Reflections from our Rector
A Season of Change

As a transplant from the south, fall in the northeast is one of my favorite seasons. Back home in Georgia when we went back to school in early September the temperatures would often still be in the high 90s, with humidity to match. The clip art of kids in sweaters and corduroy jumpers, carrying apples and jackets, decorating our hallways and classrooms made no sense at all as we got on the bus in shorts, t-shirts, and sandals well into October. The seasons and the calendar match up a little better in Pennsylvania, and the days start to shorten and the leaves begin to fall around the same time the buses return from their summer vacations to pick up the kids on my block.

What remains the same is the feeling of anticipation that I get around this time a year—excitement for the return of the choir and a good bit of the congregation on Sunday mornings, new programs planned, new students and neighborhood folks to welcome into our community. Just like our liturgical calendar keeps a steady annual rhythm, cycling us through incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection, with all of the attendant anticipation, circling always around the central axis of Easter, our program year as a worshipping congregation establishes its own ordering of our common lives. Now that I am in my fourth year as part of St. Mary’s, the once foreign is familiar and comforting. Our sexton, Gonzalo, takes the “Welcome New Students!” banner out of storage and suspends it above the sanctuary entrance on Locust Walk, the vestry sets the dates for the tag sale and Sunday barbecue to kick off the beginning of our year.

This year a new banner joins the informational throng on Locust Walk, advertising our Thursday Sung Compline service at 8PM. Sunday Suppers have made the jump to Thursdays at 7PM, so that more students are able to attend, and will now be offered weekly instead of twice a month. After Labor Day confirmation preparation classes get underway for youth and adults, looking very far forward to the offering of rites of initiation as part of the diocesan Easter Vigil at the Cathedral, and the Children’s Sunday School teachers plan out their lessons and prepare for the return of our 5-15 year olds. Our organist and choirmaster David finalizes the musical highlights of the season, including a performance of Fauré’s Requiem on the eve of the Feast of All Souls (Sunday, October 30th at 5PM), a parish production of Amal and the Night Visitors in January for Epiphany, and J.S. Bach’s Cantata #4 on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

In the midst of all of this activity, we gather around the altar rail every Sunday morning, and the steady beat of our life together thrums insistently: Jesus is Lord! All are welcome here! Come, and see!

Peace,

Mariclair+

The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen | rector@stmarysatpenn.org
Notes from the Office

Welcome to this autumnal issue of the St. Mary's Newsletter! I’m sure that, like me, you cannot wait for the leaves to turn, to unpack your thick socks and scarves, and to drink hot chocolate with your slippers on. I invite you to take a look at what is happening at St. Mary's and in our community. Whether it’s an update on campus ministry or a delicious Spanish pasta dish, there’s something for everyone to enjoy!

Now that we are getting into a rhythm with the newsletter, we want to make sure that we maintain enthusiasm and engagement within the St. Mary’s community. Please help us to continue to improve with your thoughts, suggestions and comments. You will notice the name and e-mail address of the author of each piece at the bottom. Your input is invaluable - it wouldn’t be a St. Mary’s Newsletter without the voices of St. Marians! If you would like to contribute in any way, or have any ideas about what you would like to see in future newsletters, please contact Sally Hillman Redman at sallyh.redman@gmail.com. Happy reading!

Anna Albrecht, Parish Administrator | administrator@stmarysatpenn.org

A Prayer for Fall

Almighty God, you are a God of grace and forgiveness, of new beginnings and second chances. Be with us this fall as we undertake new endeavors and recommit ourselves to the familiar; give us strength and courage to stretch ourselves to our full potential, and give us all the wisdom and patience to also remember to rest. You remind us in the cycle of death and rebirth that we witness in our natural landscape that just as the leaves bud, wither, fall, and burst forth anew, so our lives travel the cycle of the seasons. Hold us in the hollow of your hand during our lean times, and help us to remember to give thanks to you in times of feasting. We ask all of this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
Return of the Choir

Music plays a vital role in in our worship at St. Mary's, lifting our prayers and praise with the language of melody, harmony, and rhythm. Each Sunday Mass will feature our devoted and talented St. Mary's Choir performing a variety of anthems from different eras and sacred traditions. Our several wonderful soloists and an occasional guest provide a sacred aura for the weekly Eucharist. September 11 will feature the rousing American anthem "Now to the Power of God Supreme" by William Billings. Subsequent Sundays will offer such classics as "Teach me, O Lord" by Elizabethan composer William Byrd with our talented Penn senior Matrê Grant as soloist. Robert Mann and the ladies of the choir will reprise their lovely rendition of the Victorian masterpiece "List! The Cherubic Host" and with soprano soloist Anjali Gallup-Diaz the Choir will lift our spirits with Gounod's "Lovely Appear the Feet of Them that Bring Good News of Peace". Another highlight will be the return of Penn senior Brook Yanovich from a semester abroad anchoring the alto section and enriching our worship with her flute solos.

Of special interest will be a concert performance of Gabriel Fauré's beautiful Requiem on Sunday, October 30th, 5:00pm. Somber yet uplifting, this masterwork creates a vision of our heavenly reward. Guest organist Wesley Parrot will recreate the dark and richly hewn orchestral accompaniment. Trumpeter Al Freeman who thrilled us at Easter will return to create a regal aura for Christ the King Sunday, November 20th.

The music program welcomes your participation. Let David know if you have a talent to share. Choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:30.

David Shunskis, Organist/Choirmaster | music@stmarysatpenn.org
Report from the Rector's Warden

Decisions Big and Small

May Vestry Meeting

The Vestry met on May 31, with nine members and the Rector present. After opening the meeting with a devotion from the Book of Common Prayer, the vestry approved the minutes of the April vestry meeting.

Several building items were discussed. The major roof work on the tower has been completed. While scaffolding was still up, needed masonry work on the tower turrets and related work was identified, with an estimate of $38,000. This work will need to be done at some point. The office HVAC system needs to be replaced and the vestry approved the expenditure of $2000. Scott Wilds suggested that the Vestry consider beginning a Capital Campaign. The prior campaign (2007-2009) raised a total of $245,000, including $100,000 from Partners for Sacred Places. Recognizing the huge investment of time and work to carry out such a campaign, the Vestry agreed to set aside the July Vestry meeting for extensive discussion.

St. Mary's needs a new representative to the Schuylkill Deanery, which meets four times a year. A suggestion was made and the Rector will follow up with that person.

Frank Innes has agreed to serve as Treasurer, and he provided a financial report through May. The operating budget had a $1712 surplus through the end of May. Vestry members agreed to remind members of the congregation that pledges need to be kept up to date in the summer and a schedule for Sunday announcements was created.

Announcements and reminders included St. Marian Judith Schermer's art gallery opening, the Philadelphia Boys Choir at Verizon Hall, the consecration of Bishop Gutierrez, and St. Mary's at Shakespeare in Clark Park.

The meeting closed with a reflection lead by the Rector from Day by Day.

June Vestry Meeting

The Vestry met on June 28, with six members and the Rector present. After prayers led by the Rector, the Vestry approved the minutes of the May meeting. Updates included the fixing of the office HVAC system, which was completed, and the need for an additional St. Mary's representative on the facilities group with the St. Mary's Nursery School. Summer staff vacations were outlined. Quarterly pledge statements were discussed and will be issued beginning Sunday and through the mail.
The Vestry noted with sadness the resignation of Eric Krewson. Eric and Natalie have bought a house in Fishtown and will be moving there later this summer. The Vestry formally thanked Eric for his service. A replacement is needed for Eric’s spot on the Vestry.

The July meeting, to focus on a possible Capital Campaign, was discussed. There will be a potluck dinner at Vanessa Albert Lowry’s house, followed by discussion. The Rector will circulate written materials in advance.

Sally Hillman Redman was not able to attend, but the Rector presented a suggestion from her that we commit to fill backpacks with school supplies as part of our on-going support of refugee families through the Nationalities Services Center. The Vestry agreed to fill 10 backpacks, with specifics to be discussed at our next meeting.

The fall schedule was discussed. The annual tag sale and new student welcome will be Saturday, September 10 on Locust Walk, with the welcome barbeque on September 11. Our advent work day will be Saturday, December 3, and we will decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 24.

**July Vestry Meeting**

The vestry met at Vanessa Albert Lowry’s for potluck dinner and discussion centering around a possible Capital Campaign. Eight members and the Rector were present. Tuomi Forrest, St. Marian and former Vestry member, also attended and took part in the discussion. Tuomi is executive vice president of Partners for Sacred Places.

A short business session was held. June minutes were approved. The Rector proposed the creation of a Health Flexible Spending Plan, an addition to the current Dependent Care Flexible Spending Plan, for staff. (Subsequent to the meeting, the full written plan document was circulated for Vestry approval.)

The balance of the meeting was spent in executive session to begin to discern whether we should undertake a capital campaign and strategic planning activities in the near future.

Scott Wilds, Rector’s Warden  |  scottwilds@aol.com
Treasurer's Report

Quarter in Review

Here is a summary of revenue and expenses through the first half of 2016. You will see that we have a surplus of $3,798, and pledge revenue was good in July, so please continue to keep your pledge up to date.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Revenue &amp; Expenses as of July 31, 2016</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>As % of Budget</th>
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<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>YTD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Giving Plate (not 1st)</td>
<td>2,600</td>
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<td>Pledge</td>
<td>84,250</td>
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<td>Occasional/Designated</td>
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<td>Building Revenue</td>
<td>106,700</td>
<td>59,409</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>39,600</td>
<td>24,376</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Coffee</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Reimbursements/Copier &amp;c</td>
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<td>151</td>
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<td>Altar Guild Income</td>
<td>2,700</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>252,400</td>
<td>140,064</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>YTD</td>
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<td>Outside Giving</td>
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<td>Program Expense</td>
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<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Financial Expense</td>
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<td>Altar Guild Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>252,400</td>
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<td><strong>Month revenue (deficit)</strong></td>
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<td>3,798</td>
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People’s Warden Report

Let’s put the fun in fundraising!

On Saturday, September 10th, we will be holding our annual Saint Mary’s Tag Sale and New Student Welcome. I hope that you cleaned out your closets and de-cluttered your home to support this important fundraiser for our church. Besides donating your items, I encourage you to come out on Locust Walk on that Saturday to help with the tag sale. We start setting up at 10:00 AM. This is a great opportunity to greet Penn students as they start the new semester. Be sure and wear your Saint Mary’s t-shirt and a smile. It will be fun!

Another fundraising idea that we are kicking around is a Broadway cabaret in February. We plan to have a Broadway love song theme, so it makes sense that we are looking at the weekend before Saint Valentine’s Day in February. How does “Saint Mary’s Broadway Cabaret with Love” sound for a title? We plan to have around 14 performers with a group finale of “Seasons of Love” from Rent. Of course, the audience will also be invited to join in the fun and sing along with our performers. Don’t worry if you don’t know the words, the lyrics will be printed in the program.

If you know someone at Penn, USciences, Drexel, St. Mary’s, or University City who loves to sing show tunes, please encourage them to be in touch with us. The performance will be in the sanctuary and we plan to be SRO! (For you non-theatre types that means standing room only!)

If you would like to try out, play music for the singers, sell tickets, do publicity, or help with a reception at the end of the show in the parish hall, talk with Karen Stachelek, Robin Forster-Drain, or me. We are the members of the Fundraising Committee of the Vestry. The money that we raise will support our Outreach Ministries, along with other ministries of the church. And of course, we think that it will be a lot of fun!

Sally Hillman Redman, People’s Warden | sally.h.redman@gmail.com

Sunday School Report

Back in Session

St. Mary’s Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 11th! We are so excited to welcome back our Sunday School students, and hopefully welcome some new faces! Our teachers cannot wait to jump right into scripture discussion, crafts, and, of course, start planning the Nativity Play!

Contact Sara Macro Forrest at sara.forrest@gmail.com for more information.
Are you interested in helping out with our spectacular Sunday coffee hour? Contact Pattie Duncan at (215) 472-2014 or at pattiedd@gmail.com. You will also notice a coffee hour freewill offering box on the beverages table – your donations are welcome!

Worship volunteers needed! You can help make mass happen! Are you interested in helping with services, as a reader, intercessor, acolyte, or usher? Please contact Anna at (215) 386-3916 or at administrator@stmarysatpenn.org. Acolytes and ushers especially!

Throughout the fall, we will continue our collection for Nationalities Service Center. Please consider donating some of the most needed items, which include diapers and feminine hygiene products.

See the Community Outreach section on page 13 for more information. Thank you!

St. Mary’s Directory

A new directory for St. Mary’s is now an active community project. We want to have photos of everyone, taken by Aaron Todd or Mother Mariclar, which will help us all to learn the names and faces of every St. Marian.

Photo day is scheduled for the Program Year Kick-Off BBQ - September 11th, 2016.

Contact Anna at administrator@stmarysatpenn.org with updated contact information, birthdays, and how long you have been at St. Mary’s!

Target publication date is October 2016!

Jerene Good | jerene49@gmail.com
Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, September 1st
New Student Activities Fair, 5pm-8pm
On Locust Walk

Thursdays during term, starting September 8th
Student Ministry Dinner
& Discussion, 7-8pm
In the sanctuary. For more information, visit
www.stmarysatpenn.org!

A Capella Compline, 8pm
In the sanctuary

Saturday, September 10th
Tag Sale & New Student Welcome Table
10am set-up, volunteers needed! – speak to
Frank Innes about the Welcome Table, and to
Scott Wilds about the Tag Sale. Donations for the
Tag Sale can be dropped off in the chapel during
office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9am – 2pm.
Kitchen items (plates, pots and pans etc.) and
small furniture are especially needed!

Sunday, September 11th
Program Year Kick-off BBQ
On the lawn following mass.
Please bring your favorite dish to share!
Choir resumes
Church School resumes

Saturday, September 17th
The Gatherings Concert, 7pm

Sunday, September 18th
NO THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH
Please bring your favorite dish to our Kick-Off
BBQ on September 11th instead!

Tuesday, September 20th
Low Mass with Healing Prayers
and Anointing resumes
In the St. Philip’s Chapel at 12:15pm

Saturday, September 24th
St. Mary’s hosts the regular meeting of the
Diocesan Council, 8am - 1pm.

Thursday, September 29th
Pre-Convention Meeting, 7pm-9pm
At Gloria Dei, 916 S. Swanson St.

Friday, September 30th
West Philly Community Square Dance
In the Parish Hall, 7-9pm

Saturday, October 8th
The Gatherings Concert, 7pm

Sunday, October 16th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
In the Parish Hall following mass.
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Friday, November 4th – Saturday, November 5th
Annual Convention of the Diocese of
Pennsylvania

Saturday, November 12th
The Gatherings Concert, 7pm

Saturday, November 19th
The Gatherings Concert, 7pm

Sunday, November 20th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
In the Parish Hall following mass.
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Friday, November 25th
The Parish Office will be closed.

Saturday, November 26th
Parish Work Day
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<td>4</td>
<td>11am Worship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11am Worship &amp; Church School Choir resumes</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12:30 Kick-Off BBQ</td>
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<td>NO THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH</td>
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<td>11am Worship &amp; Church School</td>
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<td>NO THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH</td>
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<td>11am Worship &amp; Church School</td>
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<td>12:15pm Low Mass w/ Healing &amp; Anointing</td>
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<td>7pm Student Supper 8pm Sung Compline</td>
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<td>7pm Community Square Dance</td>
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- 11am Worship
- 11am Worship & Church School Choir resumes
- 12:30 Kick-Off BBQ
- NO THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH
- 7:30 Kick-Off BBQ
- NO THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH
- 7pm Student Supper 8pm Sung Compline
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**October 2016**
# November 2016

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- **6** 11am Worship & Church School
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- **20** 11am Worship & Church School
- **27** 11am Worship & Church School

- **7** 7pm Student Supper 8pm Acapella Compline
- **10** 7pm Student Supper 8pm Acapella Compline
- **17** 7pm Student Supper 8pm Acapella Compline
- **24** Thanksgiving

- **4** Diocesan Convention
- **5** Diocesan Convention
- **12** 7pm Gatherings
- **19** 7pm Gatherings
- **25** No Penn Classes Office Closed
- **26** Parish Work Day

**Third Sunday Brunch**
Community Outreach

Thank you for the school supplies!

As I write this message, we are just now collecting school supplies for the Nationalities Service Center (NSC). I have every confidence that we will achieve our goal of filling 10 backpacks for the refugee children as they begin their schooling in America. With a grateful heart, I thank everyone who made contributions to help fill our backpacks! [Editor: We filled 20 completely, with lots of extra supplies to share!]

In our summer newsletter, we have had rather long lists of items that the clients of the NSC need. While all of those donations are truly needed, the staff told me the two most needed items are diapers and feminine hygiene products (especially pads). Please consider bringing these items throughout the fall months.

Sally Hillman Redman, St. Mary’s Refugee Committee Chair  |  sally.h.redman@gmail.com

Checking in with SMNS

Welcoming a New Nursery School Executive Director

Vanessa Albert Lowry recently interviewed Traci Childress, the new Executive Director of the St. Mary’s Nursery School.

Traci Childress arrived at St. Mary’s Nursery School as its new Executive Director in April 2016. She is an experienced nonprofit director and a skilled early childhood education leader. Traci hails from South Carolina and Tennessee, went to college in North Carolina and has lived in the Czech Republic, Berlin and Massachusetts. Her husband is German. They have two children, 8 and 5, and are raising their family in West Philly, which Traci now considers home.

In our brief interview, Traci remarked how St. Mary’s Nursery School as a community reflects the diversity of her community (and our community) of West Philadelphia, diverse racially, economically and ethnically. She views her role as creating a core, a space for this community to thrive; she used the ancient Greek word “temenos,” meaning “a temple enclosure or court,” a “sacred precinct” to describe how she envisions what she must help create and preserve at St. Mary’s Nursery School, a place where children, parents and staff all feel belonging and where healthy relationships can flourish and children can learn and grow as community members. Please welcome Traci to our parish community.

St. Mary’s Nursery School is a Reggio Emilia inspired school, founded by our parish in the ’60s, but now is fully independent and parent-run. For more information visit www.stmarysnursery.org.

Vanessa Albert Lowry  |  lowryv@gtlaw.com
The Famous St. Mary’s Altar (Part 2 of 2)

The high altar is very rich in Christian symbolism, and the art work on it has several links to Rome. The definitive source for this article is a short book written on the altar and history of St. Mary’s by a Penn professor in 1984. The book describes the altar in exhaustive detail. What follows are highlights of the major features of the altar in an outline form so you can use it to make a closer examination of the altar yourself. (see picture on page 17)

Crucifixion

This is a glass mosaic of Guido Reni’s painting, Crocifisso (1637-38) above the altar of the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Lucina in Rome (see photo). It is composed of thousands of pieces of tinted glass called tesserae. The 17th century pope, Urban VIII, revived this ancient Roman technique by decorating “…many auxiliary altars in St. Peter’s Basilica with copies of famous paintings from his Vatican collections.” Our copy differs from the original to adapt to the arch shape.

Ascension into Heaven

The panel above the Crucifixion was inspired by Raphael’s Transfiguration with angels filling in for Moses and Elijah. This panel, along with the Crucifixion and the Nativity below it comprise the Incarnation.

Nativity

Here, the stable in which Christ was born is a cave with a thatched roof where the Holy Family is surrounded by the shepherds and animals on the left and the three wise men on the right.

Pascal Lamb

The Lamb of God with a banner of victory and a corona around the head is lying on “the Book of Destiny” (King James Bible) with its seven seals in three stacks of two and one alone. The rays behind are glass coated with gold leaf.

Symbols on the Altar Table Panels

The panels to the left and right of the Lamb have Maltese crosses in the background with these symbols in the foreground: Alpha and Omega, the Greek symbols for the beginning and the end to the left and right ends of the table. Lilly springing from a heart and Mary Queen of Heaven, symbols of the Virgin Mary to the immediate left and right of the Lamb.

Instruments of the Passion (far left)

The Cross is composed of lapis lazuli, a rare blue stone from Afghanistan, with the crown of thorns surrounding it, the sign “INRI” or the Latin abbreviation of Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaorvm or “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”, and below the cross, one torch for the arrest in Gethsemane and a second for the night after the crucifixion when the Disciples reclaimed the body, and the cock that crowed three times for Peter’s three denials, the spear that pierced Jesus’s side, the bloody robe worn by Jesus when he was beaten, the ladder used to take down his body, dice for casting lots for his clothing, the sponge of vinegar, and the thirty pieces of silver paid to Judas who betrayed him.
The Church Victorious (far right)  
The host and the chalice of the Eucharist are at the top with crossed candles, a pallium (traditionally conferred on an archbishop by the Pope – another connection to Rome), a bishop’s crozier, a two-armed processional cross, the keys of St. Peter, flowers, and a censor.

Decoration  
The white marble structure of the altar with black marble panels is decorated with multicolored marble and semi-precious stones – many of them collected by the Rev. Joseph Bloomington Wetherill who designed and commissioned the altar given to St. Mary’s by his heirs.

Source: Camman, Schuyler V. R., St. Mary’s Church, Hamilton Village, and Its Famous Altar, copyright 1984, Sherwin/Dodge printers, Littleton, NH. (available for borrowing from the Church Office)

Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu

Stewardship Moment

Helping hands

I’ve always loved the name of Garrison Keillor’s fictitious Roman Catholic church in the fictitious town of Lake Wobegon Minnesota: “Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility.”

I love that name because no actual church would dare to be so forthright and heavy-handed as to call itself that! But in our lives as Christians we are always striving to live up to the perpetual responsibility of loving one another, and our neighbors as ourselves.

One of the most important functions of St. Mary’s is to foster an atmosphere where this love can thrive, but for St. Mary’s to thrive we need your pledge of financial support; it’s so necessary to maintain this special place where we gather to love one another---and gather the strength to love the larger world as well!

Fall is our time for pledging. Please prayerfully consider how much you can contribute to our 2017 budget. Pledge forms will be available at the back of the church beginning in October.

Please also consider the following list of things you might contribute to in our life together:
- Altar Guild
- Help with collection for refugees
- Hospitality (food for coffee hour and 3rd Sunday brunches)
- Flowers
- Serving on the Vestry and other leadership activities
- Playing music or singing
- Great Cleanings Saturdays (chiefly before Christmas and Easter)
- Serving on the altar and/or as a lector
- Writing for this newsletter
- Sunday School teaching
- Something else you believe ought to be done, that you can do or organize!

Claudia Crane | claudia@claudiacrane.com
Cook’s Corner

Toasted Pasta, but NOT Rice-a-Roni

This is a recently acquired recipe that has quickly become a favorite. One of my peculiar habits is watching cooking shows while I’m cooking; apparently I cannot get enough of food. This happens particularly on weekend afternoons when PBS runs those shows on all its affiliates. I have always loved Sara Moulton; she is a tiny dynamo who was an editor of the late, lamented Gourmet magazine, the best cooking magazine ever. She has a show on PBS now called “Sara’s Weekday Meals” which is where I first saw this toasted pasta dish.

Its proper name is fideua; it’s a Spanish pasta risotto with shrimp and chorizo. Don’t panic; due to space constraints I’m not giving amounts, but I’ll direct you to the site of the full recipe at the very end. I just hope my description will get you to try it! If you can find the actual fideos noodles, good for you; otherwise use thin spaghetti, spaghettini, or angel hair pasta broken into 1 to 2 inch lengths. Toss peeled and deveined shrimp with olive oil, minced garlic and salt and set it aside. Then toast the pasta in oil in a broiler safe skillet (or paella pan) until golden brown and transfer it to a bowl.

Then the recipe calls for Spanish chorizo which is cured; you’re supposed to peel it, quarter it, and slice it prior to heating it in oil. It’s not always easy to find; Supremo does not carry it, but what I did find there were several varieties of Central American ones which are raw, not cured. No problem; they are easier to skin and just need to be cooked a little more. You then transfer the cooked chorizo with a slotted spoon to the bowl with the pasta, pour off the excess oil, and sauté finely chopped onions then garlic in the remaining oil.

Next you add some marinara, cook it down and add both plain and smoked paprika. Then you toss in the pasta, chorizo, some white wine, and chicken stock and preheat your broiler. You simmer the mixture for about 5 minutes, stir in some defrosted frozen peas and cook a little bit more, then scatter the shrimp over the top and nestle them into the mixture before popping the pan under the broiler for 3 to 4 minutes. When the shrimp is opaque and the pasta crisp in spots you’re done; just spoon it up and top it with a garlic mayonnaise that also works well as a dip for shrimp cocktail or lollypop lamb chops. The end result is both unusual and very tasty. You can find the recipes for all the components of this dish by googling Sara’s Weeknight Meals; it’s on Season 5, Episode 505: Trip to Spain. Try it and enjoy!

Martin Bodtmann | marbodt@aol.com
This fall as we welcome new and returning students from Penn, Drexel, and the University of the Sciences to St. Mary’s, we welcome them to a slightly different schedule and offering! Sunday Suppers have become Thursday Student Suppers, and will now occur weekly throughout the semester (for consistency we operate according to the University of Pennsylvania Academic Calendar, which you can find at www.upenn.edu/almanac/3yearcal.html). Our format has changed slightly, as we will gather in the sanctuary itself at 7PM so as not to conflict with the UCHC dinner happening at the same time in the Parish Hall. After a simple supper and conversation around scripture, we will conclude with sung Compline at 8PM.

Compline is an ancient service in our worship tradition, with its roots in the monastic final prayer of the day. Said before entering into silence and sleep for the night, this is a peaceful, mystical way of preparing for the weekend ahead. We will gather in the choir stalls, surrounded by candlelight, for a simple a cappella setting by David Hurd. Not a singer? Don’t worry. All are welcome to participate in whatever way feels best, whether that is by joining in the singing or by sitting back and letting the sound wash over you. Interested in taking a more active part in this service? Student music leaders are needed throughout the Fall and Spring to help keep the service going.

Are you a non-student St. Marian interested in contributing a meal for our students? Contact Mother Mariclar for more information at rector@stmarysatpenn.org. Have questions about campus ministry in general, or how you can get involved? Contact Joel Lefever, our graduate student representative, at joel.lefever@gmail.com or Matré Grant, our undergraduate representative, at matre@sas.upenn.edu.
Parishoner Profile: Aaron Todd

Let’s start at the beginning—what’s your story? Where are you from? I’m 29, and have been attending St. Mary’s for about 6 years now. I was born in Roxborough, PA, grew up in Glenside, a suburb of Philadelphia in Montgomery County, and went to Abington High School. My parents still live in the house where I grew up. My dad passed away when I was 2, and so growing up it was me, my older brother, and my mom. She remarried when I was 18, and when I talk about my parents I mean my mom and stepdad. I grew up with church as a regular part of my life, first at Family Bible Church, a mission plant where my father was an elder, and then New Life Presbyterian Church in Glenside, part of the Presbyterian Church in America, for most of my childhood.

I went to Temple University for college, graduating with a double major in Spanish and Latin American Studies in 2010. I’m grateful to have had the support of my mom who always encouraged me to study what I wanted to, rather than pushing me toward something with a more clear job path that I might have ultimately found unfulfilling. During my undergraduate studies, I was able to do a Spanish-language immersion program at Temple that allowed me to study in Mexico and do a study-abroad semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

I now work at the University of Pennsylvania in the development office, and recently celebrated my 5-year anniversary there. It wasn’t immediately apparent what my next steps would be after college, so I continued with the restaurant work that I had been doing as a student—bartending, waiting tables, some management. I took a couple of other jobs that weren’t very rewarding, and was feeling burnt out. My roommate at the time (St. Mary’s alumna Maggie Downey) was working here at Wharton, and suggested I apply for jobs at Penn. I was fortunate, as it can be challenging to get hired from outside of the Penn community. I’m also a student in the College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS) at Penn, which has given me the opportunity to take classes in a little bit of everything—Spanish cinema, psychology of sexuality, some nursing classes, and a few photography classes. LPS has been really great because it is a way of being a student that has allowed me to explore different disciplines, and given me some confidence and interest in considering graduate school one day, something I wouldn’t have considered right out of undergrad.
How did you come to be a member of St. Mary’s?
When I met my partner of 6 years, Thomas, he was attending St. Mary’s. He had grown up as an Episcopalian and gotten more involved when he came to Penn for his PhD program. He knew that I enjoyed singing, so actually before our first date he invited me to be a part of a concert at the church. I wasn’t able to sing in that concert, but it was the beginning of a reintroduction to church through him. I came out when I was a senior in college—I had known I was gay for a long time, but the church I grew up in wasn’t one where being gay was okay, and I wasn’t sure how supportive my family could be of me. Ultimately, they have been and my brother in particular has been great, and I have been blessed with a network of friends who have helped me love myself as I am. Then I met Thomas fairly early on, and quickly realized I was in a serious relationship.

St. Mary’s was a church where being gay wasn’t an issue at all—the rector was openly partnered, there were older, wise gay couples in the pews along with everyone else. I didn’t realize that was possible. The robust music program was also central to my connection with St. Mary’s. I had played the cello from third grade on, sang in the chorus and joined in musicals in high school, and had sort of grown into a realization that I can sing and I really enjoy it. St. Mary’s was a community where music was integral, yet it differed from the sort of contemporary church music I was familiar with from childhood. Worship centered around a choir and organ, more traditional hymns, and music reflecting the Anglican heritage of the place—these were all new to me. And St. Mary’s initially felt considerably more formal, with vestments and things that I hadn’t grown up with, but these are aspects I’ve come to appreciate that now provide me with a lot of comfort.

You work full-time, take classes, and recently joined the vestry. What motivates you to give of your time and talent to St. Mary’s?
Thomas got me in the doors, and it was profound to me to go to a church where there was an out, gay rector and there was such a feeling of inclusion. You can feel welcome here even if you are still figuring out what you believe, and that helps us all challenge and evaluate what we each believe. As for sexuality in general, it is so accepted and such a non-issue. I appreciate how we really talk about individuals and communities in a way that acknowledges but doesn’t dwell on our differences, because of course we are going to have straight and gay and trans* people who are all a part of this community. That just makes sense. We are all in this boat together.

I don’t have a lot of extra time in my day, and I guard it carefully, but I stay active at St. Mary’s because of the spirit of the place. Music is a big part of it, as well. I get a lot of spiritual fulfillment out of taking part in the choir here, and feel like I have gotten even more, personally, from the experience of being a member of choir than I have given to it. Also, as someone who self-identifies as sort of eccentric, this just felt like the place for me, there wasn’t any judgement. I’ve developed some really profound relationships with people here, I’ve gotten the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with diverse individuals I wouldn’t normally get to know. It’s part of the hospitality of this place.

Aaron was interviewed by Mother Mariclair in August 2016.
ST. MARY’S HAMILTON VILLAGE
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT PENN
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215-386-3916  www.stmarysatpenn.org

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Anna Albrecht Parish Administrator
Gonzalo Vizuete Sexton
Patrick O’Brien Sunday Sexton
Joel Lefever Assistant Organist

Vestry
Scott Wilds  Rector’s Warden
Sally Hillman Redman  People’s Warden
Frank Innes  Treasurer
Yvonne Michael  Clerk
Robin Foster-Drain
Vanessa Albert Lowry
Holman Massey
Allie Schreffler
Karen Stachelek
Aaron Todd

Newsletter compiled and edited by Anna Albrecht, with special thanks to Sally Hillman Redman.