

THE ANNUNCIATION

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Last Sunday, five little boys were baptized during the 11 o'clock service.



This past week, someone asked me what I was planning on doing for Lent. The first words that jumped

out of my mouth were "Oops!" followed by "Darn it." This happens every year. After the Christmas season, I plan to come up with some thoughtful Lenten practice. Then, before I know it, Ash Wednesday is just around the corner. Well, so much for being intentional. Maybe next year.

I haven't always done a Lenten practice. I grew up in a household that technically observed Lent, but we didn't do anything other than normal, weekly church attendance. While I knew that some people gave things

up for Lent, it seemed a little too pious for my liking.

At some point, some kind soul walked me through the origin and meaning of these practices. They shared that, when giving up an earthly practice or item, Christians are identifying with the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness. We remember that, just as God sustained him, so does God sustain us. In taking on a spiritual practice during this season, we open ourselves up to God's presence and seek to walk closer with Christ in the journey toward Holy Week.

The most important thing I learned, though, was that Lent is not really our work to do. We are not the ones making our way toward God. Our

Welcome!

Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church - we are so glad that you are here! Since the 1870s, God has gathered a beloved community of Jesus to worship and serve here, where all are welcomed. We are committed to provide a holy place for worship, Christian Formation for all ages that is compelling and life-giving, opportunities to reach out in love for those in need, and an enthusiastic hope that all who call St. Mary's their spiritual home can participate in every area of our common life in Christ. The spirit of St. Mary's is grounded in a deep sense of gratitude for God's goodness and love. We give thanks for you and for your life, and we are grateful to God for the opportunity to welcome you!

Weekly reflection continues...

**TODAY'S
SCHEDULE**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in
New St. Mary's

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in
New St. Mary's

4:30 p.m. Choral Evensong
in New St. Mary's

practices cannot make us right with God, make us more desirable to God, or make God love us any more. Rather, Lent is about God's work. It is about God's action in our lives. God is drawing near to us and loving us unconditionally. We really can't make that any more or less true. We can, however, tune into that reality more deeply, and this is exactly what our practices are for.

It doesn't matter if, like me, you are late on deciding. Or maybe you're just starting to learn about all of this for the first time. Just set aside a moment or two each day and keep it simple. That is enough for God to work with. All we need to do is practice tuning into God's presence, and then we will start to glimpse His nearness to us and unconditional love for us.

Kilpy Singer



Ministry Highlight

Prior to March, 2020 and the arrival of the Covid pandemic, a group of parishioners met regularly to practice Centering Prayer together. David would like to resume this offering during the upcoming season of Lent. Centering Prayer is the ancient spiritual practice of directing the intentions of one's heart to God in silence for a period of 20 to 30 minutes. This practice includes simple guidance to become collected in body and spirit so that one may simply rest in God in silence. Contact David May to learn more.



Outreach Opportunity

Consider joining the Hope on the Ground Short-Term Mission Experience with Education Equals Hope (E=H) to Quito, Ecuador in 2022. A Hope on the Ground experience gives you the opportunity to become the "hands and feet" of Education Equals Hope. As E=H says, "All our Short-Term Missions Experiences give participants a chance to develop a deeper level of compassion and servant hearts." The dates are April 19-26, 2022. If you would like to say 'yes!' to this experience, email Ashley Cameron to learn about next steps and more details.



TAKE HOME PANCAKE SUPPER

Youth are back to cook for us for Shrove Tuesday, March 1. You will receive pre-cooked sides (sausage links and cooked apples) and pre-portioned pancake mix to make at home. It will also include some Lent at-home materials.

Drive up between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1 to pick up everything your family needs to have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at home!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR SUPPER.



CHORAL EVENSONG THIS EVENING

Today with Prelude at 4 p.m. and Service at 4:30 p.m. in New St. Mary's

This evening at 4:30 p.m., the St. Mary's Choir offers a service of Choral Evensong. Repertoire includes works by Herbert Murrill, Thomas Tallis, David Ashley White, and Ryan Tibbetts. At 4 p.m., organist Ryan Tibbetts and oboist Dr. Sarah Huebsch Schilling will play a prelude recital featuring works by Johann Ludwig Krebs, and Naji Hakim. We hope you join us for this contemplative service of music, Scripture, and prayer.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S BOOK STUDIES

Three Opportunities in February and March

There are several different offerings for the Women's Book Study Group this winter. Please check out the options below. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org. The first is on **Tuesdays, February 22 and March 1 at 1:30 p.m. studying *Miracles and other Reasonable Things*** by Sarah Bessey. Then on **Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 1:30 p.m.** the group studies *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. And finally, on **Fridays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 1:00 p.m.**, join the study on *Sermon on the Mount* by AJ Levine. Visit www.stmarysgoochland.org/adult to learn more about each study.

"LET IT BEGIN WITH ME"

Sundays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 4 p.m.

Deacon Harrison Higgins writes, "Race in this country is complicated. Are you tired of carrying around this burden of... what? Complicity? Guilt? Defensiveness? A feeling of something wrong that you can't explain and don't have a name for? If you feel any of this or something like it and want to take a clear-eyed look at this issue together with humility, courage, honesty, and grace, join Harrison, Amelia, and David for a Lenten series titled, 'Let it Begin with Me.'" This series takes place on Sunday afternoons in Lent (March 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.) and invites you to simply begin with each of our own stories and own hearts. Each session is guided by teachings from the Gospel and taking Jesus's life and words as our guide in reflection, conversation, and prayer for ourselves and our country.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, March 2 at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. in New St. Mary's

Christians all over the world make a good beginning to the holy season of Lent by making every effort to attend Ash Wednesday services. We hope as many of us as are able will plan to attend one of the Ash Wednesday services here at St. Mary's. Services will be held in New St. Mary's at 12 p.m. and at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2. For those who would like to join virtually, we will livestream the 12 p.m. service on St. Mary's Facebook page.

LENTEN SUPPER AND SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS

Join us on Wednesday evenings for St. Mary's Lenten Supper and Speaker Series. Each Wednesday begins with a simple meal of soup and salad at 5:30 p.m. followed by a presentation by a guest speaker. The evening concludes by 7 p.m. with our prayers for the evening. This year's theme is "Do this in remembrance of me" with a focus on the redeeming work of Jesus and our work of his Kingdom.

SUNDAYS AT ST. MARY'S

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's
10 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer in New St. Mary's*

*We have first, third, and fifth Sunday Holy Eucharist at both services. Second and fourth Sundays will have Morning Prayer, except during Advent, Lent and Easter.

NURSERY ON PAUSE

Nursery is typically offered for infants - 4 year olds every Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. But due to COVID, it is currently not being offered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN LENT

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, March 6 for children 4 years old - 5th grade at 10 a.m. Each week the children will learn the stories of Jesus' life and the stories He told through singing and storytelling. Details on Sunday School for 6th-12th graders will be announced soon.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum gathers on Sundays in the Parish Hall during the 10 o'clock hour. All adults are welcome! A forum series with David May will begin on Sunday, March 20 and continue for three weeks.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the 11 a.m. service, children (ages 4 years old - 5th grade) are invited to come forward during the Gospel hymn and go to the Block Room together. There, they hear the Gospel story, talk about it, and sing together. They return to the service during the Peace.

OCCURRING WEEKLY

MEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via ZOOM

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via ZOOM

HOLY EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Little St. Mary's

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Thursdays at 8 a.m. via ZOOM

NEW BEGINNINGS

Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Education Building (open A.A. meeting)

*Events are subject to change. Please visit www.stmarysgoochland.org for updates.

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

The Annunciation | February 20, 2022 | The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany





This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, February 20

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Monday, February 21

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 22

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Offices*
Grief Group, 1:30 p.m., *Library*
"Miracles" Book Study, 1:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*
Vestry, 5 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Wednesday, February 23

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, February 24

Women's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Sunday, February 27

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*



Contact Us

New Here? Be sure to fill out a welcome card located in the pews and in the narthex. Place it in the offering plate or bring it to an usher or clergy to learn more about the life and ministry of St. Mary's.

Need to Reach Someone? Please call the Church Office at (804) 784-5678. Or visit www.stmarysgoochland.org/staff to find contact information.

Want to Learn More? Please visit St. Mary's website for the most up to date information: www.stmarysgoochland.org

A PART OF OUR STORY...



Another precious scene from last Sunday's baptisms.



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[@StMarysGoochland](https://www.instagram.com/StMarysGoochland)

CLERGY AND STAFF

Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
Lauren Clay, *Office Administrator*
Harrison Higgins, *Deacon Associate*
David H. May, *Rector*
Amelia McDaniel, *Lay Associate for Christian Formation*
The Rev. John E. Miller, Ph.D., *Rector Emeritus*

Paul Pace, *Sexton*
Kilpy Singer, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Elizabeth Starling, *Executive Director, Church Operations*
Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*
Eleanor Wellford, *Priest Associate*
Tyrell Wilkins, *Assistant Sexton*

VESTRY

Harry Baldwin, *Senior Warden*; Missy Roberts, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Fran Jones, *Register*; Jill Aveson, Ashley Barlow, Sam Bruce, Owen Conway, Wayne Dementi, Christy Gurkin, Robin Lind, Jesse McCoy, Ann Ramsey, and Danny Williams.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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