

ANNOUNCING ST. MARY'S FALL IN-GATHERING

...a time for reconnecting, reflection and renewal!

August 28, 2019

Dear Fellow St. Mary's Parishioners,

My how the summers go by so quickly! It seems like just yesterday that the Strawberry Festival was happening, Thursdays on the Lawn is over, Karin Hampel's wonderful recital has come and gone, the Sidewalk Sale is past and soon we'll be able to find a parking space near the church again during the week!

As we move ahead into the Fall season we are excited about the great work our Discernment Committee has accomplished; our profile is up on several national Episcopal web sites and we understand that some interested clergy have already submitted their names to the Diocese. The Discernment Committee is working hard in preparation to review, visit and interview candidates over the next several months. We aren't ready to commit to an exact timeframe yet, but the process is moving forward with deliberate intention. We have secured clergy to fill all Sundays between now and the end of the year with Fr. Ken Gorman essentially presiding every other Sunday supported by Fr. John Mitchell and Fr. Glenn Matis on Ken's "off" days. Your Vestry has decided that we want to provide an opportunity for everyone to get together soon following the summer season to *reconnect, reflect and renew* our relationships with each other and with St. Mary's. We, St. Mary's, have been through much turmoil yet through it all we have persevered and have continued seeking God's will and plans for our Parish. It's extremely important that we stay focused on God's will for our parish and each of our roles and responsibilities in discerning and following His will.

To that end we have scheduled an 'IN-GATHERING' event for **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH**. We will convene in the Parish Hall for a pot-luck supper at 5:30 PM and, following supper, we are excited the Rev. Rob Droste, Canon for Congregational Development and Mission at the Diocese, will facilitate a workshop designed specifically toward attaining our goals for the evening: to reconnect, reflect and renew. I know you will enjoy Canon Droste's workshop.

With all that has happened over the years and with our continued prayers, St. Mary's is poised to commence a new chapter in our history and to move ahead with renewed commitment and a strong sense of mission. Your Vestry is convinced that this IN-GATHERING will play an important part in bringing us together and renewing our relationships and commitments to each other and to our Lord.

If you are a member of the Parish or a regular attendee at our services, you **NEED** to be at this IN-GATHERING. We want everyone who cares about St. Mary's and our continued work to fulfil GOD'S MISSION to be with us on September 25th. We will be advertising this regularly and we will take any step needed, such as providing transportation for those who don't drive or don't drive after dark, to be at this event. **Please - please** mark this event on your calendar now and if there's something else on your calendar that day consider changing it; your church needs you!

God Bless You All, You Are St. Mary's, Stone Harbor

On behalf of Your Vestry

Jack Olthuis

Senior Warden