounds, and will make it a priority to see to it that they are lovingly maintained to the glory of God for future generations.

Buildings and Grounds

Saint Mary's Church was built in the Gothic Style. Under the tenure of the Rev'd Samuel P. Parker, a handsome new stone church was built on an acre of land that constitutes most of the present churchyard. The church was completed and consecrated on May 26 1853. The rectory was built in American Gothic style and was completed in 1858. During the tenure of the Rev'd Alfred G. Mortimer a graceful and well-proportioned choir and new sanctuary were added to the building. A new organ was built and the first slate roof was given.

The present parish house was built in 1910 and enlarged in 1925. The chapel, with a choir room in the undercroft, was constructed and consecrated in 1914. In 1925, the present rectory and cloister were completed. A kitchen was added to the parish house in 1974 and an office and handicapped accessible bathroom were added in 1994. The large room in the undercroft serves as a meeting place for the Sunday school. There is a smaller room that is reserved for nursery age children.

The property consists of an acre of landscaped grounds in a traditional English setting. On these grounds are situated our Church, chapel, rectory, parish house, cloister, garage and memorial rose garden. All of our property is well maintained. In October we had the blessing of the beautiful new front doors of the church.



Administration and Finance

The St. Mary's Episcopal Church Vestry, by direction of its by-laws, consists of the Rector, two wardens, and nine vestry members. Wardens and Vestry members are elected on a rotating basis by the parish membership at its annual meeting held in January. Vestry members hold a three year term and may succeed themselves for one additional term. Wardens serve for two years and may succeed themselves for two additional terms.

The Treasurer, who is usually, but not necessarily, a Vestry member, administers parish finances. The Wardens and the Vestry Finance Committee oversee the treasurer's efforts and other important administrative matters, such as mandated diocesan reports, insurance and annual budget preparation.

Paid staff presently includes an Interim Pastor, a Sexton, a Parish Administrator, and an Organist/Choirmaster.

2010 Budget as approved by the Vestry on January 5, 2010

	<u>Budget 2009</u>	<u>Actual 2009</u>	<u>Budget 2010</u>
Income			
Altar, Flowers & Worship	4,000	4,470.00	4,500.00
Offering Envelopes	60,000	61,101.50	63,000.00
Envelopes Special	4,500	5,145.84	5,000.00
Other - Easter	2,800	2,896.00	2,800.00
Other - Christmas	3,300	3,077.00	3,300.00
Hospitality	300	234.00	300.00
Fundraising Events	15,000	11,411.01	12,000.00
Interest Income	120,000	126,994.04	125,000.00
Total Income	<u>209,900</u>	<u>215,329.39</u>	<u>215,900.00</u>
Expense			
Salaries Priest	50,500	51,166.88	55,000.00
Sunday Assistant	11,700	8,397.00	-
Organist	13,500	13,649.84	13,500.00
Secretary	10,816	11,124.00	10,816.00
Sexton	23,400	22,770.00	23,400.00
Clergy - other	500	-	-
Altar, Flowers & Worship	4,000	4,854.35	4,500.00
Diocesan Assessment	28,133	22,506.39	19,646.00
Dues, Education, Fees	2,500	3,565.32	3,200.00
Fundraising Events	500	3,104.00	3,000.00
Hospitality	500	627.59	500.00
Insurance	31,000	24,054.09	26,000.00
Office	8,500	9,157.94	10,000.00
Mission / Outreach	1,200	1,253.00	1,200.00
Payroll Taxes	4,000	3,556.74	4,000.00
Pension Premiums	15,000	14,069.46	12,678.00
Repairs & Maintenance	6,000	4,150.05	5,000.00
Special Events	1,000	1,152.00	1,000.00
Travel - Auto Allowance	1,500	1,099.38	1,500.00
Utilities (all)	30,000	23,410.88	24,000.00
Search Committee	5,000	-	5,000.00
Total Expense	<u>249,249</u>	<u>223,668.91</u>	<u>223,940.00</u>
	<u>(\$39,349.00)</u>	<u>(\$8,339.52)</u>	<u>(\$8,040.00)</u>

History

The history of Saint Mary's commences in 1848 when Dr. Samuel McKenzie Elliott erected a chapel in the town of Castleton. The frame Gothic chapel was built on Dr. Elliott's property, which was bounded by Bard and Davis avenues, Delafield Place and Richmond Terrace. The parish was incorporated on August 17, 1849, and the Rev'd Henry B. Bartow, assistant at St. George's Church, Manhattan, was called as the first Rector.

On January 7, 1851, the Rev'd Henry Bartow was succeeded by the Rev'd Samuel P. Parker. During his tenure, a handsome new stone church was built on an acre of land, which constitutes most of the present churchyard. Mr. William Bard and his wife deeded the property to the church, and much of the building cost was borne by the Delafield family. The church was completed and consecrated on May 26, 1853 by the Rt. Rev'd Jonathan Wainwright, Provisional Bishop of New York.

Late in the year 1857, the Rev'd Horace Edgar Pratt became Rector. In 1858, Mrs. William Bard gave a new rectory to the parish. It was built in the "American Gothic" style, and stood on the site of our present rectory.

In 1876, the Rev'd George McClelland Fiske came to Saint Mary's. He remained only four years, and was succeeded by the Rev'd Alfred G. Mortimer. During the tenure of Dr. Mortimer the choir and sanctuary were added to the building, giving it the appearance we know and love today. A new organ was built, and the first slate roof was given to the church. We also received our handsome old processional cross and our jeweled chalice.

In 1892, the Rev'd George William Dumbell became Rector. He remained for five years, being succeeded by the Rev'd George E. Quaile in 1897. It was during this period that St. Austin's School became part of our history. Dr. Quaile was the headmaster of the school, and the boys from St. Austin's provided the choir for Saint Mary's. They sang the morning services and Evensong each Sunday. St. Austin's School was housed in the Garner House (now called "The Villa" on the grounds of Richmond University Medical Center). In 1901, when neither Saint Mary's nor our Diocese of New York could afford to purchase the school it was sold to Sisters of Charity for the former St. Vincent's Hospital (now Richmond University Medical Center).

In 1901, the Rev'd Francis LeJau Frost came to St. Mary's. Dr. Frost served the parish faithfully for thirty-four years. At this time the parish entered into its greatest period of building. The present parish house (now named "English Hall") was built in 1910 and enlarged in 1925. The chapel, with a choir room in the undercroft, was constructed and consecrated in 1914. In 1925, the present rectory and cloister were completed. Heavy oak paneling, forming a background to the High Altar, was given in 1908; a bellcote and bell in 1910; a carved oak pulpit, choir stalls and a corresponding lectern were also given during this period. In 1926, a richly





carved and polychromed English oak reredos was installed behind the High Altar on the east wall. The same year, the Cisco Memorial Garden was given, and besides flowers, shrubs, trees, lawns, etc. it included a statue of the Blessed Virgin and a large bronze crucifix. Our present Cloister Rose Garden is a part of this complex and is now used in part for the interment of cremated remains. Sadly, Dr. Frost drowned on February 24, 1935 when the S.S. Mohawk sank off the Atlantic Highlands.

The Rev'd Charles R. Fielding succeeded Dr. Frost in 1935. Fr. Fielding was no stranger to the parish; he had been as assistant priest to Dr. Frost for several years, and was an assistant professor at the General Theological Seminary in Manhattan. In 1940, he resigned for a professorship at the Union Theological Seminary in Toronto, Canada.

The Rev'd E. Roland Taft became Rector in 1940, and at the outbreak of World War II, he left St. Mary's to become an Army Chaplain.

The Rev'd Orin A. Griesmyer was called as Rector in 1942. We were then struggling to pay off a \$25,000 mortgage, and even the interest was a great burden, especially during the depression years. This was also the year of our First Annual Fair. Under Fr. Griesmyer's leadership, the parish went wholeheartedly to work to pay off the mortgage on a five year plan and thus have the church free of debt for the Centennial Anniversary in 1948. Fate intervened, however, and on the morning of August 12, 1947- a morning long to be remembered in the history of St. Mary's- the church building was gutted and ravaged by fire. The loss amounted to well over \$200,000 partly covered by insurance, but falling short of the actual cost of restoration by many thousands of dollars. Staggered but undaunted, the parish went to work not only to rebuild the church, but also to complete paying off the mortgage. In 1952, Fr. Griesmyer resigned. In 1991, he was named Rector Emeritus.

The Rev'd George E. Nichols succeeded Fr. Griesmyer. During his tenure, the membership increased and the parish operated free of debt. He was Rector for twenty-one years. During this time our fine Casavant organ was built and dedicated in 1967. Fr. Nichols was devoted to the parish, and was deeply loved by the community. After a brief illness, he died on April 28, 1973.

The Rev'd William L. English succeeded Fr. Nichols, and he again was no stranger to the parish, having been curate to Fr. Nichols for six years. During this time, the parish house was modernized and extended, the rectory was modernized, a trumpet enchanade was added as well as a choir screen, and wrought iron fencing was installed around the grounds. On September 1, 1999, Fr. English retired after faithfully and lovingly serving Saint Mary's for thirty-two years, being Rector for twenty-five years (the date of Institution was October 28, 1973). Upon the death of Fr. Griesmyer, in 2003, Fr. English was named Rector Emeritus.

The Rev'd Charles McClean succeeded Fr. English in November 2000, and was installed as Rector on January 6, 2001. In April of 2001 Fr. McClean became ill and was unable to continue as Rector. At this time, the Rev'd Richard Markham, who began serving as our Sunday assistant in 2000, celebrated at our Sunday Eucharist's. Fr. Markham retired from active ministry in September 2009.

The Rev'd John Dulfer served as Interim Priest from November 2001 until October 2002. During Fr. Dulfer's time with us our parish transitioned from the 1928 BCP to the 1979 BCP.

The Rev'd Dr. Richard Major served as Priest in Charge from October 2002 until May 2006, and was installed as Rector in May of 2006. Fr. Major resigned in July 2007. During his time with us Fr. Major researched the parish history, wrote a book, developed our parish website and he and his wife Kris had two children, Matilda and Oscar. Additionally, our parish received a gift of four beautiful church banners from a parishioner and the gold Griesmyer vestments given in memory of our past Rector, The Rev'd Orin A. Griesmyer.

During Fr. Major's tenure, The Rev'd John Walsted, retired rector of Christ Church, made Saint Mary's his home parish and began to assist at the Sunday and Wednesday Eucharist. Fr. Walsted is currently the supply clergy at St. Paul's Memorial Church.

Saint Mary's currently has named The Rev'd Dr. John Stubbs as Interim Priest to assist the parish during our period of transition.



We have always had a special love and regard for our Rectors and the new Rector will find abundant faith and respect at Saint Mary's. The parish family can always be depended upon to help find solutions to any needs that occur in conjunction with guidance from the Rector.

God Bless.

Vestry

Wardens: Mr. Herb Smith III (2010)
Mrs. Cathy Carlson (2011)

Vestrymen: Mr. Robert Campbell (2010)
Mr. David Carnegie (2011)
Ms. Sally Rizzo (2011)
Mr. Joseph Zagami (2011)
Mr. Jay DiGiovanni (2012)
Mrs. Marcia Farrell (2012)
Mr. Ernesto Figuero (2012)
Mrs. Rose Myslicki (2112)
Mrs. Arlene Weiss (2112)
Mr. Patrick Cunningham, Clerk
Mrs. Claire Oyelaja

Search Committee

Mrs. Cathy Carlson, Chairperson
Mr. Rupert Blanchette
Dr. Robert Bohnenberger
Ms. Sylvia Campbell
Mr. Patrick Cunningham
Miss Susan Peterson
Ms. Sally Rizzo
Mrs. Mary Logan-Zagami