



## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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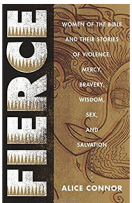
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# Annual Meeting

## TODAY IS ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY –

Following today's Service, we will meet in the parish hall to enjoy a potluck breakfast. The meeting will start promptly. First order of business will be our election. We hope that all of our parish members will join us. If you are visiting today, you are welcome to come and share in our breakfast, and you may stay for the meeting where you will hear about the good work being done at St. Mary's.

**HOLY EUCHARISTS of the SEASON OF CREATION** continue through Epiphany. Fr. Peter will lead us in following the role of Jesus, while He walked with friends on the roads around Jerusalem, inviting all to encounter God through God's presence in creation. The spiritual journey of following Jesus is closely tied to the wonders of nature that He experienced in His earthly journey. During this Season of Creation, we will strive to more deeply understand the lessons Jesus taught us through creation, to better honor our Creator, and share fellowship with brothers and sisters along the way.



This being Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, there will be no Adult Forum. Next Sunday, February 3, we will resume with Alice Connor's expose of "Herodias and Herodias," pp. 151-157. As always, in the chapel, 9-9:45am, where everyone is welcome. kg

How much control do we actually have in life?

The world is full of useless "buttons." A story called "placebo buttons" was on CNN recently.



It was a story about buttons that give us the "illusion of control" over our environment when pushing them actually makes no difference at all. This coming Wednesday (30<sup>th</sup>) we'll touch on the "buttons" we rely on to get us safely through life. We will even touch on God's sovereignty, trusting God in situations we cannot control, and waiting patiently when answers to prayer seem slow in coming. Sound like something you might like to talk about? Join us, 6:30-7:30 pm in the parish hall. kg



*Thank you to Sandra Lockhart and Terri Mascione and their team of volunteers.*

*There has been a number of CODE BLUE nights already this year and they have kept The Branches open from 6 am on, all day, every day, providing food and a warm place for our homeless guests to stay during the day until everyone has a room for the night. Your ministry is a blessing to everyone who walks through your doors.*

### Priest in Charge

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube

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### Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Gorman

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David Joseph Condo, Music Director

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Julie Taylor, Parish Administrator

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This week at St. Mary's, January 27

**TODAY** Potluck and Annual Meeting

**MON** 11am Eucharist at The Branches

**TUES** 8 pm AA

**WED** 5 pm Choir

**6 :30 pm** conTEXTS

**FRI** 10 am Alanon

**SUN** 9 am Adult Forum

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2019**—are available on the table in the parish hall. Please look for yours. If you do not use envelopes and would like to, please let the church office know.



We're looking for lectors, greeters, ushers and Eucharistic Ministers. Training will be available. Call the church office to find out more.



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** is next Sunday, Feb. 3rd. Our Church School families will

participate in this nationwide annual event to help those in need. They will be serving soup and bread in return for a donation to a charity of their choice.



### Birthday Blessings to

*Cynthia Schweickhardt on Jan. 28th, and Mary Lucile Johnston on Jan.*



**FEBRUARY 14th SENIOR LUNCH CLUB MEETING, 11 AM SHARP, St. Mary's Parish Hall—**  
 Chef Mark Kalla of The Lobster House will join the St. Mary's Seniors to

celebrate Valentine's Day!

He will prepare, share recipes, and serve a lunch with a Valentine's Day Chocolate theme.

\$10 per person at the door. Limited seating for no more than 24 people. A sign up sheet is on the parish hall bulletin board. Advance sign up is required!

**DAY by DAY** devotionals for February, March and April can be found in the church narthex. Please help yourself.



Our parish hall will be home to a family from the **FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM** during the week of Feb. 10th. St. Mary's days to provide for the family will be Sunday, Feb. 10th and Saturday Feb. 16th. The rest of the week is covered by our co-host churches, Our Saviour

Lutheran, St. Brendan the Navigator Parish, and Avalon Methodist. Please plan to help with dinners, social time and sleep over. A sign up sheet is on the parish hall bulletin board. Questions? See Joan Langston or call the church office. Thank you!

*Thanks to one of our former members, St. Mary's became active in the Family Promise program shortly after its beginning in Cape May County.*

**What is Family Promise?** Family Promise of Cape May County was established in May of 2009, as a program designed to help families who are experiencing homelessness. We are a non-traditional sheltering program that only accepts families with children. A network of faith based organizations and over 1,000 volunteers provide temporary housing and meals for up to 4 families at a time (maximum 14 people). We have an intake period that takes from 3 - 5 days. Included in this intake process, potential families are screened for drug and alcohol additions. This requirement assures that the families are a good match for our program. We are a volunteer based organization and we are funded solely by donations. We take NO government money. We are a program, not an agency. Because of this, Family Promise has strict guidelines for the safety of our families and our volunteers.

**Statement of Need**

With no family emergency shelter in Cape May County, homeless families remain at the mercy of whatever resources are available at the time - usually local motels or shelters in other counties. Both options severely disrupt their lives. Motels have limited cooking, laundry and storage facilities and are an additional expense. Shelters provide no privacy for families with children. Generally, the children of homeless families must survive in physically unhealthy situations, witness drug use and violence, move from place to place and school to school, make few friends and experience academic failure. *We believe that it is unacceptable for even one child to be without a home in Cape May County or anywhere in our country.*

Guest families are able to utilize our Day Center in N. Cape May. The Day Center provides guest families with access to laundry and showers facilities, phone and internet access, a full kitchen, and a small area for each family member to keep their belongings. From there they are provided with transportation, by a van owned by the network, to work, school, appointments and errands. It is also where families work with the Case Manager to develop an individualized plan to regain housing and self-sufficiency.

Each evening guest families are transported to hosting congregations where volunteers welcome them as guests into their church or synagogue and provide them with meals, hospitality and overnight accommodations for one week. There are currently 15 hosting congregations in the Cape May County network and St. Mary's is one of them.

**COFFEE HOUR SHEETS** for the upcoming months are posted on the door to the kitchen. We all enjoy coffee hour so please pick a Sunday and sign up today. Your fellow parishioners will love you for it!



**ALTAR FLOWER CHART**—for 2019 is posted in the church narthex. If you would like to give flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on the chart and send a check in the amount of \$45 with "altar flowers" in the memo line. It's a wonderful way to honor family and friends throughout the year!