In late October, we were honored to host Rabbi Meryl Crean as our guest preacher. In her sermon, Rabbi Meryl talked about Yom Kippur as an annual opportunity for Jews to reflect on the past year and “course correct” any areas that may have gotten out of alignment with God’s will. She lovingly but directly pointed out that what may seem like small acts in the present can have a big impact over time. I love the image she used about setting a ship’s course. Changing a ship’s course by one degree doesn’t seem significant at first, since after 100 yards it would only be off by five feet or so. However, if you were traveling from San Francisco to Washington DC and were off by one degree, you’d end up in Baltimore!

As we begin a new year, I use a prayer journal each morning (called “Sacred Ordinary Days”) to reflect on how I’m doing in the following areas: spirit, body, mind, relationships, home, work, and resources. As I pray about where God may be asking me to change habits in my life, I’m grateful that I don’t need to make huge resolutions like “I will exercise every day” in order to invite change into my life. I don’t need to stop drinking all caffeine, but am committing to drinking only two cups of coffee a day. And in my prayer life, I look forward to deepening my knowledge of centering prayer and including that practice in my morning prayers. Are there places in your life that you hear God inviting you to make small changes that may have a huge impact over time?

In the category of “work” I would like to share one change I will be making. In 2020, I will be reducing my time and salary

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17:20

From our Rector, the Rev. Dr. Libby Gibson
by ¼ in order to have more time to rest and nurture my health and relationships. Bill and I look forward to having one weekend off each month, and I’m eager to learn how to be a grandmother to little Ollie (age 2). Any advice about grandparenting is very welcomed! At St. Mary’s, we are blessed that Pastor Russ Norris has joined our staff and will be helping with worship services, pastoral care, and teaching. I hope you will introduce yourselves to Russ and make him feel welcome at St. Mary’s.

Whether you embark on small or grand new beginnings this year, I pray that you feel God’s love enfolding you and God’s joy bursting forth in your life.

Love and blessings,

"For a New Beginning”

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life’s desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

John O’Donohue
To Bless the Space Between Us

Heartfelt Wedding Thanks

I frequently tell people, if you need direct evidence that God answers prayers and performs miracles, just remember that your rector … with four children, two dogs, a cat, ten chickens, and maybe an angora bunny (fingers crossed!) … has been blessed with the profound gift of love. Bill and I are very grateful to everyone who helped to make our wedding so special. The music was exquisite, the flower guild’s decorations were OVER THE TOP, the reception servers were gracious, the photographers beautifully captured the event, and your presence and prayers will sustain us for many years to come.
Epiphany is a season of discovery. It begins with the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Magi came on a long journey from the East to see the Christ Child. They looked for him in the palace of a king and found him in a poor family from Nazareth.

Here at St. Mary’s we are beginning our own journey of discovery. In this Epiphany season we will be looking for signs of God’s promise and presence in unexpected places. Like the Wise Men, we may not know exactly what the future holds, but we have the assurance of God’s presence with us on the journey.

This is a new journey for me as well. As you may have already heard, I am a Lutheran pastor, but I will be serving two congregations – St. Mary’s and First Lutheran Church in West Barnstable. One of my responsibilities will be to help our two communities of faith discover new ways to serve Christ more closely together.

Like the Wise Men, St. Mary’s and First Lutheran have gifts to bring to this new relationship. There are differences between us. But our differences can enrich both churches in surprising ways. I am excited by the possibilities this new relationship offers. I look forward to our journey together.

Pastor Russ

Is there more to Epiphany than just Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The following is taken and paraphrased from: The Twelve Days of Christmas by Elsa Chaney

“Epiphany lifts our eyes from the family celebrations and demands” this time of year… “It demands that, like the three wise men, we should have the courage to follow the light of the star we have seen, however hazardous the journey; that the light of our faith, like that of the wise men, should be so strong that we are able to see and recognize our Lord and Ruler in however unexpected a way He(She) may present to us; and that having recognized Him(Her), we should bow down and adore…”

Moreover, Epiphany demands that like these kings we should return to our own countries a different way, carrying to all those we meet the light of Christ.”

Dr. Mark Lawlor

Let your light shine wherever you may be this 2020
Epiphany Lessons and Carols

(abbreviated)

Sunday January 5, 2020
10:00 AM Mass

To celebrate Epiphany we will be having a service of Lessons and Carols. Please join the choir and musicians as we sing about the Magi, as they followed the Star to adore the Newborn King.

Such hymns as: “We Three Kings,” “The First Noel” and other Epiphany “Carols” will be embellished by descanters and instrumentalists. The Choir will be offering two anthems on this special day.

Come join for the Reading of the Word of God and the singing of beautiful music.

What do Greeters Do?

Greeters welcome people before or after a service. There is no need to sign up ahead of time. Just give us about fifteen minutes of your time on a day you are attending any of the three services. It’s easy, it’s fun, and it helps Newcomers feel welcome. Your duties are simple. If greeting people prior to worship, station yourself at the bottom of the handicap ramp or the lower level entry to help direct new attendees to one of the three entrances. If greeting Newcomers after services, stand at the back of the church so Libby can direct them to you.

1. Wear your name tag and offer a friendly greeting
2. After the service, ask if the Newcomer would like to fill out a visitor information card. These are found in the pews, with the Newcomer info at the back of the church, and in Walden Hall. Completed forms may be returned to the Newcomer info holders or left in the Newcomer mailbox outside the offices (bottom row, left column).
3. Invite the Newcomer to coffee hour. If they agree, accompany them there and introduce them to one other parishioner. Point out the location of restrooms on the way.

Interested? Have questions? Contact Judy Knauer, fabjude@comcast.net or phone 508-744-7004.

Assist in our Worship

Please consider joining one of the teams who assist in our worship services every week. If you are interested in being a greeter, usher, reader, chalice bearer, crucifer, acolyte, altar guild or flower guild member, choir member, etc., please contact the office and we will point you in the right direction.

Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, January 8, at 9 am in the St. James Room. We will complete our discussion of Watch for the Light and decide what to study next. Please remember the money to repay Deacon Elizabeth for the advent book!

Rebecca Lovell Scott
Deputy Chief Steven Xiarhos of the Yarmouth Police Dept. surprised the Thanksgiving service with a presentation of a Thank You award to Rev. Libby and St. Mary’s Church, on behalf of Big Nick’s Ride, for continued support and blessings of motorcycles during their annual event in memory of the Fallen Soldiers of Cape Cod. We are honored.

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Highlights from Christmas Services

Thank you to all the families and volunteers who helped at this year’s Christmas Pageant and to all our beautiful pageant participants! Great job!

Movie Theology Night ~ January 9, 2020 ~ 4:45 pm
Movie Theology Night, Thursday, January 9, 2020 will feature multi-award-winning 1981 British historical drama sports film, “Chariots of Fire.” Join us for a potluck supper and discussion afterwards where Hub Mathewson will be leading the discussion! A sign-up sheet is posted in the Sunroom. Doors open at 4:45 pm; movie starts promptly at 5:30 pm. For more information contact Kinnet Ehring, kinnet@verizon.net or 804-436-3650.

Stay tuned to our weekly e-News for information on the February Movie Night!
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hyannis West Tree a Big Success!

This year the Hyannis West entry in the Spectacle of Trees earned the school $8,100 – significantly more than last year’s entry! The tree was decorated to represent the many nationalities of the school’s students, and the shiny new bicycle that St. Mary’s purchased was a real draw. In the true spirit of Christmas, the winner of the tree has donated the bicycle to Independence House and is also donating some of the other prizes back to the community. Sue LaVallee, coordinator of the project, says, “It brings tears to my eyes when I think of how easy you (St. Mary’s) made this for me. Thank you for all you do for Hy West.”

Classroom Volunteers Needed

As some of our classroom volunteers head south for a few months, we can use a few more classroom volunteers at Hyannis West Elementary School. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least eight consecutive weeks during which they spend just one hour a week in a designated classroom. For more details, please contact Christy Saling, cesaling@gmail.com, 508-775-0583. You’ll be glad you did!

Submitted by Christy Saling

Images from Half Day Hooray!

Youth Group, January 5, 2020, 4:30 - 6 pm

What does the story of the wise people and following the star mean for our lives? All teens are welcome to join us as we talk about New Year's resolutions and assemble care packages for people who live outside in the winter. Contact Libby Gibson for more information.

St Mary’s youth group helping to share some joy with children at DCF on the Cape. (photos courtesy of Jenni Lennon)
OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee met on November 13 and made the following allocations:

- **Needy Fund** (sponsored by the Standard Times newspaper) -- $500
- **Angel Tree** -- $1250
- **Rosebud** -- $2000 plus the Christmas offering
- **Miracle Kitchen** -- $250
- **Restart** -- $1500

**Rectory Lead Paint Removal Project** -- Any remaining funds in the Outreach Account will be designated to this project.

Submitted by Leezie Magruder & Jud Phelps

Angels’ Treasures Thrift Shop

With the beginning of a new year, plans to prepare for a thrift shop are moving forward at full speed. There is much to be done and many hands needed to transform the space previously occupied by “As Wee Grow” pre-school into an attractive, fully stocked thrift shop by April 1.

Last summer, a group of volunteers gave the rooms a fresh coat of paint. What painting left to do is the inside of the closets. Each room has shelved closet space that we plan to use for the display of housewares and decorative items, but they need a fresh coat of paint to make them look their best. We need to complete this job in January. If you like to paint and would be interested in helping, please sign up on the sheet in the Sunroom or contact one of us (see below).

Other ways to help:

1. Be on the lookout for stores that are closing and for other sources of retail display furniture. We need shelving, clothing racks, and tables to display items for sale. Let us know right away if you come across anything.

2. We will start to collect donations as soon as the closet painting and flooring retiling have been completed. Save furniture, lamps, rugs, decorative items, knick-knacks, gently-worn clothing. We will need lots of merchandise to fill our thrift shop and to keep it freshly stocked.

3. Volunteer to help. We will post volunteer sign-up sheets in the Sunroom for help with sorting and pricing before the grand opening and, of course, for volunteers to staff the shop once it opens.

4. Spread the word. As we get closer to the opening date, we will need your help posting flyers around town and spreading the word to your friends.

Faithfully,
Helen Hinckley  hph54@comcast.net, Liz Ferretti  eabferretti@gmail.com,  
& Janis Umschlag  jumschlag1@gmail.com

Open Circles: The St. Francis open circles group will be meeting at Nancy Clairmont’s house, 15 Greer Drive, in Dennis, on Friday, January 10th, at 5:00. Please RSVP to Susanne Bennett at csusanne.bennett@gmail.com if you plan to attend.
2019 Thanksgiving Baskets for Cape Codders

Together with Community Action, this year we provided 209 families with 204 thanksgiving baskets of fixings, 163 turkeys, 160 quarts of ice cream and over $4,000 in donations and gift cards. Of these numbers St Mary's and "friends " (our community partners like Bob Burns, Cape Cod Creamery, The Daily Paper, Advanced Embroidery, Centerville Elementary, Barnstable Fire Department and Hyannis Harbor Hawks) provided the following:

132 baskets, 149 turkeys, $3150 in checks and gift cards and the 160 quarts of Cape Cod Creamery ice cream !

THANK YOU to the 72 families and individuals from our parish who participated in this program to ensure a nutritious and plentiful meal for approximately 650 Cape Codders. Your generosity was (IS) extraordinary!

Submitted by Judy Scarafie

Holly Fair Highlights!

The fair was a great success. The Christmas spirit and talent of St. Mary's was on display in every room. At last count, the income was at $19,200 and counting! Thank you to ALL who volunteered, for making/baking/bringing items to sell, and for showing up to buy and enjoy!

Animal Shelter Toy Drive
Thank you for your donations to the animal shelter Christmas toy drive!
NIH: National Institute on Drug Abuse (Advancing Addiction Science)

*Drugs, Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addiction*

**Can addiction be treated successfully?**
Yes. Addiction is a treatable disorder. Research on the science of addiction and the treatment of substance use disorders has led to the development of research-based methods that help people to stop using drugs and resume productive lives, also known as being in *recovery*.

**Can addiction be cured?**
Like other chronic diseases such as heart disease or asthma, treatment for drug addiction usually isn't a cure. But addiction can be managed successfully. Treatment enables people to counteract addiction's disruptive effects on their brain and behavior and regain control of their lives.

**Does relapse to drug use mean treatment has failed?**
No. The chronic nature of addiction means that for some people *relapse*, or a return to drug use after an attempt to stop, can be part of the process, but newer treatments are designed to help with relapse prevention. Relapse rates for drug use are similar to rates for other chronic medical illnesses. If people stop following their medical treatment plan, they are likely to relapse.

Treatment of chronic diseases involves changing deeply rooted behaviors, and relapse doesn’t mean treatment has failed. When a person recovering from an addiction relapses, it indicates that the person needs to speak with their doctor to resume treatment, modify it, or try another treatment.

While relapse is a normal part of recovery, for some drugs it can be very dangerous—even deadly. If a person uses as much of the drug as they did before quitting, they can easily overdose because their bodies are no longer adapted to their previous level of drug exposure. An overdose happens when the person uses enough of a drug to produce uncomfortable feelings, life-threatening symptoms, or death.

**What are the principles of effective treatment?**
Research shows that when treating addictions to opioids (prescription pain relievers or drugs like heroin or fentanyl), medication should be the first line of treatment, usually combined with some form of behavioral therapy or counseling. Medications are also available to help treat addiction to alcohol and nicotine.

Additionally, medications are used to help people detoxify from drugs, although detoxification is not the same as treatment and is not sufficient to help a person recover. Detoxification alone without subsequent treatment generally leads to resumption of drug use.

For people with addictions to drugs like stimulants or cannabis, no medications are currently available to assist in treatment, so treatment consists of behavioral therapies. Treatment should be tailored to address each patient's drug use patterns and drug-related medical, mental, and social problems.

**What medications and devices help treat drug addiction?**
Different types of medications may be useful at different stages of treatment to help a patient stop abusing drugs, stay in treatment, and avoid relapse.

**Treating withdrawal.** When patients first stop using drugs, they can experience various physical and emotional symptoms, including restlessness or sleeplessness, as well as depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. Certain treatment medications and devices reduce these symptoms, which makes it easier to stop the drug use.
Staying in treatment. Some treatment medications and mobile applications are used to help the brain adapt gradually to the absence of the drug. These treatments act slowly to help prevent drug cravings and have a calming effect on body systems. They can help patients focus on counseling and other psychotherapies related to their drug treatment.

Preventing relapse. Science has taught us that stress cues linked to the drug use (such as people, places, things, and moods) and contact with drugs are the most common triggers for relapse. Scientists have been developing therapies to interfere with these triggers to help patients stay in recovery.

Common medications used to treat drug addiction and withdrawal include:

- **Opioid**: Methadone, Buprenorphine, Extended-release naltrexone, Lofexidine
- **Nicotine**: Nicotine replacement therapies (available as a patch, inhaler, or gum), Bupropion, Varenicline
- **Alcohol**: Naltrexone, Disulfiram, Acamprosate

How do behavioral therapies treat drug addiction?

Behavioral therapies help people in drug addiction treatment modify their attitudes and behaviors related to drug use. As a result, patients are able to handle stressful situations and various triggers that might cause another relapse. Behavioral therapies can also enhance the effectiveness of medications and help people remain in treatment longer.

**Cognitive-behavioral therapy** seeks to help patients recognize, avoid, and cope with the situations in which they're most likely to use drugs.

**Contingency management** uses positive reinforcement such as providing rewards or privileges for remaining drugfree, for attending and participating in counseling sessions, or for taking treatment medications as prescribed.

**Motivational enhancement therapy** uses strategies to make the most of people's readiness to change their behavior and enter treatment.

**Family therapy** helps people (especially young people) with drug use problems, as well as their families, address influences on drug use patterns and improve overall family functioning.

**Twelve-step facilitation (TSF)** is an individual therapy typically delivered in 12 weekly sessions to prepare people to become engaged in 12-step mutual support programs. Twelve-step programs, like Alcoholics Anonymous, are not medical treatments, but provide social and complementary support to those treatments. TSF follows the 12-step themes of acceptance, surrender, and active involvement in recovery.

How do the best treatment programs help patients recover from addiction?

Treatment must address the whole person. Stopping drug use is just one part of a long and complex recovery process. When people enter treatment, addiction has often caused serious consequences in their lives, possibly disrupting their health and how they function in their family lives, at work, and in the community.

Because addiction can affect so many aspects of a person's life, treatment should address the needs of the whole person to be successful. Counselors may select from a menu of services that meet the specific medical, mental, social, occupational, family, and legal needs of their patients to help in their recovery.

Submitted by Pastoral Care
MINISTRY SUPPORT

If you missed the chance to purchase the Saint Mary's "All Are Welcome" Cookbook, a limited number are still available for $20. Proceeds support our building renovation. Many famous Holly Fair, Daffodil Tea, and coffee hour favorites are featured. To purchase, visit the office, or contact Caty McMahon, Chair, via email or cell/text: catymcmahon@gmail.com / 617-678-2494.

Musings for Everyday Living, a book of selected sermons by Libby, is available for $24.95 in the church office for pick-up or for mailing (+ $5 shipping fee). The book is also available directly from Amazon for $24.95, but the St. Mary’s royalty from an Amazon-ordered book is one-half of the amount that stays with St. Mary’s from a book purchased here. Contact Hub Mathewson hmathewson@verizon.net with questions or see Julie admin@stmarys-church.org or Allison in the church office.

Time Capsule!

Thank you, Sharon Donegan, for helping make the Saint Mary’s Renovation year time capsule a reality. We had fun sealing it up. See you in July 2069, when it gets reopened!

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE CAMUPS CLEAN & PRESENTABLE:

Please refrain from dropping off items around the church without checking in with the Parish Office and/or properly labeling them for their intended. Items, boxes and bags found on our benches, in our parish offices & around the church will be assumed abandoned and will be handled accordingly.

Thrift Shop: We are unable at this time to accept donations for the future thrift shop. Much work needs to be done before our Thrift Shop Volunteers will be able to handle sorting and storage of these items. Please see additional notification in the Angels’ Treasures Thrift Shop article on page 7 of this newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact Julie, Parish Administrator at admin@stmarys-church.org or (508) 362-3977
From Our Senior Warden

As we begin a new year, I remain grateful and glad to be part of the Saint Mary's family. I look forward to celebrating the richness of our lives together at the annual meeting, and planning for the year ahead. When I count my blessings, Saint Mary's is a big one in my life. From the physical sacred spaces - our church building and gardens, to the personal sacred spaces - our friendships and fellowship, I lift them up in appreciation. Thank you for the ways that you are part of this community, and for being part of the journey. Whether you've been coming for many decades or whether you're brand new, ALL ARE WELCOME!

Peace, love, and joy,  

Caty McMahon, Senior Warden

Let's Talk Box! Did you know that your vestry maintains two "Let's Talk" boxes where you can leave questions and feedback? We even supply the paper and pencils! You can find the boxes in two locations: the first is in the hallway near the office, outside the Saint James Room, and the second is in the hallway outside Walden Hall, near the time capsule. Please also feel free to engage in individual conversation with any Vestry member or the Wardens. We love to hear from you.

Like us on Facebook!

Please take a moment to visit our updated public page on Facebook and "like" the page.

We've set this up to help publicize our events such as the Holly Fair. We will also continue to maintain our group page as well as Instagram account.

EMAIL FRAUD WARNING!

Several times a week, parishioners are receiving emails that are allegedly from Libby asking for assistance / gift cards / money. PLEASE REMEMBER that she will never solicit you for these kinds of gifts. Do not reply to the email, but contact her at rector@stmarys-church.org with questions.
Staff updates!

Custodial Coordinator
You may remember Brittany DeCoste (pronounced Dee-Coast) as our Nursery Assistant. What you may not know is that Brittany also was our substitute sexton/custodial person. Please join me in welcoming back Brittany as our part-time custodial coordinator. She will be taking on the duties of cleaning the church and offices, stocking custodial supplies, and caring for the trash and recycling. Although not part of her regular duties, you may see her on occasional Sundays as well as helping out with events. Brittany is a single mom working towards her Master’s Degree in Business and owns and manages her own cleaning company. We are blessed to have Brittany on our team.

Associate Pastor
We are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Dr. Russ Norris to the staff at St. Mary's. Pastor Russ will be working part-time with us and First Lutheran Church, West Barnstable, in a new, joint position to support both congregations. At St. Mary's, Russ will be helping with our liturgies, working with the pastoral care team, and doing some teaching. Pastor Russ has a rich and diverse background, having served as the Executive Director of several non-profits and as pastor in Lutheran congregations. Already Pastor Russ is blessing our community and we look forward to working together to spread the good news of Jesus in our community.

Building & Grounds ~ Parish Office

Helping Hands
Seeking all handypersons! God has uniquely equipped every person in the Church with specific skills and gifts. Please consider using your special talents in a volunteer capacity to help with projects around the church. Please watch our Service bulletins, e-news, bi-monthly newsletter and the large bulletin board in the Sunroom in the upcoming months for the Helping Hands List and direction on how you can become involved.

A Thank You Note from Carmen
I just wanted to take a moment to thank each of you very much for all the kindness and love that you have shown me during my employment here. I have made many wonderful and heartfelt memories to carry with me as I move forward in my life. Coffee hour gave me the opportunity to interact with parishioners and enjoy conversations with those friends from my youngest pals, like Caleb, to our older parishioners, like Mary Ferguson, and everyone in between. I will miss you and will hold you in my heart always. I hope your holidays were great and that you have a happy and prosperous New Year. Carmen
WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

From top left to bottom right: Claudia Waterhouse, Erin & Will Seymour, Nigel (and Judy) Thompson, Molly Waterhouse, Charlotte Stiefel (welcome back), Aleina (& Art) Laughton, Beth & Bill Hearn, & Arlene Antonelli (photos courtesy of Cay Hartley)

Stewardship Gratitude!

Thank you to everyone for your generous pledge for 2020. Our average pledge amount has increased, and your giving continues to inspire us. If you lost your pledge card, it's not too late to make an annual pledge.

Consider pledging online (click here) - see below to pay online!

Pledge Information

You may want to consider paying your pledge online. It's safe, secure, and easy!
**Handicap pews designated:** You may have noticed that we have labeled two of our pews for handicap use. Please reserve the seating for those who need the extra space for their equipment and any persons accompanying them.

### Happy Birthday November and December!!

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<td>JAN</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Karen Scichilone</td>
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<td>Liz Ferretti</td>
<td>JAN</td>
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<td>Joshua LaPine</td>
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<td>Charlotte Stiefel</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Robert Norton</td>
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At a Glance:

**Holy Eucharist Services Weekly**

**Saturdays at 5pm** (Taize service and reception 1st Saturday of the month, 3rd Saturday reception on the 3rd Saturday of the month)

**Sundays at 8 am and 10 am**

**Men’s Fellowship:** Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 am

**Bible Study:** Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday @ 9 am

**Thursday morning Holy Eucharist, Discussion & Breakfast:** Every Thursday @ 8:30 am.

**Special Events and Services**

**Epiphany Lessons and Carols:** Sunday, January 5 @ 10 am

**Annual Parish Meeting:** Sunday, February 2nd @ 10:45 am