

SMC Newsletter October 2021

It's November, the month for Thanksgiving and gratitude! We are thankful for our successful turkey dinner and the multiple events at the diocesan and St Mary's level to keep us intentional in our works for the body of Christ.

Please send me any information you would like included for next time. Many blessings, Patty

Thank you to EVERYONE who worked on and supported the take-out turkey dinner on Oct. 15th. All the proceeds raised will benefit our neighbors in need through the Maxfield Food Pantry, its Thanksgiving baskets, and the community fuel fund. We also wish to apologize to those who came for a meal but found we were already sold out because of the unexpectedly high response. We understand your disappointment and will take steps to prevent this in the future. If you do come to our next dinner, please let us know if you did not get one this time—we would like to make up for your inconvenience! St. Mary's is committed to helping others in our community, and we are grateful for your generous contributions to those efforts.



An Update from the ECW and the Christmas Bazaar

After much discussion relating to COVID concerns, we voted to limit this year's Christmas Bazaar to just the Fishbowl. We have been busy getting ready by making and wrapping baskets, but **the event is pending until the next ECW meeting this Friday, Nov. 5th at 10:30am in the Parish Hall.**



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A Gingerbread Competition.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is sponsoring a Gingerbread House Competition, which will be judged on Saturday, Dec 4th at 1 pm. Prizes will be awarded by age group or by family.

You supply the gingerbread house and decorate it either at home or at St. Mary's. A kit can be used in the competition.

20 free kits will be available for those needing them.

Pick up of free kits and/or group house making (with refreshments!) will be Nov. 20 between 10am and 2pm. 5 groups of families/friends will be scheduled every hour at 10am, 11am, 12pm, and 1pm. Please RSVP at 802-989-3213 to reserve a kit or sign up for the group house making.

For those making gingerbread houses at home, the drop-off times for the competition are Dec. 1-3 between 2:30-5:30pm or by arrangement.

Each gingerbread house requires a submission form which can be found on <https://www.stmarysluzerne.org/sermons/>. All gingerbread houses should be placed on a stable surface with a lip (like a cookie sheet) so that your hard work will be protected!! All activities will take place in the Parish Hall.

Also be sure you submit a guess for how many Christmas candies are in the jar in the church hall! Closest to the actual number wins the whole jar!

If you would like to donate, here is a Gingerbread House Decoration Donation List

Gumdrops, M&M's, Skittles, Round Peppermints, Sugar Cones, Sprinkles, Licorice, Coconut, Frosted Mini-Wheats, Pretzel Sticks, Marshmallows, Hershey Kisses, Green-Red-White Icing, Royal Icing tub

An Update From Meryl and Operation Christmas Child.

Meryl asks us to continue to pray for the boxes and the children by using the bookmark prayer card we received on Sunday.



An Update from Noel on the Welcome Home Initiative (WHI)

The Welcome Home Initiative© ministers healing for military veterans who have served their country in combat or any other service context that has caused suffering in varying degrees from post-traumatic stress or moral injury and need soul repair. Spouses too are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Our program helps veterans and spouses understand the hidden impact of combat and trauma, and provides a safe place for emotional healing. This essential spiritual and emotional healing is a complement to healing received from psychiatric and social services.

The next retreat is November 8-10, 2021, for men and women.

The public is most cordially invited to attend the closing ceremony of this retreat which honors those who attended the retreat and their service to our country.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 10:00 a.m., The Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at the Spiritual Life Center.

Please pray for the retreat and the attendees, and for Noel and Meryl in leading and organizing it.

Pray for the unity of the team, and of the retreat.

Pray for the wise exercising of spiritual gifts, and discernment.

Pray for everyone to LISTEN, LOVE AND PRAY.

Thank God for the team members.

Praise God that their balance of experience, skills, and gifts that God has blessed each person with, will be completely sufficient, in His hands, for God's perfect retreat.

An Update from Meryl on Birthdays and Anniversaries.

The birthdays for November are:

Lorraine Newton Nov 2nd, David Smail Nov 8th, Carlee (Ruth's granddaughter) Nov 10th, Sandy Williams Nov 13th, Maxine Starr Nov 15th, and Joyce Underwood Nov 21st.

The anniversaries for November are:

None. ☹️

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year! Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.



Bible studies/Book Club/DOK.

Fr. Lou did the blessing of the animals on Oct. 3. Thank you to everyone who came. We had 18 people and 11 dogs/cats. We had an excited 4-legged crowd.

Fr. Lou will continue to have a **service at 10am on Wednesdays - followed by a bible study** in the Parish Hall. We will be studying the readings for the weekly Sunday service. No morning service this first Wednesday of the month. Father Lou will be gone for a priest retreat.

Fr. Lou has started season two of **The Chosen** on **Wednesday nights at 6:30pm**. It will be on going and all are welcome. (<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>). The first Wednesday of the month will happen even though Fr. Lou will be gone on the retreat. Noel will be running it.

The DOK continues to read Liturgy of the Ordinary. We are now reading Chapter 7. **We will be offering a DOK course for new members.** Anyone interested please contact Patty. The DOK had their annual meeting last Saturday at CtK.

The next meeting for the DOK is **Friday, November 12, at 11:30 at the Rectory.**



The Albany Diocesan Annual Convention and SMC Vestry Retreat.

Fr. Lou reports that Jackie G., Noel, Barbara Breen, and he attended the general convention virtually. The major goal right now is finding a new bishop. At the priest retreat next week there will be the first of many town hall discussions on the future of our diocese. They will be led by the new Assistant Bishop, Michael Smith.

The vestry met for a wonderful day at the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. At the retreat they looked at the existing mission statement for the church and reflected on whether it answered the question, WHY DO WE EXIST?

First Fruits Sunday will be Sunday, Nov 21st.

Stewardship packets have been mailed home, so look through them and ask questions if you don't understand anything. There will be testimonies every Sunday until our celebration Sunday. A thank you to Frank for his testimony and the crepes that followed as part of our First Fruits Stewardship Campaign.

A thank you to Ruth for her testimony too! Hearing the testimonies has been wonderful so far.



Coffee Hour Update.

Coffee hour is every Sunday after church. **Please signup to volunteer for November.** We need 1-2 volunteers per Sunday. **No signups needed for Nov. 21st because that is our Stewardship Sunday.**

Prayer Requests.

****Please Pray for:** Jeff, Gayle M., Paul B., Mary Carol and Deacon Alan, Maxine and her family, Shaunna, Marika J., John & Danni, Eduard & Mariana, Sonia, Elaine, Jennifer and family as they grieve the loss of Lee, Kailee and Baby Dante, Joyce L., Jack G., Alex, Liza, Spencer, Azel, Barbara L., Cas L., Alyce R., Pat S., Greta H., David & Beanie F., Peter & Nancy W., Gretchen, Delia R-D., John G, Rita & Tony, Ted G., Wendy A., Mark, Alison M., Peter D., Mark M., Michael S., Mary W., Marissa, our community's youth, the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic, those who need healing from the virus, healthcare workers and first responders who are confronting this disease, and those who are struggling with isolation or emotional distress due to the pandemic. All those whose needs are known only to our Lord.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Retired Bishops William Love, Daniel Herzog, and their families. For Bishop Smith and the Standing Committee and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer>

Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at erichkaminsky@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.



Odds and Ends.

A thank you for everyone who helped with the special bat coffee hour and all those that have donated to the fund.

A celebratory baby shower for Michaela and Rich in anticipation of their baby boy due on Nov. 18th!!

A peek at Barbara Brewer-LaMere, Kathy Crannell, and Jacquie Walker in their historic outfits at the Lake Luzerne Lantern Walk.

A quote from Ignatios IV.

A snapshot from the yard of the Rectory and the church.

A poem to contemplate from Ruth:

DIRTY DISHES
THANK GOD FOR DIRTY DISHES
THEY HAVE A STORY TO TELL
WHILE OTHER FOLKS GO HUNGRY
WE ARE SO VERY WELL
WITH HOME AND HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
WE SHOULDN'T WANT TO FUSS
FOR BY THIS STACK OF EVIDENCE
GOD'S VERY GOOD TO US!!!!



Without the Holy Spirit, God is distant,
Christ is merely a historical figure, the
gospel is a dead letter, the church is merely
an organization, authority is domination,
mission is propaganda, worship is an
evocation, and Christian action is slave labor.

But with the Holy Spirit, the risen Christ is
here, the gospel is a life-giving force, the
church means communion with the Trinity,
authority is a liberating service, mission is
like Pentecost, the liturgy is both a
commemoration and an anticipation, and
human action becomes more godlike.

– Ignatios IV, Patriarch of Antioch, 1968

