

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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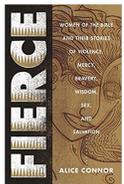
www.stmarysstoneharbor.org

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Today, we are happy to have Fr. Ken Gorman, our assisting clergy, as our celebrant while Fr. Peter Stube is on vacation. Thank you Fr. Ken for celebrating with us today and for the many things you do at St. Mary's!



We have just celebrated St Francis day (4 October), a good time to reflect on the importance of animals. So, we blessed our pets yesterday. I have begun to agree with C. S. Lewis that heaven, or the Kingdom of God whatever we call it, must be full of animals. But why am I blessing "stuffed" animals today? Well, I've read a lot about this phenomena of valuing stuffed animals. And to sum it up very briefly, reputable sources say for children, stuffed animals encourage imagination, teach empathy, are role models for gentleness, and do much more. And then there was an article that said owning stuffed animals as an adult says nothing about your mental health. (If you are an adult who owns stuffed animals, you should get a copy of this article.) The stuffed animals that appear here are called prayer buddies. Please indulge me in a little playfulness in this morning's services. kg



You won't hear any story about her here on Sunday in our lectionary. She is not mentioned. And yet she has been an important figure in the African-American churches. She doesn't usually get loads of positive attention in Christianity, but in Islam, she is the matriarch of monotheism. She is the first woman in the Bible to be visited by a divine messenger. God regarded her as a valued person, when she was ignored and dismissed by everyone else in her community as an unimportant, invisible woman. She represents women in the Bible who are excluded or despised. She's an unimportant woman, she's an invisible woman, but one who represents scorned women. Who can claim all these attributes? She's today's subject in the Adult Forum (9-9:45am). kg

Stewardship is everything that we do after we say "I believe."

Stewardship is more than the annual fall fund-raising necessary to pay the bills. Stewardship is about our commitment to God in thanksgiving for the abundance in our lives. *From the Diocese of New Jersey website.*

Pledge cards for 2019 are due back today. If you have not received a pledge card and would like to pledge to St. Mary's, please let the church office know. Copies are also available in the church narthex if you'd like to pick one up. If you have your pledge card with you today, please place it in the box in the aisle or in the plate. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of St. Mary's, Stone Harbor!

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, Oct. 7, 2018

TODAY 9 am Adult Forum

8 & 10 am Stuffed Animal blessing

MON 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

TUES 8 pm AA meeting

WEDS 5 pm Choir

6:30 pm SWEEP

THURS 11 am St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Club Meeting

FRI 10 am Alanon

SUN 9 am Adult Forum



Who is SWEEP?

Persons holding this paper. What is SWEEP? Glance to the left. When is SWEEP? The second Wednesday of each month, 6:30-7:30pm.

Where is SWEEP? In the church hall.

Why is SWEEP? To plan church happenings. So, there you have all the relevant information you need: who, what, when, and why. Consider it an invitation.

Attention Finance Committee and Vestry members—Financial reports, Minutes and Agendas are available for pick up in the church office today.



ST. MARY'S SENIORS LUNCH PROGRAM resumes this Thursday, October 11th at 11 AM in the parish hall!

Bring your brown bag lunch & ideas for programs /speakers or topics that would interest you.

This will be an organizational meeting to outline future monthly programs. Soft drink refreshments will be provided. *All are welcome!*
Feel free to bring a friend.



ORGAN RECITAL Critically acclaimed organist Gordon Turk makes his annual visit to Cape May in recital on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 4 pm at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, Washington and Franklin Streets. A reception to meet the artist will be held in the Parish Hall following the concert. Admission is \$10 per person at the door. Call the church office at 609-884-3065 for more information and handicap access. Mr. Turk, a prominent American concert organist, has played throughout the United States and abroad. Some highlights from his program include two pieces by J. S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue in a minor and Fugue in G (the Gigue) as well as Karg-Elert's March Triumphant and the Finale from Symphony No. 1 by Vierne. He will also play Allegro from Harpsichord Sonata No. 3 by Thomas Arne and Variations on a theme of Frescobaldi by Langlais. Turk is particularly well-known as resident organist of the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, NJ where he plays for weekly Sunday Services as well as for solo recitals in the summer.

Church of the Advent ECW is holding their **Fall Luncheon Game and Card Party** on Tuesday, October 23rd at Aleathea's Inn, Cape May. Information and tickets are available on our parish hall bulletin board.



Are you new or visiting with us? We're glad you are here! We would love to be able to welcome you more personally. If you would like that as well, please ... Fill out a welcome card. These are located in each of the pews. You may place it into the offering plate or hand it to any of our ushers, greeters, or liturgical assistants. Also, please take a welcome

packet & sign our guestbook on your way out of church.

Holy Communion Here at St. Mary's, everyone is welcome to join us for Holy Communion. Consecrated grape juice and gluten-free hosts are available. Please tell our Eucharistic Minister when you come to the rail. Should you wish to receive a simple blessing, please indicate that by crossing your arms across your chest.

HELP WANTED!



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USHERS & GREETERS—Like to be an usher or a greeter? We have openings available on the schedule for men and women.

FLOWER DELIVERY—Would you like to deliver the altar flowers on Mondays to parishioners?

Let the church office know if you can help with either of the above. Thank you!



Fall's a good time to clean out and St. Mary's This 'n That Thrift Shop will be happy to receive your clutter.

Your donations of gently used clothing, household items and furniture may be brought to the shops in Rio Grande or call for a pick up. The shops are open Monday thru Saturday, 10 to 4 pm. *Volunteers are always needed and welcome too!* Talk to our store manager, Debbie 886-7272 if you can give an hour or two of your time. Thank you!



ALTAR FLOWERS— Our beautiful altar flowers are provided by Blooms of Cape May Court House. If you would like to give flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on

the chart in the narthex and send a check to the church office 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!



Birthday Blessings to

Susan Mayfair & Christopher Zitnay on Oct. 8th, Ryan Cleffi on Oct. 12th, and Corine Reynolds on Oct. 13th!