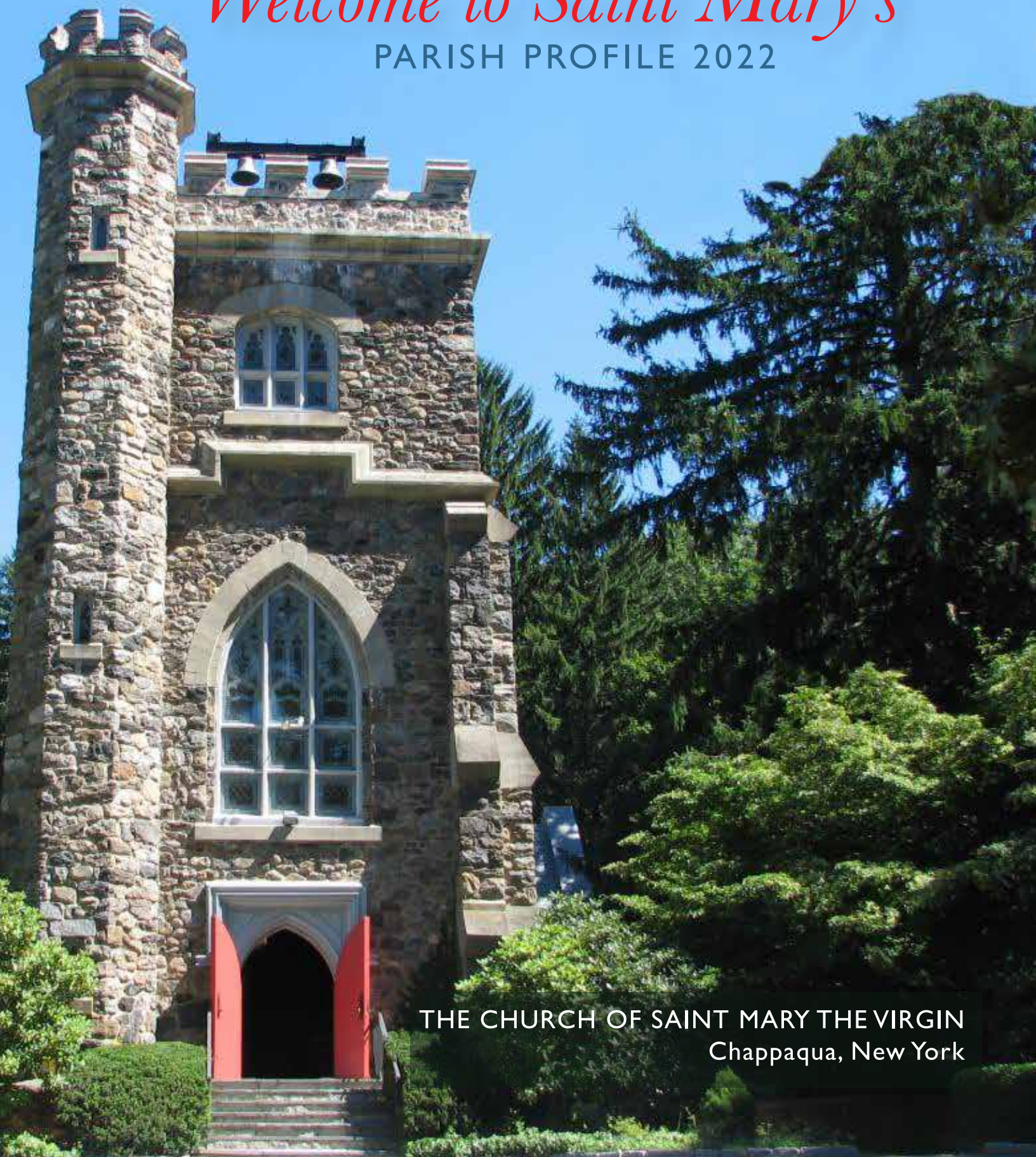


Welcome to Saint Mary's

PARISH PROFILE 2022



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
Chappaqua, New York



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OUR MISSION

We are called to be a holy people who witness God's love to the world and serve others. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel, build the church, and provide an environment for worship, learning, and service by encouraging congregational participation.



Welcome: An Introduction to Saint Mary's

Saint Mary the Virgin is a special place to its parishioners. We are blessed with a beautiful physical setting for our worship, but more importantly, we feel part of a spiritual community. We are a family that supports and encourages each other in our daily life and faith. Our parishioners are blessed with many resources that they offer to help enrich the life of our parish community.

Although the pandemic has brought changes to our life at Saint Mary's, the Vestry has worked hard to keep the parish active and financially viable during this time, going the extra mile to fulfill its duties and urge parishioners to lend their talents to help keep things running. For instance, we have continued to worship while maintaining social distance, while also providing live streaming of our services. Sunday School has been offered in person in a flexible manner to address family needs. Despite recent challenges, we have continued to mount community events and family programs, including multiple outreach efforts to our community charities to address the needs of our neighbors. Additionally, our children and youth have led efforts to collect gifts for less fortunate children at Christmas time and to support hunger relief programs. These highlights of our dynamic and vibrant parish community are described in more detail on the pages that follow.

While we conduct our search, it is essential that our parishioners feel connected to an active worship community during this time of transition and the pandemic. We have been fortunate to find a part-time Interim Priest to offer Holy Eucharist two Sundays a month, with parishioners leading Morning Prayer on the alternate Sundays. During warmer months we have worshipped at our outside altar in Greeley Grove, a tranquil and historic stand of trees on the church property.

Saint Mary's is eager to find a new priest to lead us. Respondents to our Parish Survey consistently expressed the hope that our next priest will help support our current community while also attracting new families. With hopes that we are over the worst of the pandemic, we look forward to the calling of a new priest to nurture and guide us on our spiritual journey.

Our Church

BEGINNINGS

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin was originally built as a private chapel in memory of Muriel Clendenin, child of the Rev. Dr. Frank Montrose Clendenin and Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin, daughter of Horace Greeley. When Muriel died of polio at the age of five, Father Clendenin built a chapel on four acres of land donated by his wife. The cornerstone was laid in 1904, and the chapel was consecrated on June 21, 1906. The family is buried in the private cemetery at the rear of the church.



The church and Greeley Grove behind it are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places; below, current views of the church and rectory.



The chapel became a mission under the Episcopal Diocese of New York in 1913, and three years later the Clendenins transferred title to both church and land to the Diocese. Saint Mary's was incorporated as a parish in 1943.

OUR CHURCH AND GROUNDS

The campus of Saint Mary the Virgin consists of three buildings: (1) the 1906 church, with Baptistry added in 1955; (2) the two-story Parish Hall, built in 1951, with administrative offices, meeting hall, classrooms, kitchen, and library; and (3) the three-story Rectory, a single-family house standing just to the south.



Constructed of native fieldstone in Gothic Revival style, the church is modeled on the 15th-century Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Monken Hadley, England. A window from ca. 1400 from that church was given to us in 1906 by its Rector and Wardens and is now incorporated into the stained-glass window in our northern transept. Over the years we have maintained ties with our sister church, most recently in 2019, with a visit there on their 525th anniversary.



Next to the church is Greeley Grove, a stand of majestic evergreens, with a stone altar for outdoor services, a labyrinth for walking prayer or meditation, and a memorial garden. Greeley Grove is also the scene of lively festive occasions: the Easter Egg Hunt, the Blessing of the Animals on Saint Francis Day, and, along with the Great Lawn in front of the church, the Strawberry Festival in early June.

Once a year the Great Lawn in front of the church is transformed for this festival, and the area is dotted with tents offering handmade crafts, food, games, and live music. It is a day of family fun to which the whole town is invited.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

On June 21, 2006, a Festival Eucharist was held to celebrate Saint Mary's Centennial. Portions of the liturgy were adapted from the original Service of Dedication and Consecration held exactly a century earlier.



UNIVERSAL ACCESS

In 2012, a Universal Access project provided a new walkway to the Parish Hall, eliminated the steps at the entry, and added a unisex, handicapped-accessible bathroom. For the church, an entrance ramp with handrails was added through the Sacristy. All parishioners and visitors are now afforded easy access into both the church and Parish Hall.

Our Community



A signpost marking Chappaqua's Quaker history; Horace Greeley House (now a museum); and below, views of town and the train station.



HISTORY

Chappaqua, officially part of the town of New Castle, was originally farmed by the Algonquians, who called it Shah-pah-ka, “rustling wind in leaves.” Quakers began settling in the area in 1730, building a Meeting House in 1753 (still in use today), along with several 18th-century houses in the Historic District west of the current town center.

Besides playing an important role in the founding of Saint Mary's, Horace Greeley and his family are also very much a part of Chappaqua history. Founder of the *Herald Tribune* and presidential candidate who lost to Ulysses S. Grant in 1872, Greeley purchased land in 1853 for a farm and summer home in the hamlet. In addition to donating the land and chapel that is now Saint Mary's, his daughter Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin later gave property to the town where Bell School, Chappaqua Library, the Town Hall, and the train station now stand.

LOCATION

Some 35 miles north of New York City, Chappaqua is a community that offers residents the best of both worlds: an attractive suburban community and proximity to the city. Frequent trains leave for the city during the day, arriving at Grand Central Terminal in under an hour.





Shops along South Greeley Avenue.

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

Chappaqua is well-known for its excellent public schools; many families move here for that very reason. Approximately 3,500 students attend its three elementary schools, two middle schools, and highly-ranked high school.

Chappaqua is a friendly, family-oriented town. One inevitably sees familiar faces along the sidewalk when running errands, stopping for coffee, or shopping at the weekly Farmers Market during warmer months. Spacious town parks, quiet nature sanctuaries and the paved North County Trailway offer year-round recreational opportunities for residents to enjoy.

Along with other houses of worship, Saint Mary's participates in the Chappaqua Interfaith Council, which provides opportunities for dialogue, learning, social interaction and public service. This includes the annual Chappaqua Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Dinner, an event that brings together hundreds of community members for worship and a shared meal.



Saint Mary's is located on South Greeley Avenue in the heart of town, nestled between the Chappaqua Library and Bell Middle School. We are across the street from the Town Hall, playing fields, and a gazebo for summer concerts. It is within easy walking distance of the train station, shops, eating places, banks, and other businesses. During the week, the church's carillon of ten bells chimes the quarter hour, our musical "signature" in the hamlet.

Clockwise from upper left: Chappaqua train station, North County Trailway, Gedney Pond, and an evening in the town's summer concert series.



Liturgy

Saint Mary the Virgin is a progressive and inclusive parish in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. By “progressive,” we mean a Christian community that aspires to accept human diversity, advocate social justice, care for the poor and the oppressed, and be stewards of the earth.

We welcome all individuals and families to join in worship and explore their lives as Christians, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, politics or economic station. We are a caring community committed to the Gospel and the traditions of the Episcopal Church and believe that all who seek God are welcome at God’s table. We invite all who feel moved to do so to receive the Eucharist, and anyone may come forward to receive a blessing from the priest.

Pre-pandemic, our Sunday worship services were held at 8:00 AM (Rite I) and at 10:00 AM (Rite II). The Rite I liturgy has more traditional language, no music, and is more contemplative in nature. For the Rite II liturgy, we use the *Book of Common Prayer* and *Enriching Our Worship*, and the service is enhanced by live music: hymns led by the choir, service music, an offertory anthem, preludes and postludes.

Since the pandemic and the retirement of our Rector in September 2021, we consolidated our Sunday services into one service at 9:30 AM using Rite II. Currently, our Interim Priest comes twice a month to celebrate Holy Eucharist with us. On the alternate Sundays, parishioners lead Morning Prayer. We have continued with live music on both organ and piano, and the choir has recently returned to enrich our worship experience once again.

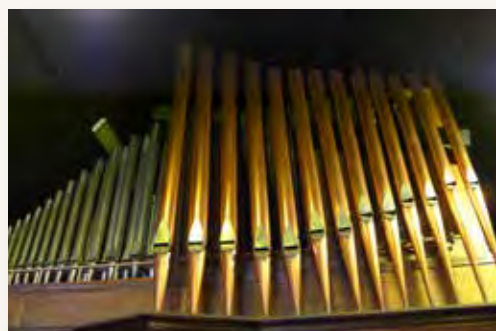


Music



Music and the arts are central to our mission, and Saint Mary's has a rich tradition of featuring different types of music. Besides offering regular live choral, organ and piano music, we often welcome instrumentalists from within the parish as well as friends from outside the congregation to augment our worship experience.

The church organ, upgraded in 2007 and dedicated to the memory of a beloved former Music Director, is an acoustic-digital hybrid that blends older pipe ranks with electronic voices ranging from 32-foot pipes to orchestral instruments. A baby grand piano, graciously donated to the church several years ago by a parishioner, lends further variety to our weekly Sunday services.



During the pandemic, when singing was not possible, the choir kept in touch through Zoom meetings and personal outreach by the Music Director. Known for performing *a cappella*, the choir has recently resumed singing every Sunday.

Pre-Covid, concerts and recitals have been presented by parishioners and friends of Saint Mary's, as well as by students of the Music Director. Our Artists-in-Residence program features *Ars Antiqua*, a period-instrument ensemble comprised of leading baroque music specialists. Receptions have been hosted afterwards in our Parish Hall by Susan Lawrence, a popular caterer located in Chappaqua.



Christian Education

Our Christian Education program aims to provide lifelong opportunities for learning and growing. A Lenten Series brings parishioners into a small-group setting to engage more deeply with such topics as “The Journey to Easter” and “The Purpose of Prayer.” We have also hosted community talks on topics of social justice, including a recent “Conversation about Race,” led by our former Rector and Deacon, with Zoom discussions that followed on “Shrinking the Racial Divide.”

Saint Mary’s also has a strong tradition of programming for families throughout the year. Under the guidance of our part-time director, the Church School offers Sunday lessons during the school year and a variety of special events, including a Welcome Back Picnic (first day of Sunday School), Blessing of the Backpacks, Blessing of the Animals on Saint Francis Day, Christmas pageant, Easter Egg Hunt, and Mother’s Day service led by the children and youth. For our youth, we offer a Confirmation class as well as outreach activities and social events.

With the pandemic, many families paused their attendance at church, and our current Christian Education program remains much smaller in scale. We hope to find someone who can help us reconnect with our families and attract new ones.



Parish Activities and Fellowship

Fellowship is an important and well-loved part of parish life at Saint Mary's. Before pandemic restrictions, we offered many opportunities for our community to come together, including a post-service coffee hour hosted by a rotating series of families that provides an opportunity to linger. At our Annual Meeting and "Souper Bowl" Sunday, we share a simple lunch of soup sold by the youth to benefit the local food pantry.

We host many special events throughout the year. On the first Saturday in June, our historic Strawberry Festival takes over our property, where parishioners work side-by-side to offer face painting, children's games, grilled fare, fresh baked goods, live musical entertainment and, of course, strawberry shortcake. Shortly thereafter, we celebrate the end of the Church School year with a parish-wide picnic after Sunday's service.

At our annual Auction Dinner in the fall, members enjoy each other's company in an informal setting with themes ranging from Après Ski to Flower Power. On Thanksgiving, a game of "turkey football" for families is often organized by members on the lawn. At Christmas time, members meet to green the church and make Advent wreaths in preparation for the holidays. Our children put together a wonderful Christmas Pageant with readings and live music.

In recent years, we have added a Pumpkin Patch to our calendar on the same weekend as the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, a popular town event. In addition to selling pumpkins and homemade baked goods, we offer family photo and picnic opportunities.

Throughout the year, parishioners are also welcome to contribute to our communications efforts, whether with items of note for our weekly parish email, or with articles, event notices, news and photographs for our monthly online newsletter, *The Bell*.





Ministries

There are many ways that parishioners at Saint Mary's may engage in spiritual work or help enrich the life of the parish. The following list of ministries reflects a range of opportunities for parishioner participation:

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Choir Members
- Greeters
- Hosts for Coffee Hour
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Morning Prayer Leaders
- Ushers
- Vestry Commissions

In addition, the Good Saint Maryans volunteer to bring aid and assistance to anyone in need in the parish community. This covers anything from a ride to the doctor, a trip to the supermarket, the delivery of meals if someone is home with illness or a new baby, or simple companionship at a time of need.



Outreach

Life at Saint Mary's extends beyond our Sunday worship. In recent years, we have supported a variety of programs in our local community and beyond. These include **A-HOME**, providing support for affordable housing; **Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester**, providing a safe and fun place for children to learn and grow within the community; **The Children's Center at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**, providing aid to children of incarcerated mothers and grandmothers; **Emergency Shelter Partnership**, offering short-term, emergency shelter for those who need it during the winter; **Hope's Door**, sheltering women and children in Westchester County; **Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville**, feeding the hungry in our community and neighboring towns; **Midnight Run**, providing clothing, food and general aid to the homeless in NYC; **Neighbors Link**, providing education and assistance for immigrants in Northern Westchester County; **Second Chance Foods**, collecting and preparing food that would otherwise be wasted and distributing it to those in need in Westchester County.

Our annual "Advent Giving Tree" offers another opportunity for parishioners to help our neighbors. Various community charities make requests for specific gifts for individuals and families. These gift requests are written on the back of ornaments that are decorated by Sunday School children and attached to a Christmas tree. Parishioners take ornaments from the tree and then fulfill the requests by delivering the gifts to different organizations.





Our Finances

The overall financial picture at Saint Mary's is stable, with a generally favorable long-term outlook.

In a typical pre-Covid year, Saint Mary's expenses would total about \$325,000 per year. Up to 40% of that would be for stipend and other benefits for our full-time priest, and another 25-30% for three staff members: the parish administrator, the music director, and Church School director. Our annual Diocesan assessment (apportioned share) has typically been approximately 10% of our total expenses.

Revenues each year tend to come in at close to the total expense number, with a small surplus or deficit as the likely final result. Pledges typically account for 80% or more of total revenue, with another up to 15% in total from two annual fundraising events, the Strawberry Festival in June and the Auction Dinner in the fall. These events could not be held during the pandemic, but are planned to resume in 2022. In their absence, the parish was fortunate to receive a grant from the Diocese as well as two Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans that were forgiven.

The number of pledges in recent years has been about 50 to 55. Only ten pledges account for about 55-60% of total pledge income. There is a desire both to increase the total number of pledges and reduce reliance on a small number of parishioners.

Saint Mary's has not had a substantial endowment to provide a supplement to current revenues or a cushion in case problems arise. However, an unrestricted gift of \$100,000 was made in 2021 to establish a "Cornerstone Fund," which gives us the confidence to continue to have a full-time priest as our pastor. The parish has also been informed of and anticipates receipt of a large bequest intended to support buildings and grounds improvements, maintenance and repairs.



What Parishioners Say About Our Community...

Saint Mary's is welcoming and has always strived to foster a sense of community.

Provides a space for a spiritual life to be nurtured; provides a caring community both within our walls and through outreach projects.

Our Outreach program has always been important and meaningful, connecting our spiritual practice with social responsibility.

I love our outdoor Sunday services because they provide an easy on-ramp for new families with young children to attend a service and meet new people.

...And Hopes for Our Next Priest and the Future

In our search for a priest, it would be important to me that s/he help us to cultivate our relationship with God and discern how to build our community and use/share our gifts.

We need to think creatively about how we can revitalize our community this year, focusing on young new families.

It's important to have a minister who connects with families of school-age children and younger children.

Looking forward to seeing what this search can bring to Saint Mary's on our journey together: to keep this special place viable, active, and an important/influential member of the community around us.



Contact Information

Candidates to be our next priest are invited to send Letters of Interest, Resumés and OTM Portfolios by May 22, 2022, to:

The Search Committee at search.smtv2022@gmail.com

Please send a copy to The Rev. Canon Nora Smith, Canon for Transition Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, at nsmith@diocesenyc.org

The Search Committee

Durrie Golding, Co-Chair
Rick Romeo, Co-Chair
Cindy Forrest
Christian Hakim
Mark Hanchet
Chris Maxfield
Dina Painter

The Vestry

John Priscantelli, Stewardship Warden
Andrew Tustian, Buildings & Grounds Warden
David Aplin, Treasurer
Lisa & Sean Fitzgerald
Durrie Golding
Rich Juzumas, Clerk
Kelly Leonard O'Keefe
Janet Priscantelli
Tirza Santilli
Sally Sobolewski

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Margaret Tuttle, Part-time Interim Priest
Laurane Carnevale, Parish Administrator
Peter Frost, Music Director
Joanne Tiebout Douglas, Interim Director of Christian Education

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

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