Holy Companionship

Symbols are powerful in our lives not just for the meanings they were originally designed to convey, but because of the ones we have attributed to them over the years of their use. This sort of reverse-engineering of meaning into a familiar sign or ritual is a common occurrence in Christian tradition, and some powerful spiritual moments in my life of faith have been tied to unravelling the centuries (or millennia) of accretions around familiar objects, scenes, or acts. Sometimes the spiritual moment is one of humility: as a baby seminarian, I confidently explained to a parishioner at my training congregation that the IHS embroidered onto the century old pulpit fall was a relic of triumphalism, tying the preaching of the Gospel to Constantine’s victory at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, which led to his conversion and the spread of Christianity across the Roman Empire. Before this deciding battle he saw the Chi Rho in the sky, heard a heavenly pronouncement from on high “In hoc signo vinces” - In this sign you shall conquer. And now we saw it onto everything as a reminder to all those in the pews of the conquering power of the faith.

This is a very romantic, if militaristic, explanation, and it is also completely wrong.

The IHS monogram simply represents the Holy Name of Jesus, a Christogram of the Latinized version of the Greek spelling of Jesus Christ, made popular in medieval western Europe centuries after Maxentius fell into the Tiber (incidentally, this was also the genesis of Our Lord’s middle name- you may have heard of Jesus H. Christ). Less fantastic, but often the more boring explanation is the correct one- but that shouldn’t stop us from seeking deeper meanings in our symbols.

One of the benefits of worshipping in a sanctuary as old as ours is that we are surrounded by objects specially chosen for this space 150 years or so before we came on the scene- so we have a rich context for our corporate acts of worship. We benefit particularly from some beautiful stained glass windows, and one of my favorites is in the
wall of the North Transept. I’d never seen one like it before coming to St. Mary’s, and it is often commented on by visitors— in the center three feminine figures embrace, and so it is sometimes mistaken for a modern representation of the Trinity.

Instead it is a scene from the Book of Ruth in the Hebrew Bible, which tells the story of the great-grandmother of King David. What we see in our window is Ruth the Moabite clinging to her mother-in-law, Naomi, along with Orpah, after the death of Naomi’s sons, their husbands. It’s a story of family by choice— instead of following custom and returning to her father’s house as a widow, Ruth chooses to bind her future and herself with her mother-in-law, in spite of the risks she will face as a foreigner in a strange land without the protections of a husband. Orpah chooses otherwise, and returns to her family, but Ruth proclaims in one of the poetic phrases of our scripture— “Whither thou goest, I shall go. Your people shall be my people... and your God shall be my God.” And her life becomes the foundation of the future of the Jewish people, and of our Christian religion.

I’m not sure exactly why this subject was chosen for our window, but I know the story I have created for it as I’ve gazed on it for years from my stall. It’s a symbol of hospitality, for me, and of the mission central to St. Mary’s. It is a pigment and glass allegory for the constant invitation offered by this church to strangers in our land of West Philadelphia— individuals hailing from as close as the Philadelphia suburbs and as far as Tehran, Beijing, Sao Paulo, Juba. Whether they come as undergraduates or post-docs or new professors at Penn, Drexel, or University of the Sciences, or for reasons entirely unconnected with our campuses, we offer holy companionship, a home for a semester or a season or 40 years. Very few St. Marian’s, I’ve found, grew up in this parish or even this city. Most of us are wanderers of one sort or another, and I think that is one of the charisms of this place— we welcome as we were welcomed, by Christ, and by Christ’s people, here.

I’m coming up on the end of my fourth year as your rector, and so I’m watching as freshman I welcomed prepare for graduation. It is bittersweet, and the steady transition of folks in and out of our lives isn’t easy. It’s tempting to cling to the familiar and not do the hard work of building new relationships. Holy work is often denoted by its difficulty, though, and opening our hearts to people, knowing that ultimately we will say goodbye, is a central part of our call. We’ve extended that vocation to newly arrived immigrants in our city, refugees from their homelands, and I suspect our opportunities for this uniquely St. Marian ministry of welcome and transient companionship will only expand in the coming days, as all sorts of strangers in the strange land of our nation find their footing and their sanctuaries under the uncertainties of a new political administration. As for us, we will continue to do the work that we are called to in this place, making room in our hearts and in the life of this parish, and that seems like a suitable sacred preparation in these days of Advent.

The Rev. Mariclair Partee Carlsen | rector@stmarysatpenn.org
Welcome to the winter issue of the St. Mary’s Newsletter – one full year of newsletters! 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 in your slippers on a cool, crisp morning. I invite you to take a look at what is happening at St. Mary’s and in our community. Whether checking out St. Mary’s history as a sanctuary space or learning the secret of a superb antipasto, there is plenty to digest!

Now that we have had a newsletter for every season, we want to see what kind of impact it has made, and how it can be improved. 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 sally.h.redman@gmail.com. Happy reading!
Musical Notes

Amahl and the Night Visitors

This Epiphany, the St. Mary’s Choir is very excited to be presenting a fully staged production of the one act opera Amahl and the Night Visitors. We will be doing two shows - on Friday, January 6th (The Feast of the Epiphany) at 7:00pm and on Sunday, January 8th at 4:00pm. Originally written as a children’s television opera in the early 1950s, the very touching story of a poor, crippled boy and his widowed mother visited by the three Kings on their way to Bethlehem is matched by the poignant and haunting music of Gian-Carlo Menotti.

Special guest artists Zachary Brosky from the Philadelphia Boy’s Choir and Charlotte Penelope Bazzle from the Philadelphia Girls Choir playing Amahl will join Anjali Gallup-Diaz as the mother, Robert Mann as King Melchior, guest artists Martin Hargrove and Leland Kimball from Opera Delaware as Kings Balthazar and Kaspar, and Midora Middleton dancing a lively saltarello. David will direct from the piano with Joel Lefever at the organ and Brooke Yanovich will play flute. Our wonderful choir will play the local shepherds.

This is a very special and ambitious undertaking and we ask your support and attendance. And why not give Amahl and the Night Visitors as Christmas gifts for friends, family and neighbors, or a little something special in the Christmas cards. Tickets are available at the office: $10, $25 for the whole family.

David Shunskis, Organist/Choirmaster  music@stmarysatpenn.org
A Great Christmas Gift
For family and friends
Order tickets 215-386-3916

Amahl and the Night Visitors
The touching story of a poor, crippled boy and his widowed mother visited by the three Kings on their way to Bethlehem. The poignant and haunting music of Gian-Carlo Menotti casts a spell.

The Cast
Zachary Brosky on Jan. 6 and Charlotte Penelope Bazyle on Jan. 8 as Amahl
Anjali Gallup-Diaz as the mother,
Martin Hargrove, Leland Kimball and Robert Mann as the kings
Dean Bloomington as the page
Midora Middleton, shepherd dancer
St. Mary's Choir as shepherds
August 2016 Vestry

The Vestry did not meet in August.

September 2016 Vestry

The Vestry met on September 27 in the library. After Evening Prayer, led by the Rector, the usual business meeting followed.

Minutes for July were approved. Mariclar discussed her plans for using accrued vacation time.

Stewardship campaign. The annual stewardship campaign was discussed. Volunteers from the Vestry were recruited to make brief “stewardship minute” talks each Sunday between mid-October and mid-November. Karen Stachelek offered to review prior stewardship letters and draft the one for 2016.

Valentine fundraiser. Sally Hillman Redman introduced her son Max Redman, who is a musical theatre performer. They described initial plans for a cabaret-style fundraiser in February. The event would include entertainment (songs based on the theme of “Love”) followed by food and drink. Performers would be recruited and auditioned. The performance would be February 11. The Vestry had a thorough discussion, including copyright issues, time of the event, budget, accompanists. There was support for designating a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Nationalities Services Center. A planning committee of Sally, Holman Massey and Scott Wilds was identified.

Treasurer’s report. Frank Innes was out of town and so formal report was received. Scott reported that expenses were high in August, but pledges are generally up to date.

Vestry vacancy filled. Aaron Todd was appointed to fill Eric Krewson’s seat and remaining term.

Convention delegates. Frank Innes, formerly alternate, was appointed to go to Diocesan Convention in November in place of Carole LaBelle, who has offered to step aside.

The meeting closed with prayer.

October 2016 Vestry

The Vestry met on October 25 in the library. Sally Hillman Redman opened the meeting with Celtic Evening Prayer.
Minutes for September were approved with corrections.

Treasurer’s report. Frank Innes reported that the operating budget for 2016 is currently running a deficit, but that there will be significant investment income realized in October. Frank will get current pledge statements to members making pledges so that people can plan for the last months of 2016. Building income from weddings and events has been down some from prior years. The report was accepted.

Stewardship campaign. Allie Schreffler and Holman Massey were thanked for the stewardship moments they made in the past two Sundays. The stewardship letter prepared by Karen Stachelek will go out to parishioners this week and be available in church this Sunday. It was noted that a couple of parishioners have moved or will move and that this may affect our pledge income for 2017. Mariclar shared a table showing potential pledges based on percentages of household income. The vestry decided to consider using the chart next year, with additional information to help readers frame the numbers in the table.

Valentine fundraiser. Sally Hillman Redman provided an update on planning for the Valentine fundraiser. The vestry agreed that the event will be Saturday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. Other details were reviewed and agreed to. Volunteers are needed for specific tasks, please see Sally!

Community outreach update. Sally asked for a volunteer to head up the community outreach program. She has been heading the relationship with Nationalities Services Center, but the scope is not limited to this. Robin Foster-Drain will lead a discussion table at the November third Sunday brunch to talk about how to organize this effort.

Building update. Our sexton, Gonzalo Vizuete, helped Don Leedy and Scott Wilds replace a damaged glass covering protecting a stained glass window with plexiglass.

University City Hospitality Coalition. After many years of leading UCHC’s nearly-daily meal, St. Marian Lee Ann Draud is expected to move to Pittsburgh later this year. A UCHC board member will take over the Thursday evening meal at St. Mary’s. There are opportunities for volunteering with UCHC in its food ministry. The vestry discussed ways to honor Lee Ann for her service to the Church School as well as UCHC, ushering, work days, etc.

Shakespeare in the Park workshop. Frank Innes discussed a request from Shakespeare in the Park for space for one or two workshops this winter in preparation for next summer’s production. The vestry agreed to support this effort. Frank will work to pin down possible dates that will not conflict with our other scheduled activities.

Sally led the vestry with a closing prayer.

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

Quarter in Review

Here is a summary of revenue and expenses through October 2016. You will see that we have a deficit of $6,572, and pledge revenue is running a bit behind at 77% instead of 83%, so please continue to keep your pledge up to date so that we reach 100% of expected pledge.

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<tr>
<th>Revenue &amp; Expenses as of October 31, 2016</th>
<th>10 months = 83%</th>
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<td><strong>General Operating Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>As % of Budget</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>YTD</strong></td>
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<td>Congregational Giving</td>
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<td>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>
<td>6,800</td>
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<td>Building Revenue</td>
<td>106,700</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>39,600</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Campus Ministry</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Mardi/Sidewalk/Xmas Carol</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>UCHC space and reimbursements</td>
<td>4,950</td>
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<td>Reimbursements/Copier &amp;c</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Guild Income</td>
<td>2,700</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>252,400</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside Giving</td>
<td>12,582</td>
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<td>Program Expense</td>
<td>13,455</td>
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<td>Physical Plant</td>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>187,328</td>
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<td>Financial Expense</td>
<td>475</td>
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<td>Altar Guild Expenses</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>252,400</strong></td>
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</table>

YTD revenue (deficit) 0 -6,572

Frank Innes, Treasurer  | finnes@alum.drexel.edu
Mark Your Calendars

Tuesdays until Dec. 20th, resuming Jan. 24th
Low Mass with Healing Prayers
and Anointing resumes
In the St. Philip's Chapel at 12:15pm

Thursdays until Dec. 8th, resuming Jan. 26th
Student Ministry Dinner
& Discussion, 7-8pm
In the sanctuary. For more information, visit
www.stmarysatpenn.org!
followed by A Capella Compline, 8pm
In the sanctuary

*

Saturday, December 10th and 17th
Shake it Up! Classical Acting for Everyone
1pm-3pm in the Parish Hall
Don't run and cower when you hear a rhyme,
you'll be a master in no time! Do you love to be
on stage or think you might? Kittson O'Neill,
Artistic Director for Shakespeare in Clark
Park will show you that Shakespeare is for ever-
one! All ages and experience levels welcome.

Sunday, December 18th
Advent Lessons and Carols w/ Eucharist
Sunday School Nativity Pageant
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
In the Parish Hall following mass.
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Tuesday, December 20th
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
7:15pm Carol Singing
7:30pm Mass

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
11am Low Mass—wear your PJs!

Monday, Dec. 26th—Friday, Dec. 30th
The Parish Office will be closed.

Friday, January 6th
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Featuring the St. Mary’s choir, 7pm
Tickets are available at the office: $10;
$25 for the whole family.

Sunday, January 8th
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Featuring the St. Mary’s choir, 4pm

Sunday, January 15th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
In the Parish Hall following mass.
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Tuesday, January 24th
Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Friday, January 27th
West Philly Community Square Dance
In the Parish Hall, 7-9pm

Saturday, January 28th
Seasons of Love Cabaret *Auditions*
Seeking singers ages 18 and up, who are eager to
perform in a fundraising cabaret event
centralized around the theme of “love”. All are
welcome to sing any song from Broadway to the
radio hits of today (even those songs you only
sing in the shower). 1pm-4pm

Saturday, February 11th
Seasons of Love Cabaret, 7:30pm
Tickets: $15 each or 2 for $25; students: $10
each or 2 for $15

Sunday, February 19th
Third Sunday Potluck Brunch
In the Parish Hall following mass.
Please bring your favorite dish to share!

Wednesday, March 1st
Ash Wednesday
Services at 7:00am, 12:15pm, 7:00pm
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<td>7pm Singing Lesson 5pm Student Supper</td>
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<td>Panorama Semester Begins</td>
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Church School
29 7am Worship 8
22 7am Worship 8
15 7am Worship 8
18 8am Worship 8

Sunday School

Third Sunday Brunch
9am Animal and the Church School

Night Visitors

January 2017
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<th>Sun</th>
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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 freewill offering box on the beverages table – your donations are welcome!

Shoes Shined Here!
St. Marian John Ash has generously offered to shine shoes and boots to benefit the organ restoration fund - $3 for shoes, $4 for boots. Simply drop off your shoes or boots in need of polishing on Sunday morning, and pick them up the following Sunday looking shiny and spiffy. Talk to John after mass to arrange for drop off or ask any questions!

Worship Volunteers needed
You can help make mass happen! Are you interested in helping with services? We especially need ushers and acolytes. Please contact Anna at 215-386-3916 or administrator@stmarysatpenn.org if you would like to help!

Sunday School

Advent at Sunday School
Advent is a special season and we always use the time for special activities at Sunday School. We leave aside the lectionary and delve into the creative spirit on a new beginning. When the current group of pupils were small, we let them choose Bible stories to read and we helped them make decorations for the trees in the Sanctuary.

As they got bigger we helped them put together Nativity plays, simple, but told by the pupils in their own voices. We used this time to include additional friends in our activities. This informal evangelism makes the time particularly meaningful.

We plan to continue this tradition on Sunday, December 18th, led by the spirit emanating from our youth. We will be doing Pokémon Go (to Bethlehem). But with God’s help it will transform our group as it does each year into a band of players intent on telling the story of Christmas. An activity perfect for the Season of preparation for the Unknowable Love born to us each Christmas morning.

Hold us in your prayers always. Thank you.

Vanessa Albert Lowry  |  lowryv@gtlaw.com
People’s Warden Report

Let’s put the fun in fundraising! Pt. 2

In our Fall newsletter, I mentioned the idea of doing a Broadway cabaret fundraiser in February. Our plans are now taking shape for the Seasons of Love cabaret on Saturday, February 11th at 7:30 PM with a reception to follow the performance in the Parish Hall. Our love-themed show will be St. Mary’s valentine to Philadelphia. We plan to have around 14 performers with a grand 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 in 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 the non-theatre types that means standing room only!) More detailed audition information will be on our website and in the church bulletin during December and January.

But what we really need right now are volunteers to make the show a success! If you would like to try out, sell tickets, do publicity, greet our audience as they arrive, make decorations, or help with a reception at the end of the show, please speak with Scott Wilds, Holman Massey, Aaron Todd or me. We plan to use the money that we raise for our Outreach Ministries, with 10% going to our friends at the Nationalities Service Center. And of course, we think that it will be a lot of fun!

Please see the Community Outreach section on page 15 for more information.

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

Seasons of Love Cabaret Auditions

Saturday, January 28th from 1:00pm-4:00pm

Seeking singers ages 18 and up, who are eager to perform in a fundraising cabaret event centralized around the theme of “love”. All are welcome to sing any song from Broadway to the radio hits of today (even those songs you only sing in the shower). We just ask that you know your music when you arrive.

Contact Max Redman at max.redman90@gmail.com for more details!
Community Outreach

SEASONS OF LOVE CABARET

Saturday, February 11, 7:30PM
hosted by St. Mary's, Hamilton Village
3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Join us for a night of LOVE-filled musical theatre and popular music benefitting St. Mary's outreach ministries.

Student tickets (with ID) $10 each or 2 for $15
Adult tickets $15 each or 2 for $25

St. Mary's, Hamilton Village
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT PENN
Cook’s Corner

Bisque? No: Antipasto!

For this edition I was encouraged to do a holiday dish, and the first one that came to mind was lobster bisque. Maybe ten years ago my mother asked me if I could make one for her for the seven fishes meal on Christmas Eve. I made what is perhaps the best soup I have ever eaten, and now it is traditional.

However it’s a lot of work, and the instructions for dispatching and dismembering the live lobsters might be unseemly to publish in a parish newsletter. Besides, the glee with which I would describe the process (just one clue; I refer to lobsters as the roaches of the sea) might scare you from talking to me ever again. So we’ll move on to a dish I have had every Christmas (and Easter) for my entire life: antipasto.

My maternal grandfather and namesake Martin Lambiase made it twice a year, and I would sit right next to him watching and sneaking samples of the goodies as he laid them on the platter. I even wrote down directions one year so I’d know how to do it right when my time came. Now Grandpa (we’ll call him Marty to distinguish him) used mostly marinated canned veggies and jarred olives from the grocery store, and we were perfectly happy. But I’m fancy; I shop for most things at DiBruno’s – my grandfather would faint at the cost, but my customers are ecstatic. Just remember though, you don’t have to go fancy to be a star.

First grab a large platter. Marty would line it with Genoa salami; I add an additional salumi from DiBruno’s vast selection and a slice of sharp provolone from the deli counter and fan all three out in order to cover the plate. Then in the middle of the platter Marty would space one can of tuna fish and a can of eggplant caponata. Progresso makes the latter which you can find in the Acme in South Philadelphia. I’m exceptionally lucky – my sister Christine makes her own from the veggies from her farm share, and it’s so good I put one can of Spanish tuna in the middle and flank it with two circles of the world’s best caponata.

Next you scatter pickled, roasted, and Tuscan pepper (Acme again) at intervals around the platter and place marinated artichoke hearts, marinated mushrooms, and black (including oil cured) and green olives all around. DiBruno’s has an amazing selection of olives as well as other marinated veggies; I try to find something new every year. Fancy me tops it off with mozzarella balls, chunks of extra sharp provolone, and rolled slices of prosciutto – luxuries I do not remember Marty using. And while Marty topped things off with canned anchovies I use DiBruno’s marinated Spanish anchovies which are much prettier and taste much better. Don’t buy a lot of them though, you don’t need many to make a statement, and they are an acquired taste.

Quantities vary according to the number of diners and the size of the platter so I have not specified amounts. There are no real rules; give it a try and you will quickly become legendary. Bon appetite!

Martin Bodtmann | marbodt@aol.com
Reflections on Giving: November 16th

For those of you that don’t know me, my name is Allie Schreffler, and I am a first-year veterinary student here at Penn. This is also my fifth year as a parishioner of St. Mary’s and my third year as a member of the vestry.

One thing that I love about the modern Episcopal church is that it puts its money where its mouth is. When its clergy or parishioners claim that they believe something, they substantiate that claim with actions, often by dedicating time and money to support a cause that they believe is important.

However, we students—and young people in general—tend to excuse ourselves from the need to turn our claims into tangible actions. I know that I certainly do. But I have always wanted to be someone that acts on my convictions. This is what I want to be when I grow up.

We often don’t like to admit it, but we are growing up right now. Our words and our actions here in college shape the kinds of adults that we will become.

Of course, we are busy, and of course, we are pretty short on cash. And yet, I always seem to have time and treasure left to give. Lately, I have donated very generous amounts of time to Netflix and perhaps too much treasure to Wawa. I like to believe that Netflix and Wawa are not two of the most important things in my life. So if I have the means to give my limited resources to these two rather trivial causes, couldn’t I allocate an hour and a few dollars from those expenditures each week to give to St. Mary’s, an organization that is a significant part of my life?

That’s what I strive to do. Sometimes I succeed, and sometimes I don’t. But it’s important to me that I at least try. I believe strongly in the work that St. Mary’s does for this community and for the world beyond. If I put off supporting that belief with my actions until I have lots of money and free time or until I feel like a real live grown up, then this wonderful organization might have to wait a very long time.

Allie Schreffler | schall@sas.upenn.edu
Imagine yourself at St. Mary’s in early 1970. Richard Nixon was our president. The War in Vietnam was raging, and the Selective Service System was calling up young men to be conscripted into the U.S. Army to fight the War – an institution popularly known as the draft.

In the 1960s and ’70s many people were opposed to the War – including most St. Marians at the time. Chief among them was the Rev. John M. Scott, Rector, who was often in the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement, Integrity, an organization of gay people advocating to fully participate in the life of the Episcopal Church, as well as the Antiwar Movement.

On Friday, February 20, 1970, David Kelly, a draft resister was indicted for failing to register for the draft. With the full support of Father Scott, Kelly’s next action was a front page story in the Monday, February 23, 1970 edition of the Daily Pennsylvanian, the Penn student newspaper. The story opens:

Draft evader sheltered in local church

*Excerpts and photographs used with the kind permission of the Daily Pennsylvanian.
These paragraphs give a sense of Father Scott’s participation in David’s taking sanctuary.

Mr. Scott proposed that the marshals be confronted "with an atmosphere of celebration, which will stand in contrast to their story-faced attitude." Mr. Scott called Kelly's action "an act of freedom, an affirmation of life. When the police come in, we should propose a toast to Dave, and invite them to join us." He added, "Of course they'll refuse, because they can't drink on the job."

A small table, decked out with bread, fruit and wine has been set in preparation for the marshals' arrival, and stands in the central aisle of the church. Attached to the front of the table is a piece of cardboard with the biblical quotation: "Thou preparest a table for me in the face of my enemies."

Kelly estimated that roughly 20 people spent Saturday night with him in the poorly-heated church. About 11 yesterday morning, Mr. Scott announced to his congregation that Kelly had taken refuge in their church, after which Kelly spoke to the assembled congregation.

"The congregation reacted fairly well to the idea," Kelly commented. "Many of them came up to me afterwards and asked me questions about myself," he said.

Bearing witness to Kelly's action guided my actions regarding the draft. I agreed with him that the draft was unjust and supported an unjust war, but I did register for the draft and drew the number sixty four in the draft lottery. I matriculated at Temple University in September of 1970, and after a very rough first semester, I applied for a work study position and was hired as an assistant draft counselor and was hired by the Rev. Edward L. Lee Jr., then an Episcopal campus minister at Temple and now retired Bishop of Western Michigan and assisting bishop in our diocese.

Since I had the privilege of a student deferment from the draft, I strongly felt I had to help other young men struggling with the draft and their consciences by advising them of their rights within the Selective Service System. In the summer of 1972, a graduate social work student and I ran the Military Information Project at CCCC/An Agency for Military and Draft Counseling in Center City. There we counseled enlisted members of the armed forces on their rights such as conscientious objection to war, and assisted AWOL (absent without leave) servicemen in returning to face the military justice system and hopefully obtain at least a satisfactory discharge.

This is but one instance of how St. Mary’s Church, Hamilton Village, has practiced these words:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

-Micah 6:8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Frank Innes | finnes@alum.drexel.edu
Did you know that you can make a donation to St. Mary’s online safely and securely?

Go to www.stmarysatpenn.org and click on the “Support St. Mary’s” tab to make a one-time donation - recurring donation function coming soon!

A Prayer for Winter

O God of Incarnate Love, you came down from heaven to join us in the midst of our earthly lives, taking on our flesh and blood, our joy and heartbreak, our sorrow and solace, to become one of us—Jesus Christ, your Son. Help us to kindle the flames of Advent as we wait, preparing room for you in our hearts and our lives by doing justice in this world, waging peace, preaching repentance, growing daily in anticipation of the glorious blaze of Christmas. We offer ourselves to you, Creator, Son, Holy Spirit, and in your name we pray. Amen.