



**Fall - 2019**

### **Message from the Rector**

Dear members and friends of St. Mary's,

This has been a summer of rich blessings as new people have come to St. Mary's, we have launched the New Horizons partnership and Nancy Vaughn has joined our staff as our part-time Youth and Families Minister. This issue of *Tidings* shares some of what has been happening and outlines St. Mary's life over the next three months.

Please look especially at *The Way of Love*. Ever since he became Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has been urging us to see ourselves as part of the *Jesus Movement*, those who have found new life in Christ and now share it with others. He realized that once we say *Yes* to that, we need concrete ways to put it into action. *The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life* provides just that. For more details see [www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love).

This will be our Wednesday evening program starting on October 16. It can really move us from believing in Christ to living in Christ.

God bless you.

Fr. Michael

### **Notes from the Senior Warden**

**A Gift:** We want to express appreciation for a generous parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, for purchasing a new TV monitor for the main conference room in the PLC. We will be replacing the smaller TV with a 60" monitor to enhance our newly achieved ability to video conference, and other video presentations as well. The new equipment will be large enough to expand the area of good visual contact to an area

larger than the present configuration of the room, simply by opening the mobile walls.

**Nominations for the Vestry:** The Vestry nominating committee will be active early in the fall to suggest replacements for four Vestry members whose terms expire at the conclusion of this church year. The committee consists of the two Wardens (Jon Gunger and me), Betty Zimbardo, Bob Foltz and one other parishioner to be determined. If you are inclined to serve, or would like to suggest someone, please contact one of us.



**Holy Land Excursion:** The Rector and Senior Warden are gathering information to organize a St. Mary's group to visit the Holy Land in 2020. Our first priority for timing is sometime during the two weeks following Easter in late April. Our first indications are that it can be done for less than \$7,000 per person including air, leaving and returning to Ft. Myers. We envision a 10-day trip, a group of 20-30 people, 3-4-star hotel accommodations and most meals included.

**Volunteer Recognition:** This fall, the Vestry is initiating a monthly recognition of the many volunteers who are so faithful and so necessary to the continued smooth functions of St. Mary's. Many of these valuable individuals work regularly, hardly seen, and not often given the appreciation they deserve. We have identified several individuals and groups who will be

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recognized over the coming months and would appreciate any suggestions. I encourage individual church members to remember to thank persons they witness serving God through labors in our parish.

**Our Columbarium:** Our church has an active columbarium located in the Lady Chapel on the Gospel side of the sanctuary. The niches are available for \$2,000 and are guaranteed to be as permanent as the church itself. The initial purchase allows for selection among the available niches, two bronze urns, an inscribed niche cover and allows for two person's cremains to be immured. Up to two more urns may be placed in the niche for a fee of \$500 each. Other interment of cremains is available exterior to the church at less cost. Inquire of one of the Wardens or the church office if more information is desired.

Paul Judkins

## **Update from the Treasurer**

St. Mary's financial condition looks good based on results for the first eight months. Total income for August year-to-date was \$9,117 (1.6%) above budget and August YTD total expenses were \$24,077 (4.6%) below budget. These results indicate that overall we have been living within the financial goals that we set ourselves for this year. As a new treasurer I am deeply grateful to our previous treasurer (Bill Hammock) and last year's Vestry for setting a realistic budget. It makes life much easier for everyone. I will do my best to help the Vestry do the same for the coming year.

Direct parish support (pledges, open plate and offerings) represents 88% of our annual budget of \$780,300 (with the balance coming from Pennywise, our endowment, fundraisers, and miscellaneous income). This presents two primary challenges in managing our finances: first, we basically can spend only what the parish

gives, and second, parish support is strongly seasonal (greatest in the winter and diminished in the summer) while many of our expenses are more evenly spread throughout the year.

When we look at total parish support through the end of August in light of this seasonal pattern it is consistent with the last three years, which is reassuring. Through the end of August this year, we have collected 65.2% of the total parish support that was budgeted for the year, compared with an average of 65.4% for the last three years (the historic figure being the percent of total annual giving that was collected during the first eight months). The closeness of these two percentages indicates that we are on track for meeting our budgeted parish support for this year – provided that we see the pick-up in fourth quarter giving that we have seen in recent years.

John Craun

## **Stewardship – 2020**

### **SHINING OUR LIGHT**

St. Mary's Stewardship Annual Giving Programs will begin on October 12 and end on November 17. We also plan a second active period for this program in February when the majority of our Winter members have returned. The theme for this year's program is "Shining Our Light" which is derived from Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father, who is in heaven". The Logo features this same theme.

We will have a Guest Priest on the weekend of October 19 & 20. This year we are privileged to

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welcome Fr. Brett Cane, a retired Anglican priest from Canada. Fr. Cane's initial education at McGill was in Architecture. He has preached at St. Mary's in the past and his message utilizing his unique education, was well received by our Congregation. In addition, members of our congregation will describe a number of St. Mary's programs which are worthy of your support.

It is unfortunate that the term "stewardship" is so often associated only with this Annual Giving period. While Stewardship plays an important role in providing the funding to support our Christian mission, at St. Mary's, Stewardship remains an important force throughout the entire year.

Stewardship is about managing the gifts that God has given us and using them to do the work that God calls us to do. To quote the Executive Director of the Episcopal Network on Stewardship, Richard Felton, "Stewardship is everything that I do after I say I believe". In addition to our material wealth, our Gifts from God also include our time and talents. St. Mary's provides an opportunity to donate our time and talent to our extensive Christian outreach programs. The initiation of the New Horizons "Super Kids" program at St. Mary's gives us a chance to participate in the education of children that need our help and to feel that we have been blessed through our participation. So, for those of us that are dedicated to the Christian Mission of St. Mary's, Stewardship is not a choice!

Our decision is whether we will be the best Stewards that we can, or will we be less.

For the Stewardship Commission

Wm. James Howard, Chair

## **New Appointment – Youth Ministry**

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we announce the appointment of Nancy Vaughn to

the position of Youth and Family Minister at St. Mary's church. Nancy has extensive experience in education and a longtime knowledge of St. Mary's both of which will help greatly as we look to fulfill the potential St. Mary's has for growth. Nancy began her new role on Sunday, August 25.



## **Diocesan Convention**

Diocesan Convention will be Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. Friday consists of workshops, ministry displays and the opening Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to take part. Registration is needed to take part in workshops and to get meals. Saturday is the official Convention meeting, specifically for clergy and delegates. Others are welcome to attend as visitors. For more information please visit [www.episcopalswfl.org/Governance/diocesan-convention-2019.html](http://www.episcopalswfl.org/Governance/diocesan-convention-2019.html).

## **Confirmation**

Confirmation is the apostolic rite of the laying on of hands with prayer for the daily increase of the Holy Spirit. It is a blessing for all baptized Christians, children and adults. If you have not been confirmed or if you have not been received into the Episcopal Church, please speak with one of the clergy. Confirmation will be celebrated sometime in March 2020

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## **Cursillo**

Monday October 13 and November 10, Cursillo Ultreya will take place in the Parish Life Center. All Cursillistas and all who would enjoy a time of prayer, praise and encouragement are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share.

### **St. Mary's Church and New Horizons of SWFL**

**A Special Outreach Partnership of Love**  
**Super Kids Club – Elementary (PLC)**  
**Super Teens Club – Middle/High School**  
**(Church Knave)**

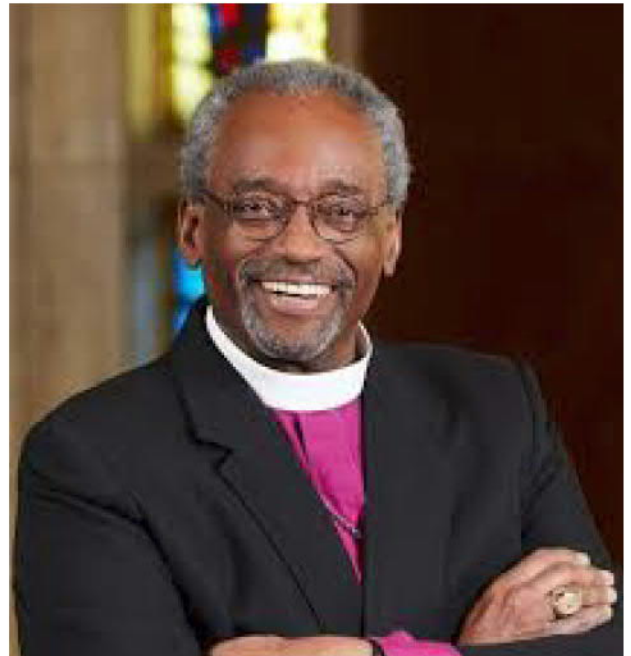
After school programs officially began at St. Mary's on August 28<sup>th</sup> with over 40 children from local elementary, middle and high schools. Volunteers from other sites and St. Mary's volunteers gathered to meet the students and to begin special tutoring and mentoring classes.

Fr. Michael greeted the children as they arrived and, along with Fr. Bill and Deacon Bill, gave an opening prayer for each group to start the new school year.

Each day, and for all students, we open the session with a prayer offered by a member of St. Mary's and we conclude with a period of devotion/personal development led by the Program Director.



## **Wonderful Wednesday's**



**“The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life”**

**Created by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**

**Dinner at 6:30pm**

**Lecture/Discussion at 7:00 – 8:15pm**

<b>October 16 – Turn</b>	<b>November 6 – Worship</b>
<b>October 25 – Learn</b>	<b>November 13 – Bless</b>
<b>October 30 – Pray</b>	<b>November 20 – Go</b>

**Come join us for wonderful evenings of fellowship and a return to the ancient pathways that the followers of Jesus have observed.**

**They will provide guidance, rhythm and inspiration for living a beautiful, meaningful and holy life.**

# **TIDINGS** of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



## **The Order of St. Luke Prayer Ministry**

On Friday November 15th there will be a special event to raise the money to help fund our Healing Conference scheduled for March 7, 2020 featuring Reverend Nigel Mumford.

**Dining Around the World** will feature menus from ten different parts of the world. Areas are Italy, India, Alsace Lorraine, Denmark, Spain, Jerusalem, Mississippi and New England. The cost is \$25.00 per person and you need to sign up ahead of time. Your check assures your reservation.

The evening will begin at 5:00 with a reception and silent auction on the Pavilion, a "wine pull" (great fun) followed by dinner and dessert. The silent auction will include gift baskets with unique themes, gifts of art and ceramics and a splendid opportunity to receive an Ikebana flower arrangement.

This fundraiser has been advertised and available for sign up since last spring on the bulletin board in the PLC and several of the tables are already full. Please check it out and if all should be sold out, we may have to create a "waiting list".

This is only a beginning to help support the education and growth of the OSL ministry so be watchful for things ahead and pray for us as we pray for you.

To quote Diane Arnold in the OSL Sharing publication "The Bible emphasizes the fact that we are mandated to go into the world and impact others. We are also all called to walk in the authority we have in Christ". Blessings to you each, Cherrill Cregar and the OSL Team.

Questions; Cherrill Cregar 239-887-1939 or [Clcregar@gmail.com](mailto:Clcregar@gmail.com) or Jill Smith 718-619-0678 or [rdh71@aol.com](mailto:rdh71@aol.com)

## **Breakfast with the Rector**

On Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> all newcomers are invited to breakfast with Fr. Michael. It is an opportunity for new people to learn about our programs and to ask questions.

Please join Fr Michael in the PLC after the 10:00 Eucharist.

## **PennyWise News**

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Thrift Store aka PennyWise has been open for business this past summer from 10 AM- 2PM daily (except Sunday). First, we would like to thank our local/year-round parishioners who made this possible. Summer presents a challenge with volunteer help and it appears we once again were able to keep the store open from May through September without a hitch. Moreover, our 2019 summer sales receipts exceeded those of summer 2018 by 25%. We think this is due partly by our acceptance of credit cards.

We need to replenish our inventory. We are asking all parishioners to survey their homes for possible donations such as gently used clothes, kitchen goods, books, lamps, small kitchen appliances (no electronics, TVs or computers) and furniture. Please call Neil Fredericksen, Manager, at 727-641-1187, if you have furniture you wish to donate. Currently, we have space in the store for furniture.

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Finally, thanks to our customers who shop in the store and parishioners and others in the community who donate needed items to keep the thrift store doors open. Our fall hours start October 1 and will be 10 AM - 3 PM.

PennyWise will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Open Houses after each service on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The store will be open for one hour after each service and refreshments will be served. Donations will be accepted.

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED DAILY THROUGH THE "RED" BACK DOORS OF THE THRIFT STORE!**

Barbara Wallace

Senior Warden Paul Judkins, Junior Warden Jon Gunger, Jeanie Temby, Doris Bialowas, Paul Greene, Hilton and Georgia Jerve, Ian Mitchell, Diane Thomas, Ralph Quarles, Pamela Stamper, Mary Koenig, Fr Michael, Virginia Cullison, Diana Dearth, and worship chair Gail Goggin will help the team maintain the high quality and satisfying variety of programs to be offered at the parish. *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!*

This year has begun with the glorious Marian Concert (recording accessible on our parish Facebook page). We forward to a brilliant program of Sacred Music in honor of St Cecilia at 7pm on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, performed by our cantor Helen Tintes-Schuermann, and special guest organist, Brice Gerlach, of 1st Presbyterian Church of Naples.



## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

St Mary's Music Ministry is delighted to have formed a new Friends of St Mary's Music Team for the Concert Season 2019-2020 and beyond.



Helen Tintes-Schuermann



and



Brice Gerlach

Please don't miss Lessons & Carols at 4pm on Sunday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. And a very special recital by students of the Miller Music Studio in Bonita Springs will be presented in two parts on the afternoon of Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. *Please mark your calendars now!*

Our member musicians give so much time, talent, and love to our worship: Doris Bialowas, Jeanie Temby, Georgia & Hilton Jerve, Sara & Jim George, Jim Fox, Charley Baker, Fr David Oliver, Richard Barrett, Sandy Renner, Diane Thomas, Mary Koenig, Pat McKenzie, Shirley Woolaway, Pam Stamper, and Ralph Quarles. New members are always a sign of God's Goodness: we are thrilled to welcome Pamela Houze, and Sam Hawken this Season!

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St Mary's Sunday 10am Choir will return to services October 6<sup>th</sup>, with great joy.

Kathleen Pignato

## **Super Kids Choir Performance**

On October 6, the Super Kids Choir will be performing at the 10 am Parish Eucharist. New Horizons celebrates seventeen years of reaching at-risk children with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ—the ultimate “new horizon.” From its humble beginnings with 20 children, New Horizons currently reaches over 600 children and teens by providing free tutoring and mentoring weekly through its Super Kids Clubs, Super Teen Clubs, Super Kids Church and Teen Sailing Program. Their students are learning to become productive and responsible members of society through education, career development, and community service. Young peoples' lives are being changed as they develop both academically and spiritually! And now St. Mary's is a full partner with New Horizons with a Super Kids Club meeting Monday through Thursday each week.

## **Updates from our Postulants**

Dear Friends,

My second year of seminary has begun. It has been a transformative summer working with homeless and marginalized communities in San Francisco, CA. I was deeply moved by the love, tragedy and triumph found in each person's story. My training with The San Francisco Night

Ministry and Sutter Healthcare Systems enabled me to improve my pastoral skills and participate in interreligious dialogue. I was working 40 hours a week as a crisis-line counselor and as a pastor walking the streets 10pm - 2am, participating in a weekly bible study, and two outdoor worship services each week. The experience has reinforced my belief that world still needs Jesus, possibly more than ever. As Christians we have the power to love and change lives.



With little rest between the end of my training this summer and the start of my second year I am realizing how demanding life can be as a pastor. I will be working as intern at St. Clement's in Berkeley, CA this year and will start this weekend September 8th. I am excited for the year ahead. We have a new partnership with Trinity Wall Street in Manhattan, NY and fifteen new residential students entered our community.

I am forever grateful for all the formation, support, and love I have received from you all at St. Mary's. I hope to return during the Christmas season and reconnect with all of you. I was so excited to hear about your new journey with New Horizons and your continued efforts to spread the Good News with love and charity to all.

I hope you all enjoy a great fall season as you welcome back friends from up north.

Peace and Love,

Brian Cleary

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For most of my life, I've been knocking on God's door, asking, "How may I serve you?" Every time, the answer was, "Walk through this door next." Only recently, the doors began to open in a way that led to service in the church. I'm writing to you from a small seminary dorm room on West 21st St. in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. This is an answer to a lifetime of prayer.

The week before classes began, I explored the Chelsea neighborhood and learned a bit about its history. The seminary sits on land owned by Thomas Clarke, who purchased a large Dutch farm in the mid-1700s. His grandson, Clement Clarke Moore, wrote "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." When the 1811 Commissioners' plan proposed a grid system of streets across Manhattan, the grandson opposed it. (The commissioners "would have cut down the Seven Hills of Rome.") The younger Clarke became General Theological Seminary's first professor of Hebrew and Greek literature. GTS was chartered in 1817 and has produced 7,000 graduates. To resolve financial issues, the school sold some of its land and property to private developers. The Desmond Tutu Center is connected to a new hotel, now a conference center. I'm living in a little dorm room with my daughter's Sheltie, Luke, and her hermit crab.

I've learning to check the weather report before walking the half mile to the grocery store, that dogs and children are the best way to meet the neighbors and I am still praying about how to help the many homeless who live at our gates.

Classes have started. In the next *Tidings*, I'll share a bit about worship and what we're learning. Thank you for helping to open these doors through your prayers, encouragement, and donations. I'm deeply grateful and lift you up in prayer daily. If you're in New York, please come visit!

If you're curious about how Maddie likes college, it's already stretching her tremendously. She's learning to juggle meals, classes, work study in the Ceramics Department, laundry, and friends. She had a stressful encounter with a homeless person on the way back from dinner with a friend. The friend offered him her food. He accepted, then left. So many life lessons to be learned. Please remember us in your prayers.

Blessings and peace,

Anne (Hartley)

## **KINDNESS FOR KIDS**

It is time to turn our minds to Christmas and how we can make it a merry one for all children. This year we will again be conducting our Kindness for Kids project. A tree will be set up in the narthex with names of children and their request for a toy. Please plan to participate this year with a check or a gift.

## **??DOUBT??**

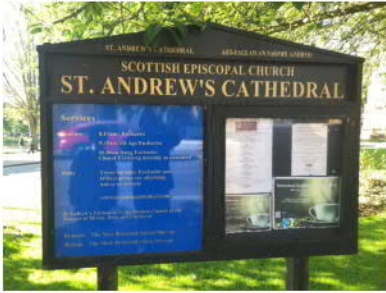
Doubt: what is it? Why do we experience it? How can we turn it off and be more certain of our beliefs? Can one be a faithful disciple and experience moments – perhaps long episodes – of doubt?

On Advent Learning Day join Father Michael and Mel Bennet as they explore doubt from both a faith-based and psychological perspective.

Advent Learning Day will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 12:30 in the PLC.

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## Senior Warden's Adventure and Episcopal Church History Lesson



Annette and I recently returned from a vacation in Europe, part of which was spent on a 12-day cruise around the United Kingdom. Among the calls along the way was a particularly memorable one at the port of Inver Gordon, Scotland. We signed up for a motor coach excursion to see the interesting sights around the city of Inverness.

We stopped in the city below Inverness Castle for a brief visit and photo op. The coach parked in front of an impressive gothic style church which the guide told us was an Episcopal Cathedral. I was unaware that the Scots had Episcopal Churches in the Anglican Communion, as well as we here in America. I was immediately interested and on entering discovered an American flag posted in the rear of the nave. The guide did not have a good answer as to why, but Annette ran into the church sexton, who told her it had to do with a painting on the wall below the flag.



The painting was of the consecration of the first American Episcopal Bishop, Samuel Seabury, which took place in nearby Aberdeen, on November 14, 1784. The Bishop of this cathedral was one of the three required bishops to carry out the consecration. Seabury became Bishop of Connecticut, and on organization of the national Episcopal Church became our second Presiding Bishop, succeeding the first, William White, who served just 67 days.

It took some research to understand why this was a momentous event, and that it took place in Scotland. As English settlers began to settle in the colonies which were to become the United States, they established churches in their new communities which were commonly part of the Church of England. The parishes which were established were under the authority of the Bishop of London, and the Rectors (or Vicars) were largely English citizens who were sent to the colonies for the purpose of pastoring the colonial churches. The Church of England was the official church of our mother country, headed by the monarch, and supported by and subject to the rules of parliament. Clergy, on ordination or consecration were required by law to take an oath of allegiance to the monarch.

When in 1781, the United States won independence from the crown, many of the English clergy returned to England. Many others accepted loyalty to the new nation. But there was no way to make new clergy because there was no Bishop to ordain them. The new American Episcopal church was in somewhat of a crisis. The newly established branch of Anglicanism could not simply create a bishop, because of our core belief that bishops have authority through "apostolic succession" which has been passed in a constant line of consecration down from the apostles of Jesus.

In 1784, several rectors in Connecticut elected Samuel Seabury as their bishop. He went to

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England to seek consecration but was refused by officials of the Church of England because canon law required an oath of allegiance to the monarch. So, Samuel Seabury went to Scotland to seek consecration where it was granted, with the understanding that the Americans would adopt the Scottish rite for the Eucharist, a liturgical form we Episcopalians still practice.

The Parliament within two more years, perhaps influenced by the actions of the Scottish church, revoked the allegiance requirement and in 1786 allowed three more Americans to be consecrated. With the minimum of three bishops required to create more bishops, apostolic succession was sufficient in the new United States to allow expansion of "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America". We survived and more than half the signatories to our new constitution were members of the church.

Another note about our first diocesan Bishop. He was a loyalist before and during the revolution, and even served as chaplain to an English regiment during the war. However, when independence was won, he accepted the results and declared his loyalty to the new nation.

Paul Judkins

## **New Books in the Library**

Thank you to the anonymous donor of four new books for the library. These were listed on the *Giving Opportunities* list which the Vestry has authorized as items or contributions that St. Mary's would particularly welcome.

*Defending Constantine* by Peter J. Leithart debunks the modern fantasy that the Emperor Constantine simply used the Church thereby fatally compromising its Christian identity. Instead, he argues, Constantine had a real Christian faith and he and the Church transformed

the Roman Empire for the better and prepared the way for the blessings of Christendom, East and West.

*Egeria's Travels* is the account of a fourth century nun on one of the earliest pilgrimages to Jerusalem after the legalization of Christianity. Her eyewitness account of worship in Jerusalem influenced Christian worship throughout the Empire and is one of our earliest detailed sources for how Christians worshiped. (You will see a lot of similarities with our practices today.)

*Charity Detox: What Charity Would Look Like If We Cared about the Results* by Robert D. Lupton is a bracing challenge to all of us whose hearts go out to those in need. He argues that a great deal of charity – hand outs, mission trips, development grants and the such – hurt rather than help the recipients. He challenges us to see how our "charity" would change if we decided that the wellbeing of others matters more than our own good feelings.

*When Divorce is not an Option: How to Heal Your Marriage and Nurture Lasting Love* by Dr. Gregory K. Popcak is the only one of these four books that I have not read. Particularly directed to those who understand that their marriage vows are permanently binding (barring truly extraordinary circumstances) and who are therefore completely invested in resolving marital problems and enhancing marital strengths.

These books join hundreds of others in St. Mary's Library, a rich resource for us all.

Fr. Michael Rowe

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## SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 26 – Lunch Bunch  
Doug's Seafood  
Thursday, October 10 – ECHO Global Farm  
Tour  
Thursday, October 31 – Lunch Bunch,  
Poached, Naples  
Thursday, November 14 – Debbie Haley,  
New Horizons  
Thursday, December 12 – Christmas  
Luncheon, Shangri-La  
Saturday, January 4 – Christmas Tea  
(Please note date change)

*More details to follow on these events and many  
more opportunities for fun and fellowship with  
ladies of St. Mary's.*

*For more information, contact Renee Osborne,  
renee@midwestsinglesource.com.*

## Calendar

September 19	Thursday	Mourners' Path begins
October 5	Saturday	10:00 am Saint Francis Pet Blessing
October 6	Sunday	10:00 am New Horizons Children's Choir
October 11/12	Fri/Sat	Diocesan Convention
October 12/13	Sat/Sun	Stewardship 2020 begins

October 20	Sunday	Stewardship Celebration The Rev. Canon Brett Cane
October 26/27	Sat/Sun	Outreach Sunday
November 10	Sunday	Deadline for Submission of <i>Tidings</i> Copy
November 9/10.	Sat/Sun	Veterans Day Observance at all Eucharists
November 15	Friday	OSL Healing Around the World Dinner
November 16/17	Sun/Sat	Stewardship Ingathering
November 22	Friday	7:00 pm Music Concert Feast of St. Cecilia
November 27	Wednesday	7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service First Presbyterian Church
November 28	Thursday	10:00 am Thanksgiving Eucharist
November 30	Saturday	Advent begins Lectionary Year A
December 1	Sunday	Advent begins Lectionary Year A

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## **WELCOME NEW HORIZON SUPER KIDS**

