

**Morning Prayer**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Youth Sunday**  
**April 28, 2024**  
**10:00 am**



**Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

St. Mary's is a place where God's grace allows our community to joyfully welcome all who are searching for a path Forward in Faith.

85 Conestoga Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871

[www.stmaryssparta.org](http://www.stmaryssparta.org)

(973) 729-3136

## Welcome to St. Mary's!

We are glad you are joining us for worship this morning. We are an open, welcoming community. You will find the worship service printed in your bulletin, so you don't have to worry about juggling hymnals and prayer books. Coffee hour after the service is held in Shaffer Hall, down the long hallway (where the bathrooms are also located).

If you have younger ones, ask an usher for a coloring book and crayons. We also don't get upset if they're a little noisy sometimes. Twice a month we have Sunday School, so your children will be welcome to join the class.

**The Eucharist:** All are welcome to receive, regardless of background or religious affiliation. As Episcopalians we believe this is the Lord's table, not that of the Episcopal Church or St. Mary's. A couple of things have changed post-COVID. The ushers will direct you forward. You have the option to receive only the wafer, intinct (dip) the wafer in the wine, or receive the wine from the common cup. Gluten-free wafers are available; just ask the priest.

**Healing Prayers:** If you would like to receive healing prayer today, please look for the person standing at the rail to the right of the altar.

**The Peace:** While some of us are comfortable with handshakes and hugs, not all are, so please take your cue from the other person.

**The Offering:** The ushers will pass the offering bowl. You may also give electronically, via Vanco and Venmo.

**Questions?** Please ask any of us; if we don't know, we'll find someone who does.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter – Youth Sunday**  
**Daily Morning Prayer Rite Two**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**OPENING HYMN “Ubi Caritas” WLP 831**

*Descant*

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

**A**

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

**B**

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i <sup>3</sup> - bi est.  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

*Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.*

**OPENING SENTENCE (BCP p. 75)**

*The Officiant says*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

The Invitatory and Psalter

**VERSICLE (BCP p. 80)**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen. Alleluia.**

**ANTIPHON (BCP p. 80)**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore him.**

## INVITATORY *S 35 Venite (White)* (s 35)



1. Come, let us sing to the  
 Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal -  
 va - tion. 2. Let us come be-fore his pres-ence with thanks - giv - ing  
 and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. 3. For the  
 Lord is a great God, and a great King a - bove all  
 gods. 4. In his hand are the cav-erns of the earth,  
 and the heights of the hills are his al - so. 5. The  
 sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have  
 mold - ed the dry land. 6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the



knee, \_\_\_\_\_ and kneel be-fore the Lord our Ma - ker. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. For



he is our God, \_\_\_\_\_ and we are the peo-ple of his



pas - ture \_\_\_\_\_ and the sheep of his hand. \_\_\_\_\_



— Oh, that to - day you would heark-en to his voice! \_\_\_\_\_

**PSALM: Psalm 22:24-30**

*Officiant and People*

*Psalm 22:24–30*

I come to God's house to praise and serve God.

Here's what I will do.

I'll make sure the poor have something to eat,  
and that they're not hungry all the time.

I'll make sure people know I do this because I love God,  
and maybe they'll learn to love God too.

**I come to God's house to praise and serve God.**

If we all did the things that makes God happy,  
like feeding the poor and take care of sick people  
and making sure people aren't lonely,  
then maybe everyone all over the world,  
all the families from all the countries, would know God's love.

**I come to God's house to praise and serve God.**

God's love is for everyone in every place.

Everyone should know God, and worship him.

I plan to follow God all my life, and I hope my kids do too.

Then they can pass God's love on to their kids  
and the kids their kids have.

They can pass on the stories of how God loved everyone in  
the whole world.

**I come to God's house to praise and serve God.**

## The Lessons

### **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

*The people sit.*

*A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [8:26–40]*

An angel who worked for God put an idea into Philip's head. "I want you to take a hike from Jerusalem to Gaza, where no one ever goes." So Philip got up and went. There he met a man who was going back to Ethiopia from Jerusalem. In Ethiopia the man worked for the queen. He was in charge of the treasury. When Philip ran into him, he was in his chariot reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit of God told Philip, "Go climb into that chariot and talk to that guy." So Philip ran alongside the chariot and asked him, "Do you know what you're reading?"

The man said, "Well, I'm reading it, but I sure could use some help understanding it. Get in this chariot and help me."

This was what he was reading:

As a sheep goes to slaughter, quiet as a lamb being sheared, he said nothing. He was mocked and humiliated and never got a fair trial. Who can claim him now, since he's no longer on earth?

When he read that, the man said to Philip, "Who is this talking about? Do you have any idea? Because I don't have a clue."

Philip took his chance to tell him about Jesus. The man was so excited about the Good News of God's love that when they came to a stream of water, he said, "Look, here's water and here's me. So why can't I be baptized right this very minute?" So Philip baptized him.



As soon as the man was baptized, the Spirit of God whisked Philip away, and that was the last the man from Ethiopia saw of him. But he didn't mind being alone on that road now, because he had Jesus in his heart, and he was as happy as could be.

Philip showed up north of there, and he preached about Jesus and God's love to all the villages along his way.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

### **FIRST CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)**

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

*Ecce, Deus*

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

*Officiant and People*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

*The people sit.*

*A Reading from the First Letter of John [4:7–21]*

Let's keep loving one another, because love comes from God. If you know how to love and actually love people, then you know God! If you don't love, then you don't know God. God. Is. Love. Here's how God showed his love for us—God sent his only son to live in the world, so that we might live through him. Since God loved us so much, we should love each other. No one has seen God or knows what God looks like, but if we love one another, God actually lives in us and when we love, then people will see God in us. God has given us his Spirit so that God's love in us might be real and perfect. Love is stronger than fear. We love because God loved us first. If you say you love God but hate your brother or sister, you're a liar. If you can't love someone you can see, how can you love God whom you can't see? Here're two things we all should do: Love God. Love our brothers and sisters.

*Reader*        **The Word of the Lord.**

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**SECOND CANTICLE S 236 *A Song of Praise (Canticle 13)***  
**(Rutter) (S 236)**

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord  
God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;  
glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you  
for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will  
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.  
3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your  
tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to  
you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and  
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

*Descant*

5. Glo - ry to you, be -  
5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the

hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of  
depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you,  
you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,

— Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will  
Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and



**THIRD READING: John 15:1-8**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from John.

Jesus told his disciples this:

I'm like a vine and my Father is the vine grower. He snaps off the branches that aren't producing, and pinches the ones that are producing so they'll produce more fruit. The words I've spoken to you have washed over you and made you clean. You are a part of me, just as I am a part of you. Branches don't exist on their own. They have to be attached to the vine, don't they? If you stick with me and stay attached to me, all kinds of fruit will grow. Working together, we can do great things. If you follow me, God's power, which is in me, will be in you too.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**Ministry Moment - Don MacGowan and Diane Grabowski**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP p. 96)**

*Officiant and People together, all standing.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERTORY

Announcements

*Please be seated while announcements are made.*

### **The Offertory**

*The Officiant says the following:*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Psalm 50:14

**Offertory Anthem** – “Here O Lord Our Servants Gather”  
by Tokuo Yamaguchi. St. Mary’s Choir.

*The Officiant is seated while the ushers take up the collection, then bring it forward to the Officiant, who accepts it and all sing:*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise him above, ye heavenly host:***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost***

***Amen***

*The service then continues with the Prayers.*

The Prayers

### **SALUTATION (BCP p. 97)**

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Officiant*        Let us pray.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 97)**

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 97)**

**V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**



### **FIRST COLLECT (BCP p. 98)**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **SECOND COLLECT**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **THIRD COLLECT (BCP p. 98)**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **PRAYER FOR MISSION (BCP p. 100)**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that

we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

## **INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for Joe, our President; Phil, our Governor; for legislators and justices; and for those who serve in the military, especially Noah; Frank; and Anniah.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for all who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially: Linda and Kent.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We especially remember: Emily; the Wikander family; Steve; Barb; Cheryl; Ann; Liam & Pam; Luke; Anthony; Steve; Michael; Donna; Chuck; Audrey; Peg; Marlene; John; Laura; Susan; Brett; Jack; Nickolas; Joe; Sandra; Jim; Pat; Claire; RoseMary; Susan; Chris; William; Cyndy; Ben; Ginny; Carol; Nan; Joe; Brenda; John; Connie; Brad; Steve; Gregory; Hattie; Bob; Juli; Valerie & the volunteers at the Sparta Community Food Pantry; the clients, staff, and volunteers of Family Promise; for all those affected by prejudice and injustice; natural disasters; and war in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Today, we remember; all those who have died because of natural disasters, the sin of racism, and senseless violence, especially gun violence, and all those who have died due to intentional destruction, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Officiant then says*

## **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

Generous Giver, you pour forth your extravagant bounty without measure upon your whole creation: Teach us such generosity, that the fruits of our spirits and the works of our hands may build your commonwealth of blessing. **Amen.**

*(Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, p. 170.)*

*The Officiant then says*

Let us gather together all of our prayers and offer the General Thanksgiving.

## **THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 101)**

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your  
praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;**

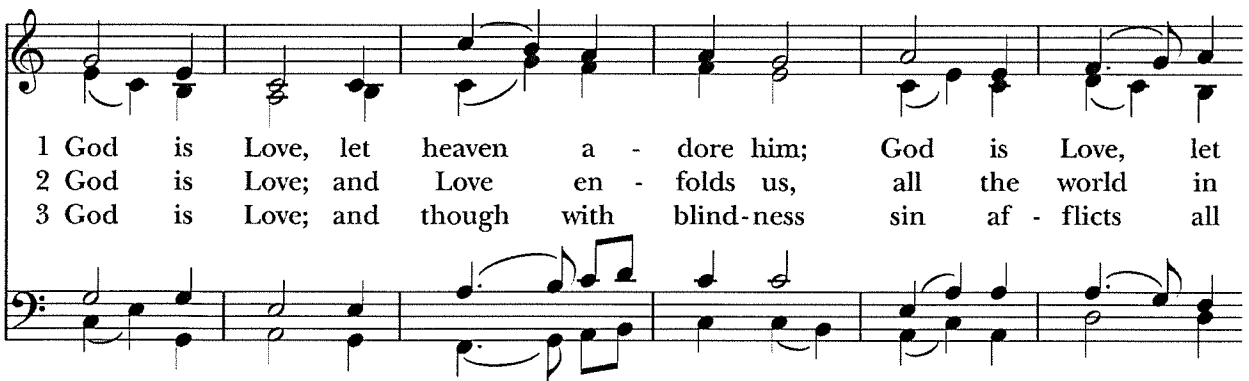
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

**A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM (BCP p. 102)**


*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN *God is Love, let heaven adore him (Abbot's Leigh) (H 379)***



1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all



earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind-ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-  
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

**CONCLUDING VERSICLE (BCP p. 102)**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE (BCP p. 102)**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

*Healing Prayer is available at the altar rail following the service.*

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## Special Prayers

**For those in need of prayer:** Emily Ference; the Wikander family; Steve Mason; Barb; Cheryl Olson; Ann; Liam & Pam; Luke Wolters; Anthony; Steve; Michael; Donna; Chuck; Audrey; Peg Flower; Marlene Spuck; John Rockenfeller; Laura; Susan Vega; Brett; Jack Lynch; Nickolas; Joe Lawler; Sandra; Jim; Pat Mason; Claire; RoseMary; Susan Center; Chris; William; Cyndy; Ben; Ginny; Carol Lynch; Nan; Joe Mello; Brenda Kuntz; John Kibildis; Connie Rutsch; Brad, Steve, Gregory, Hattie Stone; Bob Mason; Juli; Valerie & the volunteers at the Sparta Community Food Pantry; the clients, staff, and volunteers of Family Promise; for all those affected by prejudice and injustice; natural disasters; and war in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

**For those who have died and now rest in the eternal Light of Christ:** Today, we remember; all those who have died because of natural disasters, the sin of racism, and senseless violence, especially gun violence, and all those who have died due to intentional destruction, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

### Altar Flowers

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries this week:

May 2 Linda Carlson  
May 3 Kent Roeder

### This Week at St. Mary's

Tuesday Yoga, 9:30 AM  
Wednesday Episcopal 101 Class, in the Chapel, 7:00 PM  
Compline, 8:00 PM on zoom (see e-chimes for the link)  
Thursday Tai Chi, 5:30 PM  
Saturday AA, 8:00 PM

### Coming Up at St. Mary's

April 28 Don MacGowan & Diane Grabowoski guest Ministry Moment  
re: Afghanistan Refugee Project  
Ryan's Case for Smiles, pillowcase making event, 1pm, double classroom  
May 5 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta  
Confirmation at Messiah  
May 12 Mother's Day Brunch  
June 2 Parish Picnic  
June 14 Talent Show, 7:00 pm



### Electronic Giving to St. Mary's

If you would like to give electronically using **Venmo**, please use this QR code to make your offering or pay your pledge to St. Mary's; or use one of the laminated cards in the pew rack. You may also give using **Vanco**—look for the link on the St. Mary's website on the "Giving" page. Thank you for supporting mission and ministry at St. Mary's!



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## MAY

**Sunday May 5 Easter 6** – 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth and Deacon Gail

**Sunday May 12 Easter 7** – 10 am Morning Prayer with Deacon Gail preaching

**Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth

**Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> Trinity** - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer lay led

## JUNE

**Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Church Picnic** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth and Deacon Gail

**Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer with Deacon Gail preaching

**Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth

**Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>** (Mother Elizabeth on vacation) - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer lay led

**Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>** (Mother Elizabeth on vacation) - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer with Deacon Gail preaching

## JULY

**Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth and Deacon Gail (baptism)

**Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer with Deacon Gail preaching

**Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth

**Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer lay led

## AUGUST

**Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth and Deacon Gail

**Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer with Deacon Gail preaching

**Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>** - St. Mary's 10 am Holy Eucharist with Mother Elizabeth

**Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>** (Mother Elizabeth on vacation) - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer lay led

## SEPTEMBER

**Sunday September 1st** (Mother Elizabeth on vacation) - St. Mary's 10 am Morning Prayer with Deacon Gail preaching

## Announcements

### Mother Elizabeth's sermons

If you'd like to follow along with Mother Elizabeth's sermons, you can read or listen to them at <https://elizayoda.substack.com>.

### Sparta Community Food Pantry

99 Demarest Road, Sparta NJ

<https://www.thespartacommunityfoodpantry.com>

*Hebrews 13:16*

*Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

In **APRIL** the pantry especially needs to restock their shelves with **BOXED CARTONS of MILK & CEREAL** (non-dairy milk & gluten free cereal is always in demand and much appreciated)

**THANK YOU** for faithfully contributing and serving as Christ's hands and feet in our community. Thank you to the donation car loaders and drivers this month: Pat Lloyd, Pat & Bill Kibildis, and Elizabeth & James Ryan.

*Our donations (along with those from local collection points), help the food pantry feed 100's of people every week in the Sparta area suffering from food insecurity.*

**Please kindly bring your donations to the basket(s) set up in the narthex near the main church entrance.**

### The pantry is always in need of:

Cereal (hot & cold), pasta & pasta sauce, meal in a can (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.), juice, boxed milk, coffee, tea, mac & cheese, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned protein, toilet paper, paper towels, cat & dog food (5lb max for bagged pet food).

### Prayer Requests

Bob Schock will take care of your prayer requests. Please let Bob know if you want your request sent out on the Prayer Chain; if you want the person's name listed in our Prayers of the People in the bulletin; or both. It's also helpful if you'll let Bob know when someone's name may be removed from the prayer lists! You may contact Bob on his cell at 973-903-0791 or via e-mail at [bschock@life-recovery.com](mailto:bschock@life-recovery.com).

### Episcopal Relief & Development

ERD continues to assist Ukrainian refugees; they are also helping the survivors of the recent floods & wildfires in our own country. If you can help, please visit [EpiscopalRelief.org](http://EpiscopalRelief.org)

### Ryan's Case for Smiles Pillowcase making event

Sunday, April 28, 1:00 PM, St. Mary's double classroom.

### **Episcopal 101 Class**

Wednesdays @ 7 pm

April 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15

Taught by Mother Elizabeth, Deacon Gail, and Bill Kibildis

Come learn more about the Episcopal Church, the Bible, the prayer book, the Nicene Creed and more!

In-person at Messiah and St. Mary's (Chapel) with a Zoom option.

### **Golf at Farmstead Golf Course**

St. Mary's kicked off it's 2024 golf season on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 4:00 at Farmstead Golf Course. The address is 88 Lawrence Rd, Lafayette, NJ 07848. This is the same place we have been playing for the past several years, and we all enjoy it. There is a nice practice putting green there, but no driving range.

This is open to all St. Mary's parishioners, their children, and friends. There are golfers of various levels involved, and nobody cares what level anybody is at. It is best described as "friendly golf with people we enjoying being outside with, and sharing camaraderie."

We have start times at 4pm and 4:10pm, and normally have 6-8 people. Please come and join us.

This is all thanks to our parishioner Ted Staszak who always organizes this for us.

**Our next Golf date is May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at Farmstead Golf Course in Lafayette. All are welcome.**

See you there....Dan

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Faith & Formation Pillar Meeting - Monday, April 29, 7:30 to 8:00 pm via Zoom

Outreach Meeting - Monday, May 6, 7:30 pm – Hybrid

Outreach Meeting - Monday, June 3, 7:30 pm - Zoom only

### **Talent Show**

*St. Mary's Church* and *The Church of the Messiah* are organizing a combined "Talent Show" at St. Mary's Church on Friday, June 14 at 7pm. If you would like to perform, please see Laura Lopez after Sunday services, or e-mail her at [laspiano@hotmail.com](mailto:laspiano@hotmail.com). The evening will conclude with a combined song from members of both choirs.

We will be organizing a sign-up for refreshments after the show and would appreciate volunteers to help set up/break down the performance space.

An open plate donation will be collected to support a common charity that both parishes would like to support.

### **Contacting the Parish Administrator**

Dina is our Parish Administrator and works Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Her e-mail address is: [admin@stmaryssparta.org](mailto:admin@stmaryssparta.org), and you can always phone the office & leave a message for her.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024**

<b>ZOOM HOST</b>	<b>Andy Lopez</b>
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>Jack Lopez Josie Lopez</b>
<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>Jack Lopez Josie Lopez Sharon Rockenfeller (P)</b>
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	
<b>USHERS</b>	<b>Jane Nowacki Elsa Schock</b>
<b>HEALER</b>	<b>Hattie Stone</b>
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>Brian Grace Elsa Schock Hattie Stone</b>
<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>Brian Grace Sharon Rockenfeller</b>
<b>GREETER</b>	<b>JoAnn Riley</b>

**Brunch:** Thanks to Carol Lynch, Julie Kowalski and Dolores Grace.

**St. Mary's Church Choir**

Richard Butera, Carol Hinks, Andrew Lopez, Vicki Minardi, Drew Muzzo, Josh Muzzo, Jim O'Bosky,  
Kathy O'Brien, Linda Palmer, Gates Parker, Donald Rutsch, Robert Schock, Robin Stark, Margaret Stem,  
Lin Zink.

**St. Mary's Bell Choir**

Renee Crain, Andrew Lopez, Josh Muzzo, Kathleen O'Brien, Linda Palmer, Gates Parker,  
Robin Stark, Margaret Stem.

**St. Mary's Children's Choir**

Shannon Daley, Jolié Jennings, Tristan Jennings, Jack Lopez, Josie Lopez

**St. Mary's Staff**

<b>The Rev. Elizabeth Ivell</b> , Priest-in-Charge	<a href="mailto:motherelizabeth@stmaryssparta.org">motherelizabeth@stmaryssparta.org</a>
<b>The Rev. Deacon Gail Kertland</b>	<a href="mailto:deacongail@aol.com">deacongail@aol.com</a>
<b>Laura Lopez</b> , Director of Music	<a href="mailto:laspiano@hotmail.com">laspiano@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Dina Marlin</b> , Parish Administrator	<a href="mailto:admin@stmaryssparta.org">admin@stmaryssparta.org</a>

**The Vestry of St. Mary's**

<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
<b>Carter Stark</b> Senior Warden Finance and Function	<b>Leslie Boston</b> Junior Warden Faith and Formation	<b>Jesse Nowacki</b> Finance and Function
<b>Brian Grace</b> Fellowship & Forming Communities	<b>Gates Parker</b> Facilities	<b>JoAnn Riley</b> Faith and Formation
<b>Larry Palmer</b> Facilities	<b>Sharon Rockenfeller</b> Fellowship & Forming Communities	

**Treasurer, Ross Wisnewski**