A Message from the Interim Dean

House Blessing Invitation

The Church has a custom of blessing homes during the Epiphany season. During this COVID time, it is a way to ask God’s blessing on our homes, those who live in them, and those who visit. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed at the altar during Epiphany and write the following above the home’s entryway:

\[20 + C + M + B + 21.\]

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words \textit{Christus mansionem benedicat}, “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross and 2021 is the year.
Rev Jean+ is more than honored to come bless your home, from the outside, while passing to you the candle and the words of blessing for the interior of the house. If you prefer to bless your own home, a blessing prayer will be provided along with chalk and candle. Call Rev Jean+ at 402 302 5600 or Emily in the church office and Rev Jean+ will bless or drop off the chalk and candle and prayers for a no contact delivery.

The Home is our First church, during the blessing share stories, faith stories, and share the love of Jesus. Think about when you first learned to pray, or who told you about Jesus, or the first time you remember going to church, or when God felt really present or far away.

House blessings are an invitation for Jesus to share in our stories, and to be our guest in our family gathering.

Rev Jean Vargo+
Interim Dean

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**Worship & Music**

Sunday, January 24, 2021
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

We are live streaming services on the [St. Mary's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com).

- **Saturdays Liturgy of the Word Rite I at 5:00 pm** (livestream)

- **Sundays Liturgy of the Word Rite II at 10:00 am** (livestream)

Service offerings, including bulletins can be found on the [Worship page](https://www.stmarystemphis.org) of our website.

[Click here](https://www.stmarystemphis.org) for Bishop Phoebe's December 21, 2020 message about the temporary suspension of in-person worship

**Musical Offerings**

Since the end of March, St. Mary’s Music Ministry has posted over 100 musical offerings to help you remain connected to the cathedral. These spiritual and inspirational music post have been viewed over 29,000 times! St. Mary’s reaches the hearts of many.
Continue to enjoy and share the many videos from St. Mary's with family and friends. All videos are available on our Facebook page. Musical offerings are also available on our YouTube channel.

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**Annual Parish Meeting**

12pm Sunday, January 24, 2021

via Zoom

All welcome! Plan to join your St. Mary's community during this important time of transition. Your voice determines how we continue to be the church in the pandemic and beyond. The meeting will include:

- Interim Dean, department & committee reports
- An opportunity to ask questions about the budget and expenses
- Telling our COVID story and reconnecting as a congregation
- Goal setting
- Voting on Vestry members through Zoom polling

*We ask that members of the same household share a screen/account to make space for others in the meeting. Never used Zoom before? Just click the link below and follow the prompts to sign up!*

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89381287177?pwd=VmR3aUtoTWVaejRPK255RHRJL3ZZUT09

Meeting ID: 893 8128 7177
Passcode: 655940

Dial in by phone
(312) 626-6799

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**National Bell Ringing**

Tuesday, January 19th 4:30pm

St. Mary’s will participate in a nationwide memorial to remember and honor lives lost to COVID-19 on **Tuesday, January 19, at 4:30 (CTS)** with the ringing of the cathedral bell.

"In the midst of a pandemic — when so many Americans are grieving the loss of family, friends, and neighbors — it is important that we honor those who have died, reflect on what has been one of the more challenging periods in the nation’s history, and renew our commitment to coming together to end the pandemic and rebuild our nation."  *(From the Presidential Inauguration Committee director Pili Tobar)*

At that time, President-elect Biden will lead a memorial. More information can be found at:
**Video Broadcasts**

We are excited to have our new, state-of-the-art video system installed and working. And we are looking for volunteers to operate the system so that no one person has to be there all the time.

We have had some growing pains while we are learning the system and the finer points of live streaming. We are happy to have added a Saturday evening, Rite 1 service, which is broadcast live on our YouTube channel and available after that on demand. We have had issues with the live streams of the Sunday morning Rite 2 service. Please bear with us while we work through these problems.

We are staffing the video system with volunteers from the church. If you would like to assist, please let Scott Morrell know and we can get you trained with little effort.

Scott Morrell, Senior Warden
gscottm@comcast.net

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**Faith in Action**

Hunger Ministry
Food ministry continues! Thank you for all the ways everyone is continuing to keep this ministry going through food and financial donations.

POP TOPS has been moved to Saturday, and we are serving sausage biscuit sandwiches on Wednesday. **We need sponsors for this breakfast—we will use all volunteers, no paid staff.** We are asking if people would volunteer for the first, second or third Wednesday of the month. You may volunteer to buy the food, make the sandwiches and or serve the food.

If you have questions about how to help, contact Deacon Drew Woodruff: 901.336.1103 or dewverger@aol.com

Help & Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic

[Click here](#) for a list of local and national groups offering help & support.

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**Pastoral Care & Community Life**

Our clergy and pastoral care teams are active and available to you.

Please call the church (901-527-3361), contact Interim Dean Jean Vargo (jvargo@stmarysmemphis.org 402-302-5600) or Deacon Drew Woodruff (dewverger@aol.com).

Phone calls of connection, love, and check in are going out all week to our members and especially to our members who do not use email or the internet. If you’d like to join in the phone chain, please let Drew Woodruff know.

Also, Let us pray for you! If you have names that you would like the community to pray for, please continue to send them through the "[Contact page on our website](#) by 12 pm Wednesdays and we will gather them for Sunday prayers."
Live Weekly Prayer Services

Wednesday Noonday Prayer @ 12 noon on Facebook Live
Friday Night Compline @ 7:30pm on Facebook Live

Go to the St. Mary’s Facebook page and click the "video" button to begin watching live.

If you are interested in leading either Monday Morning Prayer or Friday Night Compline, please send an email to Drew Massengale: massengale.drew@gmail.com to be added to the list. You will receive instructions on how to lead the prayer service as well as instructions on how to stream via Facebook Live, should you need it.

Cathedral Vestry

During our time of transition, the Vestry will play an important and guiding role. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry, please contact Rev. Vargo (jvargo@stmarysmemphis.org 402-302-5600) or Scott Morrell, Senior Warden (gscottm@comcast.net) or call the church office at 901-527-3361.

Giving

Continue your pledge, increase your pledge...or begin your pledge if you hadn't already!

Your continued giving makes a difference in the St. Mary's community. Staying current with or making your pledge, and additional contributions are more important than ever. Such giving also continues to support parish administration staff operations.

Three Ways to Donate:
1. Click here to donate securely on our website!
2. You may also donate securely through the Give+ mobile app. Search "GivePlus Church" in the App Store or Google Play to find and download.
3. You may also mail a check to the Cathedral office at 692 Poplar Ave. 38105

Lifelong Learning
Christian Education

Virtual Christian Adult Formation Offerings:

Dr. Jerry Harber's Sunday School Class
Sundays at 1 pm via Zoom
The next class will be held Sunday, January 31st.

THE LORD’S PRAYER AND MORE: Teach Us to Pray

More than you might imagine, clergy hear parishioners say that they really don’t know how to pray and aren’t even sure if prayer “works.” In this series we'll explore the nature of prayer, the “how to’s” of prayer, the deeper levels of the Lord’s Prayer, and the question of the value of prayer. If you’d like to expand and deepen your prayer life, this series can help.

You're invited to join other folks from St Mary's, from other churches, and from out of town as they gather each week for an hour of study.

Click the link to log in any time between 1:00 and 1:15 p.m. Sundays. The class typically runs from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/9785359753?pwd=alRYWnVvSm5QVTV1SlZNeGJnVjExZz09

Meeting ID: 978 535 9753
Passcode: stmarys

Spiritual Resources

There are some amazing sites and locations that we encourage folks to tune into these days for spiritual refreshment. All of us at St. Mary's especially recommend the Presiding Bishop's weekly "Habits of Grace" site. Stay connected and grounded! Click here for some wonderful sites and resources

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**Episcopal Bookshop**

The Episcopal Bookshop at 672 Poplar Ave. in Memphis is open from **Wednesdays from 10 am -2 pm**. We will look forward
to seeing our customers and friends. Following Bishop Phoebe’s guidelines of masking, small numbers, and social distancing, we are once again able to providing you with the special items we have always carried-books, religious items, gifts, Christian jewelry, church candles, prayer books, etc. If anyone wishes to remain in their car, we will be happy to offer curbside service.

Episcopal Bookshop phone: 901-527-5684
https://www.episcopalbookshop.org/
Email: episcopalbookshop@gmail.com
Manager Sanda Smith

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