



Winter - 2019

Message from the Rector

Dear friends,

At the heart of vibrant Christian living is profound gratitude to God our Father for creating us, for bringing us to new life in his Son Jesus Christ and for guiding us at every moment by his Holy Spirit. Our culture participates with us in two great celebrations this month and next that express this sense of profound gratitude – Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a blessing to share our celebrations with our wider culture yet I think most of us experience some dissonance, some inner conflict.

Is it really the best way to celebrate the religious foundations of our country and the vibrant religious freedom that grew out of them by buying televisions at 60% off? Or to celebrate the birth of the timeless Son of God for our salvation by going on a shopping spree?

In both cases I think that the heart of the celebration has become lost to many people so something else, self-focused and self-indulgent, has taken its place. I think we can understand that and sympathize. We have no need to criticize what others are doing and our criticism rarely wins friends for us or for our Lord.

However, we want to live faithfully and authentically as followers of Christ. Some of us may want to embrace these celebrations counter-culturally, abstaining from the commercialism and the extravagant consumption as completely as we can. Others of us may be glad to share in our culture's celebrations, once we have made sure that first things are first. Perhaps we are content to celebrate family, football and discounted televisions after we have given joyful thanks at God's altar for all his blessings on our nation. Perhaps we are happy to spend lavishly on family Christmas celebrations after we have given

ourselves lavishly to Jesus Christ who has given himself so completely for us.

The Gospel calls us not only to put God first but to order everything we are and do under his lordship; that is, in everything to love God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

May our Thanksgiving gratitude and our Christmas joy truly express our first love.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Michael

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 on Sunday, March 1, 2020.



Walking the Mourner's Path

"transforming grief into joyful living"

Have you lost a loved one during the past year? Or perhaps you find yourself still mourning this loss

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even though you loved one passed away several years ago. If this is the case St. Mary's is offering a program starting in February that is designed to help you heal from this terrible loss and equip you to move on with your life. It is called "Walking the Mourner's Path." If you think you might be interested contact Bob Raubolt or Jeanette Turansky for more information. The folk at the church office will be more than happy to put you in touch with them. Definite dates will be announced in the bulletin at a later date.

Fr. Bill Faupel

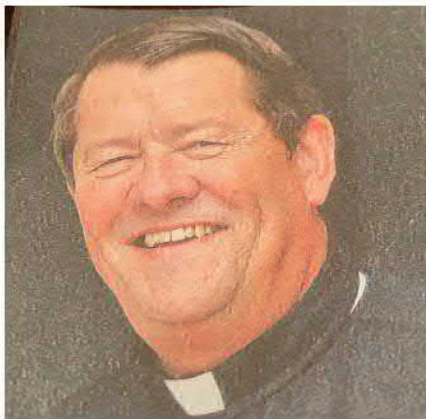
??DOUBT??

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 14th from 9:00 am – 12:30 in the PLC.

"This is Where Your Healing Begins"
Explore the Mystery of Healing Body, Mind and Spirit



Christian Formation, Order of St. Luke and Pastoral Care team invite you to join with us on Saturday

March 7, 2020 for a special day to listen, learn, expand your mind and spirit and to be strengthened for the life we live.

This program features Reverend Nigel Mumford, an known priest, teacher, healing prayer minister, and published author.

Check in is at 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 10:00, lunch is served at noon to be followed by afternoon session. You can walk the Labyrinth, find quiet time in the outdoor pavilion and Prayer Teams will be available. For those who can stay there will be Holy Eucharist at 5:00 pm.

To register send your check for \$20.00 made out to St. Mary's Church with Healing Conference in memo area. Mail to St. Mary's Church, PO box 1923, Bonita Springs, FL 34133.

Questions? Call St. Mary's Church 239-992-4343 or Cherrill Cregar at CherrillCregar@gmail.com – 239-887-1939

Updates from Our Postulants

To my St. Mary's family,

Autumn is in full swing in New York. The cooler weather in historic buildings means we have had no hot water since last Thursday and have no heat today, but thankfully, temperatures outside aren't too low...yet!

I was just settling in when I wrote last. My suite mate and I cleaned out the community kitchen. With donations from my grandmother (through my mother), the kitchen is fully equipped. I cook a few dinners a week there. One night, I take turns cooking with two wisdom (3rd) year students. On Tuesday nights, GTS families gather for a community dinner. On Wednesday or Thursday, I buy an \$8 plate of Punjabi vegetarian dishes, which lasts two days. Classes are compressed into Monday through Thursday to accommodate commuters, so Friday is a perfect day for grocery shopping, laundry, cooking

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meals, and, if I'm lucky, brother Josh meets me for lunch. Weekends are for studying and worship.

For fun, I joined the Chimers' Guild, which means I climb up a very steep set of wooden stairs to the ancient carillon and play hymns before service on Tuesdays. On Oct. 31st, we played Halloween tunes.

I don't have a new home parish in NYC yet because Music Practicum class requires us to visit and evaluate the music in new places of worship every week. So far, I have visited three different Episcopal churches, one Roman Catholic, and a Yom Kippur service.

Old and New Testament and Hebrew are still my favorite classes. My Old Testament and Hebrew professor, Julie Faith Parker, is a Methodist minister, who manages a full teaching load and worship schedule with grace and love. She is no-nonsense, loads on the work, sets high expectations, encourages us and wants all to succeed. In everything she does, she communicates a love of God. She also loves sharing the hidden stories of women in the Bible. I would love to share what I've learned with you.

Maddie's still enjoying college. I got to visit her over Parent's Weekend. A high point was the conservatory artists' garden, filled with flowers painted by Georgia O'Keeffe.

Anne Hartley

The Gift of Love - November 2019

**"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a
clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing." 1 Cor. 13**

Greeting Friends,

It has been such a transformational experience this past year and a half at seminary. I have worked with the marginalized in the streets of San Francisco. I have deepened my knowledge of scripture, liturgy, and theology. And I am now preaching and worshipping at a wonderful church named St. Clement's in Berkeley, CA.

I quoted St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians because my following and working for Jesus over the past decade has brought me to the same conclusion. It is all about LOVE. We are called to be in relationship with one another. We are called to love and we need a partner, a friend, a neighbor in life and in ministry.

Over 20 years ago, I lived in western Spain, in a town called Trujillo. I was part of an abroad program at my university. I stayed with a family for 6 months and had an innocent romance with the eldest daughter Cristina. We were young and in love, but a long-term relationship seemed impossible for both of us. When it was time for me to return to America, we parted as friends and I had developed a close relationship with the entire family. I returned three times to the town to visit her family but she was always away at school. As the years went on, we lost touch.

In 2018, I joined Facebook as it was a requirement for school. It has been a great tool to keep in touch with many of you and St. Mary's. Earlier this summer Cristina and I found each other and rekindled our relationship. Cristina works with children seasonally in Mallorca, Spain and was able to take some time off during the fall. She came to Berkeley and over the next three months we discovered that we still had common interests. It has been great and we are going to get married!

We were engaged on October 23rd in Monterey, CA during my fall break. Cristina loves the Lord and was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition. She looks forward to working with children in America and has really enjoyed worship in the Episcopal Church.

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We are planning on visiting Florida sometime in the next two months and I look forward to introducing you all to Cristina.



Peace,

Brian Cleary

SHINING OUR LIGHT

The initial phase of the Stewardship 2020 Annual Giving Program has been completed. If you have made a pledge, St. Mary's sincerely thanks you. If you are still considering your Pledge, we urge you to let your light shine, and make a generous contribution. It is unfortunate that the term, stewardship, is often only associated with raising money. While I do not wish to diminish the importance of fund raising to enable St. Mary's to fulfill its mission of doing God's work, Christian Stewardship is much broader and more enduring than just dollars and cents. One of my favorite descriptions of Stewardship comes from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS): "Stewardship is everything I do after I say that I believe". All that we have of value comes from God. Our duty as Christian Stewards is to manage God's gifts and to return them to enable the accomplishment

of the work to which God has directed us. These gifts include our time and talents and our mission requires the application of these gifts to the fulfillment of God's plan for us.

We are blessed at St. Mary's with the availability of rich and gratifying programs to which we can apply our time and talents. Pennywise, our Thrift Store, is always seeking volunteers to meet the needs of its program of providing furniture and clothing at affordable prices to the people of Bonita Springs. A further benefit is that the money from Penny Wise also provides funds for our very active outreach program. Harvest Ministries is one of those Outreach programs in which volunteers can provide food and clothing to the migrant workers and their families who are so essential to the local agricultural industry of SW Florida. In addition, St. Mary's Outreach Commission supports a significant number of worthy charitable and educational needs in our Community.

A very special new opportunity for St. Mary's members is to serve as mentors in the New Horizons' Super Kids program. On Monday through Thursday, children from grades K through 5 meet in the PLC for 2 hours to improve their math, reading and computer skills under the supervision and tutelage of St. Mary's volunteers. Both my wife and I are involved in this program and I can assure you that it is one of the most gratifying activities in which we are privileged to participate. To see a young mind progress as the result of your input is truly exciting.

Finally, St. Mary's has an impressive number of worship programs that will benefit from your participation and at the same time provide spiritual growth to you as a participant. A Ministries Fair is scheduled for February to provide an opportunity for you to learn about these worship opportunities and to attract your participation.

I hope I have convinced you of the depth and breadth of Christian Stewardship at St. Mary's. It is such an important part of our Christian Fellowship that to participate in Stewardship at St. Mary's is not a choice. Your options are to be the best Christian

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Steward that you can, or to be less. Let your light shine brightly and choose to be the best!

For the Stewardship Commission

Wm. James Howard, Chair

Youth and Family Ministry

I can't believe it has been two months since I began my position as Youth and Families Minister. I am filled with gratitude to serve God and St. Mary's in this role.

While I have been working with our New Horizon's program my main area of concentration thus far has been with the Sunday school program. The focus in Sunday school has been on gratitude and love. We will continue with this theme throughout the year using prayer, scripture, conversation, activities, and music. The goal is to offer our youngest parishioners something meaningful that enriches their lives and deepens their relationship with God as well as the church community.

To show our gratitude and love for God's precious gift of his son Jesus the youth will be presenting a traditional nativity pageant at the five o'clock Christmas Eve service. Please plan on attending and bringing your loved ones, friends, and neighbors as we experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Nancy Vaughn
Youth and Family Minister

Penny Wise Thrift Store

Thank you to all parishioners and guests who attended the Fall Penny Wise 30th Anniversary (1989-2019) Open Houses held the weekend of October 26-27. We had visitors after each Mass and a nice spillover from the PLC after the Outreach Sunday Presentations/Displays. After all, some of the very groups represented in the PLC were those that we

support through our daily receipts from the thrift store. We were happy to have those representatives in our store, some for the first time.

We also appreciate parishioners who heeded our call by dropping off donations the week after our Open Houses. We continue to ask all parishioners and their neighbors 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 or Dave Smith at the Thrift Store at 239-947-3363, if you have furniture you wish to donate. Currently, we have space in the store for furniture and storage space off-site for overflow. This is not always the case but it is NOW.

The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We are currently adding Holiday décor daily to our inventory. This is a great way to get a head start on your holiday shopping or add to your existing decorations. Remember, we accept credit cards!

Finally, thanks to the fourteen Penny Wise volunteers who worked over the weekend to make our 30th Anniversary Celebration possible. Your support means everything to us!

Barbara Wallace



TIME FOR HARVEST TIME

For several years St Mary's has supported Harvest Time Ministries which serves two communities of

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laborers in our area. Beginning on November 22 we will be packing bags full of groceries on Friday mornings and loading vehicles with the bags. On Saturday mornings we deliver these to the people residing in two communities. This will continue twice per month through March.

In addition we deliver Christmas gifts to the children at the last visit in December. These gifts are collected by the Kindness for Kids Program which is a partnership between the ECW and the Outreach commission.

We welcome all parishioners who are interested in working on either Fridays or Saturdays. Please contact Barbara Howard barbarav@gmail.com or Judy Hall JHall3544@aol.com for more information.

SUPER KIDS CLUB

A reminder about our latest Outreach....

Our collaborative mentoring and tutoring program, which began in August, has settled into the work of faith-building and completing homework assignments in math, reading and spelling for this group of 1st through 5th graders.

As a faith-based initiative, students and volunteers begin each session with a short prayer led by a member of St. Mary's clergy. The day ends in joyous songs and a few words from the Director about non-academic topics. During the month, we learn a new Bible verse chosen for its relevance and clarity.

Volunteers come from our parish and from other local churches. These individuals are dedicated and are encouraged by progress being made by most of the students. However, there are some students who can benefit from one on one attention because of deficits in reading skills. We encourage all who might be interested in volunteering to contact the Church Office for more information (239) 992-4343. Session hours are 3:15 – 5:00PM Monday – Thursday and can

be flexibly arranged depending on personal schedules.

Through the Program personnel and volunteer support, we will be celebrating this season of love and giving with special events: Thanksgiving baskets for the students' families, a special shopping time for families at Penny Wise Thrift Shop and a Christmas Party for our students, staff and volunteers on December 12th, the last tutoring day until 2020.

In January, we will welcome kindergarteners and additional elementary students. We invite you to come and observe the Program to see if this Outreach Program appeals to you.

Annette Judkins

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

This season began early with the glorious Marian Concert and the recent deeply moving presentation by Charles Baker in the one-man drama, *St Damien*. We look forward to these future performances:

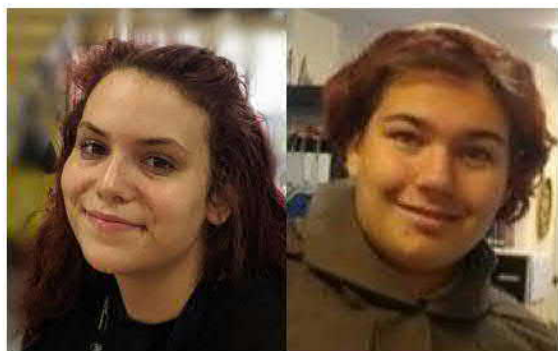
- Sacred Music in honor of St Cecilia at 7pm on November 22nd, performed by our cantor Helen Tintes-Schuermann, and special guest organist Brice Gerlach of 1st Presbyterian Church of Naples.
- St Mary's Choir on Wed Dec 4th from 6-8pm at the Bonita Historical Society Festival of Trees

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- Advent Lessons & Carols at 4pm on Sunday Dec 8th at St. Mary's.
- 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 15th.

Your support is always welcome to the *Friends of St Mary's Music Fund*, which covers all our concert programs, from purchase of music scores to fees for soloists and piano tuning as well as reception supplies. Checks can be made out to the parish anytime, with "*Friends of St Mary's Music*" on the notes line, or Ian in the parish office can receive your generous cash donation, with tax deductible benefit.

St Mary's Sunday 10am Choir has been so thrilled to welcome new section leaders Callie Gilmore, and D'Artagnan Wallace, Charles A. White, joining our senior choir section leader Taylor Hill.



Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Kathleen Pignato
Director of Music

Kindness for Kids

The Christmas spirit is already in the air at St. Mary's Church, led by the Outreach Commission and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). For infants and children up to sixteen years, we lovingly call it.....



This joyful work for Harvest Time Ministry children will now include the SUPER KIDS CLUB students, who are now part of St. Mary's own Parish Life Center through the New Horizons tutoring and mentoring programs.

A glowing Christ Tree, covered in tags with the names of each student and information about gift-giving is in the Church Narthex, ready for your selection. You are encouraged to visit our tree and to celebrate the season of giving by remembering the local children in need. For nearly all of them, these are the only gifts they will receive. If you prefer not to shop, we will be glad to have a volunteer do this for you. Special donation envelopes are available for your convenience in the Narthex.

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Tag selection	Begins 11/16 – 17
Donations	Any time
Gifts due	Any time before 12/9
Gifts delivered	12/12 Super Kids Club (last class 2019)
Gifts delivered	12/21 Harvest Time Ministry (camps)



SAVE THE DATES

ECW Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 12:00pm

“Harvest and Wisdom” at
Shangri-La Springs

More details coming! Sign-up Sheet in Narthex

ECW Holiday Tea 2019

Saturday, January 4, 2020, 2-4:00pm

More details coming!



ECW UPDATES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN DIOCESE OF
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA 49th ANNUAL
MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 9am – 2pm
with Special Guest Speaker, Karen O. Patterson,
ECW National President 2018-202.

Music will be provided by Christoffer Woodard,
currently Minister of Music at St. Andrew's, Boca
Grande.

Please join us for a joyful day filled with
information, fellowship, prayer and song. Bishop
Dabney Smith will lead the Eucharist.

ECW welcomes all ladies of St. Mary's. You are all
members! We hope you will join us for any, or all of
these, and many more events in the future. For more
information contact the Church office or Renee
Osborne, renee@midwestsinglesource.com.

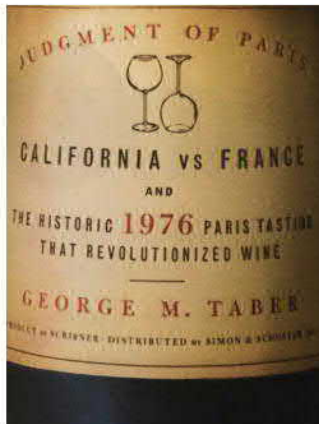
Christmas Celebration

The men of St. Mary's invite their friends to a dinner
buffet on Wednesday, December 18th at L'il Italy
Bistro located at 28811 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita
Springs Social Hour will begin at 5:30 followed by
dinner at 6:30. After dinner Joanna Wragg, Pulitzer
Prize winner for editorial writing at the Miami
Herald, will speak on the current state of the national
media.

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Space is limited to 60 people and reservations are required. Christmas dinner attire is requested. Cost is \$30 per person. For additional information contact Paul Judkins at SeniorWarden@stmarysbonita.com or pjudkins@rochester.rr.com.

Judgement of Paris



You are invited to be a part of a very special evening on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 5:00 pm. This is the reenactment of "*The Judgement of Paris*", a blind tasting of French wines and wines of the United States that took place in 1976. This event forever changed the world of wine.

We begin with a glass of bubbly and the playing of both National Anthems. Then Certified Sommelier Michael R. Cregar will lead us in a blind tasting of 3 California Wines and 3 French Wines. You are the Judge! A multicourse dinner will follow prepared by Chef Lauren Simon.

The event will take place in the Community Room of FINEMARK National Bank and Trust at Coconut. The cost is \$100.00 per person and reservations must be made. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Church with OSL in the memo line.

This event will help with the cost of our Healing Prayer Conference on March 7th with Reverend Nigel Mumford, an internationally known speaker and

teacher. For further information contact Cherrill Cregar at CherrillCregar@gmail.com - 239-887-1939 or Jill Smith at rdh71@aol.com - 718-619-0678.

Handicapped and Veterans Parking

The Facilities Management Commission, with the Rector's concurrence, has modified our handicap parking in the vicinity of the PLC. In order to make our facilities more handily accessible to visitors during the week, four of the six handicap spaces are now open parking during the week and one will be marked as reserved for Veterans. One of the six in front of the PLC and three handicap reserved spaces on the east side remain unaffected. The new signs in no way restrict the use of available parking to handicap marked vehicles at any time, and on Sundays all of the spaces are reserved for the handicapped.

Although churches are not subject to federal ADA regulations, we intend to stay fully accessible to the handicapped and if we have unintentionally restricted handicap access to our buildings we will make appropriate adjustments.

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Calendar of Events November 30, 2019 – February 26, 2020

November 30	Saturday	Advent Begins (Lectionary Year A)
December 1	Sunday	Advent Begins (Lectionary Year A)
December 8	Sunday	4:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols
December 14	Saturday	Advent Study Day: Dealing with Doubt
December 15	Sunday	Miller Music Studio Students' Concert
December 18	Wednesday	Christmas Celebration – Men's Group
December 24	Tuesday	Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Eucharist 9:30 pm Anthems and Carols 10:00 pm Solemn Choral Eucharist (incense)
December 25	Wednesday	Christmas Day 10:00 am Sung Eucharist (incense) 10:45 am Eucharist with Carols at Bentley
January 4	Saturday	ECW - Christmas Tea
January 5	Sunday	Epiphany
January 12	Sunday	Baptism of our Lord
January 26	Sunday	Annual General Meeting
January 31/ February 1	Friday/ Saturday	Vestry Conference
February 1/2	Saturday	Candlemas
February 15/16	Saturday/ Sunday	Ministry Fair
February 25	Tuesday	Pancake Supper
February 26	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Sung Eucharist (with ashes) 1:00 pm Ashes to Go 7:00 pm Solemn Eucharist (with ashes)

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Pictures from “Dining Around the World”



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