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Times and Tides

E-Newsletter

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 2018



"In This Together – in Gratitude"

November is a reflective and poignant month. On the first day of the month, we remember and celebrate all the saints that went before us. Soon after, we move our clocks "back" an hour – compounding the observable sense that our days (the sunlit part of them anyway) are indeed getting shorter. We vote, or not. And talk about politics, or don't. We remember our veterans – and our wars. And at our great national "holy" day of Thanksgiving we come together – hopefully – and give thanks for all the blessings of our lives.

I know of some families and communities that are actually afraid of Thanksgiving now, for fear of the differences their loved ones will (literally) bring to the table. Chances are you know something of what I am referring to. We live in a charged, tender and polarized time. In many ways, it seems like the fabric of our interwoven lives is being stretched to point of tearing. The temptation to find solace and comfort in circles of mutual agreement is understandable. But it's not good. And it's not Good News.

I heard one recent conversation between two Christians, a father and a daughter. It was painful to listen to as each was using their own interpretation of what Jesus would do, and where he would go, and whom he would be with, and where he would take a stand, or sit down and break bread with. It actually hurt to hear them argue about why they each thought they were right – and how the other was wrong. But then I remembered something.

Jesus spent most his time with all the "wrong" people – and he loved them without making a point about being "right" about it. Sit with that for a minute. Or take a walk with it. Or even better, take a walk with someone you are quite sure is wrong about something. And don't try to convince them of anything, but that you care – and care about being together.

We like to say at St. Mary's that "We're all in this together." I do not hear – or say - these words as a saccharine and sentimental slogan. I understand them as a literal statement of fact. We are ALL in THIS together. THIS life, THIS world, THIS time in history. It's not just about church. But church can – and should – be a living reminder of this truth.

As we walk the way together, and reflect on where we have been, and are, and hope (or fear) to be going, may we be gentle and centered in the truth of our "in it together" - ness.

We have much to be thankful for. Let us not be afraid to start – and end – this month in this gratitude. Together. ALL of us.

Peace,
Jeff

A Conversation with Bishop Curry

Jackie Pierce has shared a link with us, sent by The Rev. Canon Jesus Reyes, to inform and encourage enriching conversations. Listen and enjoy (about 47 min):

<https://the1a.org/shows/2018-11-06/bishop-michael-curry>



VETERANS' DAY: COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

This Veterans' Day, on November 11 at 11:00 A.M., marks the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in World War 1, and the Allied forces' victory over Germany in 1918.

My family has a direct connection with this historic moment. My father, Philip Foisie (1896-1996), had left Harvard in his junior year to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1918. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, he was sent to fight with the 19th Field Artillery in the Champagne region of France, near Rheims, where the Foisie family ancestors have been traced since 1671.

He saw action in the Battles of Saint-Dieu, Saint-Mihel, and Meuse-Argonne, under horrendous troop conditions of trench warfare and poison gas attacks. Finally on November 11, he received the following orders:

Headquarters 5th Field Artillery Brigade
American Expeditionary Forces, France
11th November 1918

GENERAL ORDERS: "ARMISTICE SIGNED EFFECTIVE 11 HOURS 11 NOVEMBER 1918, ALL HOSTILITIES AND ADVANCE MUST CEASE. HOLD AND ACCURATELY REPORT LINE REACHED AT THAT HOUR. NO COMMUNICATION WILL BE HAD WITH THE ENEMY. Thoroughly explain that an armistice is not a peace, and that our status is that of a unit in line of battle in war; all laws and rules of war apply. No change in Brigade orders as to personnel. Improve condition of men and horses; clean equipment. Keep ready and alert." By command of Brigadier General Rivers

Years later my father returned to active duty; during World War II, he and other surgeons from Boston set up Army hospitals in England to operate on the wounded from battlefields in France.

Annette Foisie OSL

NOTE: The painting (above) of American troops was painted in 1917 by French artist J.F. Boucher of Paris.



Our Veterans: Seminal Events That Anchor Us

Being a multigenerational parish is one of Saint Mary's greatest strengths: We learn from each other, support each other and as individuals and a faith community are stronger for it.

Generations are defined in part by what are called seminal events: happenings that capture the imagination and forever change all who experience them. Sadly many of them are tragedies: the Pearl Harbor attack, JFK's assassination, the Challenger disaster, September

11th, mass shootings. And all of the generations have had members who have chosen or been chosen for military service.

Individuals can experience seminal events as well: on a personal stage, but no less significant.

For me, it was receiving my Episcopal Service Cross from Rev. Linda Poindexter at the Church of the Ascension in Gaithersburg Maryland. While I can't recall the date, or the weather, or what I was wearing, holding it in my hand and attaching it to my dog tags was a powerful moment.

It lived there for years, worn when I was in BDUs and replaced with a more jewelry-worthy cross the rest of the time. During the First Gulf War, when I was mobilized and as I awaited and then dismissed the possibility of my own deployment, it was a tangible source of comfort and spiritual support.

A few years ago, after putting it on the bead chain holding my current "dress cross", I pulled it out to wear on a daily basis. Proving the adage that while you can take the soldier out of the army, you can't take the army out of many soldiers.

When Episcopal Service Crosses started to appear out of odd drawers in Saint Mary's, I decided to bump up the inventory and make them available to any service member or veteran who so wishes.

Blessings.

Monica Nathan



Celebrating St. Mary's Relationship with Our Little Roses: A Tribute to Kirsten Matsumoto

In early October, tapping into the Godly Play story about St. Francis seemed a natural. During the wondering time, as I listened to the kids' insights, what their words gave me was an unexpected connection and deeper awareness of the presence, over the past decade, of a few generations of St. Mary's people forming community and deepening relationships with the girls and staff of *Our Little Roses*.

Each journey has its own stories, different experiences, different ah-has, and yet one constant: the presence of a young woman, who after graduating from UC Berkeley, had, some 30 years ago, felt drawn, with the encouragement of her Mom, yes Nancy Axell, to journey to Honduras. Kirsten Matsumoto was, and continues to be, an insightful voice, the first volunteer, and all along, a vibrant presence, in the formation and evolution of *Our Little Roses*.

Kirsten, on behalf of St. Mary's and generations of girls and staff of Our Little Roses, you are adapting Francis' words: "...an instrument of peace. Where there is despair, you bring hope; and where there is sadness, you bring joy." We thank you for your leadership and for paving the way for so many of us to experience, whether we travel there and/or support from home, *Our Little Roses'* version of joy, silliness, love, and hope.

Muchas Gracias!

Pancake Breakfast a Delicious Success!

On Sunday morning, October 14, between the services, 8 o'clockers and 10 o'clockers entered Edwards Hall to the welcoming aroma of hot pancakes and sausages. The event was all about fellowship; we enjoyed catching up with friends over a delicious breakfast. Our Stewardship Chair, Kyle Strom had just organized a month of parishioner stories told in church. This team moved and inspired us, and then another team fed us! We're grateful for the numerous reminders of why we've chosen St. Mary's as our spiritual home.



CSC: Blessings Abound

By Sarah Schramm

The third quarter (July - September) of 2018 brought 1,177 clients to **Christian Social Concerns (CSC)** through our 544 households served. Please take a look at the numbers in the quarterly report to see what the work of CSC looks like. It isn't just the numbers, but the real people behind those numbers that make the work of CSC a ministry of love. It is the mom who is trying to keep food on the table for her family, the homeless man who looks after his dogs, the family who shares a house with other families so they can afford to live on the Peninsula, the homeless woman desperate to find housing, and many others who bring their uniqueness and beauty each week to those of us who get to serve them.

Behind the scenes in the CSC office, you may find tears of sadness and even tears of joy! There are handshakes and hugs between our clients and volunteers. The clients become part of the fabric of St. Mary's By-The-Sea even though we may not see them on a typical Sunday morning. Those clients are there in the hearts of the dedicated CSC volunteers. They are in our prayers and held close to those of us who are fortunate enough to get to know them.

As we head into the season of Thanksgiving, there is a challenge for our clients and parishioners in Clay Hall. You will find a bulletin board with the words, "What are you thankful for?" When you go down the hall, please take a moment to write on this board about what you are thankful for. This is the second year we are making this process available and it was an incredible blessing to read and see the board fill up last year. Our clients often have so little in material wealth, and yet they are still so very thankful for the things they do have. It is my hope you will join the CSC clients and volunteers in finding things to be thankful for this season.

On the first Sunday of the month, we ask you to consider taking a red CSC bag and return it with items for our clients. We are running a little low on those bags. Please check to see if you have any of those bags hiding in your home...we would love to get them back into circulation again! As always, CSC happily accepts donations of non-perishable, non-expired and unopened food items, personal care items, clothing, time, and financial donations.

CSC 3rd Quarter				
Category	Sept 18	Aug 18	Jul 18	Quarter Total
CLIENTS	384	405	388	1177
HOUSEHOLDS	182	186	176	544
NEW CLIENTS	32	37	22	91
NEW HOUSEHOLDS	14	19	13	46
HOMELESS WOMEN	26	28	26	80
HOMELESS MEN	24	23	13	60
HOMELESS FAMILIES	9	9	13	31
CHILDREN	71	85	103	259
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	38	57	58	153
Number of Seniors (62+)	81	70	63	214
FOOD BAGS	255	262	224	741
CLIENTS RECEIVING FOOD	381	402	384	1167
FUEL CARDS	10	14	15	39
MST TICKETS	33	16	26	75

Dear St. Mary's church-goers,

The 16th presentation of the **Monterey Bay Half Marathon** will take place in Monterey and Pacific Grove on Sunday, Nov. 11 bringing approximately 8,000 runners to the peninsula, which may affect you due to early morning street closures.

The various street closures in Monterey include the Custom House Tunnel from 5:30-8:45 a.m., two freeway off-ramps on southbound Highway 1 at Del Monte and Casa Verde from 4-9 a.m., Franklin St. between Pacific and Washington from 4-8:45 a.m. and many residential streets surrounding El Estero. Most Monterey streets, except the Cannery Row area, will be reopened by 8:45 a.m.

In Pacific Grove, Ocean View Blvd/Sunset Ave. will be closed from 6-10 a.m. between Eardley and Asilomar.

The best mode of travel between Pacific Grove and Monterey before 8:45 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, will be over Holman Highway although eastbound traffic from PG toward Monterey will be available and rerouted from the tunnel onto Pacific St.

See you at church!

Search for Our Next Bishop

As many of you know, Bishop Mary has announced that the time has come for the Diocese of El Camino Real to initiate a search for her successor, the 4th Bishop of our diocese. Our profile, informing Episcopalians here, there and everywhere, is now live and can be viewed at www.bishopsearch2018.org If you wish to know more or have any questions, please speak with Celeste Ventura.

"We are a diocese, living into the future church that does not yet exist, seeking a bishop to partner with us." Come, walk the Way with us.

Please Join Us
Thursday, November 22nd
for Thanksgiving at St. Mary's!



Thanksgiving Eucharist
11:00 a.m.
Church

Thanksgiving Dinner
12:30 p.m.
Edwards Hall

This warm and delicious tradition, begun by Dwight and Rosi Edwards many, many years ago, is arranged by Rosi Edwards and Dwight (in absentia).

***Please bring a side-dish or dessert to share,
and one can of food for CSC.***

***Sign up in Edwards Hall.
Roast turkey, mashed
and sweet potatoes, grave and stuffing will be provided.***

***Come share a meal with our
community!***



Christmas at the Inns

The Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce has included St. Mary's in their annual Christmas at the Inns tour on Wednesday evening, November 28, 2018. We're delighted to be able to open our doors to the community at this festive time of year. Annette Foisie and Darlene Trautsch have graciously volunteered to be Church hosts in order to provide information about our church history, the architecture and to point out the Tiffany windows,

as well as the other prominent stained-glass windows. Musicians will be on-site playing hymns and holiday music for our guests to enjoy during their visit to St. Mary's.

A Holiday Tradition: Register to Ring

By Onnette McElroy

The Salvation Army is registering bell ringers for this holiday season. I have done it for years and find it an enjoyable way to get into the holiday spirit, see your neighbors, and "Do the Most Good" for the Salvation Army's outreach. Last year the kettles on the Monterey Peninsula brought in \$146,236. The money was used for the many Peninsula programs serving the most needy. (See their website.)

Most Pagrovians choose to work at Grove Market, the Post Office or Safeway. Some organizations choose a day or two and schedule their own volunteers for 1-2 hour blocks. Others sign up as individuals once or twice a season for 2-hour blocks.

It is easy: On your computer go to Register to Ring (<https://www.registertoring.com>) and follow the prompts. If you have trouble, call me and I will do it for you: 831-649-8129.

The photo is my family in 2017. My granddaughter, Samantha, sang carols for 2 hours at the post office. She has a terrific voice and will join me again this year at Macy's on Black Friday. Though entertainment is optional, it turns one dollar bills into fives.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday	10	5:00 pm	I-Help Women	Edwards Hall
Sunday	11		Veterans' Day	
Monday	12	5:30 pm	Finance Committee	Parish Office
Wednesday	14	6-8:00 pm	Stone Soup	Edwards Hall
Monday	19	7:00 pm	Vestry	Guild Room
Thursday	22	11:00 am	Thanksgiving Eucharist	Church
Thursday	22	12:30 pm	Thanksgiving Dinner	Edwards Hall
Thu & Fri	22 & 23		Parish Office Closed	
Saturday	24	6:00 pm	I-Help Men	Edwards Hall
Wednesday	28	6-9:00 pm	Christmas at the Inns	Church

*Celtoid Kids continues every Tuesday: Beginners 4pm-5pm; Advanced 5pm-6pm

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!!



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Thanksgiving traditions and history