



December, 2020

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th

4pm - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 on the West Lawn *(please bring a chair/blanket, maintain social distance, wear face coverings)*

"Midnight Mass" Festal Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Sanctuary

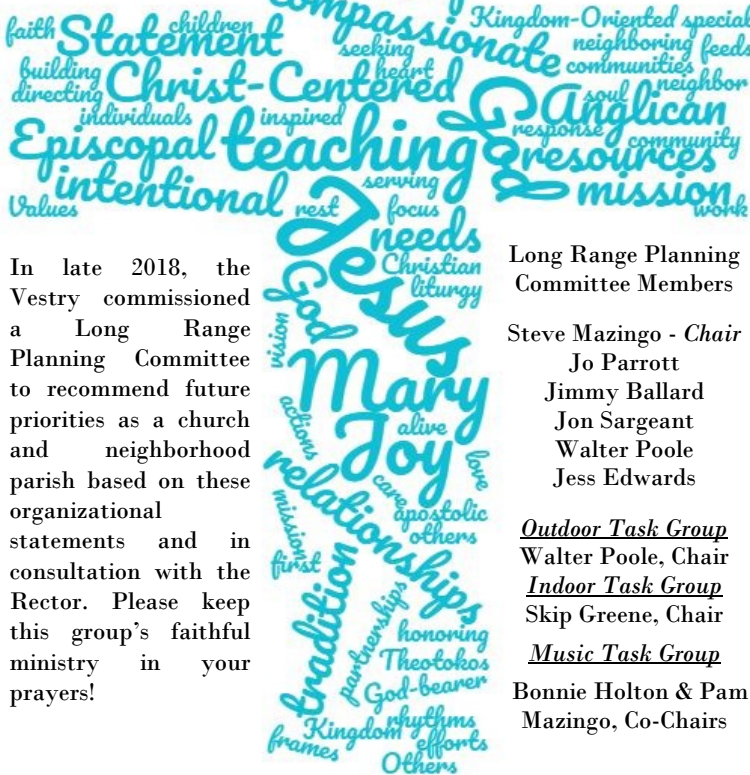
10:30pm - Special String Quartet Concert

11pm - Liturgy Begins *(please remember to maintain social distance and wear face coverings)*

Christmas Day: 10:30am Pajama-Friendly Online Worship Service (via Zoom)

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.stmaryskinsto.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

*“The light shines in the darkness, and **the darkness has not overcome it.**” -John 1:5*

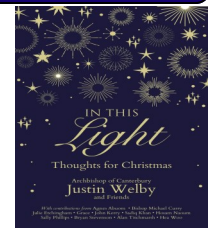
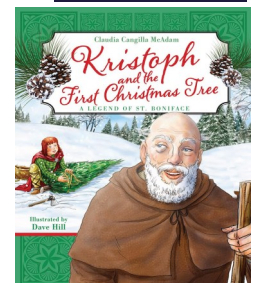
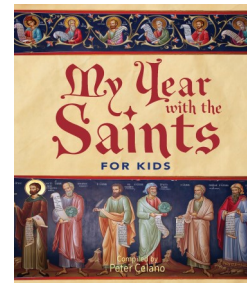
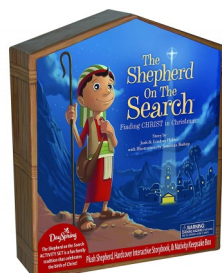
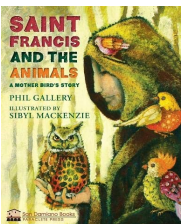
Dear beloved and friends of St. Mary’s, This time of year, daylight each day. To many, even with so much good holiday cheer, this time of year holds a heaviness too. This year, in particular, I have heard folks speaking of specific hardships and how ready they are for “2020 to be over.” Perhaps you share these sentiments, for certainly there has been much loss which we share. **The world need Advent and Christmas!** These seasons are such rich and powerful gifts to accept and to share. Advent invites us into the hope of the fulfillment of God’s promises: promises that we are not alone, that we have good work to do now, that in God’s time and in God’s ways, all will be made well and whole again. Christmas is the celebration of that first coming of Christ into our world which makes possible the realistic hope of His return. Jesus’ presence is that light that came (and still shines!) in this world and in our lives. **No matter how dark, His light will never be overcome!** This season, I pray that this Good News will be in your hearts & on your lips.

Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas, *Tom +*

Advent Reading and Gifts

Looking for a meaningful gift for someone special? Stop by the St. Mary’s bookstore for our latest selection of Advent and Christmas books. The bookstore also has an assortment of other gift items such as greeting cards, house items, jewelry, and ornaments.

(Trinity ornament pictured below).



Want to join others from St. Mary’s in walking & praying outdoors during Advent? Check out the multiple opportunities on Page 7!

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

Transfer In:

Bonnie & Bob Enders

Confirmed (November 1, 2020):

Chloe Albritton
William Carrway, Jr
Dennis Cray
Jason Dean
Ginger Dixon
Amanda Glen
Anna Haddad
Donna Harrell
Karylen Headley
Jane Herring
Connie Hull
Mara Moye
Jimmy Parrott
Louis Peak
Isabel Rosa-Irizarry
Randy Spaugh
Margaret Spaugh
Chuck Wade
Ginny Wade
Morgan Wade
Ty Wentz

Received (November 1, 2020):

Beatriz Irizarry-Marquez
Jennifer McKinley
José Rosa-Serrano

Married:

Claire Hill & Charlton Miles (November 7, 2020)
Colleen Jones & Chase James (November 14, 2020)

Pastoral Announcements

We extend our sympathies to the following families:

The family of Bill Vandivere.

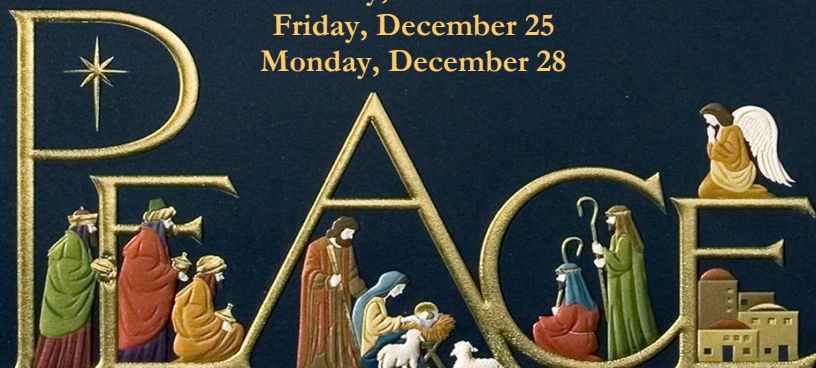
The family of Betty Stancill.

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday:

Thursday, December 24

Friday, December 25

Monday, December 28



Seasonal Events

9th Annual Cookie Walk



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 (small box for \$10 or large box for \$25). Nut-free boxes also will be available. Come for a festive drive thru experience and pick up some Cookie LOVE to enjoy and to share this Christmas season! Volunteer decorators and bakers are needed for this event! We need outdoor Christmas decor (inflatables, a nativity, etc) to create a festive drive thru "Cookie Alley" from December 10-13th. Cookies may be dropped off to the church office through Thursday, Dec.10th or to Moseley Hall beginning Friday, Dec. 11th from 9am-6pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laury Sargeant at jsarg4@suddenlink.net.



For over forty-five years, members and groups at St. Mary's have generously supported the foster children in our community by providing Christmas gifts. We want to extend our thanks for your support this year and are excited to report we were able to sponsor 16 children! We invite you to join in this Christmas tradition on **Sunday, December 13th during the 9:30am liturgy** where we will pray God's blessing over the gifts. Please contact Becky Darst (rcdarst@suddenlink.net) with any questions.



Poinsettias for Christmas

At the Christmas liturgies, the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones. If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the church office. Special offering envelopes may also be found on the Narthex tables. Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Church. **Monday, December 21st is the deadline** to ensure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletins.

The First Ever St. Mary's Nativity Pageant Video



As we move through Advent and on to Christmas, we have adjusted our traditions to include new, innovative, creative ways to stay safe while sharing the glorious news of our Savior's birth. This year we will be presenting the Nativity Pageant via video for Christmas! **Be on the lookout for dates, times, and media platforms in which we will share our Nativity Pageant!** Thank you to all who have participated!

Worship



Annual Parish Meeting

This year, the annual parish meeting will be held during the 9:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 6th. We do not anticipate the service to last any longer than usual that day. This year there will be no spoken Annual Reports. Instead, the updates on our various ministries at St. Mary's will be available through the written Annual Report in hard copy and online. During announcements that morning we will have an uncontested election by voice for the next 4-person Vestry class prepared by the Vestry's Nominating Committee reflecting the nominating ballots received last month. We will also elect 4 lay delegates for the Diocesan Convention which will be Saturday, February 13 via Zoom. Delegates must be confirmed and 16 years old or older. Please let Father Tom or Jo Parrott know by Wednesday, Dec 2 if you would be interested in representing St. Mary's in this way, or contact us with any questions you may have about participation in the Diocesan Convention. Please commit these matters to your prayers...ask the Lord to guide your discernment about the needs of our community and the many gifts of the members of this parish family. The Vestry, Wardens, & Rector are grateful for all who serve Christ and His church here at St. Mary's!



The Bells of St. Mary's are back with rehearsals each Thursday at 5pm beginning **Thursday, December 3.** We will set

up bells and begin rehearsal with music reading skills followed by repertoire (songs we learn). Everyone should be able to be present by 5:30pm. Some will be able to be at church earlier than others, so we could have a set-up crew and a clean-up crew. The aim is to have the actual rehearsal concluded between 6:15-6:30pm followed by clean-up. We are excited to enjoy the music of a hand bell choir at St. Mary's!

#AdventWord

a global advent calendar

Be sure to join #AdventWord, an international community of prayer to explore the mystery and wonder of Advent! 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. [Sign up at www.adventword.org](http://www.adventword.org).

ECW



The ECW recently hosted a special Holiday Paint Party on Sunday, November 15th in Moseley Hall. Sarah Ratley of the Painted Farmer guided members as they created beautiful hangings. Enjoy a few pictures from our afternoon of fun and fellowship!



Adult Christian Formation

The Art of Advent:

exploring art of the Advent season to awaken the senses and inspire spiritual growth in this first season of the Christian Year.



During Advent, the Adult Forum will consist of a series called "The Art of Advent." This four week program is

co-led by Vicki Kennedy and Fr. Tom and studies art reflecting themes of the Advent season to awaken the senses and inspire spirituality. "The Art of Advent" forum began on Nov. 29th and will meet **each Sunday through Dec. 21st from 10:45-11:45am in Moseley Hall.** Currently, the maximum capacity for the in-person class is 10. The course is also being offered online via Zoom. **The Zoom link is the same each week and was shared via email on Saturday, November 28.** We hope you will join us!

Rector's Forum Book Study

In January, the Rector's Forum will begin its new study on "["Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope"](#)" by the [Rev. Canon Dr. Esau McCaulley](#), an Anglican priest and New Testament scholar at Wheaton College. The Rector's Forum will meet via Zoom on Tuesdays at noon, beginning Jan 19. Copies of the book are available now at the church office. Contact Fr. Tom by email at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com if you would like to receive the Zoom link.



"Esau McCaulley's voice is one we urgently need to bear. This book is prophetic, biblical, measured, wise, friendly, and well-reasoned - and thus all the more hard-hitting. A powerful word for our times." (N.T. Wright; former Bishop of Durham, England; professor of New Testament at the University of St Andrews; and senior research fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford)

MOVE



GIVE



LEARN



PRAY



JOURNEY THROUGH EAST CAROLINA

November 29, 2020 - February 7, 2021

MOVE • GIVE • LEARN • PRAY

Carolina. **This event began on the first Sunday of Advent (November 29) and will continue for 70 days.** You can join at any time! Join us as we **MOVE, GIVE, LEARN and PRAY** together. Whether we walk, run, walk, bike, paddle, or swim, we will **MOVE** together in a virtual journey along the length of U.S. Route 17, a historic highway that crosses through our diocese, from Virginia in the north to South Carolina in the south. You're invited to register and log your miles with the rest of us, so that we can keep track of the total number of miles. We will each be encouraged to consider the ways that we can **GIVE** to the needs that we see around us, and we will share resources each week that will help us to **LEARN** more about the 33 counties that make up the Diocese of East Carolina. We will offer video meditations each week, along with other resources designed to support us as we **PRAY** for one another, for the ministries of our congregations, and for clarity about God's mission for the Church in this diocese. [Learn all about this journey and register by visiting https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org.](https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org) Feel free to register as an individual, or choose to join in one of the 3 groups from St. Mary's. **Also, check out the many opportunities to walk TOGETHER at St. Mary's, listed on the next page.** Let's get moving!

Children, Youth, & Families @ St. Mary's

December

**please remember face coverings for all in-person gatherings*

Thursday, December 3

3:45pm Coffee with Liz
High Schoolers only
(Middle Grounds)

Sunday, December 6

Noon Children Advent Lunch
(West Lawn)
3pm Common Ground Clean up
4:30pm EYC Wonder & Wander
(Common Ground)

Friday, December 11

6-8pm Writing Christmas cards
Snacks & cocoa provided
(St. Mary's Church)

Sunday, December 13

Noon Children Advent Lunch
(West Lawn)
4:30pm EYC Wonder & Wander
(Middle Grounds)

Thursday, December 17

3:45pm Coffee with Liz
High Schoolers only
(Middle Grounds)

Sunday, December 20

Noon Children Advent Lunch
(West Lawn)
4:30pm EYC Wonder & Wander
(location TBD)

Thursday, December 24

4pm Outdoor Worship Service
(West Lawn)
11pm Indoor Worship Service
(Sanctuary)

Friday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

10:30am Pajama-Friendly Online
Worship Service (via Zoom)

Tuesday, December 29

6-9pm EYC - TBA

Advent Adventures for the children and youth of St. Mary's continues throughout the season. Please mark your calendars with the dates, times, and locations for each age group! Whether it is Advent Lunch for children & their families or an afternoon of "Wondering as We Wander" for the youth, St. Mary's Children's Ministries will have something to offer for all ages.



Thank you to the EYC and adult crew who participated in the annual Day-Before-Thanksgiving service day at Mary's Kitchen!

From the Desk of Liz:

I hope you all have registered for the Diocesan-wide "Journey Through East Carolina" where we will move, give, learn, and pray together in new ways. As we try to do all these things together, please join our walking groups (join us even if you haven't registered for this event). All of these groups will begin after November 29th:

- **Tuesdays at 9:15am** - meet at St. Mary's for a walk hosted by our ECW;
- **Wednesdays at 4:30pm** - all ages (and their animals) will meet at St. Mary's for a 30 minute walk;
- **Fridays at 6:45am** - meet at St. Mary's and join others for 45 minute walk;
- **Sundays at 2pm** - join others for a 30 minute walk at a slower pace; this group will meet at St. Mary's and possibly other locations as announced.

Thanks and Blessings,

Liz

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

All year-end contributions to be credited for 2020 must be received in the church office no later than **12pm on Thursday, December 31, 2020**. Final year-end statements will be mailed in mid-January.



St. Mary's will host a Blood Drive on **Monday, December 28th, from 12-4pm in Moseley Hall**. Donors will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies as well. Reservations are preferred but walk-ins are always welcome. Make your reservation at www.redcrossblood.org or phone 1-800-RED-CROSS.

CONNECTING
faith
 and
friends

Join 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. 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!

WORSHIP WITH ST. MARY'S

8:00 am

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

posted to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

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