



November, 2020

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church:
Serving with JOY!*

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

Advent Begins Sunday, November 29th

hope

"Therefore,
the one
who is to be born
will be holy.
He will be called
God's Son."

Luke 1:35b



Join #ADVENTWORD this season ~ see page 6 for details

From the Rector

This “word-cloud” cross is made up of many of the key words contained in our organizational statements.



In late 2018, the Vestry commissioned a Long Range Planning Committee to recommend future priorities as a church and neighborhood parish based on these organizational statements and in consultation with the Rector. Please keep this group's faithful ministry in your prayers!

All of the organizational statements may be read on our website:

www.stmaryskinston.com/about-us/

Long Range Planning Committee Members

Steve Mazingo - Chair

Jo Parrott

Jimmy Ballard

Jon Sargeant

Walter Poole

Jess Edwards

Outdoor Task Group

Walter Poole, Chair

Indoor Task Group

Skip Greene, Chair

Music Task Group

Bonnie Holton & Pam Mazingo, Co-Chairs

“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart...”

-Hymnal 1982, #488

On the very first day of this incredible month, St. Mary's will celebrate its largest confirmation class since 2003. This class includes life-long members of St. Mary's who were baptized here as infants, new neighbors that have only recently moved to the neighborhood, and friends who have witnessed the life & ministry of St. Mary's (in some cases for years) and have found the Gospel of Christ lived out here to be compelling enough to want to share in this journey in faith too. The religious backgrounds of this class include Roman Catholic, Baptist, non-denominational, Disciples of Christ, Methodist, and even other faiths altogether. And on All Saints' Sunday, we will join with them to make a common affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, confirming this faith through the baptismal covenant and striving, *with God's help*, to live it out in ways through which God will be at work in the lives and world around us. This is simply awesome!

The month of November will then unfold in ways that we cannot predict. Who will be elected to the many offices in our local, state, and federal government, and how will this nation respond? What impact will the continuing coronavirus pandemic have on our personal and common lives? What will it be like for St. Mary's as we begin worshipping indoors on Sunday mornings again? You surely have unique situations that also rightly occupy the focus of your prayers and energy.

We are, as this year's confirmation class reflects, a diverse church family. Our members come from all kinds of perspectives and experiences, opinions and preferences. This is something that makes St. Mary's a gift: even with great diversity, we believe that ultimately Christ calls us to learn from Him and worship Him together here. As we come together, we reflect the overall mission of the church to be a people, restored to unity with God and each other in Christ, and a people that works to reconcile others to God as well.

The church always has gifts to help us in our faith. Advent is a powerful one for the times of great questioning and uncertainty in which we are living. As Advent invites the faithful to focus afresh on the promises of God and the hope that we have in them, may we hold fast to the fact that God has promised to continue to be present in our lives and that our work of loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves leaves no room for pause. We have good work to do, friends! In the words of the great Celtic hymn noted above, sung at Confirmation Sunday, may we always look to God to be our vision to guide us in this work.

Peace,

Tom +

The Episcopal Church

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In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.

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In the United States

A community of 1.9 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

Established in 1788.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10017 212-716-6000

www.episcopalchurch.org

α

In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 70 churches.

Founded in 1883.

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving

Diocesan Office, 705 Doctors Dr.

P.O. Box 1336, Kinston, NC 28503

Tel: 252-522-0885

Fax: 252-523-5272

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Serving with JOY!!

Jesus First,

Others Second,

Yourself Last"

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

www.stmaryskinston.com

Rector	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Sr. Warden	Mrs. Jo Parrott
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jimmy Ballard
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Ministry Coordinator (Youth/Families)	Mrs. Liz Hengst
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs. Sharon Veitch
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Baptisms:

Katie Elizabeth Hamm

October 11, 2020

John Harvey McNairy, Jr.

October 18, 2020



Pastoral Announcements

We extend our congratulations to the following families:

Tempe & Carl Younger, on the birth of their grandson, Robert "Bo" Fuller Parham, Jr. born to Salem & Fuller Parham.

Ana & Ashley Wentz, on the birth of their son, Leonardo "Leo" Atreyu Wentz. Proud grandparents are Heather & Brant Wentz.

We extend our sympathies to:

The family of Sharon Veitch's mother, Shirley.

The family of Lori Kelly's father-in-law, Bill.

The family of Randy Spaugh's brother, David.

The family of Audra Haddad's cousin, Justin.

The family of Pam Sheffield's father, Jim.

The family of Holly Hill's father, JD.

NEW ADDRESSES

Adrian King

752 Colony Place

Kinston, NC 28501

Walt & Sylvia Poole

3424 Buena Vista Ct

Kinston, NC 28504



Daylight Savings Time **ENDS**

Sunday, November 1st

Turn your clocks **back one hour** Saturday night!



News at St. Mary's

2020 VESTRY ELECTION



St. Mary's will soon elect its next 4-person class of vestry leaders, but in 2020 the process that is used will be a new one.

1. On Sunday, Nov 8, a list of members who are eligible to serve on the vestry will be shared. Please contact the church office by Nov. 12 with any needed corrections.
2. Nominations by ballot will be received by all eligible voters between Nov. 15 & 25.
3. The Vestry's Nominating Committee will form a 4-person candidate slate based on the nomination ballots. In the event of a tie, the Nominating Committee will be trusted to discern an appropriate solution based on the needs of the parish.
4. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place during the 9:30am liturgy on Sunday, Dec 6, during which the 4-person slate will be voted on.

Are You A Seamstress?

Becky Darst, Allyson Sugg, and Brenda Jones have been busy making cross stitch baptismal towels. Linda Clark was faithfully stitching these to the fabric. However, her sewing machine is not working properly, and we are requesting your help. If anyone has a sewing machine and would be willing to complete the towels by stitching the fabric on the back, please contact Becky Darst by phone at 252-527-7948 or by text at 252-521-9800.



Linda Page Retires from Role as Manager of St. Mary's Bookstore

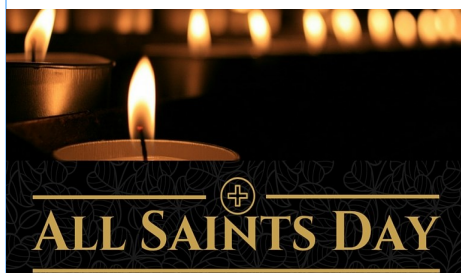
For the past 2 decades, St. Mary's has been blessed with a well-managed and thoughtfully-stocked bookstore through the care and dedication of Mrs. Linda Page. Whether you needed a book, a notecard, or a gift item, she made sure that our bookstore was the place to go for our parish family and many more. Linda, we are so thankful for your dedication to this special ministry at St. Mary's Church!

For over forty-five years, members of St. Mary's and groups within the parish have generously supported the foster children in our community by providing Christmas gifts. In November, a list of foster children will be posted in Moseley Hall as well as the hall nearest the nursery. Please consider choosing a child and making this a part of the Christmas season for you and that child. The gifts will be blessed **Sunday, December 13th**. You may also consider making a donation to help with the cost of the gifts. Please contact Becky Darst (rcdarst@suddenlink.net) for any questions.



Looking ahead to Lent Madness means checking out All Bracket's Day, the official unveiling of the brackets for the Saintly Scorecards and posters from www.lentmadness.org (the world's largest online Lenten devotion and oldest continually running bracket competition). On October 27th at 8am, the 2021 brackets were announced. Be sure to check out Lent Madness and get your 2021 brackets ready!

Worship



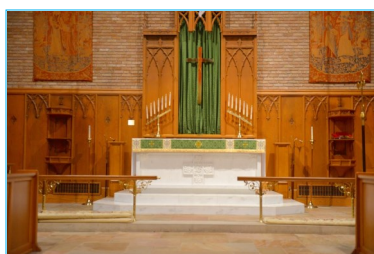
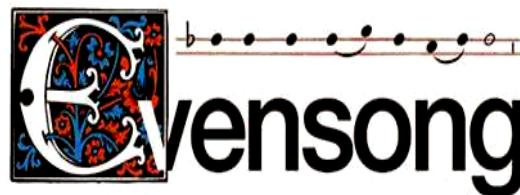
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY EVENTS

Sunday, November 1st

"For all the saints, who from their labors rest"

All Saints' Sunday is a Principle Feast Day that we will observe on **Sunday, November 1st**. We have the added blessing this year to be able to celebrate Confirmation Sunday as well with Bishop Skirving's visit to St. Mary's. Confirmations will take place at the **9:30am in-person liturgy**, but the online liturgy will also reflect this special occasion as well! We have 24 confirmands this year, which is the largest confirmation class since 2003: *Chloe Albritton, Billy Carraway, Dennis Cray, Jason Dean, Ginger Dixon, Amanda Glen, Anna Haddad, Donna Harrell, Karylen Headley, Jane Herring, Connie Hull, Beatriz Irizarry-Marquez, Jennifer McKinley, Mara Moye, Jimmy Parrott, Louis Peak, Isabel Rosa-Irizarry, José Rosa-Serrano, Randy Spaugh, Margaret Spaugh, Chuck Wade, Ginny Wade, Morgan Wade, & Ty Wentz*. Please keep them and their families in your prayers at this special time!

Later that evening at 5pm, St. Mary's will offer an All Saints' Evensong inside the church. *(Please wear face coverings and observe social distancing.)* At this service, the Roll of Remembrance will include the names of those whose cremains have been laid to rest in the St. Francis' Garden, as well as all members of the St. Mary's parish family who have died in the last year. Candles may be lit during this liturgy in remembrance of departed loved ones. If you would like the name of a departed loved one to be included during the liturgy, please email Fr. Tom (tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com).



The Return to Sunday Morning Worship Indoors

In the latter part of October, the Diocese of East Carolina provided updated guidance for public worship which makes it possible for churches of our size

to reasonably hold its principal Sunday morning liturgies indoors. Fr. Tom, the Wardens & Vestry, and many of you have anticipated and carefully planned for this occasion for quite some time. Please read Fr. Tom's Pastoral Letter regarding a return to Sunday Morning worship indoors at St. Mary's [by visiting our website](#). We are excited to announce that St. Mary's Episcopal Church will have our first indoor Sunday morning liturgies on Sunday, November 8th at 8am (in the Chapel) and 9:30am (in the Church)!

Compline Under the stars

**Sunday, November 22
6:00pm**

**Prayers. Campfires.
S'mores. Hot Chocolate.**

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church
West Lawn**

Adult Christian Formation

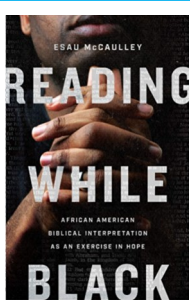
ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Study of the Four Gospels, led by Dr. Randy Spaugh, continues **Sundays Nov 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 10:45-11:45am in Moseley Hall**. The maximum capacity for the in-person class is 25 people, socially distanced and wearing face coverings. The course is also being offered online via Zoom (**the link is the same each week and is shared in an email on Fridays**). We hope you will join us!



All are invited to attend the Adult Christian Formation Committee meeting on Thursday, November 5th at 4pm in Moseley Hall.

Join Father Tom in reading [“Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope”](#) by [Rev. Canon Dr. Esau McCaulley](#). A weekly lunchtime “Rector’s Forum” discussion of the book will begin Tuesday, November 17th at noon via Zoom.



This Advent, explore #AdventWord, a series of visual and written meditations during the liturgical season of Advent offered by the Virginia Theological Seminary. For the seventh year in a row, #AdventWord is offering meditations and images and gathering prayers via a global, online Advent calendar during this holy season **beginning Sunday, November 29**. Each morning during Advent, a meditation is distributed on www.AdventWord.org, via [email](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) as well as ASL videos via [YouTube](#). Around the world, prayers ascend in response as people post their reflections on their social media pages while tagging #AdventWord. Explore the different responses to the daily words, whether written meditations, drawings, photographs, or poems. During the 24 days of Advent, deepen your understanding of the coming of Jesus through meditation and prayer. **Join an international community in prayer to explore the mystery and wonder of Advent!** [Sign up at www.adventword.org](http://www.adventword.org).

ECW



Thank you to the fantastic ECW team who served at Mary’s Kitchen on Saturday, October 3rd. Audra Haddad, Liz Hengst, Madison Hengst, Beatriz Irizarry-Marquez, Isabel Rosa-Irizarry, Susan Fox, Dacie Edwards, & Cathy Beasley served with JOY and represented us well.



The ECW recently enjoyed “Outdoor Bingo” on the West Lawn. Enjoy a few snapshots of the fun and fellowship from that event!



The ECW will enjoy a Holiday Paint Party on **Sunday, November 15th at 3pm in Moseley Hall**. Sarah Ratley of the Painted Farmer will guide us as we create beautiful holiday-themed hangings. *Registration for this event is closed. If you registered to attend, please remember to wear your face covering. This will be a COVID safe event with social distancing.*



ECW FAITH FRIENDS is a group of ECW women who are willing to make intentional personal connections by checking in on an assigned church member via short chats, doorstep visits, letters, and/or surprise gifts. Are you interested in helping St. Mary's be intentional about staying connected? Please contact Laury Sargeant by email at jsarg4@suddenlink.net or Audra Haddad by email at 5haddad@suddenlink.net to be paired with your friend today!

Youth @ St. Mary's

Sunday, November 1

9:30am All Saints' Sunday Worship
CONFIRMATION!!!

Thursday, November 5

3:45-5:15pm Coffee with Liz

@Middle Grounds

High Schoolers only

**Please remember your face covering*

Thursday, November 19

3:45-5:15pm Coffee with Liz

@Middle Grounds

High Schoolers only

**Please remember face coverings*

Sunday, November 22

6-7pm Family Compline & Fire

@West Lawn

Join us for compline, fire, and s'mores

**Bring a blanket/ chair and face covering*

Wednesday, November 25

8:30am-Noon EYC Service Day

@Mary's Kitchen

Limited number of participants allowed

**Be sure to sign up beginning Nov. 22nd*

AND...

6-9pm EYC Movie Night

@West Lawn

**Bring a blanket/ chair, a friend, a snack, and your face covering*

Thursday, November 26

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

What are you

#ThankfulFor ??



On Thanksgiving, we set aside a full day for giving thanks. Here at St. Mary's, we invite you to do this during the entire month of November! Our "Give Thanks" tree will be available at Sunday liturgies and in the parish offices during the week. Be sure to stop by and write what you are thankful for on the leaves provided and attach it to the tree. Let's fill up our "Give Thanks" tree with blessings and JOY!



A Year of Wondering While We Wander

Beginning in Advent, all children and youth at St. Mary's will spend the next church year "wondering as we wander". This past year has sent us all into a place of feeling like we are wandering... wandering through a time of unknown. We are moving into a time of finding our new normal and our new routine. Although the unknown seems scary, we can lean into the wandering and allow ourselves to wonder. Wandering allows our mind

to be more open to wondering. Our entire church year, starting with Advent, will be lived with allowing ourselves to wonder while we wander. Please support our children and students on this journey and follow along — or even join us — through events, social media, and prayer. You too can take this year to wonder as you wander!



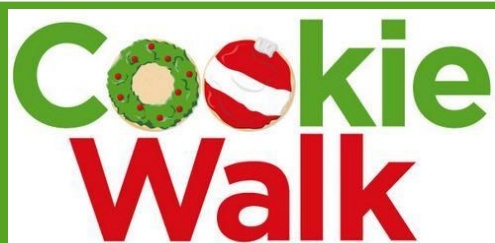
Advent for Children's Ministries: Each Sunday in Advent from 12-1pm

- All children (babies to 5th grade) and their families
- Lunch, activities, and Advent lessons on the West Lawn
- Bring your lunch, blanket or chairs, & your "church bag"
- Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, Dec. 13th, Dec. 20th.

Advent for EYC: Each Sunday during Advent from 4:30-6pm

- Join us in wondering while we wander!
- Enjoy a walk and discussion through a local space
- Our first Sun. (Nov. 29th) will start at St. Mary's—meet on the West Lawn
- Stay tuned for the rest of our wonder & wander locations
- Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, Dec. 13th, Dec. 20th.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
800 Rountree Street
Kinston, NC 28501-3655



9th Annual Cookie Walk

Mark your calendars and join us **Saturday, December 12th at 11am** for this year's DRIVE THRU Cookie Walk. We will have delicious, beautifully boxed cookies ready for pick up. Cookies will be a flat fee per box this year: small box for \$10 or a large box for \$25. Each box will contain a wonderful assortment of holiday cookies. Cookie boxes that are nut-free will also be available. Come for a festive drive thru experience and pick up some Cookie LOVE to enjoy and to share this Christmas season!

WORSHIP WITH ST. MARY'S BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOV. 8

8:00 am

Online Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 (Spiritual Communion)

posted to [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

8:00 am

Indoor Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel

9:30 am

Indoor Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church

Face coverings required. Social distancing will be practiced - overflow seating available in Moseley Hall. The indoor services are offered following the guidelines described in Fr. Tom's [Pastoral Letter to the Church](#) from Oct 21.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2020

Jess Edwards
 Gerry Fox
 Whitney Grady
 Jo Parrott

2021

Jimmy Ballard
 Sam Gilmore
 Jessica Shimer
 Stuart Stroud

2022

John John
 Scott Turik
 Dee Warner
 Harry Wooten

Senior Warden – Jo Parrott

Junior Warden – Jimmy Ballard

Clerk – Whitney Grady

Treasurer – Billy Page