

THE ANNUNCIATION

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Welcome!

Have you ever considered becoming a reader or prayer leader (intercessor) for one of the services?



Senior seminarians in the Episcopal Church take a set of exams called the General Ordination

Exams (GEOs), which cover core areas like the Bible, Ethics, Liturgics, etc. I took GEOs in January 1993 and one of the 'Bible' questions has stayed with me. The question asked if, "the biblical witness, taken as a whole, emphasizes the priority of the individual or the priority of the community in God's eyes?" The answer (with no desire to be cagey!) is 'yes.' The Bible proclaims the beauty and splendor of each created person. This is especially established in the book of Genesis with the words proclaiming that each

person is made in God's image. Like, the annoying person who parked their cart in the middle of the aisle at the grocery store, your neighbor who is losing it as a teacher, your friend who drinks too much, the immigrant at Walmart with two loaded carts, the harassed mother in the turning lane who stays put and texts all the way through the green light. God established in creation, His kind regard for each one of them.

Later in Genesis, God looks at the creature God has just made and realizes, 'oh no! It is not good that the man should be alone.' God made us to be with each other. In fact, it looks like we can't be fully human without each other. God's intention is for us to be a people who belong to each

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. Morning Prayer
in New St. Mary's

other and to God. There is no 'I' or 'me' without there also being an 'us' and 'we.' Which, frankly, cuts starkly against our current cultural and social esteem for the priority of the individual above all else.

So, which is it – the individual or the community that God treasures most? Am I my brother's keeper? Who is my neighbor? I think how we live into those questions is part of the splendor and wonder of this glorious life that God has given to us, and a part of the means of God's salvation.

I find myself interested in this again as we enter into Lent together. Lent is a sacred time to look our own hearts squarely in the eye. I have work to do with God and God has work to do with me. But we're meant to do that in a community of sisters and brothers, where we say, 'You're not alone. I am in need of forgiveness, too. God knows.' This bond of our common, broken, and beautiful humanity – when we know it – is such a source of joy and healing.

So, I urge you, to come to church to be together, or join us through the livestream. You are precious in the eyes of God and precious to your sisters and brothers here. The season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday. We will offer the Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 12 p.m. (which will be livestreamed) and 6 p.m. in New St. Mary's. In the beloved community of Jesus, 'we', by God's grace, given the 'me' that is most truly whom God made you to be in the first place.

David May



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.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

12 P.M., NEW ST. MARY'S

6 P.M., NEW ST. MARY'S

LET US MAKE A GOOD BEGINNING
TO THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT



“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.

LENTEN SUPPER AND SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS

Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

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. The speakers include Carrie Schaeffer, the Rev. Michael Sweeney, the Rev. Ben Campbell, and Peggy Newman. The menu for Wednesday, March 9 is Minestrone soup served with bread and salad.

ALTAR GUILD FLOWER ARRANGING DEMO

Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m., New St. Mary’s

The St. Mary’s Altar Guild is holding a flower arranging demo with a twist—Liz Price will coach a lucky volunteer in creating an arrangement in the large black stand behind the altar in New St. Mary’s. The demo will take place on Saturday, March 5th at 10 a.m. in New St. Mary’s. We invite all who have an interest in flowers—you do not need to be an Altar Guild member to attend. Please RSVP to either Carol Evans evanscarol75@gmail.com, 804-784-2902, or Dianne Dementi, diannedementi@yahoo.com, 804-513-2049.

LENTEN RESOURCE TABLE AVAILABLE

The season of Lent is nearly upon us. During Lent, we join with Christians all over the world in preparing for the great mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection, the mighty work through which God reconciles all things to himself in Christ. From the earliest beginnings of the Church, Christians have set aside this period of time to prepare for Easter. The forty days of Lent (roughly a ‘tithe’ of our time each year) are given as a time of intentionally making ourselves available to the work of the Spirit in each of our lives. Two Lenten resource tables will be set up beginning today in the Narthex of New St. Mary’s and in the Café near the new Parish Hall. There you’ll find a variety of resources for learning, for growing, and for preparing that we hope you’ll find useful and encouraging.

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 will be offered again starting on Sunday, March 6 for infants - 4 year olds every Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

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 8 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.

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

The Annunciation | February 27, 2022 | The Last Sunday after the Epiphany





This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, February 27

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

Monday, February 28

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Library*

Tuesday, March 1

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Offices*
"Miracles" Book Study, 1:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*
Take Home Pancake Supper, 5:30 p.m.,
Education Building

Wednesday, March 2

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Ash Wednesday Service, 12 p.m., *New St. Mary's*
Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Thursday, March 3

Women's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex*
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, March 4

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Library*
"Sermon" Book Study, 1 p.m., *Library*

Sunday, March 6

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Education Building*
Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Birthday Cupcakes and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*
"Let it Begin with Me", 4 p.m., *Parish Hall*



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...



Interested in catching up on or revisiting a recent sermon?
Visit St. Mary's website to either listen or read them.



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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

Missy Roberts, *Senior Warden*; Wayne Dementi, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Fran Jones, *Register*; Jeff Allende, Jill Aveson, Ashley Barlow, Sam Bruce, Ros Bowers, Owen Conway, Linda Hyslop, Robin Lind, Jesse McCoy, and Barbara Tavenner.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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