

The Bellringer

Connect + Inspire + Inform

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Eugene, Oregon saint-marys.org Easter Season 2024

The Journey to Easter begins with Holy Week



Worship Services * Reflections * Renovation News* Outreach * Children & Youth News Find these and more in this edition of The Bellringer.

How We Live

Sharon L. Rodgers, Liturgist

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Thanksgiving over the water, Holy Baptism, p. 306, BCP

Many years ago I learned from a Methodist friend that someone I had known for over fifteen years had been baptized at her church at their Easter Vigil. On the one hand I was stunned - I'd always known this man to be a Jew who frankly didn't make going to temple or observing high holy days much of a priority, which is to say I'd never thought of him as someone to whom religion was terribly important. On the other hand this news wasn't surprising to me at all, since as I commented to the woman who told me, and later to the man himself in a note, I'd always thought of him as one of the most Christian people I'd ever known. Apparently at some point he started attending the Methodist Church with his wife, and really liked what he heard. "They talk about love here," he told my friend, "rather than just tradition." Evidently he attended the full series of classes designed to prepare people for baptism, and was deeply moved by the whole experience. "Did you know?" he'd ask my friend again and again, elated over one Christian teaching after another.

Remembering this delightful man, whose outdoor funeral I attended during Covid, I've been struck by how reluctant I am to ask other people about their belief's, about whether they have a religious community to whom they feel connected. It seems as though we Episcopalians try so hard not to behave like the folks who wander through neighborhoods ringing doorbells, hoping to be invited in so they can tell the now trapped homeowner about their church, that it doesn't even occur to us that someone we're talking to might actually want to know why our faith matters to us. I suspect there are far more people than we realize these days who are seeking real community, rather than simply social media followers. We need to be aware of that. There is someone being baptized at our Easter Vigil this year. Someone brought that person to St. Mary's, to a closer walk with God. Whom do we know who might benefit from hearing about why we choose to be part of St. Mary's? If speaking about our faith outside of church makes us break out in a cold sweat, possibly we could begin by talking with newcomers who have already taken the step of walking through the doors of St. Mary's. Clearly they're looking for a place to belong. We could simply share with them why St. Mary's is that place for us. In time we might actually grow bold enough to tell someone outside the walls of St. Mary's why our faith and our church home are important to us. It could happen, really it could, and it could be a very good thing.



1300 Pearl Street Eugene, Oregon 97401 Church Office 541-343-9253 Web Page: saint-marys.org "Like" us on Facebook: facebook.com/st.marys.eugene "Follow" us on Instagram: instagram.com/st.marys.eugene/

OFFICE HOURS

Current hours are 11 AM to 3 PM, Tues, Thurs, and Fri 9 AM to 3 PM Wed

CLERGY

The Rev. Bingham Powell, Rector The Rev. Ryan Baker-Fones, Assistant Rector The Rev. Nancy Crawford, Deacon

MUSIC

John Jantzi, Organist and Music Director Pam Swisher, Assistant Organist Lucy Booth, Celebrations Intergenerational Choir Director Linnae Eckley, Cherub & Joyful Noise Choirs Director (on leave) Jessica Rossi, Substitute Cherub & Joyful Noise Choirs Director Tom Trent, Liturgical Choir Director Christine Zeller-Powell, Spanish Service Pianist

OFFICE

Judy Alison, Program Support Team Assistant Email: judy@saint-marys.org Louise Fortuna, Communication and Program Coordinator and Bellringer Editor Email: louise@saint-marys.org Lana Johnson, Finance and Records Manager Email: lana@saint-marys.org Luna Molina, Building and Office Manager Email: luna@saint-marys.org

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS

Glenda Jeter, Nursery Coordinator & Care Giver The Rev. Ryan Baker-Fones, Assistant Rector for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries The Rev. Lainie Allen, Campus Chaplain

VESTRY

Flossie Barnhart, Senior Warden David Turner, Junior Warden Hillary Kittleson Lisa Kovacevic Don Metheny Maria Pastrana Eunji Park Hatsue Sato Victoria Smithweiland Jonny Strain Peter Verrey Vacant Vestry seat to be filled Mary Anne McMurren, Clerk Ron Scharfer, Treasurer

Palm Sunday - March 24

8:00 AM Blessing of the Palms, Passion Gospel, and Holy Eucharist.

9:30 AM Blessing of the Palms, Passion Gospel, and Holy Eucharist. The 9:30 AM service begins with a congregational procession around the church, starting in the narthex. Children and youth are invited to help lead the procession with instruments and palms. Arrive by 9:20 AM to help lead. The service includes a dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel. Following the service we will have coffee hour and an all-ages Paschal candle making activity up in Berktold Hall.

11:00 AM Blessing of the Palms, Passion Gospel, and Holy Eucharist. The 11 AM service includes a setting of the Passion according to Saint Mark, sung by the Liturgical Choir. This service is livestreamed on the main page of our website: saint-marys.org

1:30 PM Liturgia de las Palmas, La Eucaristía, y Evangelio de la Pasión

Stations of the Cross - Tuesday, March 26

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Explore an ancient tradition as we walk the Stations of the Cross. There will be readings, prayers, and music to engage us in Christ's final steps.

Maundy Thursday - March 28

5:30 PM Maundy Thursday for Children and Families, Followed by a Simple Supper

Join us as we explore Jesus' last night with his disciples. This simplified service is designed with a particular focus on children, however everyone is welcome. Sign up for the dinner, so we know how much to prepare.

7:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Foot-washing, Stripping of the Altar

This is a busy night. We move from places of warmth and service, of washing feet, calls to love, and Jesus' last meal with his disciples, to anguish in the garden, betrayal, and desolation. In the distance we begin to hear the sounds of crucifixion. This service is livestreamed on the main page of our website: saint-marys.org

8:30 PM Thursday until Noon of Good Friday Altar of Repose Vigil

A vigil is kept at the Altar of Repose from the close of Maundy Thursday services to the beginning of the Mass of the Pre-sanctified Eucharist. At least two people are needed for each hour of the vigil. One person is a "Watch" at the Altar of Repose and the other is a "Guard" by the alley door. Sign up at church on Sunday or online at https://signup.com/go/Zcynnyp. Please call the office if you need assistance signing up.

Good Friday - March 29

Noon Mass of the Pre-sanctified Eucharist

Take this time to go to the cross with Jesus in scripture, prayer, and music. Holy Communion blessed at the Maundy Thursday Eucharist (pre-sanctified) is distributed.

Watch the website and your emails for livestream details about the Holy Week services.

The Altar of Repose

The Altar of Repose vigil is kept from the close of Maundy Thursday services (March 28 at 8:30 PM) to the beginning of the Good Friday Mass of the Pre-sanctified Eucharist (March 29 at noon).

"They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated." – Mark 14:32-33

After the Last Supper, but before his arrest, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. The Altar of Repose is an opportunity to watch and pray with Jesus on his final night and draw closer to Jesus.

Parishioners take turns praying at the church through the night. There are two spots to fill for each hour. The GUARD position is like the disciples taken to the Garden of Gethsemane. The WATCH position is like Peter, James, and John who were invited to stay closer to Jesus and he went off to pray. More than one person can fill a slot, but we do need to fill up all of the slots.

Sign up at church on Sunday or online at signup.com/go/Zcynnyp. Please call the office if you need assistance signing up.



St. Mary's Altar of Repose is set up on

Holy Saturday - March 30

8:00 PM Easter Vigil & Solemn High Eucharist, Rite II

The Easter Vigil service includes the Lighting of the Paschal Candle, the Exsultet, and the Great Vigil. Note: the service will include the use of incense.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!



Easter/El Día de Pascua - March 31

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Flowering of the Cross by the Children and Youth. Music for this service will include a brass quartet. Children's Easter Egg Hunts (by age group) will follow the service. Bring a basket for your children to fill with Easter eggs!

11:00 AM Solemn High Eucharist Rite II

includes the fuller ceremonial practices of the church, including the use of incense. Music by the Liturgical Choir and a brass quartet. This service is livestreamed on the main page of the website: saint-marys.org.

1:30 PM Santa Eucaristía

Accessibility • Safety • Hospitality Environmental Responsibility

For our latest updates, visit the renovation page of our website: saintmarys.org/renovation or use your phone camera to scan this QR code.



Key points:

- We are back to our regular office hours this week!
- We are ahead of schedule and demolition of the last main level section (the main level offices, Guild Room, hallways, and small kitchen) will continue this week.
- We will take a pause for Holy Week and Easter!
- Asbestos abatement of the narthex, work room, and choir room are complete!
- Many work room items, including the copier and paper cutter, have been moved to the Judy Alison/Sunday School team shared office in the Sunday School wing. If you need access and don't know how to get to them, please find a staff member to help you.
- Several items, such as office and Guild Room furniture, have been moved offsite for the duration of the project.
- Temporary arrangements have been made to allow our ministries to continue during construction, so you will notice rough flooring and some roped off areas.

Questions? Please ask Terrie S, the Rev. Bingham Powell, Flossie B, or Louise Fortuna.



One of our office assistants working from the temporary desk.

Music News



Join St. Mary's Pop Up Choir! Celebrations Intergenerational Choir

Have you heard that singing in a choir can help you feel happier? St. Mary's Pop Up Choir is a great opportunity to find out for yourself! Just three rehearsals: Sundays April 28 and May 5 and Saturday May 11. All rehearsals will be at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. We sing at the 9:30 Pentecost service on May 19. You don't have to be a regular 9:30 attendee to join this pop up choir. Invite a friend to join you, too!



A Special Musical Sunday with our Liturgical Choir

At the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, June 2, our Liturgical Choir will be singing *Missa Pange Lingua* by Josquin des Prez. Based on a Sarum Plainchant (number 166 in Hymnal 1982), it is considered one of the greatest works of the early 16th century. The composer expands the chant melodies into long, expressive phrases that are echoed by the other voices.

Gather Youth Fellowship! (6th-12th grade)

Join us once a month for fun, food, and community!

Saturday, April 20, Diocesan Youth Event for Earth Day @Saint Thomas, Eugene, and The Grassroots Garden, 1465 Coburg Rd, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Join youth from around the diocese to learn about food production and food insecurity. Help work in the garden and enjoy a shared meal. Sing, pray, and reflect together on the gift of our Earth and how we can better care for her. Look for a sign-up link coming from the diocese!

Sunday, May 19, 6:30-8 p.m., meet at St. Mary's and walk together to 5th Street Market to explore the shops and enjoy Ice Cream at Handel's (dairy-free options available)

Sunday, June 23, *Activity TBD by youth! Hike? Wave Pool? Or?

Upcoming Events

Holy Week

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross, come trace the route of Jesus from his condemnation to his crucifixion, to the placement of his body in the tomb.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. Join us as we explore Jesus' last night with his disciples. This simplified service is designed with a particular focus on children, however everyone is welcome. Contact the church to sign up for the dinner, so we know how much to prepare.

Sunday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. service, Rite-13 service

number two! Rite-13 recognizes an important step toward independence and differentiation, affirming adolescence and all of its joys, struggles, and growth, inviting God's presence and blessing. The Rite-13 ceremony invites the wider St. Mary's community to recognize, support, and hold up these young people and their families as they make this transition.

Sunday School Celebration and Appreciation, June 2, after 9:30 a.m. service, say thanks to all your teachers and enjoy a special coffee hour after church in Berktold Hall.



Summer Camp at Suttle Lake

Summer Events

Sign-up for church camp in July!

July-Summer Church Camp at Suttle Lake!

The Suttle Lake Camp Experience: While each camp program is unique, there are a number of things that each camper who comes to Suttle Lake Camp will experience!

- God's Creation
- Learning to Embody God's Love
- Fun, Engaging Activities
- Celebrating a connection with others & the Earth
- Caring and Skilled Mentors
- Yummy Meals that Nurture & Teach
- Comfortable Bunks & Baths

Episcopal Week One: July 15-20 Episcopal Week Two: July 22-26

ecwo.org/camp/

Latino Camp, June 22-28, contact Beto Arciniega+, betoa@diocese-oregon.org

Saturday-Sunday, August 3-4, Diocesan Overnight Youth Event at the Coast, St. James, Lincoln City, sign up at ecwo.org

Saturday, August 17, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Pilgrimage Parking Lot Sale!

All who identify themselves as women are invited to our events.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Let us with grateful hearts celebrate and share the small things in life.

Our first UTO Ingathering since Covid collected over \$650 to support the next cycle of grants from this ministry begun by Episcopal Church women. Thanks to all who contributed and to those who helped at each of our Sunday services. As described in Deacon Nancy's sermon about the history of UTO, these funds provide grants to communities around the world - from supporting playground construction in Newberg, Oregon to musical internships for vulnerable youth in Brazil. The coins and bills we put into our "little blue boxes" also bring us the benefits of gratitude practice. Each thankful thought with each thankful penny or dime deposited, opens a little window of sunshine in our own minds. My dance teacher, Robert Schwartz, is a great fan of the mind-body connection, and he wrote to remind me to mention that there is a neurological and hormonal response to gratitude that reinforces positive behaviors, reduces stress, and reinforces neural pathways associated with optimism (just like ballroom dancing). We have plenty of blue boxes for you to use in 2024, but with the ongoing construction, they may not be out in the narthex. Please contact me if you would like one to use this year -- an opportunity to warm the heart AND open the mind, one coin and grateful thought at a time.

Questions? Please contact Michelle Wood, UTO Coordinator for St. Mary's, through the church office.



We are looking for two - or three - level serving trays for tea sandwiches or pastries, to be used at church receptions. China, crystal, and silver styles are all welcome. This is an opportunity to declutter a bit, and to find a new purpose for Aunt Tillie's lovely wedding gift.

If you have such a serving tray, please contact Nancy Crawford so we can arrange the delivery during this ever-changing construction time at the church.

Church Women United (CWU)

is a movement of women from various Christian faith communities. Women find unity in diversity, and come together to work for a world of peace and justice. Monthly events are announced in the St. Mary's weekly News emails, and posted on the ECW bulletin board in the church.



"Exploring Transformative Justice" - Theme – 2024 Learning about ways we can move toward climate justice and racial justice. Can we discard or reform prevalent notions of patriarchy, capitalism, and anthropocentrism?

You are invited to gather with others on Friday, April 5 at 10 AM for a Church Women United forum. The women of Wesley United Methodist Church (1385 Oakway Road, Eugene) are hosting this gathering. The Rev. Allan Buck from Great Spirit United Methodist Church in Portland will be the guest speaker.

We will be having our May Friendship Day Celebration on Saturday, May 4. The women at St. Jude's Catholic Church (4330 Willamette Street, Eugene) will be welcoming everyone to their church at 10 AM. The program so far will include a look at one of the Summer Fun Fund recipients – HOSEA. Also, the League of Women Voters have been invited to discuss the STAR voting program. Watch the St. Mary's Tuesday email news for more details.

For more information, contact Katharine Hunt.

Outreach News

Outreach Ministry Council

Katharine H.

The Outreach Ministry Council met in February and voted to allocate \$1200 towards the White Bird ID Program. They also decided to discontinue Love In Action lunches at this time. Rather the council is encouraging different ministries to host a coffee hour. For example, Earth Stewards hosted the coffee hour on March 10, sharing ways we can individually and as community of faith take care of creation.

The Outreach Ministry Council will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. on April 15. Watch for a notice closer to the date for the assigned room. If you have questions or suggestions but are not able to attend please let Katharine H. know.

Blue Bag Bottle and Can Recycling Lana J.

Did you get to see the impressive display of overflowing blue bags during coffee hour on Sunday, March 3? This ministry led by Lana J. is working! Since she initiated it a few years ago we have been able to raise enough funds to pay for 3 Community Supported Shelter huts. The third hut was dedicated in mid-March. Thank you for doing double duty! First by recycling your beverage cans and bottles and then doing it at church so we are able to help house people in our community.

If you would like to help with this ministry by transporting the blue bags to the recycle depot please contact a member of the church staff. We need more volunteers.



Adopting our THIRD CSS hut!

That's My Farmer Katharine H.

Were you able to take part in the fundraiser last fall when the That's My Farmer Committee along with Party Downtown put on a fantastic dinner? The food was donated by the farmers. The funds raised are now being divided up between the farmers so that they will be able help those who can least afford it have a Community Supported Agriculture Food Share this season. Thank you for participating in this important ministry. If you would like a list of the TMF farms please contact Katharine H. directly or through the office.



Saturday Breakfast to go

Saturday Breakfast Dick Z.

With the generosity of this congregation, the fundraisers of late Fall and SouperBowl Sunday brought in over \$10,000. That puts us on a good trajectory for having sufficient funds for this ministry during 2024. We may need a bit more in donations before next Fall, but the willingness of St. Mary's and other friends in this community to step up to this need is incredible. Thank you.

During Lent I spent some time thinking about hunger and homelessness. We aren't going to solve it through Saturday Breakfast; the problem continues and it is growing nationally. Some of it is a drug problem. Fentanyl is now in almost any drug purchased on the street. That is an intentional strategy of dealers who are trying to hook people on the worst, most addictive drug

Outreach News

around. But drugs are not most of the problem. Neither is mental health, per se: Affordable housing and an economy that provides a sufficient basic income for everyone is the only rational solution. If I am to ask myself, what do I want for people who are homeless, my answer is fairly simple: Relief from the insecurity of homelessness, a stable and secure place to live with enough food to eat, heat for cold winters and cooling when the summer heat becomes extreme, clean clothing, basic healthcare, the chance to engage with others and be valued in the community.

That doesn't seem like much. It certainly pales in comparison to what I take for granted in my daily existence. But what should I do about it? I can't realistically say that it is up to them to pull themselves up by their bootstraps when over half of Oregonians may be one paycheck away from losing their housing. This is a larger problem that needs a larger solution and I feel it incumbent to contribute meaningfully to larger solutions.



Student Food Pantry shelves

St. Mary's Food Pantry Ministry Katharine H. & Ty Z.

Thank you for including an item for the pantry basket every Sunday. The food gathered is taken up to the altar and blessed during the 9:30 a.m. service. It is then divided between two pantries: FISH on Maxwell Rd. and the Student Food Pantry. If you are interested in this ministry, volunteers are always welcome. Let Katharine H. or Ty Z. know if you are interested in this ministry.



REJOICE! Betsy H.

Spring is on its way; the plants are poking their leaves out of the soil and the bees and other insects are slowly waking up. As the weather warms, you soon will be able to enjoy your beautiful yard. Although grass is better for the environment than a hard surface like concrete, it is not the best habitat for the little critters. Ideally, if you had the time and money, replacing your grass with a rain garden, native plants, a ground cover like clover, raised beds for growing vegetables, and/or bee and butterfly friendly flowers would be a good option. You may not be willing or able to replace your lawn. If that is the case, here are a few things you can do that would make your yard more eco-friendly.

- Reduce the amount of time you water your lawn, or stop watering altogether
- Eliminate fertilizers or use natural ones
- Eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides (pulling weeds is a meditative experience)
- Mulch wherever possible, especially your grass clippings
- Plant bee and butterfly friendly plants in a container if you don't have room in your yard for a flower bed
- Compost your yard waste
- Purchase an electric or manual mower when needing a replacement

As you enjoy your yard, watch for those insects and look for new plants. You may be surprised at what lives in your yard. Happy spring and good gardening!



Newcomer Dinner Wednesday, April 17

We are excited to host another newcomer dinner! If you consider yourself a newcomer, this event is for you!

5:30-7 PM Dinner, dessert, and program

The whole family is invited. Child care will be available.

RSVP to Louise@saint-marys.org or 541-343-9253 by Friday, April 12.

> Have **dietary restrictions?** Please let us know when you RSVP.



This year's Giving Day will be May 5th! Watch for information on how you can join us in offering your gratitude to God, celebrating the St. Mary's community, and supporting our ministries.

Vestry News

The Vestry is the elected governing body of the church. St. Mary's vestry consists of 12 lay members of the congregation and the rector. Each year, at the Annual Meeting, four members are elected to three-year terms. After a new Vestry is commissioned at the annual meeting, they have a retreat to bond, connect, and jump start their work for the year. The Vestry typically meets on the second Tuesday of most months.



Vestry members pose for a group photo during their 2024 retreat in Florence, Oregon.

Vestry Goals 2024

Every year at their annual retreat, the Vestry selects two to three goals for the year. For 2024, they selected the following goals:

Carbon Neutrality Ministry Review

In 2022, the Vestry voted to become Carbon Neutral by 2030. In 2023, the Vestry developed a road map for how to achieve this goal. This year, the Carbon Neutrality Ministry Review Vestry Goal Group will work collaboratively with St. Mary's ministries and programs to understand and recommend changes that would generate less carbon.

Community

In the aftermath of the pandemic, community is more diminished and strained than ever. The Community Vestry Goal Group will research the concept of community, learn about best practices for building and revitalizing community, and offer recommendations for St. Mary's.

News of the Family



The March 2024 Rite 13 Ceremony

Rite 13 Ceremony

J.P., Elsie, Sebastian, Malcolm, Mina, and Alex

All-holy God, source of every blessing: We thank you for the mystery of growing up, the transformation of the body, mind, and spirit that brings children to adulthood. We marvel in this and all your works. Give these parents and young people grace and courage, patience and good humor, respect and compassion, and unfailing hope, as they travel together through life, united in Christ and his household, the Church. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (from the Rite 13 Ceremony, Journey to Adulthood curriculum)

Deaths in our parish family

Nicolas Baz, Penny Berktold, Scott Starlin

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of brother and sisters; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

> (from the burial service in the Book of Common Prayer, pg. 497)

Rector's Closing Thoughts

Happy Easter! The world celebrates Easter as a singular day with rabbits, eggs, and candy. And while we can have fun doing that too, we also get to enjoy Easter as a 50-day celebratory season of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the ultimate sign that death never gets the final word. Week after week, we will cry out: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! We say these words when they reflect our own joy, and we also say them as a resistance to the nihilistic voice in this world trying to pull us into deathly despair.

Easter is a season of [W]e will cry out: season of Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! . . . look as a resistance to the nihilistic voice new life in this world trying to pull us into deathly despair.

joy, but it is also a hope as we forward to popping up all around us. There is literal new

life such as green shoots peeking

out of the soil, buds appearing on the fruit trees, and fawns grazing in the meadow. There is the feeling of hope that longer, sunnier, and drier days often bring us. There is also the hope of new life in addictions healed, relationships repaired, and obstacles overcome.

We here at St. Mary's are looking in hope to the new life that our renovation will bring us as our building becomes more hospitable, accessible, safe, and environmentally responsible. It is certainly a challenge as we navigate the construction, but we look in hope to the transformation that we are creating. We are making St. Mary's a more welcoming space that better reflects our welcoming hearts and dreams. Celebrate in joy and hope with me this

season.

Bingham+



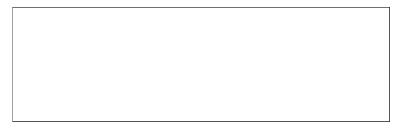
The Rev. Bingham Powell Rector of St. Mary's



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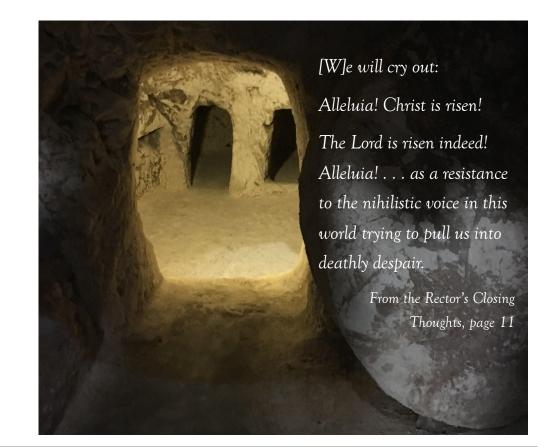
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Easter Season 2024



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All are welcome at St Mary's, no matter what age, ethnicity or race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic and social circumstances.