



Artwork by Lindsay Smith

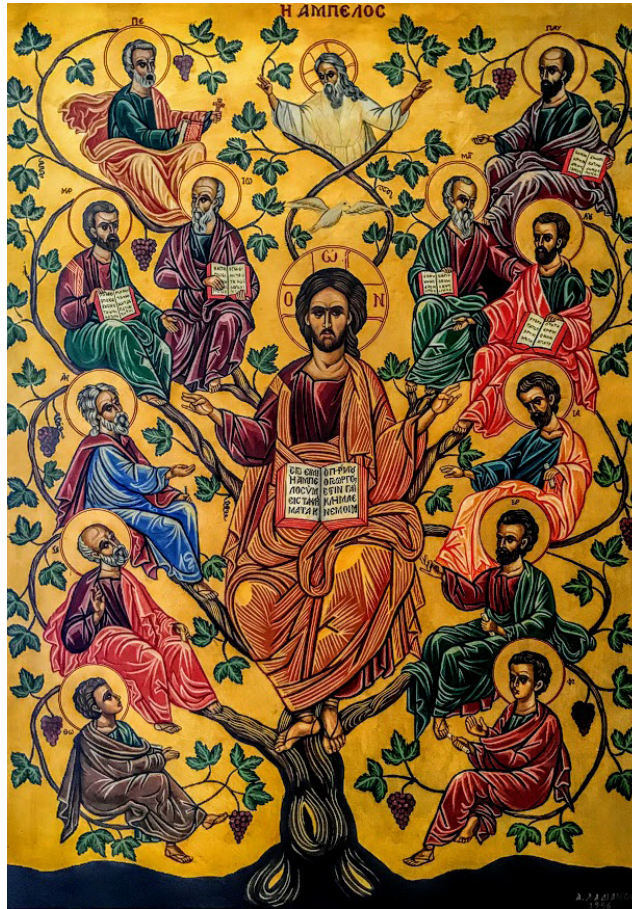
# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

*A parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania*

April 28, 2024 7:45 AM – *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Our Mission:* God is calling the people of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, Pennsylvania to follow Jesus' teaching to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Therefore we love and embrace each other, friend and stranger alike in worship, service and prayer as we seek to live in and share God's Word.

– Adopted by the St. Mary's Vestry, May 2015



John 15:1-8

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

**O** Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

**Acts 8:26-40**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

**A**n angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:24-30**

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
“May your heart live for ever!”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

**B**eloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Prayers of the People

*The Deacon or other person appointed says*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church. In our parish cycle of prayers this week, we pray for Yoshiko Seavey, Scott and Kim Scheidt, Barbara Schaefer and their families.

*After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.*

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Daniel, our Bishop, Lucy Ann our Interim Rector and for that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph our President, and Josh our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor (*Congregation reads the name aloud*) **Irene Steinhardt, Lisa Hart, Barbara Kidder, Victoria Coates, JoAnne Vereneck, Jim Cobb, Scott Ziglar, Craig and Ann Marie Erickson, Marylu Hill and her family, Magali Behrmann, and Avanya Manasseh**, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; and especially remembering all those in whose memory the flowers on the altars and the Sanctuary Light have been given, and those whom we remember on the anniversaries of their deaths this week, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**



## Invitation & Announcements

To all who are lonely and need friendship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, this church opens wide its doors and bids you WELCOME!

We welcome all visitors to St. Mary's this morning. Please sign our guest book by the front door of the Church.



**Today is Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**7:45 am** Holy Eucharist Rite I

**10:00 am** Holy Eucharist Rite II  
(livestreamed and recorded)

**10:15 am Christian Formation** Edith Helms

**11:15 am** Coffee Hour

**Acolytes:**

**7:45 am** Greg Kelleher

**10:00 am** Allyson Radford, Evangeline Rozells,  
Penny Busch

**Chalice:**

**7:45am** Greg Kelleher

**10:00am** Elizabeth Morrill

**Readers:**

**7:45 am** Balana Gullatt

**10:00 am** Toni Hoffacker, Bridget Lanouette

**Prayers of the People:** Elizabeth Morrill

**Altar Guild:** Team 4

**Live Stream:** Scott Scheidt

**Ushers:** Neal Fulton, Janice Radford, Frank Tatnall

**Parish Cycle of Prayers**

This week in our parish cycle of prayers, we pray for Yoshiko Seavey, Scott and Kim Scheidt, Barbara Schaefer and their families.

**Flowers on the High Altar and Lady Chapel Altar**

this morning are given in loving memory of Iva May Johnson, by her daughter Eleanor Johnson, deceased long time member of St. Mary's.

**The Sanctuary Light** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Jo and George Arnott.

**Please pray for those in ongoing need of our prayers and all on our parish intercession list at St. Mary's:**

Jennifer Lurie, Irene Steinhardt, Lisa Hart, Barbara Kidder, Victoria Coates, JoAnne Vereneck, Jim Cobb, Scott Ziglar, and Craig and Ann Marie Erickson, Marylu Hill and her family, Magali Behrmann, and Avanya Manasseh.

Also included on the prayer list are our friends John Paul, Peggy Wilson, Emma Cavanaugh-Kerr, Nancy Melanson, Stan Compton, Arlene, Dan Bailey, Joe Stellabotte, Father Hentzi Elek, Carole Beideman, Mike Mattingly, Dana Lips, Fionn Reid, Miriam and Kris.

The names read aloud today include St. Mary's parishioners and family members of parishioners. Please say aloud the names of your loved ones during the Prayers of the People when the lector pauses for the congregation to add their own petitions.

Please note: *Kindly let our Parish Administrator Nicole Marie know if you would like yourself or another prayed for at our services. It is our practice to take individuals off the Intercession list after four weeks unless more time is requested.*

### **Our Transition Prayer for this week:**

Pray for the Vestry and the Search Committee.

Gracious God, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on St. Mary's. Help us to be a faithful and Christ-centered community. Keep our hearts and minds open in our continuing search for a new Rector. Empower us with your Holy Spirit and keep us mindful of our calling to love our neighbors as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Transition Status Update**

The Search Committee has been working over the past month first to organize itself and set up the process, and we met last week with Canon Jane from the diocese. The meeting was very productive discussing the applications and the format of their submissions. As Canon Jane said to the Committee, she feels confident that our next Rector is among the applicants.

After the meeting last Thursday, Canon Jane e-mailed us the application packages which include a cover letter, resume, and the formal application used by the Episcopal Church. The applicants come from across the country with varying backgrounds and skill sets.

This will take more time over the next couple of months, with on line research, calls, zoom meetings, and interviews before the Committee comes to a consensus with a recommended candidate to the Vestry. Our expectation is that will happen in late Summer or early Autumn. The Canon said this fits within the "normal" 18 - 24 month time frame.

We ask that the Parish continues to pray for the Committee. Please reach out to a member of the Search Committee if you have any questions or input. Please do not ask any specific questions about applicants as we move forward respecting their confidentiality.

*- St Mary's Search Committee*

### **SERVICES THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S**

Sunday in the Church

7:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II\*

Monday-Friday in the Lady Chapel\*

9am Morning Prayer Rite II

5pm Evening Prayer Rite II

Thursday in the Lady Chapel\*

12 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing

*\*Livestreamed at St. Mary's Facebook page*

### **Workdays at the Rectory: Transition and Transformation Projects and Funding Opportunities**

We are making excellent progress in painting the Rectory interior. The third floor is completed. The entire staircase is completed and we are within striking distance of completing the four bedrooms and two bathrooms on the second floor. The 1st floor hallway and ceiling are also completed. It has been a great way to interact and prepare our rectory for our new rector. Stay tuned for information about our next workday! There is something for everyone to do, many hands make light work! If you have questions, kindly contact Allyson Radford at [Radford.allyson@gmail.com](mailto:Radford.allyson@gmail.com).

As our search for a new rector progresses, we are seeking financial support for specific work items critical to a successful and welcoming transition and transformation we are currently undergoing. Contributions to our **Transition and Transformation Projects** go directly to fund items on the work list for the Rectory, Parish Hall and Church. You can find a link for donating to the fund under the Stewardship tab on our website.

**Adult Formation** With the guidance of Erlis Wickersham, we will study the Resurrection Appearances of Jesus with close attention to each passage in the Bible which emphasizes a different aspect of this Mystery. These are three more Sunday mornings meetings through May 19, at 9 am in the Navajo Room but please note that there is no Adult Formation when we have our Merry Men breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. Come and see for yourself, what wonderful works the Lord has done! - *Psalm 46:8*. Please see the Chimes for our Discussion Topics. All are welcome!

*(<https://www.stmaryswaynepea.org/echimes>)*

**Thursday Afternoons** at 1:30pm in the Navajo Room. Please join us for our Book Study on C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*. Led by Mother Lucy Ann. Join us as we read and study together! Come anytime. The book is easy to read with lots to discuss.



**Help St. Mary's Restore Homes for Those in Need on May 11th!** "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – *Ephesians 2:10* Embrace the spirit of helping others by joining St. Mary's volunteers to repair homes and restore hope for low-income families on Saturday, May 11th. The event is organized by Good Works, a Christian nonprofit organization located in Phoenixville, PA. Any skill level is welcome. To sign up, contact Scott Scheidt at [sms9494@gmail.com](mailto:sms9494@gmail.com). Let's make this year unforgettable by creating positive change together for families in need!

### Join Us for a Special Mother's Day Breakfast!



The Merry Men are sponsoring a special Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 12th, at 8:15am in the Navajo Room, which is located in the parish hall just across from church. Please join us to celebrate the wonderful women that we have been blessed to have in our lives. All are welcome! *Please note: The Mother's Day breakfast will replace the regularly scheduled breakfast on the first Sunday in May on May 5th.*

**The Bible Study** that meets on Zoom has resumed on Mondays from 11am - 12pm. Now we are reading The Book of Psalms together. After reading from the Scripture, we discuss the passage to discover its relevance for lives today. All are always welcome to join us as we "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the meaning. Just click on the link on the homepage of the St. Mary's website under the heading "Weekly Activities." If you have any questions, feel free to speak with Twila, Erlis or Mother Lucy Ann.

**African Asylum Seekers** Thank you so much to everyone at St. Mary's who donated clothing, shoes, food and toiletries to the African refugees and asylum seekers. You were so generous! My Subaru Outback was literally stuffed to the gills with bags of clothing and boxes of non-perishables and was delivered last week. —*Rena Counsellor*. For more about this Outreach, please see the Chimes.

(<https://www.stmaryswaynepea.org/echimes>)

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped last Sunday after church with our annual spring cleanup!



**St. Mary's Book Club** The May meeting of the St. Mary's Book Club will take place on Wednesday, May 8th at 2 p.m. on Erlis Wickersham's porch, weather permitting. We will read *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. At our June 12th meeting we will read *Alfie and Me; What Owls Know, What Humans Believe* (2023) by Carl Safina. At our July 10th meeting our selection will be *Bel Canto* (2001) by Ann Patchett. There will be no book club in August. Please give the book club a try! You don't even have to read the book. The conversation is always lively (no lectures, ever!) and there are always delicious refreshments. If you have questions please contact Erlis Wickersham at [vze27g53@verizon.net](mailto:vze27g53@verizon.net)

**Housekeeping** Due to our administrative office hours, all announcements for the Sunday Bulletin and weekly Chimes Newsletter need to be submitted to our Parish Administrator, Nicole Marie by the end of the day on Tuesdays. We appreciate your understanding.

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7:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

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12 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing

*\*Livestreamed at St. Mary's Facebook page*

### **How to give to St. Mary's**

Simply point your camera at the QR code below and follow the instructions, or, to make a donation via text, simply text worship 1887, to the number 73256.



## Parish Staff

**The Reverend Lucy Ann Dure**, *Interim Rector* (lucyann@stmaryswayne.org)

**Dr. Gordon Turk**, *Organist & Choirmaster* (gturkpipes@aol.com)

**Nicole Marie, MFA**, *Parish Administrator* (nicole@stmaryswayne.org)

**Toshi and Masako Makihara**, *Property Caretakers*

## Vestry

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## St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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