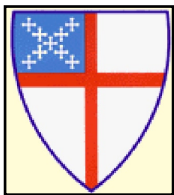


# CROSS CURRENTS

December 2005



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Dear Friends,

As we approach these sacred days of Advent, I pass along this poem that seems to capture the spirit of the season well:

“Twas The Beginning of Advent” Poem by Todd Jenkins

'Twas the beginning of Advent and all through the Church  
Our hope was all dying— we'd given up on the search.  
It wasn't so much that Christ wasn't invited,  
But after 2,000 plus years we were no longer excited.

Oh, we knew what was coming— no doubt about that.  
And that was the trouble— it was all “old hat.”  
November brought the first of an unending series of pains  
With carefully orchestrated advertising campaigns.

There were gadgets and dolls and all sorts of toys.  
Enough to seduce even the most devout girls and boys.  
Unfortunately, it seemed, no one was completely exempt  
From this seasonal virus that did all of us tempt.

The priests and prophets and certainly the kings  
Were all so consumed with the desire for “things!”  
It was rare, if at all, that you'd hear of the reason  
For the origin of this whole holy-day season.

A baby, it seems, once had been born  
In the mid-east somewhere on that first holy-day morn.  
But what does that mean for folks like us,  
Who've lost ourselves in the hoopla and fuss?

Can we re-learn the art of wondering and waiting,  
Of hoping and praying, and anticipating?  
Can we let go of all the things and the stuff?  
Can we open our hands and our hearts long enough?

Can we open our eyes and open our ears?  
Can we find him again after all of these years?  
Will this year be different from all the rest?  
Will we be able to offer him all of our best?

So many questions, unanswered thus far,  
As wise men seeking the home of the star.  
Where do we begin— how do we start  
To make for the child a place in our heart?

Perhaps we begin by letting go  
Of our limits on hope, and of the stuff that we know.  
Let go of the shopping, of the chaos and fuss,  
Let go of the searching, let Christmas find us.

We open our hearts, our hands and our eyes.

To see the king coming in our own neighbours' cries.  
We look without seeking what we think we've earned,  
But rather we're looking for relationships spurned.

With him he brings wholeness and newness of life  
For brother and sister, for husband and wife.  
The Christ-child comes not by our skill,  
But rather he comes by his own Father's will.

We can't make him come with parties and bright trees,  
But only by getting down on our knees.  
He'll come if we wait amidst our affliction,  
Coming in spite of, not by our restriction.

His coming will happen— of this there's no doubt.  
The question is whether we'll be in or out.  
“Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”  
Do you have the courage to peer through the lock?

A basket on your porch, a child in your reach.  
A baby to love, to feed and to teach.  
He'll grow in wisdom as God's only Son.  
How far will we follow this radical one?

He'll lead us to challenge the way that things are.  
He'll lead us to follow a single bright star.  
But that will come later if we're still around.  
The question for now: Is the child to be found?

Can we block out commercials, the hype and the malls?  
Can we find solitude in our holy halls?  
Can we keep alert, keep hope, stay awake?  
Can we receive the child for ours and God's sake?

From on high with the carolling host as he sees us,  
He yearns to read on our lips the prayer: Come Lord Jesus!  
As Advent begins all these questions make plea.  
The only true answer: We will see, we will see.

**Blessings, Joy and Peace to you this  
Advent Season!**

**Faithfully,  
Steve +**

# ECW NEWS

## HOLLY FAIR

Saturday, December 3

9 AM to 2 PM

### Holly Fair Is Upon Us

Merchandise will be accepted up and through Friday, December 2nd to the individual Chair people in their areas. Please bring your jewelry, attic treasures, knitted and hand sewn items, crafts, home baked goodies for the country kitchen, as well as home made pies for the luncheon. Please don't forget items for the children's room. This offers our young people an opportunity to do their very own Christmas shopping for family and friends. Let's give them a nice variety of inexpensive items from which to choose.

### New and Exciting

This year a unique new shopping opportunity will be offered in our 'Outreach Room', set up in the Library by Helen Hinckley and Anne Goetchius. 'Maya Works' is a collection of beautiful items hand made in Guatemala will be available. The proceeds of the sale are returned to the Artisans of Guatemala, with a percentage going to the ECW. Please DO NOT miss visiting this new boutique.

### Thank You — Thank You

To Jeannie Stokinger and all who helped, in big ways or small, to make our Fall Rummage Sale a success once again, we say a heartfelt Thanks! It was a remarkable event. Bless you all!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### December General Meeting

Please consider attending our December Holiday gathering on Wednesday, December 14th, immediately following the Wednesday A M Eucharist. The program will consist of a program led by concert pianist Dolci Bryan, assisted by Carol Lyle. They will talk on the origin of Christmas Carols, followed by a sing along of many favorites. A scrumptious catered luncheon will follow, then climaxed by our usual fun "Yankee Swap". If you wish to participate in the Swap, please remember to bring a wrapped, unmarked gift with a value of \$5. Watch for a sign up sheet in the parish hall for the luncheon.

### Dates to remember and save

On Wednesday, January 11th, a special "Connecting with God" retreat is planned, to be led by a well known Episcopal author, David Manuel. Mr. Manuel has authored the Faith Abbey mystery series published by Time-Warner. His latest endeavor is titled Once Upon a Prayer. More information will follow.

St Mary's will be hosting the Church Women United program on March 3rd. It will take a great deal of planning and many hands. More details will be available soon.

**SEE YOU AT THE FAIR ON DECEMBER 3RD**  
**DON'T FORGET THE NEW 'OUTREACH' BOUTIQUE IN THE LIBRARY!!!!**

*A Blessed Holiday Season to one and all.*

# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

## Middle School Youth

December 4, 11:00-11:45AM

December 18, 11:00-11:45AM

## High School Youth

December 4, Serve at Coffee Hour, 11:00AM

December 10, Field trip to Brewster Animal Rescue League,  
details to follow

December 11, Serve, cleanup at Lessons and Carols 3:00 - 6:00PM

## Church School

December 4 Junior Choir and 4th & 5th invited to attend church, no class

December 17, 9 to 11AM, Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant, Parish Hall

December 17, 2:30 PM join Choir for Caroling at Heatherwood in Yarmouth

December 24, 3:15PM, arrive to get in costume for Christmas Pageant

\* No Church School on Sunday December 25 or January 1, 2006.

Church School will resume on January 8 at 9:45AM.

Please join the congregation on Sunday evenings in Advent at St. Mary's themed Potluck Suppers. See signups for details.

## Children's Prayers for Advent

### First Week:

God in the night  
God at my right  
God all the day  
God with me stay  
God in my heart  
Never depart  
God with thy might  
Keep us in light  
Through this dark night.  
Amen

### Second Week:

Here I wait in quiet hope  
that you will come,  
water the field of my heart  
and make your love blossom.  
Amen

### Third Week:

Open my eyes to see your light.  
Open my hands to receive your bread.  
Open my ears to hear your word.  
Open my mouth to speak your love.  
Amen

### Fourth Week:

On the paths of life direct me.  
Angel sent by God to guide me,  
Be my light to walk beside me;  
Be my guardian and protect me.  
Amen

## Advent Graces for Children

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest;  
let these gifts to us be blest.  
Keep us always in your sight;  
be our joy, our heart's delight.  
Amen

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest;  
let these gifts to us be blest.  
Deep within us come to dwell  
that we might all your goodness  
tell.

Prayers from: Come, Lord Jesus, Devotions for the Home by Susan Briehl

Dear St. Mary's Family,

We become especially aware of our intergenerational bonds at this time of year as well as our feelings of charity, and it is in this spirit, that we attempt to forge deeper connections within our parish family heading into the new year. Our four Advent potluck suppers, including our wonderful Lessons and Carols on December 11, bring our St. Mary's family together for light and hope and anticipation culminating in the Christmas Pageant at 4PM on Christmas Eve, which was what drew me here years ago. We welcome wholeheartedly, the new families that have joined us over the last few months and cherish the families that have been with St. Mary's for many years, and whose children are grown and are now starting families of their own. We are all connected in this place of light that Christ has shown us.

We hope for all of you some peaceful moments this holiday season when you can look around you at your St. Mary's family and be reminded of the light that shines still in that dark night!

Blessings, Connie and Barbara

## ***CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE***

December 24, 2005

4:00 PM Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

6:00 PM Festival Holy Eucharist

December 25, 2005

10:00 AM  
Christmas Day Eucharist

### **Sunday Evenings in Advent**

Advent is the first season in the new church year and it is a season of anticipation and preparation as we ready ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. As part of your observance of Advent, please join us on Sunday evenings December 4, 11, and 18, for special Advent activities. Each of these activities will highlight one particular Advent observance and help you to focus on the anticipatory quietness of Advent rather than the madness of pre-Christmas.

On three Sundays (November 27, December 4 and 18) we will gather at 5:30 for a simple potluck dinner and an intergenerational activity. (Note well: this really means intergenerational. We hope that people of ALL ages will join in!) Each evening will end with the service of Compline, and we'll finish up by 7:00. On December 11 we celebrate Advent with St. Mary's traditional Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols at 4:00.

So please join us:

December 4 Saint Nicholas we'll learn about the real St. Nicholas and the traditional ways his feast day has been celebrated around the world. Followed by Compline.

December 11 Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols at 4:00

December 18 The Creche as Christmas draws near, we'll talk about the tradition of the creche as we set up a creche in the Parish Hall. Followed by Compline.

**You are invited to spend a  
Time Apart  
from all that distracts you  
Advent Quiet Day  
Saturday, December 10, 9-1,  
Church of the Holy Spirit**

### **Orleans**

Come and be open to the invitation of the Holy Spirit through guided meditation, silence and music in preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord. The day will conclude with a Taize prayer service. Please bring a brown bag lunch and beverage. For further information call Pat Bутtenheim 508-385-5853

## **Musical Notes**

***OUR 2005 ADVENT CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS*** takes place on Sunday afternoon, December 11, at 4:00. The traditional Seven Lessons of Advent will be accompanied by beautiful seasonal music sung by the augmented St. Mary's Evensong Choir and Junior Choir, with organ music and congregational carols of the season. A festive reception, prepared and served by our Youth Group, follows the service. Come and bring a friend!

***ST. MARY'S SINGS CAROLS AT HEATHERWOOD*** on Saturday afternoon, December 17, at 2:30. Our Adult and Junior Choirs invite singers of all ages to join with them in leading a carol sing for the residents of Heatherwood, which is located in the King's Way complex on Route 6A in Yarmouthport (toward the Dennis town line). Please wear bright holiday clothing and gather in the main meeting room about 2:15. Jim Armstrong will lead the singing, and carol books will be provided.

***COME AND SING WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS!*** All singers of high school age and older are invited to join with the Adult Choir and oboist Elizabeth Mitnik Doriss on Christmas Eve. There will be two identical services at 6:00 and 11:00 PM; all singers need to commit to singing both services. We'll be rehearsing all the Christmas music on Wednesday evening, December 21, at 7:00 PM. Younger singers are invited to participate with our Junior Choir and Church School in the Christmas Pageant, which takes place on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM. Come and help us "make a joyful noise to the Lord" at these very special Christmas services! Jim Armstrong will be glad to answer any questions you may have.



# Liturgical Assignments - December 2005

## Saturday, Dec 3

### **Prepare Altar**

E Gouger/L Hutton

**Flowers** M Mankiewicz

**5:00 Usher** D Condon

**Lector** B Goodwin

*Isaiah 40: 1-11*

*II Peter 3: 8-15a, 18*

**Eucharistic Minister** D Crellin

### **Altar Guild**

M Grant

## Sunday, Dec. 4

**8:00 Usher** S Anderson

**Lectors** J Phelps

*Isaiah 40: 1-11*

*II Peter 3: 8-15a, 18*

**Eucharistic Minister**

A Call

### **Altar Guild**

C Phillips

**10:00 Ushers**

P Gouger/D Leary

### **Lectors**

J Culver

*Isaiah 40: 1-11*

E Culver

*II Peter 3: 8-15a, 18*

**Eucharistic Ministers**

A Crocker/J Phillips

### **Lead Acolyte**

S Lippard

### **Crucifer**

R Whalen

### **Torches**

H Colwell/E Fahey

**Vestry Member of the Day**

M Palmer

### **Altar Guild**

B Thompson

## Wednesday, Dec. 7

### **Altar Guild**

J Armstrong

## Thursday, Dec. 8

### **Altar Guild**

C Phillips

## Saturday, Dec 10

### **Prepare Altar**

D Vetterling/A Treimann

**Flowers** C Phillips

**5:00 Usher** R Fales

**Lector** P Tomarchio

*Isaiah 65: 17-25*

*I Thessalonians 5: 16-28*

**Eucharistic Minister** N Fales

### **Altar Guild**

K Watters

## Sunday, Dec. 11

**8:00 Usher** F Beam

**Lectors** S Anderson

*Isaiah 65: 17-25*

*I Thessalonians 5: 16-28*

**Eucharistic Minister**

J Phillips

### **Altar Guild**

J Armstrong

**10:00 Ushers**

B Sullivan/P Hutton

### **Lectors**

J Phillips

*Isaiah 65: 17-25*

B Jones

*I Thessalonians 5: 16-28*

**Eucharistic Ministers**

E Culver/R Greene

### **Lead Acolyte**

J Whalen

### **Crucifer**

H Ramage

### **Torches**

H Ramage/N Coddington

**Vestry Member of the Day**

L Rabideau

### **Altar Guild**

A Bowen

## **4:00**

### **Lessons & Carols**

1) N Thornton

2) M Mankiewicz

3) L Gagnon

## Tuesday, Dec. 13

### **Altar Guild**

A Treimann

## Wednesday, Dec. 14

### **Altar Guild**

J Armstrong

## Thursday, Dec. 15

### **Altar Guild**

M Grant

## Saturday, Dec. 17

### **Prepare Altar**

M Moran/S Morton

**Flowers** B Thompson

**5:00 Usher** B Goodwin

**Lector** L McCarron

*2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16*

*Romans 16: 25-27*

**Eucharistic Minister** S Jones

### **Altar Guild**

K Watters

## Sunday, Dec. 18

**8:00 Usher** J Phelps

**Lectors** F Beam

*2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16*

*Romans 16: 25-27*

**Eucharistic Minister**

P Gwynne

### **Altar Guild**

L Hutton

**10:00 Ushers**

S Campbell/J Persson

### **Lectors**

R Greene

*2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16*

P Hutton

*Romans 16: 25-27*

**Eucharistic Ministers**

L Koch/M Palmer

### **Lead Acolyte**

S Greene

### **Crucifer**

C Barron

### **Torches**

A Starling/C Starling

**Vestry Member of the Day**

B Sullivan

### **Altar Guild**

C Phillips

## Wednesday, Dec. 21

### **Altar Guild**

J Armstrong

## Thursday, Dec. 22

### **Altar Guild**

M Grant

## Saturday, Dec. 24

### **Prepare Altar**

D Vetterling/K Watters

**Flowers** Flower Committee

**4:00 Usher** B Sullivan/

M Palmer/J Persson

**Christmas Pageant Lectors**

**Eucharistic Minister**

J Warner/K Greene

### **Lead Acolyte**

J Scichilone

### **Crucifer**

S Lippard

### **Torches**

TBA

### **Altar Guild**

M Grant

**6:00 Usher** S Anderson

C Saladino/J Phelps

### **Lectors**

S Jones, Genesis 3: 8-15

A Treimann, Isaiah 11: 1-9

M Palmer, Luke 1: 26-33

J Armstrong, Matthew 2: 11

**Eucharistic Minister**

C Stiefel/J Hambly

### **Lead Acolyte**

N Mamlock

### **Crucifer**

M Mamlock

### **Torches**

TBA

### **Altar Guild**

S Morton

## **11:00 Ushers**

R Greene/R Stewart, et al

### **Lectors**

C Anderson, Genesis 3: 8-15

L Anderson, Isaiah 11: 1-9

C Gouger, Luke 1: 26-33

J Armstrong, Matthew 2: 11

**Eucharistic Ministers**

C Whalen/J Phillips

### **Lead Acolyte**

C Whalen

### **Crucifer**

K Greene

### **Torches**

S Greene/C Barron

### **Altar Guild**

C Phillips

## *December Birthdays*

### Saturday, Dec. 31

#### Prepare Altar

L Hutton/K Watters

**Flowers** Flower Committee

**5:00 Usher** D Condon

**Lector** B Goodwin

*Exodus 34: 1-8*

*Romans 1: 1-7*

**Eucharistic Minister** J Phillips

**Altar Guild**

D Vetterling

### Sunday, Jan. 1

**No 8:00 A.M. Service**

**10:00 Ushers**

T Fahey/C Saladino

**Lectors**

A Crocker

*Exodus 34: 1-8*

Marian Ferguson

*Romans 1: 1-7*

**Eucharistic Ministers**

TBA

**Lead Acolyte**

TBA

**Crucifer**

TBA

**Torches**

TBA

**Altar Guild**

M Moran

Georgann Ramage	1	Jennifer Visco	15
Sarah Greene	1	Robert Byrom	15
Andrew Nolan	2	Schuyler McMahon	15
Caryl Steward	2	Estelle Trzcinski	
Ruth Welsh	4	16	
Kris Lewis	4	David E. Allen	16
Stacey Moran	4	Robert Frazee	16
Heather Warner	5	Sanford Bearse	17
Callie Atkins	5	Patricia Bergfoirs	18
Richard Lopes	6	Samantha Steward	18
David Condon	6	Richard Crocker	19
Barbara Chesnut	6	Nicholas Orcutt	19
Samantha Rabideau	6	Betty-Lou Chant	20
Dorothy Pettibone	7	Katherine Oney	20
Michael Hersey	7	Sally Tingley	21
Aaron Langlais	7	Eileen Lonsdale	23
Richard Marchand	8	Mary Cox	24
Benjamin Stacy	8	Lucile White	26
Ed Trzcinski	10	Leslyn Thorne	26
Constance Flood	10	Grace Cotoia	26
Christopher Colbert	11	David Leary	27
Susan Jilson	12	Barbara Brown	28
Randall Chase	12	Walter Gadkowski	28
David Wood	12	Jean Lonsdale	28
Raymond Cericola	12	Steven Oney	28
Hannah Howes	12	Dorothy Horton	29
Philip Buddington	14	David Aittaniemi	29
Kalie Crocker	14	Sarah Colwell	29

## *December Anniversaries*

Betty-Lou Chant	8	Elizabeth Moran	14
Peter Chant		Thomas Moran	
Margaret Moran	11	Becky McClenahan	20
Jack Moran		Bob McClenahan	
Phyllis Davis	14	Betsy Byrom	28
Waters Davis, III		Bob Byrom	

### Sunday, Dec. 25

**No 8:00 A.M. Service**

**10:00 Ushers**

C Gouger/B Byrom

**Lector**

L Koch

*Readings TBA*

**Eucharistic Ministers**

A Call/L Koch

**Altar Guild**

A Treimann

### Tuesday, Dec. 27

**Altar Guild**

M Moran

### Wednesday, Dec. 28

**Altar Guild**

J Armstrong

### Thursday, Dec. 29

**Altar Guild**

M Grant

# DECEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p align="center"><b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p>Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:00a            Adult Forum, "An Introduction to Jewish Rituals" 8:45a <b>4</b>            Choir Warm-Up 9:30a            Church School: 9:45a            Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:00a            Junior High Youth 11:00a</p>	<p align="right"><b>5</b></p> <p>9:00a Miracle Kitchen Cooking            12:00p ECW Board Meeting            5:00p Fatherhood Pro-</p>	<p align="right"><b>6</b></p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group            5:00p Music Committee Meeting            7:30p Buildings, Grounds &amp;</p>
<p align="center"><b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p><del>Advent Program St. Nicholas 5:30p</del>            Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:00a            Adult Forum, "An Introduction to Jewish Rituals" 8:45a            Church School: 9:45a            Choir Warm-Up 9:30a            Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:00a            Outreach Committee Meeting 11:00a            Church School Teacher Meeting 11:00a            Choir Dress Rehearsal 2:30</p>	<p align="right"><b>12</b></p> <p>5:00p Fatherhood Program</p>	<p>7:00a Mens Breakfast            9:15a Newsletter Deadline            10:00a Prayer Group            3:00p Finance &amp; Budget Review            7:30p Vestry Meeting</p>
<p align="center"><b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p>Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:00a            Adult Forum, "An Introduction to Jewish Rituals" 8:45a <b>18</b>            Choir Warm-Up 9:30a            Church School: 9:45a            Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:00a</p>	<p align="right"><b>19</b></p> <p>9:00a Miracle Kitchen Cooking            5:00p Fatherhood Pro-</p>	<p align="right"><b>20</b></p> <p>10:00a Prayer Group</p>
<p align="center"><b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b></p> <p>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:00a <b>25</b></p>	<p align="right"><b>26</b></p>	<p align="right"><b>27</b></p> <p>7:00a Men's Breakfast</p>

# Saint Mary's Church Calendar

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>HOLLY FAIR SET-UP <b>1</b>            7:30a Maundy Thursday &amp; Breakfast Group            9:00a Holly Greens Work Date            1:15p Pastoral Care Coordinators Meeting            7:00p Book Group @ Marian</p>	<p>HOLLY FAIR SET-UP <b>2</b>            9:00a Holly Greens Work Date</p>	<p><b>3</b>            9a - 2p <u>HOLLY FAIR</u>            5:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>
<p><b>7</b>            10:00a Holy Eucharist            3:30p Eucharist at Heatherwood            5:00p Junior Choir            5:30p Neighborhood Shepherd Meeting            7:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>8</b>            7:30a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group            10:00a Barnstable Hospital Auxiliary Meeting            10:00a Deanery Clergy Meeting - Sand-</p>	<p><b>9</b>            10:00a Staff Meeting &amp; Lunch</p>	<p><b>10</b>            8:30a Liturgy Committee            10:00a Special Choir Rehearsal for Lessons &amp; Carols            5:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>
<p><b>14</b>            10:00a Holy Eucharist            11:00a ECW Program            5:00p Junior Choir            7:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>15</b>            7:30a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group            7:30p AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b>            4:00p Pageant Staging</p>	<p><b>16</b>            9:00a Christmas Pageant Rehearsal            11:00a Pageant Staging Removal            2:30p Caroling at Heatherwood</p>
<p><b>21</b>            10:00a Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing Service            5:00p Junior Choir            7:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>22</b>            7:30a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast Group            7:30p AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>23</b>            4:00p Pageant Staging Set-up</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>            4:00p <u>Christmas Pageant &amp; Holy Eucharist</u>            5:15p Choir Warm-Up            6:00p <u>Festival Eucharist</u>            10:30p Choir Warm-Up            11:00p <u>Festival Eucharist</u></p>
<p><b>28</b>            10:00a Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing Service            7:00p Overnights of Hospitality</p>	<p><b>29</b>            7:30a Holy Eucharist &amp; Breakfast</p>		<p><b>31</b>            5:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>

**Neighborhood Shepherds Meeting  
has been rescheduled. Date  
to be announced**

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## **Christmas Altar Flowers**

All who wish to remember loved ones through the gift of Christmas Altar Flowers are asked to contact Louise Nelson (508) 362-6065 before December 20th.

## **Attention Committee Chairs**

Please submit your year-end reports to the Church Office by January 9th for inclusion in the 2005 Annual Report. St. Mary's Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, following the 10:00 AM service.

## **Planning Matters**

We are now reaching the end of the 2005 calendar and fiscal year. This is the season when many parishioners make charitable gifts to gain income tax deductions. Please keep Saint Mary's tight financial condition in mind as you make your year-end charitable gifts.

The recently passed Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 allows donors to deduct qualified charitable cash gifts in amounts up to 100% of their Adjusted Gross Income. You should note the following key provisions:

- Gifts must be outright cash contributions to qualify.
- Gifts must come directly from a donor to any qualified public charity (i.e., Saint Mary's Church) and be made between August 28 and December 31, 2005. (There is no change in the tax treatment for gifts of stock or other appreci-

## **St. Mary's Book Group**

We will meet on Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 PM at Marian Ferguson's home to discuss The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold. The following month, on Thursday, January 5, 2006, Becky McClenahan will lead us in a discussion of Henry Nouwen's The Wounded Healer. Early in the new year we hope to read Karen Armstrong's The Spiral Staircase. Please join

## **Webmaster Wanted**

If you have experience hosting and updating webpages and would like to volunteer to help St. Mary's further develop our presence on the Internet, please contact Melissa Allen in the Church Office (508) 362-3977.

## **Barnstable Interfaith Council (BIC) Grocery Gift Card Program**

Throughout all the member churches of BIC sales are down 9%. Please help us reverse this trend! Remember these cards make an easy and useful Christmas gift. In spite of lower sales, BIC has donated over \$35,000 which has allowed 78 people to stay in their

## **Upcoming Church Women United Events**

Church Women United  
Friday, March 3, 2006  
"Sign of the Times"

Friday, May 5, 2006  
May Friendship Day  
"Signs of Growth"

World Community Day  
No Date Available  
(Fall 2006  
"Signs of Healing")

## **A Note from the Assistant Rector**

In these weeks of December, as the days get shorter and colder, most of us are busily preparing for Christmas we shop, we decorate, we entertain, we try to fulfill the heart's desires of ourselves and those we love. But often there is a deep yearning in our hearts that the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation, no matter how wonderful, cannot fill. The season of Advent speaks to that yearning. Advent invites us to slow down, to focus on the coming miracle: the Incarnation of our Lord, the birth of the infant Jesus. Advent allows us to let go, even if only briefly, of the need to buy more, do more, be more. If we accept the gift that Advent offers, if we allow ourselves to focus on the miracle of the Incarnation, if we open ourselves to experiencing God's gracious love manifest in that Incarnation, when Christmas arrives it will all the richer for us.

I invite you to give yourself the gift of Advent. Slow down and think about the miracle that is taking place. Do something special just for Advent. Light an Advent Wreath, say a special prayer, take a moment for quiet meditation. And join us on Sunday evenings for our special Advent observances, described elsewhere in the newsletter.

May your Advent be full of joyous expectation, and your Christmas full of blessings.

Kris

### **Please Join Us for the Adult Forum**

The discussion is lively; the company is good!

*Sunday Mornings, 8:45 in the St. James Room*

December 4, 11, & 18 *Jewish*

*Rituals;*

*An Introduction for Christians*

All religions have rituals and spiritual practices. We are examining some Jewish rituals observation of the Sabbath, prayer, keeping kosher both to understand their origins and role in Jewish life today, and to understand how they have influenced Christian practice.

December 25, January 1, January 8 NO  
FORUM

Looking ahead to January for the Epiphany

## **Sarum Blue: An Old "New" Liturgical Color**

On the first Sunday in Advent you might have noticed something new in church: blue vestments and altar hangings. Different liturgical colors have been used in the Church since as long ago as the 6<sup>th</sup> century as a way of evoking the theme and mood of the seasons of the church year. Often purple, a color associated with penitence, was used in both Advent and Lent. The 1979 Prayer Book, however, invites us to see Advent as a period of anticipation and expectation rather than penitence. In response to this, and to mark Advent as a season distinct from Lent, many churches have adopted the use of Sarum blue, a color used before the Reformation, as the liturgical color for Advent.

Sarum blue takes its name from the rite in which it was first used, the Sarum Rite, a variation on Catholic liturgy used in Great Britain from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the Protestant Reformation and associated with the Cathedral at Salisbury (Sarum is the old name for Salisbury). Sarum blue is not a distinct shade, but can be any sort of blue from dusty blue to royal blue to indigo. Because blue is the color mostly closely connected with Mary and blue also connotes hope, it is especially appropriate as we anticipate the joyous celebration of Jesus' birth.

### **NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Harvest Thanksgiving Dinner Our first annual Harvest Thanksgiving Dinner on October 16<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Over 80 attendees enjoyed a large variety of delicious food, a spirited sing-along and warm camaraderie. The "Top Five Reasons Why We Are Thankful For St. Mary's" winners were: #1. Friendly, loving people; #2. Spiritual home; #3. Beautiful church and gardens; #4. Music programs; and #5. Clergy and leadership.

Why Pledge? St. Mary's obviously needs to develop a reasonable budget in order to manage our church. Pledges provide us with our income numbers and our committees provide us with our expense numbers. Hopefully the two balance, although they have not for the past few years forcing us to use 100% of the interest earned on our endowment funds. Even this has not balanced our budgets. I would like to urge all of you who regularly give but do not pledge to consider pledging in 2006. This would be a tremendous help to our financial management of the church. Pledge cards are available in the office.

2006 Pledge Update As of Nov. 15, we have received 142 pledges for a total of \$204,815. Our total 2005 budgeted expenses were \$387,238. Most likely our 2006 budget will have to reflect price increases bringing that number even higher. If you have not sent in your pledge, please consider doing so as soon as possible. If you have sent in your pledge thank you so very much.

Tax Savings Alert! The federal government has passed an emergency bill that will allow you to deduct 100% of all your 2005 financial gifts to non-profit institutions. If you need tax deductions in 2005, now would be a good time to make that special gift to St. Mary's Endowment Fund. This provision ends on 12/31/05.