



St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

The mission of St. Mary's is to invite all people into a relationship with God and each other in Christ.



December 2021

**Advent and Christmas at
St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

Sunday, Nov. 28 @ 9:00AM	1st week of Advent - Advent Wreath Making in the Parish Hall after the service and placing Wreaths in the church
Sunday, Dec. 5 @ 9:00AM	2nd week of Advent – decorating Christmas Cookies after the service
Sunday, Dec. 12 @ 9:00 AM	3rd week of Advent – making Nativity candles after the service
Sunday, Dec. 19 @ 10:30AM	4th week of Advent—Nativity Pageant during the service Christmas tree decorating and Caroling Crockpot Cookoff—Parish Christmas Lunch
Friday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Family Christmas Service at 6:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day	No service
Sunday, Dec. 26 @ 9:00 AM	1st Sunday after Christmas—Liturgy of the Word
Sunday, Jan. 2 @ 9:00 AM	Service of Morning Prayer
Sunday, Jan. 9 @ 9:00AM	Baptism of Our Lord



Christmas Cookies

On Sunday, December 5th, be creative as you decorate Christmas cookies. Everything will be provided to turn a plain, homemade cookie into a work of art. Of course, they will also be delicious.



Nativity Candles

Add to the beauty of your Christmas decor with jars depicting the Nativity. Add a candle to enhance the scene and fill your house with Christmas fragrance. On Sunday, December 12th, all materials will be provided to create Nativity candles.



Nativity Pageant and Tree Decorating

Our traditional Nativity Pageant will be on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 19th, during the service. The children and youth will tell the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the service, we will continue our tradition of decorating the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall. Please bring an ornament to decorate the tree, adding a part of your family to your church family. Along with singing Christmas carols, we will have our Christmas lunch provided by the participants in the Crockpot Cookoff.



Crockpot Cookoff

Our Christmas lunch will be a little different this year. Instead of the traditional ham and sides, we are going to have a "Crockpot Cookoff". Participants will cook their favorite one pot meal and after church the judges (parishioners) will decide on the winners. If you would like to show off your culinary talent, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and Parish Hall. The church will provide rolls and drinks. If you don't want to compete but still want to bring something, desserts would be appreciated. Come join in the fun of this friendly competition.



Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:30 pm. Father Paul Wehner will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and our organist, Grace Culbreath, will be provide beautiful and inspiring music for the service.

For those who prefer to stay at home, the Christmas Eve service will be Livestreamed on our Facebook site just as it is every Sunday.

Whether in-person or on-line, join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS TAMALES 2021

Once again, the Brotherhood is taking orders for Christmas Tamales from Ramirez in Brazoria. The four varieties of tamales are: Chicken – hot or mild, and Pork – hot or mild. This year, Ramirez is offering a new product, salsa, red or green. The tamales are \$10 per dozen (same price as in 2018 & 19), and the salsa is \$10 per jar. Please get an order form from any Brotherhood member. All orders and money must be received by 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 5, 2021. Tamales and salsa will be distributed at 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 12, 2021, in the Parish Hall.

Get you some! You'll love 'em!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is time to order the Christmas Poinsettias that add to the beauty of our church at Christmas. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Please return this form with your check to the church office or drop in the alms basin on Sunday. Call Dani at the church office with questions. (979) 345-3456.

Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 21.

I wish to order _____ Christmas Poinsettias. I enclose \$_____.

Name _____

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

INVITATION FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Have you ever been to a "Wine Tasting"? How about a Tamale Tasting"? On Sunday, December 12th, 2021, right after church services, the Brotherhood will sponsor a FREE "Tamale Tasting" event. You will be able to sample each of the four varieties of tamales made by Ramirez in Brazoria. Try each of them; Pork – hot or mild, and Chicken – hot or mild. Also try their salsa – green or red. All you need to do is show up at the Parish Hall at about 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 12th, 2021.

See you there!

The Brotherhood

Message from Marvin Miller

Grieving from A to Z

From the book "Our Daily Bread"

Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion.

LAMENTATIONS 3:32

Jerusalem was engulfed in flames, and the prophet Jeremiah wept. His prediction of divine judgement had largely gone unheeded. Now his terrible prophecy had come to pass with horrifying vividness. The short book of Lamentations records the prophet's grieving process over the destruction of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah organized the book around the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, using a technique of alphabetic acrostics to aid the reader in memorizing the passages more easily. But using this technique also shows that he didn't cut short his grieving process. He took deliberate and intentional time to reflect upon and even to write down his heartbreak. You might say he was learning to grieve from A to Z.

In the midst of his grief, the comfort of God surfaced. Reminders of God's sovereignty and goodness gave the prophet hope as he faced the future: "The Lore will not cast off forever. Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies" (Lamentations 3:31-32).

If you've recently experienced a painful loss, remember to take adequate time to grieve and to reflect upon God's goodness. Then you will be able to experience His comfort and hope for the future.

To experience God's comfort
While you're suffering with grief,
Try to focus on God's goodness,
And He'll bring your heart relief.

God allows sorrow and tears today to open our hearts to the joys of tomorrow



Community Assistance

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy Lane or Jackie Walker.



2021 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2021 flower offerings are in the Narthex.

Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life.

The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

For more information call the church office at 979-345-3456.



Brayze Schill was inducted onto the National Honor Society at Columbia High School.

Maddie Lane was accepted to the University of Texas Medical Branch for the Spring 2022 semester to study nursing.

Kendy Hankins made a perfect score for her back soldier dive in a recent jr. high competition. She also made the AB honor roll at Bay City Junior High School.

Haley Cantrell was inducted into the National Honor Society at Columbia High School.

Luke Davidson's soccer team finished the season undefeated. He also made the A honor roll.

Reesie Cantrell was part of the Columbia High School FFA team that placed 9th in Radio Broadcasting.

Thank You Cards

From Father Bill Bullard for invitation to our Thanksgiving Dinner

Thank you for inviting us. It was great to see everyone again and good to see you all are doing so well. You are a big part of my formation as a priest.

In Christ,
Bill+

Central Emergency Medical Service wishes to thank you for helping us continue to assure a high level of emergency care for those who deserve the best...the people of our community. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, your donation is greatly appreciated.



Camp Allen Events

Needlepoint Retreat - December 8-10 - Join fellow crafters in the Piney Woods of Camp Allen for a three day, two night needlepointing retreat. Bring your own projects and acquire some new skills.

Contact the office or go to the Camp Allen website: campallen.org.



Don't Forget

Remember to keep your empty print cartridges for St. Mary's. All brands and types are welcomed. We have been turning in 10 cartridges a month, earning a \$20 credit. This greatly helps defray the cost of our office supplies.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Jennifer Schill, Theata Miller, Colleen Matocha, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, Jackie Walker, Maddie Lane, Bill Olson, Tracy Lane, Dani Mikel, Wendy Hankins, Kendy Hankins, Haley Cantrell, Ressie Cantrell, Colleen Matocha, Dan Roddy, and AJ Mikel for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of November
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Theata and Marvin Miller for providing treats for our November Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Dan and Donna Roddy; Mary Stewart; Shyanne, Abigail, Trace, and Madeline Roddy; Gwynne Olson; Maddie Lane; Fr. Paul and Sherry Wehner, Amber and Travis Prater; Wendy, Kurt, and Kendy Hankins; Dani and AJ Mikel; Sherry Stratton; Jennifer, Adam, Brayze, and Braylee Schill; and Mike Blount for participating in Trunk or Treat.
- Theata and Marvin Miller, Dan and Donna Roddy, Bill and Gwynne Olson, Doris Grosvenor, and Jackie Walker for helping with the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Brayze Schill and Randy Weber for removing the hay bales from the church lawn.
- Sherry Wehner for directing the making of the Advent wreaths.

You are awesome, and St. Mary's greatly appreciates all you do.



Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please notify the office by email or phone. The prayer list will be updated each month, so if prayers need to continue for an individual person please fill out a new card or let

Dani know. Prayers for the sick and those in need are the joyful duty of the Christian community. Help us keep our parish prayer list current by notifying us of those in need of prayer and when those listed are no longer in need.

Dates to Remember

Sunday services are streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 9:00 a.m.

- November 29 - December 2
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
- December 5 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)
- December 5 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
- December 5 - Christmas cookie
decorating in the Parish Hall (10:15 a.m.)
- December 6 - 9
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
- December 12 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
- December 12 - Nativity Candles in the
Parish Hall (10:15 a.m.)
- December 12 - Vestry Meeting
- December 13 - 16
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
- December 19 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)
- December 19 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
Nativity Pageant
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
- December 19 - Decorate Christmas Tree
Crockpot Cookoff - Christmas lunch
(10:15 a.m.)

December 20 - 23
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (6:30 p.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

December 26 - Sunday Service
Liturgy of the Word (9:00 a.m.)

December Birthdays

- Trace Roddy - December 6
- George Grosvenor - December 7
- Adam Schill - December 10
- Jennifer Schill - December 12
- Kendy Hankins - December 15
- Daniel Mikel - December 19
- Dani Mikel - December 22
- Grace Culbreath - December 24
- Ben Anderson - December 25

December Anniversaries

- Holly & Tommy Cantrell - Dec. 2
- Colleen & Clint Matocha - Dec. 19
- Tracy & Brian Lane - Dec. 29

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

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The Bells of St. Mary's is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of St Mary's Episcopal Church. Submissions for publication should be sent to the church office on or before the 25th of the month prior to the publication.